

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Third Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

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CONTENTS

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No. 9, Wednesday, December 02, 2009/ Agrahayana 11, 1931 (Saka)

SUBJECT	PAGES
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 181 to 183, 186 and 187	2-34
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 184, 185 and 188 to 200	34-68
Unstarred Question Nos. 2033 to 2262	69-444
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	444-453
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS	
2nd Report	454
COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES	
3rd Report	454
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE	
1st to 5th Reports	454-455
SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS	
Re: Need to accord permission by the Govt. to CBI to file chargesheet against the accused persons of 1984 anti-Sikh riots as indicated by the Nanawati Commission	454-460
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need to re-open the closed Fertilizer Factory in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. Shri Jagdambika Pal	480
(ii) Need to implement 'Kandi Master Plan' in Murshidabad district of West Bengal to prevent the recurring annual floods in the region. Shri Adhir Chowdhury	481

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

(iii)	Need to bring Ayodhya and Faizabad under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission to provide civic amenities.	
	Dr. Nirmal Khatri	481-482
(iv)	Need to expedite the construction of Angamaly-Sabari railway line in Kerala.	
	Shri P.T. Thomas	482
(v)	Need to extend financial benefit to second girl child also in a family under Indira Gandhi Scholarship Scheme.	
	Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli	482-483
(vi)	Need to divert the proposed route of Bharuch-Dahej railway line to facilitate smooth traffic in Bharuch city, Gujarat.	
	Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava	483-484
(vii)	Need to construct railway line from Ghanauli to Paonta Sahib in order to give impetus to industrial development in Himachal Pradesh.	
	Shri Virender Kashyap	484
(viii)	Need for speedy completion of the developmental works under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission in Guwahati, Assam.	
	Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty	484-485
(ix)	Need to accord permission to construct road near Ahmedabad-Udaipur via Himmat Nagar Railway level crossing in the vicinity of village Wantada in Sabarkantha Constituency of Gujarat.	
	Shri Mahendrasinh P. Chauhan	485
(x)	Need to expedite the construction of railway, line from Muzaffarpur to Sitamarhi in Bihar.	
	Shri Arjun Roy	485-486
(xi)	Need to include Orissa under Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme to overcome power shortage in the State.	
	Shri Tathagata Satpathy	486
((xii)	Need to construct Barrage on the River Yamuna to redress the problem of drinking water in Delhi.	
	Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal	486-487

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009 487-553

Motion to Consider

Shri M. Veerappa Moily	487-491
Shri Nishikant Dubey	491-503
Shri Sandeep Dikshit	503-511
Shri Shailendra Kumar	511-514
Shri Rajiv Ranjan alias Lalan Singh	515-517
Shri Kalyan Banerjee	517-522
Shri A. Sampath	522-525
Shri T.K.S. Elangovan	525-527
Shri Arjun Charan Sethi	527-529
Shri Harin Pathak	529-536
Shri P.C. Chacko	536-543
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	543-548
Shri Prabodh Panda	548-553

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Inter-Linking of Rivers	553-570
Dr. K.S. Rao	553-556
Shri B.Mahtab	556-558
Shri Shailendra Kumar	558-559
Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty	559-560
Shri K.C. Venugopal	560
Shri Anto Antony	560-561
Shri Arjun Charan Sethi	561
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	562-570

ANNEXURE-I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	571-572
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	572-580

ANNEXURE-II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	581-582
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	581-586

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 02, 2009/Agrahayana 11, 1931 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 181, Shri Raghavan.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Khadoor Sahib): Madam Speaker, we want the Question Hour to be suspended. Injustice has been done to the Sikh community in 1984 riots. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Ajnala ji please wait. Go back to your seats. Please let me speak.

...(Interruptions)

11.01 hrs.

At this stage, Dr, Rattan Singh Ajnala and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Raghavan and the hon. Minister will say.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please observe silence.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Ajnala ji, please take your seat. Let me speak.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the Question Hour be complete. You can raise your matter during Zero Hour

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I will allow you during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please go back to your seat. Let the Question Hour proceed.

...(Interruptions)

11.03 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

11.04 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Sakshar Bharat

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*181. SHRI M. K. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

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

(a) whether the Government has recently launched a new adult literacy programme called "Sakshar Bharat" on the International Literacy Day;

(b) if so, the salient features of this programme;

(c) the funding pattern of the programme; and

(d) the effective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to successfully implement this programme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

* Not recorded.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With the aim of bridging gender gap and reducing regional, as well as social disparities in literacy, the programme will provide comprehensive opportunities of adult education primarily to women with focus on disadvantaged groups, specially SCs, STs and minorities, in rural areas. Basic Literacy, Post literacy and Continuing Education, under the scheme, will form a continuum rather than sequential segments. Besides the volunteer based mass campaign approach, provision has been made for alternative approaches to adult education. Lok Shiksha Kendras (Adult Education Centres) will be set up in Gram Panchayats to coordinate the entire range of Adult Education, including Literacy, Post Literacy, Basic Education, Vocational Education and Life Long Learning within their territorial jurisdiction. State Governments and Panchayati Raj Institutions, along with civil society and community, will be valued stakeholders in the programme.

(c) The programme cost will be shared by Government of India and State Governments in the ratio of 75:25 respectively except in the North Eastern Region (NER) where the sharing will be in the ratio of 90:10.

(d) To make the programme successful, the accent is on Access, Equity, Quality and Good Governance. To ensure access, an Adult Education Centre, with two coordinators, will be set up in each Gram Panchayat covered under the scheme. To make the programme inclusive, of the targeted beneficiaries, at least 85% will be women, 20% SCs, 11% STs and 17% Minorities. To make it participatory, Gram Panchayats will be the implementing agencies at the grass roots level. To ensure Quality, the Scheme provides for Core Curriculum Framework, high quality teaching learning material, improving quality of literacy educators, assessment and certification, new learning technologies, promotion of literate environment and adequate resource support. A web based accounting system to facilitate 'Just-in-Time' release of funds and also robust monitoring and evaluation system have been devised to infuse transparency, accountability and organizational efficiency in implementation.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Under the dynamic leadership of the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the

respected UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the country is progressing radically in the field of education and literacy programmes called Sakshar Bharat implemented through the hon. Minister, Shri Kapil Sibal.

Madam Speaker, permit me to ask, through you, the hon. Minister about the present status and progress report including the salient features and funding pattern of the various programmes for adult literacy. Is the Government satisfied with the result achieved so far? If not, what steps are being taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam Speaker, I just want to mention that when the hon. President made her Address in Parliament, she mentioned that the Government will recast the National Literacy Mission as the National Mission for Female Literacy to make every woman literate in the next five years. So, the entire National Literacy Mission has been recast and now called as Sakshar Bharat. The intent is to, in fact, take up those districts where literacy levels, as far as women are concerned, are less than 50 per cent and on that basis, select the districts and then ensure that in the next five years, we are able to educate sixty million women and ten million men under the programme. Out of that, ten million women will be from Scheduled Castes, six million women will be from Scheduled Tribes, ten million women will be Muslims and 34 million women will be belonging to other communities. These figures fall under the female category. Then, under the male category, there will be four million males in Scheduled Castes, two million males in Scheduled Tribes, two million Muslim males and two million males under other categories.

Regarding the funding pattern, funding has been increased manifold. This programme will be for about Rs. 6000 crores and mechanism for delivery has also been changed. We are going to have adult education centres at the panchayat levels and instead of giving the money directly to the centres, as was done before, we are now routing it through the State Governments so that the State Governments will get the ownership of the programme. Many other such changes are being made. The scheme is now going to be launched because this was announced at the beginning of the Session. So, the results are not evident. But as and when we launch it, we will inform the House about the results.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: I may also be permitted to ask the hon. Minister, through you, as to what effective measures have been taken by the Government for the continuation of neo-literates as literates. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is hopeful of curbing the illiteracy among the women who are still far away from the world of letters. So, kindly provide the details.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I just want to mention to the hon. Member, through you, that the whole nature of the programme is now being changed. Originally, the literacy programme was conceived on three Rs, that is reading, writing and arithmetic. But today that whole concept is changed. Today, we are actually moving towards basic literacy, that is literacy up to class 3, then basic education programme at any level. Anybody can come into the programme at class 7, at class 9 or at class 12. Then, there is going to be continuing education and skill development. This is going to be done simultaneously. In other words, all these continuing education and skill development programmes would be executed simultaneously and not sequentially. Under the previous scheme, it was sequential. When you finish the basic literacy, you moved on to other things. But today this is an integrated programme. So, the nature of the programme is entirely changed.

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Madam Speaker, it reflects from the reply of the Hon'ble Minister that the Government of India are likely to bear 75 percent of the amount. Madam through you, I would like to know whether the Government propose to constitute a Monitoring Committee to monitor this campaign so as to see that the fund of Rs. 6500 crore that has been sanctioned for this purpose could be utilized properly and if any such Committee has been constituted then whether the Government also propose to punish all such States or Institutions which are not discharging their responsibility properly and encourage those which are doing commendable job in this direction.

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I want to inform, through you, the hon. Member that we have, in fact, a special fund flow mechanism for Sakshar Bharat. In terms of this special fund flow mechanism, the National Literacy Mission Authority

at the Centre will release funds to the State Literacy Mission Authority in a single bank account. Then, the State Authority shall remit those funds to the State Literacy Mission Authority and into their account. Thereafter, the SLMA shall authorise the zilla parishads to draw cheques in this bank account by laying down monetary limits. Thereafter, the zilla parishads shall incur the expenditure directly on procurement, on teaching and learning materials and other common items of purchase for basic literacy and adult education centres and give imprest to the block panchayats or the gram panchayats for expenditure to be incurred by them. The block panchayats will receive funds from zilla parishads, incur expenditure on common items of purchase and give imprest to the gram panchayats for incurring expenditure. So, all this is a new mechanism that we have thought of. It will be thoroughly monitored and the new funds will not be able to be taken unless vouchers are submitted by the authorities concerned.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam Speaker, perhaps you may have not noticed that I am attending this session for the first time. Her Excellency President has mentioned about literate India particularly women literacy in her Address. The Hon'ble Minister has also assured to achieve this objective in the next five years and the Government is committed to it. This procedure is so complicated that this issue is inter-connected with each other. Whether the Government is considering the composition of the villages while setting up education centre at Panchayat level as a Panchayat has many villages or 16 Tola or Mohalls. Women will not be able to participate in the Panchayats that are located at other places. In that case, this mission will fail. Whether the Government is considering Tola or village as same. Taking Tola and village as a unit, five years is not a sufficient time, however, it is a very difficult task but it should not remain on papers only. He has not mentioned about those teachers who will teach them? In that case a provision should be made there so that the literate youth of that particular village and Tola could be appointed as teachers and these teachers should be paid. Women of village and Tola will spare time to teach and the aim of the Mission would be achieved. Whether or not the Government have such intention? There is no mention

of the teacher in the procedure which is likely to be adopted. If a teacher is appointed, then he will definitely demand his regularisation.

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: This Programme, Madam Speaker, is going to be implemented at the Panchayat level. The hon. Member Shri Lalu Prasad is right. As far as we are concerned, we believe that the teachers under such Programmes should be voluntary. We are, therefore, dependent on that spirit of passion, commitment within the local community to be able to come forward and do it. There will be many because we have several other programmes now. We have the *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan*, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. In one village, there are going to be many literacy centres, not just one literacy centre. There is going to be one Adult Education Centre but the outreach of these centres will be far more effective because there will be several literacy centres around the area. One particular village, which has a population of at least 5000 or up to 5000 will have one Adult Education Centre. For more than 5000 population, you have two Adult Education Centres but education is not going to be done only at the Adult Education Centre. They will be spread around through the regional offices where people will voluntarily come and teach.

As far as administration is concerned, we will have two *preraks* at the Adult Education Centres who are going to be paid for their services.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Madam Speaker, the Hon'ble Minister in his supplementary reply has admitted that this programme will be implemented through the National Literacy Mission Authority. Funding would be prescribed at Block level, district level and at Panchayat level. Under the National Literacy Mission, a provision of Rs. 6000 crore has been made for this purpose this time also. A sum of Rs. 6000 crore like last time has been provided for the literacy out of which 75 per cent would be financed by the Union Government. There is a mention of Monitoring the funds. In reply to the supplementary question,

the hon'ble Minister has stated that this fund would be provided to the said authority and if the funds are misused through that authority, then what would be done as the issue is related to make India literate. Earlier literacy was confined to signatures only under this programme. Now, the education upto High School or intermediate have also been included thereunder. It is an important programme itself. SLAM has been mentioned for the monitoring of this programme. This National Literacy Mission Authority would function under Zila Parishad and its evaluation would be made separately. I would like to know what measures would be adopted by the Union Government if the funds are misused by the State Governments.

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: The State, in fact, cannot mis-utilise the Fund. As I mentioned, it will go to a specific account of the State Literacy Mission Authority from where it will go down, percolate downwards, as I have already explained. Actually, this education will spread from the Educational Centre to the *To/as* and to other areas within the village. That has to be done. Therefore, there is no question of misappropriation of money. We will be monitoring this programme. There is a State Review Committee. There will be a Central Committee. We will be monitoring this and get to know exactly what is happening at the village level, we will get the information on that and keep reviewing it so that we can make it more effective. Of course, programmes like this initially, as you know, will have some problems. It will take some time for us to ensure that the outreach of these programmes is far more effective than it has been in the past. It is our responsibility. But, ultimately, it is at the Gram Panchayat level that effectiveness will have to be demonstrated. The State must take ownership of the programmes. The Panchayat must take ownership of the programmes. The community itself must get together. Now, within the Panchayats, since we have representation of women, women themselves must get together. In fact, the last Literacy Mission has shown that a lot of women benefited. Hopefully women will come together and actually ensure that women within the area are recipients of the Mission.

Restoration of Water Bodies

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*182. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the water bodies identified by the Union Government for repair, renovation and restoration, State-wise;

(b) the details of the programmes/schemes initiated by the Government in consultation with the State Governments in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the programmes/schemes for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The state-wise details of public owned water bodies identified in course of minor irrigation census (2005) with the help of the State Governments have been given in the enclosed Annexure.

(b) The Government of India has approved two State sector schemes for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies, one with external assistance and another with domestic support. The State Governments are required to prepare Detailed Project Reports for RRR of water bodies identified by them as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India in this regard. The main objectives of these two schemes are:—

- (i) Comprehensive improvement of water bodies including restoration.
- (ii) Improvement of catchment area of water bodies.
- (iii) Community participation and self-supporting system for sustainable management for water bodies covered by the programme.

(iv) Ground Water Recharge.

(v) Capacity Building of communities, user groups, standing committee of Panchayats and State Government/Central Government Agencies concerned with the planning, implementation and monitoring of the project.

(vi) Increase in storage capacity of water bodies.

(vii) Improvement in agriculture/horticulture productivity.

(viii) Environmental benefits through improved water use efficiency.

(ix) Irrigation benefits through restoration of water bodies.

(x) Promotion of conjunctive use of surface and ground water.

(xi) Development of tourism and cultural activities.

(xii) Increased availability of drinking water.

Under the scheme with domestic support, projects benefitting special category states, undivided Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK) districts of Orissa and drought prone/naxal affected/tribal areas of other states are eligible for 90% of the project cost as central assistance. Other projects are eligible for 25% of the project cost as central assistance. Under the scheme with external assistance, the Government of India provides central assistance to the extent of 25% of the project cost whereas 75% state share is to be borrowed from the World Bank by the concerned States.

(c) In order to expedite the formulation and implementation of projects under the schemes of RRR of Water Bodies, state governments were consulted at the time of the formulation of the two schemes. This has also been discussed with the states in the Conference of Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of the States. National and State level workshops/conferences/review meetings have also been held to create awareness among stakeholders.

Annexure

Sl. No.	Name of State	Number of Public owned Water Bodies
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	67236
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	186
3.	Assam	170
4.	Bihar	12345
5.	Chhattisgarh	32486
6.	Goa	137
7.	Gujarat	2742
8.	Haryana	12
9.	Himachal Pradesh	361
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	312
11.	Jharkhand	16552
12.	Karnataka	22582
13.	Kerala	2977
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7947
15.	Maharashtra	16429
16.	Manipur	2
17.	Meghalaya	87
18.	Mizoram	0
19.	Nagaland	0
20.	Orissa	18250
21.	Punjab	7
22.	Rajasthan	1844
23.	Sikkim	423

1	2	3
24.	Tamil Nadu	25107
25.	Tripura	122
26.	Uttar Pradesh	70
27.	Uttaranchal	5188
28.	West Bengal	5350
29.	Andaman and Nicobars	4
30.	Chandigarh	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	12
32.	Delhi	0
33.	Pondicherry	198
Total		239138

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Madam Speaker, the Government of India has sanctioned a pilot scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies in States with an outlay of Rs. 300 crore during the Tenth Plan, and also with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore in the Eleventh Plan. Under this Scheme, the World Bank loan agreement has been signed with Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Orissa. Keeping this in view, I would like to know from the Minister whether any World Bank loan agreement has been signed with Kerala; if so, the details thereof.

I would also like to know about the total number of water bodies identified for restoration in Kerala under this scheme and the estimated cost involved in this regard.

MADAM SPEAKER: You are supposed to ask one question; you asked so many. The hon. Minister.

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Madam, this is an important question as far as Kerala is concerned.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam Speaker, as the hon. Member himself has said, presently under the external component, whereunder help from the World Bank

is solicited, and has been in fact agreed to, there are only four States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Orissa. Lately, even West Bengal, where some assistance has been provided to them, is the fifth State, for preparation of the pending works, that is relating to the DPRs etc.

When the hon. Member referred to the internal component, that is the domestic part, he has wrongly mentioned that amount; I would like to only correct that under the Eleventh Plan, for the domestic component for restoration, renovation and rejuvenation etc. of water bodies, it is Rs. 1250 crore that has been actually provided as the outlay for the Eleventh Plan. But this is the scheme which would continue into the Twelfth Plan as well. As and when any DPR is prepared by any particular State, the Government considers those and accordingly we do wish to expedite all those matters.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Madam Speaker, the Government of Kerala has launched a massive campaign to implement the project of Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies with the participation of the public and Government departments and institutions. Accordingly, related works like construction of sidewalls, desiltation, recharging etc. of water bodies are proposed to be taken up in all the districts. An amount of Rs. 80 lakh is required in each district for the rehabilitation works of water bodies, as mentioned.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Kerala Government has sent any proposal requesting for financial assistance from the Union Government for this purpose; and whether the Union Government has considered the request of the Government of Kerala. When has the final decision been taken in this regard?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The Government of Kerala has sent proposal for the RRRs of 1740 tanks. This total cost entailed would be Rs. 156.60 crore, of which the Centre's share would be Rs. 39.15 crore.

About the time frame, I would like to assure the hon. Member that as and when we receive the DPR, further matter would be expedited at the end of the Government of India. Presently, there are only two DPRs which are in

advanced stage; one is that of Andhra Pradesh, and the other is of Orissa only.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister, whether the Government of India have devised any specific policy for the restoration of wafer bodies in drought prone areas? It is really a praiseworthy programme and is essential for drought prone areas. I would like to know about the number of proposals submitted by the State Government of Gujarat in this regard and the number of proposals out of them accepted by the Government?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I would like to thank the Hon'ble Member for praising this programme. The Government have received proposals for 335 tanks from the State Government of Gujarat so far. The total expenditure of about Rs. 240 crore is involved therein out of which the Central Government would bear Rs. 60 crore.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Thank you, Madam. So far as conservation of water in the country is concerned, this Programme is no doubt very important. Actually, the House is aware of the fact that this particular Scheme was initiated when the UPA Government came to power in the year 2004, if I remember correctly. Now, I find that DPRs are being prepared, and a sum of Rs. 12,000 crore has been earmarked.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this Scheme has been launched or likely to be launched. If it is likely to be launched, when will it be launched? If it has already been launched, how much amount has been released by the Centre to the States, and how much quantity of water conservation has been done in different States of the country? Will the Minister inform the House about these facts?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam, the pilot scheme was launched, as the hon. Member has said, in the year 2004. That was the Tenth Plan scheme whereunder there was a provision for Rs. 300 crore. So far, the Government of India has released Rs. 197.3 crore. Out of

the identified 1,098 water bodies, 968 water bodies have been completed; 113 water bodies are in progress; and only 17 water bodies have been dropped because of various objections and that was with the consent of the States. This work is going on. According to the guidelines, as and when the release of the amount becomes due, it is paid.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I have give notice for the next question No. 183.

MADAM SPEAKER: O.K. Shri Jagdish Sharma.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA: Madam, Speaker, in Bihar state particularly in South Bihar there are remains of Aahar and Pine of Mouryan age which belong to Chanakya period at Jahanabad, Arbal, Gaya, Bhabhua, Rohtas and Old Munger. These structures have not been maintained for years. These monuments are useful for two reasons. Firstly, these monuments store rain water and the same is used for irrigation, secondly it recharges the ground water. It is a very old and good Indian system but what is happening today is that these monuments have been encroached as no attention is paid towards them. These monuments have been built up only on government land. These lands are not private. In the district of South Bihar, these Aahar and Pine structures have been built on government land. There is a need to construct check dam on these constructions. There is a need to construct a wall at the places of breakage and its wide restoration is also required. Madam, through you I would like to know that whether the government of India will send any special team to protect this historical irrigation system of Mauryan age? The places which I have mentioned such as Jahanabad, Gaya, Arbal, Rohtas and Bhabhua, all these areas are also affected with naxal problem. Whether the government conduct a survey of these areas while constituting special team and by giving special package and propose to renovate and widely restore these Aahar and Pine of Mauryan age under its control.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam, Speaker, Hon'ble Member has drawn the attention of the House on a very crucial matter that encroachment is still a big problem. While requesting him I would like to take the benefit of this opportunity that the state governments should give emphasis on this matter that, wherever these water bodies and tanks are situated, which are known by various names in different states, if there is any encroachment it should be removed.

Madam Speaker, the second question of the Hon'ble Member is that there are 32486 public bodies in Bihar and their irrigation potential is two lacs two hundred thirty two that is quite good. Total irrigation potential is two lacs sixty one thousand, out of which the present potential is around two lacs and it has been on total. The proposals we have received for this purpose, they have not indicated proposal from Bihar for domestic component yet, but they have given their expression of interest and have stated that it will cost around Rs. 47 crores out of which Union Government's share would be around Rs.12 crores. As soon as DPR comes from there, they give any indication that this is our proposal, it will cost this much amount, only then further action will be taken thereon.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shrimati Bojaya Chakravarty - Absent.

Criteria for Determining Poverty

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*183. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH alias LALAN SINGH:

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any Committee to formulate fresh criteria to determine and define poverty in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the composition and terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report/ interim report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The planning Commission constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar on 2nd December, 2005 to Review the Methodology for Estimation of Poverty. The other Members of the Expert Group are Dr. R. Radhakrishna, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, Prof. Raghav Ghaia, Faculty of Management Science, University of Delhi and Dr. Suranjan Sen Gupta of Kolkata. The terms of the reference of the Committee are as follows:—

- i. To examine the issues relating to the comparability of the 50th, 55th and 61st round, of survey undertaken by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and to suggest methodologies for deriving such comparability with past and future surveys.
- ii. To review alternative conceptualizations of poverty, and the associated technical aspects of procedures of measurement and data base for empirical estimation including procedures for updating over time and across states.
- iii. In the light of (ii), to recommend any changes in the existing procedures of official estimates of poverty.
- iv. The Chairman of the Expert Group may set up sub-committees if necessary for undertaking in-depth studies.
- v. The Group may co-opt and consult non-official experts/representatives of other agencies if required.

(c) No, Madam. The Expert Group has not submitted its report/interim report, as yet.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH alias LALAN SINGH: Madam, before asking supplementary question I would like to draw your attention to the reply we have received, if you will see the Hindi translation of it, information given in this regard, than you will see that in the information given by the Government about the constitution of expert group under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh Tendulkar the date given therein is 2-12-2009, which is today. If the Government is serious enough about the poor and the people living below poverty line, then I have nothing to say, I would like to draw your attention toward this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Alright, now you may ask the supplementary question. It is a typing error. In English version it is 2005. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH alias LALAN SINGH: Madam, those who do not know how to read English will read in Hindi only. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Typing error occurs sometime, you may ask the supplementary question.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: Madam, the Government have stated that an expert group has been constituted on 2-12-2005 under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh Tendulkar and the Government have also informed about the terms and conditions of this expert group. But, today the number of people who are living below the poverty line has become the point of dispute as there is a big difference between the numbers given by many states and the Planning Commission. In the year 2002, the Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the then Prime Minister, had decided to conduct a door to door survey and for this the Union Government itself had prepared the norms and questionnaire and forwarded the same to the states.

Madam, through you, I would like to know that presently what are the norms to decide the number of people who are living below the poverty line in different states alongwith the basis for fixing this criteria and on the basis of this criteria what is the number of the families living below the poverty line in entire country?

[English]

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam Speaker, the hon. Member has asked a question which relates to estimation of poverty which is being done by the Planning Commission. The identification of poor is done by the Rural Development Ministry. This is a question which he has to ask the Rural Development Ministry. The second part of the question, which he has asked, is relating to identification of the poor. There are 13 methodologies that have been adopted, which the hon. Member knows. According to those criteria, identification of the poor is being done by a door to door survey by the Rural Development Ministry.

As far as the methodology adopted by the Planning Commission is concerned, it is by appointing an Expert Group which goes on a consumption expenditure method that is being followed by the findings of the National Sample Survey Organisation and the methodology has to be given by the Committee appointed by the Government. In 1979, the Lakdawala Committee was appointed. It gave its finding in 1983. It has clearly mentioned that the nutritional requirement for the rural population is 2400 calories and for the urban population, it is 2100 calories. That was the base that has been fixed. On that basis what we have been doing is to identify the poverty line. The poverty line, which was in 1973-74, was 49.09 per month in the rural areas and 56.64 per month in the urban areas. In 2004-05 it has come up to 356.30 per capita per person per month in the rural areas, and it is 538.60 per capita per person in the urban areas. Therefore, the poverty line, which was very high, has come to 27.5 per cent as a national average. Because demands are coming from various States to consider the new methodology, the Tendulkar Committee has been appointed. The Tendulkar Committee is going into that question.

Actually, it takes minimum 3-4 years. Even Lakdawala Committee also took four years. This Committee will soon submit its report. Then, thereafter the new pattern, which is to be adopted by the Expert Group, will come into operation after the consideration of the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH alias LALAN SINGH: Madam, Speaker, what the hon'ble Minister has said, is

different from the statement given by the Minister of Agriculture in this House about three days ago regarding the number of people living below poverty line. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture had said that the number of families living below the poverty line is decided by the Planning Commission. Today, the Hon'ble Minister is saying that this number is decided by the Department of Rural Development. I could not understand this fact that whether the Government really want to eradicate the poverty or just want to eradicate the poverty in figures only by reducing the numbers of people living below the poverty line.

Madam, there are many contradictions. If you go through the replies given by the Minister of Agriculture on this subject in this House, it can be seen that he has repeatedly said that the Planning Commission has decided the number of people living below the poverty line. The number of families living below the poverty line is being decided by the Planning Commission on the basis of the figures provided by the National Sample Survey Organization. As I have said earlier, as per the orders of the then Government, the Department of Rural Development has given the order to conduct door to door survey. When door to door survey is conducted, there is huge difference between the number fixed by the states on the basis of that survey and the number fixed by the Planning Commission of the Union Government. For that reasons many states are struggling with this problem. Madam, I am talking of my state Bihar. As per door to door survey, approximately one crore 25 lakh families are living below poverty line over there, whereas the report of the Planning Commission puts this figure at 65 lakh only.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH alias LALAN SINGH: Madam Speaker, I am asking a question only.

As per the report of the Planning Commission, the number of families living below poverty line is only 65 lakhs. It should be stated as to how this gap would be bridged? So, the hon. Minister is requested to state that whether he proposes to provide, foodgrain as desired by the states and in accordance with the number of BPL families determined by the states or not till the Tendulkar

Committee report is received or a fresh criterion to determine the number of below poverty line family is formulated.

[English]

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam Speaker, the methodology for identifying the people who are below the poverty line is being done by the Planning Commission, by appointing an expert group, which I have already mentioned. The estimation is done on the basis of the National Sample Survey Organisation. Regarding the door to door survey to identify the persons. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN alias LALAN SINGH: Madam, this reply holds no relevance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Listen to the reply at least. Please sit down. Please be silent. Let him reply.

[English]

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, the hon. Member is seeing it from the point of view of the people living below poverty line and identification of the poor is different. Both are different because the Planning Commission does work to identify the people living below the poverty line. That is through the expert group method which I have already mentioned. Madam, the point is very clearly mentioned. People living below poverty line are 27.5 per cent of the population as per 2004-2005 records. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH alias LALAN SINGH: His reply cannot be accepted just like that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please let him answer. Please sit down. This is a very serious issue. Let him reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH alias LALAN SINGH: You asked me to directly ask him a question and when I

asked him a straight question he is not giving any reply to my question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Alright. Listen to the reply. Allow him to complete the reply.

[English]

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Please let me answer. ...*(Interruptions)* Madam, the whole difficulty arises. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH alias LALAN SINGH: His reply is ambiguous, I will not listen to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Madam, please sit down. Let him finish. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: It is a practical question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I have already mentioned the basics – for the rural population it is 2,400 calories and for the urban population it is 2,100 calories and apart from that and considering that...*(Interruptions)* Madam, it is a very technical issue. Hon. Members are very much concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please be silent. Please do not interrupt, sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH alias LALAN SINGH: I asked what would happen now? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt. It is a very serious issue. You are on your legs every now and then, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, as per 2004-2005 records, the total population which is below the poverty line is 30.17 crore people, that is 27.5 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)* That is the thing. Since these questions are arising from various hon. Members and also from the State Governments ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: He has no answer ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Madam, why are you on your legs. You were not there when I called your name. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, I have already mentioned in my reply very clearly. Since the questions are coming from various groups, from the States and also from the hon. Members as to whether there is any new methodology which has to be adopted, I submit that for that purpose the Tendulkar Committee has been constituted. The Tendulkar Committee is going into it. They are going to submit their report very shortly. ...*(Interruptions)* On that basis the criteria will be evolved and identification of poverty line will be done. ...*(Interruptions)* That is the system we are going to do. ...*(Interruptions)* So far, the Lakdawala Committee recommendations have been followed by the Government, by the Planning Commission on behalf of the Central Government. ...*(Interruptions)* The Tendulkar Committee is going to submit its report. It is going to come before the hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)* Whether the methodology which has been adopted by the Lakdawala Committee is going to be accepted by them or they are going to have a new criteria will be known. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: No, please ask the hon. Minister and give a reply. If he doesn't know, he may

ask the officers but at least he should give a correct reply. Why is he giving an irrelevant reply? ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): He will answer only if you listen to him. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You do not have the patience to hear me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Pralhad Joshi to ask the supplementary question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Pralhad Joshi says.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam, a very specific question was asked whether the Government has constituted any Committee to formulate fresh criteria to determine and define poverty in the country. In the reply, nothing is mentioned about the fresh criteria. It is very ambiguous. In the answer that the hon. Minister has given, there is no mention about the criteria. He has just said that one committee headed by Prof. Tendulkar is appointed. I would like to ask a straight question. In the terms of reference, what is the criterion point that you have referred to the Tendulkar Committee.

Secondly, if at all, the Ministry of Rural Development is looking after the BPL card issue, then whether it is going to accept the Tendulkar Committee's Report. I am asking this because ADB is having one criterion and the World Bank is having another criterion on the basis of which they are giving statistics.

What are the criteria that you are going to refer to the Tendulkar Committee? Why are you putting a ceiling, a limit? When you have appointed the Committee, why has the Government of India written to the States to reduce BPL card numbers?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, I have specifically said in part II of my reply that one of the terms of reference is to review alternative conceptualizations of poverty and the associated technical aspects of procedures of measurement and database for empirical estimation including procedures for updating over time and across States. They would also look at whether the existing pattern is to be modified. Therefore, the Tendulkar Committee has been given the task of doing that.

The hon. Member is telling about the World Bank estimates. The World Bank applies only income criterion. As far as our country is concerned, we follow the consumption expenditure pattern. The income criterion does not suit our country because consumption expenditure pattern is more accurate than the income criterion. Therefore, this is being followed. We are not following the World Bank's procedure which has been given. The consumption expenditure includes clothing, footwear, health parameters, education and other durable things. These are all the parameters which are also considered for the purpose of identifying the poverty line. That is being done by the Planning Commission, by the Expert Group. These are the criteria.

Now we will have to wait till the new Committee submits its report. When the Committee submits its report, then we are going to discuss it in the Parliament and the views of the Members will be heard. ... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please address the Chair. You have asked your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: There are two systems which I have already mentioned — identifying poverty line and then identifying the cases of the poor. Identification of poor is done by the Ministry of Rural Development. The methodology is to be followed on the basis of identification that has been given by the National Sample Survey Organisation and then, the Expert Group gives its findings. It has been followed for years together. Earlier, the Task Force was appointed prior to 1979. That system was changed and now the Expert Group method has been adopted.

When the Tendulkar Committee gives its findings, we will follow whatever the findings are given. Thereafter, the Planning Commission will decide and thereafter, the Members will have a chance to discuss the issue in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister has spoken at length about poverty line. I would like to mention here the partnership of states, like the figures of poor on an average should be two lakhs in a district in my state Madhya Pradesh, however, it is more than two lakh there. The names of people who are actually poor are not included in the list of the below poverty line people. The survey conducted at the grass root level is basically responsible for it. The names of several farmers owning 10-15 acres of land is included in the below poverty line list in Madhya Pradesh. The names of several people owning cars figure in the list of below poverty line. Similarly, people working in the private sector are included in the below poverty line list. The actual labourer is not included in the list of the below poverty line. The survey conducted by the state government at grass root level is primarily responsible for it. Through the House, I would like to request that the Union Government should exercise its direct control and issue clear cut directions in regard to fixing the responsibility of the surveying officer in case any errors are committed in terms of including an undeserving person in the said list of the below poverty line people.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: It seems to be a very important subject. If the hon. Members so desire, then they can give a notice for a half-an-hour discussion and we will have a detailed discussion on the subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, we are agreeable to this suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. 184, Shri M. Sreenivasulu Reddy — not present.

Q. 185, Shri Subhash Bapurao Wankhede — not present.

Shri Madan Lal Sharma — not present.

Q.186, SHRI J.M. Aaron Rashid

E-Auctioning of Coal

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*186. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has e-auctioned coal during 2008-09;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the e-auctioning process has since been discontinued; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 2008-09, a total quantity of 488.747 lakh tonnes was allocated under e-auction, by various coal companies under Coal India Limited, to the successful bidders.

(c) No, Madam.

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

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Madam, I welcome the e-auctioning of coal. Now, coal is given through e-auction just like other spices. In a way, this will end the rule of mafia goons that are working in the coal mines.

Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government will continue with e-auction on the pit-head of coal mines.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Madam Speaker, at the outset, I would like to state that only 10 per cent coal is e-auctioned, 90 per cent coal is sold to the manufacturers, whether they belong to power sector, cement sector or

fertilizer sector, as per their requirement. The primary reason for the e-auctioning of 10 per cent coal is to save it from coal mafia and corruption as pointed out by the hon. Member and provide this facility to those who do not get any kind of linkage or any other facility, so that they could buy coal through e-auctioning and fulfil their needs.

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Does the Government have any plan to end the monopoly in this trade, that is, coal auctioning?

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Madam Speaker, there is no question of monopoly in this sector. The absence of e-auction could have resulted in monopoly and which actually existed. E-auction has been put in place to end the monopoly and there has been improvement ever since. I do not mean that complete order has been restored and corruption has been weeded out completely, however, there has been improvement after the implementation of the e-auction system.

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Madam Speaker, in regard to the statement of the hon. Minister that a decision to sell only 10 per cent coal through e-auction has been taken, I would like to know that whether the target achieved by them, of approximately 5 lakh tonne during 2008-09 is 10 per cent? As per my information, millions of tonnes of coal is being produced in our country. Even then, the desired quantum of coal has not been auctioned. Is it because of the floor price of coal fixed by us that we have not been able to sell the desired quantum?

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Madam Speaker floor price was fixed in advance. Thereafter people moved the High Court, the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court gave the ruling to revise this policy. There is no floor price ever since the policy was revised. As per the provision coal can be e-auctioned at a price more than its base price. As regards the question of the hon. Member that whether whole of ten per cent coal is e-auctioned the truth is that people do not turn up in as much number during e-auction as much the quantity of coal is allocated despite the provision of e-auction. This way a large quantity

of coal is left with us unauctioned. As far as auctioning the whole of ten per cent coal is concerned, the entire stock would be sold through e-auction provided people turn up for e-auction.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that there is shortage of coal in the country. We are unable to supply coal to power plants. We have asked every state Government and Electricity Board to import ten per cent coal. We auction coal in spite of all this. I do not think that this measure of the Government of India or the Ministry of coal would set a precedent before the world that coal is auctioned in a country which faces its shortage. This coal is auctioned for traders. Coal is auctioned not only for factory owners and industries but for traders also. This has resulted in increase in black-marketing. Traders buy coal through e-auction and sell on a higher price, this is reality. Despite this he supports auction of coal.

Through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that coal is auctioned in spite of its shortage in the country. Whether it does not tantamount to.....* with the country? Please give an answer to this question.

MADAM SPEAKER: This word should be expunged as it is unparliamentary. What is your question?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Madam Speaker, I have asked the hon. Minister that why coal is auctioned in spite of its shortage? ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Alright, please restrict yourself to this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: They do not supply coal to power plants. He has given suggestion to import ten per cent coal. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You have asked your question.

*Not recorded.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Madam Speaker, there is no doubt about the shortage of coal in the country. However, there is maximum supply of coal to power plants, the reserved coal is given at a fixed price. As far as e-auction is concerned, this is not so. There are other people in the country also who need coal, be they brick kiln owners or other small manufacturers. Since corruption was rampant in this sector and there was no criterion for awarding permit to lift the quantum of coal and the coal was black marketed. All this resulted in evolving the system of e-auction. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt. Let him complete his reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Madam Speaker, in nutshell, I would state that ever since e-auction has been put in place, the need of small coal consumers has also been fulfilled alongwith putting a check on corruption and black marketing. So, there should be no objection in selling ten per cent coal through e-auction. The truth is that Coal India does not intent to earn any profit from it, rather tries to reign in the corruption which is rampant in this sector of the country.

Conference on Climate Change

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*187. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference on Climate Change was held recently in Geneva;

(b) if so, the decisions taken in the said Conference;

(c) the implications of the decisions on the country; and

(d) the action plan of the Government in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Third World Climate Conference (WCC-3) was held at Geneva, Switzerland during 31 August — 4 September 2009. It was organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

(b) WCC-3 decided to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to strengthen production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services.

(c) and (d) India participated in the said Conference. Several Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Heads of Delegation were present at the High-level segment of the WCC-3. The Conference requested the Secretary General of the WMO to convene an intergovernmental meeting (IGM) of member states to set up a task force of high-level, independent advisors to prepare a report, and recommend on proposed elements of the GFCS. India will be working along with other member states of WMO for successful building of GFCS.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that it is a very important question. The reply to the question is ambiguous. It should be clarified that what decisions were taken during his visit to Geneva and what will be their implications on India or other developing countries. He referred to the conference in Geneva and gave ambiguous reply. He is requested to specifically state what transpired in Geneva and what were its outcome and what will be its implications on India?

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Madam, this was the Third World Conference on Climate. These Conferences are held approximately every ten years. The outcome of this Third Conference was decided by almost 170 nations which gathered there; many Heads of State were also present. They decided to set up a Global Framework for Climate Services. Climate prediction is a very complex phenomenon. The Conference called for a massive international effort to study the climate science; and cooperation amongst various nations and various agencies was called for so that an international framework is created to give information about climate services like timely prediction, impact assessment, risk mitigation, etc. This was the purpose of this conference. This was held in August-September in Geneva and India participated in it. It was also decided to set up a task force to facilitate this objective. India is a very important member of this task force.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Madam, India is an important member country, we understand it but, the hon. Minister is requested to state India's stance on the matter presented by him there.

Madam, besides, I would like to know that a conference is scheduled to be held in Copenhagen which is to be attended by the hon. Prime Minister. Earlier a group was formed with China, Brazil and South Africa, but now China has pulled itself out from the group on this issue. What will be your stand now? Would developed nations step forward to help the third world countries on this issue? And which countries have agreed to extend their cooperation?

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Madam, I would like to very humbly submit that the Copenhagen Conference under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is a different track which is being handled by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The WCC was only a science-based conference where collecting data, analyzing data, building tools to predict data accurately, increasing the

resolution of data collection, etc., were discussed. It was about the cooperation of various agencies and various nations to study the complex phenomenon of weather. It is a very complex science phenomenon, all of us are agreed. I can tell you what has been decided. This will have an important impact on the Copenhagen Conference which is going to take place, which is on the climate change and the other aspects, a subject which the House is going to discuss tomorrow in detail. This particular conference was a science-based conference. It talks about cooperation among various agencies and nations.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Madam, the hon. Minister has not given reply to my question.

MADAM SPEAKER: You have said enough, it will be discussed in detail tomorrow.

SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN: Madam, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what the stand of Government of India is going to be in the Copenhagen Conference. The Minister should have spoken in detail on what the reaction of other developing countries was. Nothing is coming out from the Union Government as to what stand it is going to take in the Copenhagen Conference. May I request the hon. Minister to spell it out?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Madam, this question is addressed to the Minister of Earth Sciences. The Copenhagen Conference is being dealt with, as I said earlier also, by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. I think here is a detailed discussion on this subject tomorrow and I think the Minister will tell you what India's stand is going to be at Copenhagen.

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR: Madam, I would like to find out from the Minister regarding the Global Framework for Climate Services that was decided upon in the Geneva Conference. As we all know, the world is passing through a very serious phase of climate change in which the suspended particles in the air including the gaseous contents and carbon emissions is resulting in serious damage to the global atmosphere. Coming close to our country, it is affecting adversely our ecosystem and we understand that the glacier that is feeding our Ganges

is melting very slowly and steadily. Within the next ten years we will have no water in the Ganges. Nearly as million people live by this river, there will be no water supply for them, their livestock and industry. What is the Government doing in this regard? Secondly, the Sunderbans, which is the home of the Royal Bengal Tiger, is going to be inundated and about 40 lakhs of people are going to be washed away when the water level rises by four metres very shortly. What steps is the Government taking in this regard?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Two questions have been asked about the impact of climate change. I would again submit that this is going to be discussed tomorrow. But I can tell you that the Government of India has launched National Action Plan for Climate Change and one of the eight Missions out of that Action Plan is a National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Eco-System and that would study glaciers in great detail and will create science and mitigations, strategy.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, the Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Cooperation with African Countries

*184. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a need has been felt to inject fresh dynamism into India's cooperation with African countries like Namibia; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreements recently signed by India with these countries including Namibia?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) India's relations with African countries including Namibia have always been marked by warm friendship and cooperation for mutual benefit. Our cooperation has been in keeping with the priorities set out by African countries in their developmental efforts. An impetus was given to our cooperation by organizing the

first India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi on 8 and 9 April, 2008. At the Summit, the following important decisions were taken.

- (i) Duty Free Tariff Preferences (DFTP) for exports from Least Developed Countries of Africa;
- (ii) Additional Lines of Credit amounting to \$5.4 billion, both bilaterally and to the Regional Economic Communities of Africa;
- (iii) Grant in Aid in excess of \$500 million over the next 5-6 years for implementing projects in critical areas focusing on human resource development and capacity building;
- (iv) Doubling of India's longterm scholarships for undergraduates, postgraduates and higher courses from the current 244 for Africa to 488 per year;
- (v) Increasing the number of training slots under our technical assistance programmes from 1100 annually to 1600 every year for Africa; and
- (vi) The establishment of an India-Africa Volunteer Corps relating to development work through identification of projects in the areas of public health, informal education and women's empowerment.

We are in the process of implementing the decisions of the Summit multilaterally as well as bilaterally. The Agreements and MoUs signed with various African countries in 2009 including Namibia were:

Benin:

- Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations;
- India-Benin Joint Commission on Political, Economic, Scientific, Cultural and Technical Cooperation

Cape Verde:

- Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations

Democratic Republic of the Congo:

- Cultural Cooperation Agreement

Liberia:

- Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations

Mali:

- Agreement on Political, Economic, Scientific, Cultural and Technical Cooperation;
- Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations

Mauritius :

- MoU on setting up of Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) in Mauritius based on Indian PKI model;
- Protocol on the Sale of Navigational Charts;
- Agreement on Cooperation for the establishment of telemetry, tracking and tele-command station for satellites and launch vehicles and for cooperation in the fields of space research, science and applications;
- MoU for the sharing of e-procurement platform of Government of Andhra Pradesh with Mauritius;
- MoU on Plant Health Cooperation.

Namibia:

- Agreement on Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of nuclear Energy;
- Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Defence;
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources;
- MoU on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports and;
- Country Agreement on Namibian accession to Pan-African e-Network Project.

Polytechnic Training Programme

*185. SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE:
SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to re-launch polytechnic training programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the modalities worked out for the purpose;

(c) the details of the pattern of funding to the States for this purpose; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard and the progress made so far as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) No, Madam.

The Government of India has already launched in 2008-09, a new Plan Scheme called "Community Development Through Polytechnics" in the existing Polytechnics, for offering short term non formal skill development courses in various fields to the local community. This new Scheme is implemented through selected, AICTE approved Polytechnics. Selected Polytechnics offer these training courses in their premises, as well as through 5-10 extension centres, in nearby locations. Courses under the Scheme are offered free of cost to the participants. There is no restriction of age and qualification for participants in these courses. The Scheme is fully funded by the Government of India. As per the Scheme's norms, a one time Non-recurring Grants-in-aid of Rs 20.00 lakh (for new Polytechnics) and annual Recurring Grants-in-aid upto a maximum of Rs 17.00 lakh is provided directly to the selected Institutions, to implement the Scheme. During the XI Plan Period, a sum of Rs. 738 crores has been allocated by the Government of India for this Scheme. As on 30th November, 2009, 703 polytechnics have been selected for implementing the Scheme.

[Translation]

Ban on Polythene Bags

*188. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA:

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to impose a ban on polythene bags and disposable items made of substandard plastic in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any norms/guidelines have been issued by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether similar guidelines have also been issued to the State Governments in the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) No proposal for a complete ban on the use of polythene bags and disposable items made of plastic is under consideration of the Central Government. However, in some of the hill stations and tourist and pilgrimage places, use of plastic carry bags has been prohibited/restricted by the State Governments/ Local Authorities.

The Central Government has notified Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 (amended in 2003) to regulate the use and manufacture of plastic carry bags, containers and recycling of plastics wastes. As per these rules:

- (i) Carry bags and containers made of virgin plastic shall be in natural shade or white.
- (ii) No person shall manufacture, stock, distribute or sell carry bags made of virgin or recycled plastic bags which are less than less than 8" x 12" in size and 20 micron in thickness.
- (iii) No vendor shall use carry bags or containers made of recycled plastic for storing, carrying, dispensing, or packaging of food stuffs.
- (iv) Carry bags and containers made of recycled plastic and used for purpose other than storing and packaging foodstuffs shall be manufactured as per the specifications of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- (v) The recycling of plastics shall be undertaken in accordance with specifications of the BIS.

vi) Manufacturing and recycling of plastic wastes is to be undertaken only by units registered with State Pollution Control Boards/ Committees.

Several States have prescribed stricter norms with regard to thickness of plastic carry bags ranging from 30 to 70 microns. Some States have banned the use of plastic bags in certain tourist or public places.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests has notified draft Plastics (Manufacture, Usage and Waste management) Rules, 2009, on 17* September 2009 inviting public comments. The provisions of these draft Rules include increasing the minimum prescribed thickness and size of the plastic carry bags, prohibition of manufacture of non-recyclable laminated plastic/metallic pouches and multilayered packaging, and other non-recyclable plastics etc. These rules will be finalized after taking into consideration the comments received.

Coal Deposits

*189. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:

SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coal deposits in each coal producing States at present;

(b) the production target set and achieved for various grades of coal during each of the last three years and the current year, company - wise:

(c) the share of public sector and private sector in coal mining work and the profit earned by them during the said period;

(d) whether there has been shortfall in production of coal by these companies during the said period; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase production of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) As per Geological Survey of India (GSI), the estimated total geological resources of coal in the country as on 1.4.2009 stand at 267.21 billion tonnes (bt). State-wise geological resource position is furnished in the table below:

(in Million Tonnes)

State	Geological Resources of Coal			
	Proved	Indicated	Inferred	Total
1	2	3	4	5
West Bengal	11653	11603	507	28327
Jharkhand	39480	30894	6338	76712
Bihar	0	0	160	160
Madhya Pradesh	8041	10295	2645	20981
Chhattisgarh	10910	29192	4381	44483
Uttar Pradesh	866	196	0	1062
Maharashtra	5255	2907	1992	10154
Orissa	19944	31484	13799	65227
Andhra Pradesh	9194	6748	2985	18927

1	2	3	4	5
Sikkim	0	58	43	101
Assam	348	36	3	387
Arunachal Pradesh	31	40	19	90
Total	105820	123470	37920	267210

(b) The details of production target set and achieved for various grades of coal during each of the last three years and the current year, company-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The details of share of public sector and private sector in coal mining work /production is given below:

(million tonnes)

Company	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Public Sector:	400.39 (92.92%)	422.166 (92.36%)	450.108 (91.31%)
(i) Coal India Limited (CIL)	360.91	379.459	403.732
(ii) Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL)	37.71	40.604	44.542
(iii) Others *	1.77	2.103	1.834
Private Sector	30.49 (7.08%)	34.916 (7.64%)	42.837 (8.69%)
Total (All India)	430.89 (100%)	457.082 (100.00%)	492.945 (100.00%)

*JKML- Jammu Kashmir Mineral Limited, JSMDCL- Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Limited, DVC- Damodar Valley Corporation, IISCO- Indian Iron & Steel Company, APMDTCL- Arunachal Pradesh Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Limited. The contributions from other Public Sector companies is about 0.5% of the total production from PSUs.

The profit earned by Private sector is not available with the Ministry. However, the details of

profit earned (before tax) by CIL and SCCL are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Company	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Provisional up to September' 09
CIL	802.46	8738.46	5744.10	3615.58
SCCL	117.20	290.12	248.32	231.38 (After Tax)

(d) and (e) The production targets and actual achievement of coal production by various companies is furnished below:

Company	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Coal India Limited (CIL)	363.81	360.93 (99.2%)	384.51	379.46 (98.7%)	405.00	403.73 (99.7%)	435.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd.(SCCL)	37.50	37.71 (100.6%)	38.04	40.60 (106.7%)	41.50	44.54 (107.3%)	44.50
Others	28.80	32.03 (111.2%)	37.95	37.02 (97.5%)	50.79	44.49 (87.6%)	52.83
All India Total	430.10	430.83 (100.2%)	460.50	457.08 (99.3%)	497.29	492.76 (99.1%)	532.33

The shortfall in coal production in the last three years has been marginal in case of CIL. However, Coal India Limited has taken the following steps to increase production of coal:

- 134 New mining projects are envisaged to be taken up during the XI Plan. For an ultimate capacity of about 368 Million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) with an envisaged capital investment of about Rs. 35772 Crore. By the terminal year (2011-12) of XI Plan envisaged production from 54 of these projects would be around 102 Mtpa.
- Improvement in equipment utilization.
- Timely implementation of projects.

- All new mines being planned with mechanization.
- Increasing productivity in both underground and opencast mines.
- Vigorous monitoring of implementation of projects.

Similarly SCCL has envisaged to take up 36 new projects during the XI Plan for an ultimate capacity of about 61 Mtpa with an estimated investment of about Rs. 4574 Crore. The envisaged production from new projects in the terminal year 2011-12 of the XI Plan is 28.58 Mt from 27 projects.

Besides the contribution from coal PSUs, Government has allotted 208 coal blocks to both Public and Private Sector companies whose contribution is envisaged to be 104 Mt in 2011-12.

Statement

(In million tonnes)

Company	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Coal India Limited (CIL)							
Coking Coal							
Steel Grade-I	0.30	0.127	0.14	0.083	0.26	0.075	0.10
Steel Grade-II	0.35	0.559	1.07	0.282	1.10	0.960	0.40
Semi-Coking-I	0.24	0.182	0.24	0.181	0.19	0.169	0.20
Washery Grade-I	0.51	0.291	0.26	0.471	0.38	0.318	0.50
Washery Grade-II	2.18	2.052	1.49	1.976	0.98	1.706	1.32
Washery Grade-III	5.35	6.011	4.10	6.180	4.65	6.621	4.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Washery Grade-IV	11.40	15.034	9.95	16.964	10.58	16.685	12.16
Semi Low Volatile	0.15	0.031	0.05	0.026	0.03	0.008	0.03
Non Linked Washery	0.05		0.84		8.03		8.64
Sub-Total CIL(coking)	20.53	24.287	18.14	26,163	26.20	26.542	27.95
Non-coking Coal							
Grade A	4.23	4.958	4.38	4.901	4.01	3.539	3.85
Grade B	24.64	20.394	24.98	21.375	22.14	22.708	22.12
Grade C	44.99	41.241	45.28	41.795	42.95	40.262	44.34
Grade D	38.77	32.912	41.64	34.689	42.76	34.681	43.47
Grade E	78.91	84.127	84.14	89.363	89.22	96.699	93.57
Grade F	151.75	152.994	165.82	161.171	177.72	179.299	199.70
Grade G	-	0.000	0.13	0.002	0.00	0.000	0.00
Sub-Total CIL (non-coking)	343.28	336.626	366.37	353.296	378.80	377.188	407.05
Sub-Total CIL(Coking+ Non-coking]	363.81	360.913	384.51	379.459	405.00	403.730	435.00

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)**Coking coal: No Coking coal production****Non-coking Coal**

Grade A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grade B	0.61	0.382	0.65	0.547	0.99	0.752	0.97
Grade C	5.90	6.047	8.88	7.181	7.40	7.053	5.85
Grade D	8.86	7.256	9.40	7.094	8.39	8.013	12.99
Grade E	16.26	13.928	10.00	12,883	14.29	14.326	12.89
Grade F	4.39	7.012	8.56	11,820	9.53	13.231	11.25
Grade G	1.48	3.050	0.55	1.077	0.90	1,071	0.55
Ungraded	0.00	0.032	0.00	0.002	0.00	0.100	0.00
Sub-Total SCCL (non-coking)	37.50	37.707	38.04	40.604	41.50	44.546	44.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Others(grade-wise distribution is not available)							
Coking Coal	7.18	7.81	7.20	8.29	7.70	8.27	8.00
Non-coking Coal	21.62	24.22	30.75	28.73	43.09	36.22	44.83
Sub-Total Others (coking+non-coking)	28.80	32.03	37.95	37.02	50.79	44.49	52.83
Grand Total (All India)	430.10	430.83	460.50	457.08	497.29	492.76	532.33

Accidents in Coal Mines

*190. SHRI DEORAJ SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of accidents that occurred in coal mines during the last three years and the current year and the reasons therefor, State-wise, year-wise;

(b) the number of miners who died/injured in these accidents during the said period, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of the compensation/employment

and other relief provided to the family of the deceased miners and the pending claims, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The details of number of accidents that occurred in coal mines during the last three years and current year (up to October 2009) and the persons died / injured and reasons thereof, state-wise, year-wise as obtained from the Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E) are as under:

State	Year	No. of Fatal Accidents	Person Killed	Person Injured	Serious Accidents	Serious Injuries	Cause
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Assam	2006	0	0	0	0	0	
	2007	0	0	0	0	0	
	2008	2	7	14	0	14	Fall of Objects,
	2009	1	1	0	0	0	Rope Haulage, Fall of sides,
Andhra Pradesh	2006	16	19	5	557	565	Conveyors,
	2007	12	12	3	566	574	Energized
	2008	15	16	1	401	405	Machines, Fall of
	2009	13	15	5	225	231	Overhangs, Fall of
Chhattisgarh	2006	3	3	0	46	46	Objects incl. Rolling
	2007	11	11	2	40	43	Objects, Rope
	2008	11	11	14	27	27	Haulage, Fall of
	2009	10	10	2	16	21	Roof, Drilling Machine, Crushing

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gujarat	2006	0	0	0	1	1	
	2007	1	1	0	0	0	
	2008	3	3	0	1	1	& Screening Plants,
	2009	1	1	0	0	0	Shovel, Draglines,
Jharkhand	2006	25	75	3	62	66	Frontend Loader,
	2007	20	22	1	105	107	Explosion / Ignition
	2008	16	16	0	79	81	of Gas / Dust,
	2009	21	25	3	41	44	Drowning in Water,
Madhya Pradesh	2006	15	16	5	46	51	Electrical accidents,
	2007	11	11	1	59	61	Wheeled, Fall of
	2008	12	19	0	39	40	persons on the
	2009	6	6	1	21	24	same level,
Maharashtra	2006	6	6	0	34	36	Premature Collapse
	2007	8	8	0	34	35	of Workings /
	2008	10	10	0	21	21	Pillars, Dumpers,
	2009	4	6	0	16	16	Influx of Gas, Other
Orissa	2006	2	2	0	12	20	HEMM, Loading
	2007	4	4	0	8	8	Machines, Wheeled
	2008	4	4	0	5	5	Trackless (Truck,
	2009	2	2	0	2	2	Tanker, etc.), Fall of
Tamil Nadu	2006	5	5	0	4	4	persons from height
	2007	2	2	0	1	1	/ into Depth,
	2008	2	2	1	2	3	Outbreak of Fire or
	2009	3	3	0	5	6	Spontaneous
Uttar Pradesh	2006	0	0	0	3	3	Heating, Overhead
	2007	3	3	0	2	2	lines, Flying Pieces
	2008	2	2	0	2	2	(Except due to
	2009	2	2	0	1	1	Explosive), Solid
West Bengal	2006	6	11	1	96	99	Blasting Projectiles
	2007	5	5	3	107	119	etc.
	2008	10	10	0	88	89	
	2009	6	7	0	43	44	
Total		311	394	65	2818	2918	

(c) In all the seven states where coal mines are operated by CIL, the following benefits are given to the next of kin of the deceased in case of mine accident.

1. Payment of compensation under Workmen Compensation Act, 1923.
2. Ex-gratia payment of Rs 45000/- (As per NCWA-VIII) to the family of the deceased.
3. Life Cover Scheme of Rs. 40,000/- (revised from Rs 30000 w.e.f 01.01.2005) to the family of the deceased.
4. Immediate payment for funeral expenses and transport etc. to the family of deceased.
5. Employment is offered to eligible kin of the deceased.
6. In case there is no eligible person for employment monetary compensation per month is paid to the family of the deceased.

7. CIL now provides a Special Relief / Ex-gratia package of Rs. 5 Lakhs to the direct dependent of the employee who dies in any mine accidents arising out of and in course of employment, which is in addition to the amount payable under Workmen Compensation Act-1923.
8. Gratuity on the basis of the length of service, P.F as per CMPF rule, encashment of EL and Payment of Pension as per CMPS, 1998 are paid in addition to the above compensations.

There were no pending cases for payment of compensation under Workmen Compensation Act, 1923 except few recent fatal accidents where compensation payment is under process. However, there were some cases where employment due to various reasons are pending. The list of such pending cases regarding employment for last 2 years are given below.

Company	State	Year	Number of pending cases of employment on compassionate ground for over six months after date of accident	Reasons
ECL	West Bengal /Jharkhand	2008	1	Claim not received from the legal dependent.
		2009	Nil	-
BCCL	Jharkhand /West Bengal	2008	1	Claim not received from the legal dependent.
		2009	Nil	
WCL	Madhya Pradesh /	2008	1	Not provided due to over age of the legal dependant.
	Uttar Pradesh	2009	4	In 3 cases claim not received from legal dependents and one case due to family dispute over employment.
SECL	Chhattisgarh / Madhya Pradesh	2008	1	Not applied for employment due to family dispute over employment
		2009	2	Claim application not received from legal dependent. .
NEC	Assam	2008	1	Dependent's wife died and both the children are minor.
		2009	Nil	

Details of terminal benefits payable to the family members of employees died due to fatal accident in SCCL are as under:

1. Gratuity - At present the Gratuity payable is Rs.3.5 lakh.
2. Refund of CMPF - Total employees + employer's contributions + interest.
3. Pension - Pension as per Coal Mines Pension Scheme.
4. Group Insurance Scheme - Rs.60, 000/-
5. Janata Personnel Accident Insurance Scheme (JPAIS) - Rs.1,00,000/-
6. Ex-gratia as per NCWA-VIII - Rs.45,000/-
7. Family Benefit Insurance Scheme (FBIS)(death) - Rs. 10,000/- + accumulations with 6% interest.
8. Workmen Compensation - Compensation will be paid depending upon the monthly wages last drawn by the deceased workmen as per the Workmen Compensation Act 1923.
9. Payment of special Ex-gratia as per NCWA - Rs.5.00 lakh will be paid to the kin of employee
- 10.1 Dependant employment to the wife or dependant Son/Son-in-Law of ex-employee OR
- 10.2 Monthly Monetary Compensation (MMC) to the wife of ex-employee @ Rs.6,000/- p.m. till her death/re-marriage/attaining the age of 60 years in lieu of dependant employment OR
- 10.3 Lumpsum amount of Rs.5.00 lakh to the dependants of ex-employee in lieu of dependant employment/ MMC.

The monetary compensation has been paid to all the dependants of the deceased including contract labour in SCCL and there is no case pending for payment of monetary compensation in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE) through the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS)

is responsible for monitoring and enforcing safety in coal mines as per the provisions of the Mines Act 1952. Coal mine operators are responsible for compliance of safety standards in mines as per the Mines Act 1952 and the Rules and Regulations thereunder. Safety performance monitoring is a continuous process and DGMS is the nodal agency for prescribing the standards of safety in coal mines. Safety circulars are issued by DGMS taking into account the necessary improvements in safety standards and Coal Mines Regulations (CMR) are amended from time to time incorporating the necessary changes in safety standards on the basis, of observations made during safety inspections and recommendations of various safety committees and courts of enquiries. All the major accidents / fatal accidents are enquired in detail by the mine management as well as DGMS. Government also constitutes Court of enquiry depending on the severity of the accidents under the provision of Mines Act 1952. Persons found guilty are prosecuted by the government and mine management also takes disciplinary action against the guilty. Tripartite safety committees comprising of mine management, Trade Unions (TUs) and DGMS officials review and monitor the safety standards in mines and make recommendations. At national level the safety aspects of coal mines in the country are reviewed periodically by a Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines under the Chairmanship of Minister of Coal. Based on the decisions taken in various meetings coal companies are taking following action:

- Regular safety audit of mines and risk assessment to mitigate the potential dangers
- Filling up statutory vacancies on priority for effective safety monitoring
- Safety monitoring through multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organization (ISO)
- Workers participation in safety management
- Thrust on training & retraining of supervisors and workmen including contractor's workers
- Scientific roof support systems based on rock-mass-rating

- Regular monitoring of mine environment for detecting inflammable and noxious gases
- Mechanization of mining operations

**National Mission for Sustaining
Himalayan Eco-system**

*191. DR KIRODI LAL MEENA:

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

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

- (a) whether the National Mission for sustaining Himalayan Eco-system has been finalised;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the aims and objectives of the Mission; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the action plan for the said Mission is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) No, Madam. The National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) has been accorded an in-principle approval by the PM's Council on Climate Change. The Mission document will be finalised after taking into account suggestions/inputs received from various Ministries/Members of the PM's Council and in consultation with relevant Ministries.

The Primary aims and objectives of the Mission include:

- I. Building national strength in the domains of human and knowledge capacities, institutional capacities, capacities for evidence based policy building and governance; and continuous self learning for balancing between forces of Nature and actions of mankind.

- II. Networking of knowledge institutions engaged in research on Himalayan Ecosystem and develop a coherent data base on the geological, hydrological, biological and socio-cultural dimensions including traditional knowledge systems on preservation and conservation of the ecosystem.
- III. Detecting and decoupling natural and anthropogenic induced signals of global environmental changes in mountain ecosystems and predict future trends on potential impacts of climate change on the Himalayan ecosystem with a sound Science & Technology backup.
- IV. Assessing the socio-economic and ecological consequences of global environmental change and design appropriate strategies for growth in the economy of the mountain regions and the lowland systems dependent on mountain resources in the region.
- V. Studying traditional knowledge systems for community participation in adaptation, mitigation and coping mechanisms inclusive of farming and traditional health care systems.
- VI. Evaluating policy alternatives for regional development plans towards sustainable tourism development, water and other natural resource management for mountain ecosystems in the region.
- VII. Creating awareness amongst stakeholders in the region for including them in the design and implementation of the programme.
- VIII. Developing regional cooperation with neighboring countries, to generate a strong data base through monitoring and analysis, to eventually create a knowledge base for policy interventions.

[English]

Bio-diversity Boards in States

*192. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bio-diversity Boards have been

constituted in all the States under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received complaints regarding the functioning of some of the State Boards including Karnataka;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to re-vitalise the afforestation programmes being implemented in various States including Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, so far the State Biodiversity Boards have been constituted in twenty two States. The States are: Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Several steps have been taken to revitalise the afforestation programmes implemented in various States including Karnataka. These include: approval of 796 projects of Forest Development Agencies as on 30.10.2009 covering an area of 1.65 million hectares under the National Afforestation Programme; operationalising two new Eco-Task Force (ETF) battalions for ecorestoration of degraded areas in Assam, in addition to supporting the existing four ETF battalions in the country; mooted of a new scheme for afforestation involving Panchayati Raj Institutions; various afforestation schemes of the State Governments; tree planting activities under several schemes of the Central Government, notably National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme; Greening of six million hectares of degraded forests under the National Mission on Green India, one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on

Climate Change; introduction of a new state plan scheme during 2009-10 on 'Additional Central Assistance for Accelerated Programme of Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover'; and implementation of many externally-aided projects on afforestation of degraded forests in a number of states including Karnataka.

Space Programme

*193. SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has chalked out any roadmap for the future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of indigenisation proposed; and

(d) the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The overall thrust of the Space programme for the future (next decade) is to sustain and strengthen the Space based services in a self-reliant manner towards national development and develop space technology capabilities in the areas of advanced satellites, launch vehicles and associated ground segments. The programme also envisages enhancing the capabilities in the areas of satellite communication, navigation, earth observation and human space flight, in addition to pursuing research in space science, astronomy and planetary exploration.

(c) Currently, the design, development, fabrication, integration and testing of the satellites and launch vehicles are carried out indigenously to a large extent, except for a few components which are imported. To further enhance the extent of indigenization, it is planned to develop critical space qualified electronic components and space grade materials, in a phased manner.

(d) The benefits likely to accrue from the Space Programme for next decade are in terms of enhanced satellite based tele-communication and broadcasting services, support to management of natural resources and disasters, navigation and positioning services, distance education and healthcare services, rural development support, climate and environment research.

Setting up of NITs

*194. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY:

SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) have been set up in all the States/Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to set up more NITs in the country including in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether NITs have succeeded in establishing their space in the prevailing technical and educational environment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) At present, there are 20 National Institutes of Technology (NITs) located at Agartala (Tripura), Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Calicut (Kerala), Durgapur (West Bengal), Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Jalandhar (Punjab), Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), Kurukshetra (Haryana), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Patna (Bihar), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Rourkela (Orissa), Silchar (Assam), Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir), Surat (Gujarat), Surathkal (Karnataka), Tiruchirapalli (Tamil Nadu) and Warangal (Andhra Pradesh).

(c) and (d) Government of India has taken a decision to open 10 new National Institutes of Technology (NITs), as per provision made in the 11th Five Year Plan document.

Union Cabinet has since approved the proposal for setting up of these 10 new NITs in the States/UTs viz (i) Arunachal Pradesh, (ii) Manipur, (iii) Meghalaya, (iv) Mizoram, (v) Nagaland, (vi) Goa (which will also cater to UTs of Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep), (vii) Puducherry (which will cater to Andaman and Nicobar Islands also), (viii) Sikkim, (ix) Delhi (which will also cater to Chandigarh), and (x) Uttarakhand.

(e) and (f) It was envisaged by the Government of India that setting up of NITs will provide a boost to the spread of Technical Education in our Country. The 20 NITs, have been brought under an umbrella legislation viz. National Institutes of Technology Act, 2007 (29 of 2007), which declares these Institutions as '*Institutions of National Importance*'. After the setting up of the 10 new NITs, the students from all over the Country will get adequate scope of pursuing technical education, it will also provide immense scope to the hitherto deprived students of the weaker sections of the society. Therefore, it is quite clear that the NITs have brought out a radical change and opened up greater vistas for the talented students throughout the Country.

Setting up of Central Madarsa Board

*195. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH:

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether Madarsa Boards exist in various States:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether setting up of a Central Madarsa Board has been opposed to by various stakeholders; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. There are Madrasa Boards in the States of Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The proposal in regard to establishing a Central Madrasa Board, through an Act of Parliament, for standardizing the education in modern subjects of Science, Maths, etc. which are non-theological, was proposed in a report of a National Conference organized by the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI). Since it is not a proposal initiated by the Government, any decision in this regard shall be taken only in the event of there being consensus among all stakeholders.

Regeneration of Forest Cover

*196. SHRI VARUN GANDHI:

SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a major programme to regenerate the forest cover of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the forest cover of the country at present, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to involve all stakeholders including the private sector for regeneration of forest cover; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the potential area explored for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The recent initiatives of Government are:

- (i) Additional Central Assistance for Accelerated Programme of Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover, a new State plan scheme introduced in the Union Budget of 2009-10 with an allocation of Rs. 500 crore.
- (ii) Convergence of government programmes of NREGS and afforestation and related schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests
- (iii) Strengthening of National Afforestation Programme being implemented for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through

the Joint Forest Management (JFM) framework

- (iv) Issuance of Guidelines for operationalising the State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (State CAMPA).

As per State of Forest Report, 2009 published by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, the forest cover in the country is 690899 square kilometer. The state-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Government encourages participation of all stakeholders including the private sector in afforestation activities.

(d) No separate assessment for the potential area for regeneration of forest cover is carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Statement

Area in sq.km.

Sl. No.	State/UT	Forest Cover
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	45102
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	67353
3.	Assam	27692
4.	Bihar	6804
5.	Chhattisgarh	55870
6.	Delhi	177
7.	Goa	2151
8.	Gujarat	14620
9.	Haryana	1594
10.	Himachal Pradesh	14668
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	22686

1	2	3
12.	Jharkhand	22894
13.	Karnataka	36190
14.	Kerala	17324
15.	Madhya Pradesh	77700
16.	Maharashtra	50650
17.	Manipur	17280
18.	Meghalaya	17321
19.	Mizoram	19240
20.	Nagaland	13464
21.	Orissa	48855
22.	Punjab	1664
23.	Rajasthan	16036
24.	Sikkim	3357
25.	Tamil Nadu	23338
26.	Tripura	8073
27.	Uttar Pradesh	14341
28.	Uttarakhand	24495
29.	West Bengal	12994
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6662
31.	Chandigarh	17
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	211
33.	Daman and Diu	6
34.	Lakshadweep	26
35.	Pondicherry	44
Total :		690899

Agreements on Immigrant Workers

*197. SHRI AMARNATH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed any bilateral agreements with recipient countries to protect the immigrant Indian workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the countries with whom India has already signed or is likely to sign the agreements; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for effective implementation of the agreements?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has made concerted efforts to enter into bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with all the major labour receiving Countries to protect the interests and welfare of our migrant workers. MoUs have been signed with UAE in December, 2006, with Kuwait in April 2007, with Oman in November 2008, with Malaysia in January 2009 and with Bahrain in June, 2009. The Government has also signed a Labour Mobility Partnership Agreement with Denmark in September, 2009.

The MoUs contain broad principles for enhancing employment opportunities and for ensuring that the recruitment and terms of employment are in conformity with the laws of both the Countries, measures to be taken by the host Country for protection and welfare of the workers and constitution of a Joint Working Group for effective implementation of the MoUs.

In addition to the labour MoUs, the Government has also signed bilateral Social Security Agreements (SSAs) with Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Netherlands. These Agreements protect the interests of our workers by exempting the posted workers from social security contribution under the host country legislation for a certain period of time (provided the worker continues to pay his contribution under the home country system during the period of detachment), provide for portability of pension to those who have to contribute under the host

country legislation and totalization of contribution periods covered under the two systems. Similar Agreements have also been negotiated with Canada, Norway, Denmark, Hungary and Czech Republic.

Meetings of the Joint Working Groups constituted under the provisions of the MoUs are convened periodically for effective implementation of the Labour Agreements and to sort out outstanding issues.

Attacks on Indians

*198. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of the State of the Victoria, Australia visited India recently and had meetings in regard to the alleged racial attacks on Indians;

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

(c) whether the visiting dignitary has given any assurance about the safety of Indians in Australia;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by Australian Government for safety and security of Indians in that country?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (e) Yes, Madam. Hon. John Brumby, Premier of Victoria, Australia visited India from 22 September, 2009 to 1st October, 2009. Details are placed on the Table of the House, in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Hon. John Brumby, Premier of Victoria, Australia visited India from 22 September, 2009 to 1st October, 2009. During his visit, he met the Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs, Minister for Human Resource Development, Chief Minister of Delhi and Chief Secretary of Karnataka, to reassure them that Victorian Government, alongwith the Federal Australian Government, is doing its utmost to protect the interests of Indian students in the state of Victoria.

The visiting Australian dignitary was emphatically conveyed Government of India's deep concern on the recent incidents of attacks on Indians in Australia, particularly the recent attack in Epping, Melbourne and the lack of any information/data on the prosecutions and convictions on incidents of attacks on Indians in the recent past.

The premier of Victoria shared our concerns on such instances of continuing attacks on Indian nationals in Australia and said that such attacks are indeed a matter of great concern to him and his Government. He further said the Indian Community in Australia is well established and in these long years has not faced such assaults. The recent incidents are an aberration and his (State) Government as also the Federal Government (of Australia), are addressing this problem in right earnest. He assured that the well being of the Indian community in Melbourne is their prime concern. With a view to ensure this, his Government has given more powers to the police to deal with crimes, especially those committed with a racial overtone or motivation, and has made the laws more stringent, to enable the judiciary to hand down more severe punishment, whenever a crime is committed out of racial hatred. He also stated that in the recent incident in Epping, the Australian police apprehended four suspects within hours of the incident and interrogated them.

As a result of a series of discussions with visiting high level Australian delegations and demarches made by Indian Mission/Posts in Australia, the Australian Government has taken various steps. They have announced a series of measures, including stricter policing in Victoria and NSW, aimed at ensuring the safety and security of Indian nationals especially in Australia. These steps have been useful and the incidence of attacks has decreased.

Review of UGC

*199. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives for which University Grants Commission (UGC) was set up;

(b) whether the functioning of the UGC has been reviewed in the recent past;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the Government proposes to revamp the Commission keeping in view the emerging scenario in the educational sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The University Grants Commission (UGC) was established through an Act of Parliament for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education in India.

(b) and (c) Committee to advise on the Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education under Prof. Yash Pal was constituted by Government on February 28, 2008. Amongst its other terms of reference, was to review the functioning of the UGC and to critically assess the role of the UGC and their preparedness to provide institutional leadership to the emerging demand of access, equity, relevance and quality of higher education, technical education and the university system. The Committee recommended the creation of an all-encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER), a Constitutional body to replace the existing regulatory bodies including the University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE) and Distance Education Council (DEC) and the academic functions of professional councils. The need to establish an overarching regulatory body in higher, technical and professional education based on the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission and the Committee to advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education under Prof. Yash Pal subsuming the existing regulatory bodies in these fields of knowledge, including the UGC, has been expressed by Government as one of its priorities. Para 32 of the President's Address Parliament on 4th June, 2009 had stated the intent of Government to establish a National Council for Higher Education as recommended by the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) and the Yash Pal Committee.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Standardisation of School Education

*200. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:

SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to evaluate and standardise school education and streamline teaching methods throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any analysis in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 promotes child centred pedagogy to improve the quality of education. The learning plans of teachers need to respond to physical, cultural and social context of the child. NCF, 2005 and the model curricula, syllabi and textbooks have been adopted by Central Board of School Education (CBSE) for the schools affiliated to the Board. Steps have been taken to raise the standards of teaching in the existing schools through in-service teachers training programmes and various other measures under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Quality improvement at the secondary stage is one of the main objectives of the centrally sponsored scheme "Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan" launched in March, 2009. CBSE verifies various parameters responsible for quality education like infrastructure, teachers' qualifications, teaching methodologies, teacher training programmes and co-curricular activities etc. before granting affiliation to schools.

(c) and (d) Madam, Sir. However, NCF, 2005 was prepared after a series of intensive deliberations with eminent scholars drawn from different disciplines, educational experts, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders.

[English]

**Amendment in Prevention
of Corruption Act**

2033. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 to allow confiscation of properties of corrupt public servants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) A proposal, inter alia, for incorporating the provisions of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 1944 for attachment and forfeiture of property of corrupt public servants, as well as strengthening the procedure for attachment by way of insertion of certain additional provisions in the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was considered. The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2008 was introduced in the Lok Sabha and it was passed on 23.12.2008. The Bill was also introduced in the Rajya Sabha for consideration and passing; but could not be passed and with the dissolution of the 14th Lok Sabha, the Bill lapsed.

(c) No definite time frame can be laid down.

**Threat to Indian High
Commission in Pakistan**

2034. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian High Commission in Pakistan is facing frequent security threat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to post CISF personnel to protect the Indian diplomats posted in Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the deteriorating security situation in Pakistan and the threat posed to the safety and security of the High Commission of India in Islamabad and its personnel.

(c) and (d) The safety and security of a diplomatic Mission and its personnel are the responsibility of the host government. Government has repeatedly taken up with the Government of Pakistan the matter of ensuring the safety and security of the High Commission and its personnel. Government is also taking necessary measures to augment their safety and security.

**Funds for Bannerghatta
National Park**

2035. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from Karnataka Government for consolidation work of Bannerghatta National Park for sanction and release of funds for the implementation of this project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Fee Hike in Higher Education

2036. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has recommended fee hike in the higher education;

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

(c) whether the Government has made any evaluation of the impact of fee hike on the students and the education sector; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) had recommended that it is for the universities to decide the level of fees but, as a norm, fee should meet at least 20 per cent of the total expenditure in universities, as "the low fee in public universities without any means testing, have meant unquantifiable benefits for unintended beneficiaries."

(c) and (d) The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) Committee on Financing of Higher Education which examined the issue has, inter-alia, recommended that rates of cost recovery in higher education are already fairly high in many universities. The CABE Committee further recommended that revenue generation through student fees beyond 20 per cent may seriously affect access to higher education.

[English]

Setting up of Minority Universities

2037. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Universities located in the country for minorities;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to set up more Minority Universities;

(c) if so, the details alongwith the locations identified for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the new Universities are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Among the Central Universities, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) which has been defined in its Act as "the educational institution of their choice established by the Muslims of India" has been so recognized by the Central Government. However, the matter is sub-judice before the Apex Court. The following educational institutions declared as 'Deemed to be University' under Section 3 of UGC Act of 1956 are reported to have been established and administered by the minorities:—

1. Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi, 2. Allahabad Agricultural Institute, Allahabad, 3. Karunya Deemed University, Coimbatore, 4. Christ Deemed University, Bangalore, 5. Sathyabama Deemed University, Chennai and 6. B.S. Abdur Rahman Deemed University, Chennai.

Minority status to 'Higher Educational Institutions' is granted by State Governments in respect of institutions established in States. The question of minority status for institutions established by legislatures being sub-judice before the Apex Court in the matter of AMU, there is no proposal at present to establish universities with minority character.

[Translation]

Foreign Employment Bureau

2038. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Foreign Employment Bureaus set up in the country; state-wise;

(b) the details of persons registered with the Bureau in Rajasthan during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the number of persons from Rajasthan to whom have been given employment during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The Ministry has not set up any Foreign Employment Bureau in the country. Recruitment for overseas employment is done either by foreign employers directly or by recruitment agencies

authorized on their behalf. Some states including Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have state owned overseas employment recruitment agencies.

Constitution of Himalayan Development Council

2039. SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from Himalayan States especially Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, etc. to constitute Himalayan Development Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to constitute the said council to provide assistance for dealing with the natural disasters;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Access to Higher Education

2040. SHRI P. VISWANATHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problems being faced by the rural students due to lack of access to quality higher education; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) In order to focus attention in universities located

in backward/rural/remote/border areas, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has been implementing a scheme, namely, "Special Development Grant for Universities in Backward Areas" to strengthen their available infrastructure and to create additional basic infrastructure. The UGC has also been implementing a scheme to provide assistance to eligible colleges located in rural/remote/ border/hilly/tribal areas for providing accommodation for teachers and students on rental basis, development of location specific curricula, and for providing conveyance allowance to eligible poor students.

Indira Gandhi National Tribal Open University, with its headquarters at Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh, has been established as a teaching and affiliating university to promote an avenue of higher education and research for the tribal population in the country. Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is responsible for enhancing education through distance mode, and promoting, coordinating and determining standards in open learning and distance education systems. The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been envisaged as a Centrally sponsored scheme to leverage the potential of ICT in teaching and learning process for the benefit of all learners in Higher Education Institutions in anytime and anywhere mode. A new scheme has been envisaged in the XI Plan to provide financial assistance to State Governments to set up a model degree college in each of the 374 educationally backward districts identified by UGC in the country, where the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education is less than the national GER.

Workers Stranded in Gulf Countries

2041. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indian workers are stranded in Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of such workers, country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to help these stranded workers?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) No, Madam. Whenever any overseas Indian worker gets stranded abroad the Indian Mission arranges repatriation in consultation with the host country Government. Workers get stranded due to loss of employment or exploitation/abuse by the employer. This Ministry has recently established Indian Community Welfare Funds at the disposal of the Indian Missions to provide support services to stranded/distressed workers.

**Natural Resources Data
Management System**

2042. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of districts of Karnataka included in the Natural Resources Data Management System;
- (b) whether Government proposes to include all the districts in the said Management System;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which all the Districts of the States are likely to be included in Natural Resources Data Management System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) All the 29 districts of Karnataka have been covered under Natural Resources Data Management System (NRDMS).

(c) The goal of NRDMS has been to develop pilot scale district level natural resource databases and demonstrate their utility in local level (district and below) planning process. District databases have thus been set up in selected districts located in different geo-environmental settings spread across different States. For pilot demonstration of NRDMS on a statewide scale, the State of Karnataka was covered in entirety under a collaborative

project between the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department of the Government of Karnataka. Government of West Bengal is currently setting up NRDMS databases in all its districts following the Karnataka model. Experimental databases have been set up in selected districts in different other States for demonstration purposes.

(d) Action has been initiated to demonstrate the utility of NRDMS at selected districts in States so far not covered under NRDMS. Setting up NRDMS in all the districts of the States will be dependent on the respective State Governments.

[Translation]

Forest Development in Maharashtra

2043. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various State Governments including Maharashtra for forest development in these States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred for the purpose; and
- (d) the time by which these proposals are likely to be accorded sanction by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The National Afforestation and Eco-development Board, Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the National Afforestation Programme aimed at regeneration of degraded forests and fringe areas, through a two tier institutional set-up of Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at the district level and Joint Forest Management Committees at the village level. This year the Ministry has received 579 proposals from all the State Governments under the National Afforestation Programme out of which 270 have been accorded

sanction. This includes 27 proposal received from Maharashtra State out of which 14 have been sanctioned.

(c) The budget allocation Rs. 345.62 crores for the current financial year under the National Afforestation Programme is likely to be incurred for this purpose.

(d) Funds are released to FDA projects on receipt of appropriate proposals alongwith satisfactory utilization of the funds released earlier and other requisite documents like progress reports, audit report etc. Further, the proposals will be accorded sanction subject to availability of funds under the scheme.

[English]

Biodiversity of Himalayan Ecology

2044. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been released to sustain the unique repository of biodiversity of Himalayan ecology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any mechanism has been put in place to oversee the implementation of these guidelines;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to rope in any NGOs and others to stop deterioration of biodiversity of Himalayan ecology; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, National Biodiversity Authority has been set up in 2003 to conserve the Biodiversity of the Country. Ministry of Environment and Forests have also released "Governance for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem (G-SHE): Guidelines and Best Practices".

(c) Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 provide for the conservation of

biological diversity, use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources knowledge and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Accordingly, National, State and local level mechanisms have been provided for implementation of the Act.

(d) Ministry of Environment and Forests have notified 6 Biosphere Reserves, 30 National Parks, 112 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 15 Conservation Reserves in the Himalayan Region for conserving Himalayan biodiversity.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) The question does not arise, in view of (e) above.

Vacant Posts of Teachers under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

2045. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:

SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:

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

(a) whether the posts of teachers sanctioned by the Union Government under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) have not been filled up by some States;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has taken steps for filling up of teachers posts in these States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d) Of the 33 States/UTs that have been sanctioned teachers under SSA, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Delhi and Lakshadweep have completed the recruitment. Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Puducherry have recruited more than 80% of the teachers sanctioned under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), so far.

States/UTs have been directed to expedite the appointment of teachers. The status of teacher recruitment is being monitored on a regular basis.

Assistance to FDA

2046. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing a National Afforestation Programme for regeneration of degraded forests in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds released to Forest Department Agencies (FDAs) and utilised by each State/U.T. during the last three years and the recent year, year-wise;

(d) whether the funds have been released under the programme for Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The National Afforestation Programme (NAP), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests through a two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level. As on 30/10/2009, 796 FDA projects involving 35628 JFMCs for treating an area of 1.65 m ha. have been approved under the scheme since inception.

(c) to (e) The State-wise details of funds released to the Forest Development Agencies under the scheme during last three years and the current year (up to 30/10/2009) are given in the enclosed Statement. The funds released from 2007-08 to 30.10.2009 constitute the release during Eleventh Five Year Plan.

Statement

State-wise details of funds released during 2006-07 to 2009-10

Sl. No.	State	Amount Released (Rs. in crore)			
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto 30.10.09)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.06	9.97	11.54	6.04
2.	Chhattisgarh	13.05	42.71	25.66	9.75
3.	Gujarat	17.52	30.93	25.75	14.67
4.	Haryana	9.20	12.93	20.14	16.59
5.	Himachal Pradesh	11.56	7.43	6.72	2.31
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.83	8.13	8.47	1.39
7.	Karnataka	23.54	31.02	15.46	7.27
8.	Madhya Pradesh	15.83	13.84	22.55	11.18
9.	Maharashtra	15.93	29.92	21.87	13.01
10.	Orissa	14.07	19.01	21.63	4.72

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Punjab	3.36	5.88	3.30	0.30
12.	Rajasthan	5.62	2.50	7.32	6.93
13.	Tamil Nadu	17.22	9.46	8.86	4.64
14.	Uttar Pradesh	11.88	36.77	30.80	25.68
15.	Uttarakhand	11.52	12.39	9.24	3.47
16.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Jharkhand	19.03	24.56	26.32	12.44
18.	Bihar	4.94	6.92	6.48	3.37
19.	Kerala	12.75	8.81	9.45	1.62
20.	West Bengal	7.00	7.23	9.06	2.64
Total (Other States)		230.92	320.40	290.62	148.01
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.93	4.85	3.25	0.53
22.	Assam	13.60	8.58	9.78	4.85
23.	Manipur	7.78	12.37	9.51	4.07
24.	Nagaland	7.22	7.75	6.64	4.70
25.	Sikkim	7.41	11.28	6.63	6.00
26.	Tripura	4.37	5.02	0.89	2.53
27.	Mizoram	13.09	16.75	13.61	8.72
28.	Meghalaya	5.44	5.94	4.69	0.70
Total (NE States)		61.83	72.55	55.00	32.10
Grand Total		292.75	392.95	345.62	180.11

IIT and IIITA in Gujarat

2047. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended setting up of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and Indian Institute of Information Technology Academy (IIITA) in the State of Gujarat;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the contribution of the State Government and Union Government in this regard; and
- (d) the time by which these institutes are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Government of India have already established a new Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Gujarat (Gandhinagar) where classes started from the academic year 2008-09. Proposal to establish eight new IITs, including one in Gujarat, was approved by the Planning Commission in July, 2008. The land for the Institute is being provided by the State Government free of cost. It takes between 5 to 6 years to establish the permanent campus of an IIT, with an estimated cost of Rs. 760.00 crores (without the cost of land) which is borne by the Central Government. Further, the proposal of Central Government to set up 20 new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) in Public. Private Partnership (PPP) mode does not include a proposal to set up Indian Institutes of Information Technology Academy (IIITAs) and no recommendation has been received from the Planning Commission for establishment of IIIT-Academy in Gujarat.

Vocational Training Programme

2048. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) proposes to offer vocational training programme to the youths belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) in certain States;
- (b) if so, the States so identified for the purpose;
- (c) the salient features of the programme; and
- (d) the funds allocated by IGNOU for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is involved in vocational

training programmes to BPL youths in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) Under this programme the University envisaged to provide vocational training in various disciplines such as security skills, mechanical and electrical skills, information technology, textile, tailoring, accounting and horticulture etc. to the youths in different States of the country with the objective to enhance their employability

(d) Indira Gandhi National Open University has informed that it has sanctioned Rs. 14.95 crore, till now, for vocational training in security guard skills.

Pravasi Bhartiya Sammelan

2049. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pravasi Bhartiya Sammelan is held every year;
- (b) if so, the details of the Sammelan last held;
- (c) whether the decisions taken therein have been implemented;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the likely date and venue of the next Sammelan?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The 7th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention was held at the Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai from 7-9 January, 2009. Tamil Nadu was the Partner State and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) was institutional partner. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 08.01.2009 and the valedictory address was delivered by the Hon'ble President on 09.01.2009. The President also conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award on 13 distinguished PIOs/NRIs. H.E. Mr. Ramdien Sardjoe, the Vice President of Suriname was the Chief Guest.

(c) and (d) Decisions taken by the Government as a result of wider consultations held at the PBD Conventions in the past include the establishment of Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre, conceptualisation of PIO University, formation of Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of People of Indian Origin, setting up of the India Development Foundation and launching of The Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global-INK).

(e) The next Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is scheduled to be held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 07-09 January, 2010.

[Translation]

Refund of Water Cess

2050. SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water cess collected has been reimbursed to State Pollution Control Board of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the water cess is likely to be reimbursed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Water cess has been reimbursed to Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board (MPPCB) against remittances made into the Consolidated Fund of India upto October 2007. In the financial year 2009-10, a total amount of Rs.1,35,83,200/- has been released by the Central Government to the said Board. As and when budgetary allocations are made for reimbursement of water cess, appropriate amounts are released to the State Boards, including the MPPCB.

Teachers for handicapped children in K.V., Delhi

2051. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are no special educators for teaching the handicapped students in Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) There are no special educators on regular basis in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs). However, affirmative initiatives taken by KVs include waiver of fee for disabled students and reservation of 3% seats for them for fresh admission. In some KVs, assistance of non-government organizations (NGOs) are taken for special coaching and counseling of those children.

Financial Assistance to Pilgrims

2052. SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Government on Haj Pilgrims during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposes to extend the said facility to the followers of other religions too who go abroad on pilgrimage;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The amount spent by the Government on Haj Pilgrims who traveled through Haj Committee of India on air fare subsidy, which is administered by Ministry of Civil Aviation, during each of the last three years is given below:

Haj Year	Total subsidy for Haj Pilgrims (Rs.Crore-provisional)
2006-11	367.00
2007	390.00
2008	826.00

(b) to (d) No, the Government is striving to reduce such expenditure. Recently, Government has taken a decision to increase the air fare chargeable from Haj Pilgrim going through Haj Committee of India from Rs.12000 to Rs. 16000.

[English]

Preservation of Heritage Sites

2053. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking steps to preserve heritage sites as per the directions of UNESCO;

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

(c) whether the Government launched the World heritage series commemorative medal programme recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh heritage sites; and

(e) the steps taken to make Indian cultural heritages compete with World cultural heritages for their inclusion in the World Wonders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. As per the requirement of UNESCO, all Member-States are obliged to prepare Site Management Plans (SMP) for their sites inscribed in the World Heritage List and submit them to UNESCO who periodically monitors implementation of the SMPs. India has taken appropriate action in this regard in respect of its inscribed sites.

(c) and (d) MMTC-PAMP India Pvt. Ltd. (a joint venture between MMTC Ltd.; a Government of India undertaking and PAMP S.A. Switzerland) and UNESCO, New Delhi in association with Archaeological Survey of India have launched World Heritage Series Commemorative medals in November 2009 with the World Heritage logo on one side and the monument picture on the other side. Presently, the medals pertaining to Taj Mahal, Agra; Humayun's Tomb and Qutub Minar, New Delhi and Brihadisvara

Temple, Gangaikondacholapuram (TN) have been launched.

(e) Identification of sites having potential for inscription in the World Heritage List of UNESCO and posing them for consideration to UNESCO against yearly quota of the country is a continuous process. Actions have also been taken to create state-of-the-art tourist facilities at our World Heritage Sites to make them more attractive and popular.

Safe Corridor for Sikh Pilgrims

2054. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any demand from Sikh pilgrims for a safe corridor from Dera Baba Nanak, Gurdaspur, Punjab to Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara, district Narowal at Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Yes. Government has received, from time to time, representations from Sikh pilgrims, religious bodies and leaders requesting for a safe corridor from Dera Baba Nanak, Gurdaspur, Punjab to Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara, District Narowal in Pakistan.

(c) The issue of facilitating pilgrim traffic to shrines in Pakistan, including Kartarpur Sahib, has been repeatedly taken up by the Government, including since the first round of the composite dialogue process in 2004. Revision of the Visa Agreement of 1974 to enable liberalized travel of pilgrims from both countries has also been suggested to Government of Pakistan. In 2005, Government had proposed to Pakistan the inclusion of Kartarpur Sahib in the list of shrines under the bilateral 'Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines-1974'. Pakistan has yet to respond to these initiatives. However, as a result of our taking up this matter at a high level, visas are being issued to pilgrims by Pakistan since 2005 for travel to Kartarpur Sahib.

[Translation]

Historical Documents and Memoirs

2055. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of historical documents and memoirs relating to First War of Independence 1857 martyrs preserved at various museums in country;

(b) whether any museum and historical memorial have been constructed at Meerut, as a mark of First War of Independence; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) There are three Site Museums under Archaeological Survey of India wherein historical documents or memoirs related to First War of Independence 1857 are preserved. Details are enclosed as statement.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Archaeological Survey of India only maintains and develops site museums and centrally protected monuments as per provisions of Ancient Monuments Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958.

Statement

(i) "1857 Memorial Museum" at Lucknow has been established in the annexe of the Residency building which was earlier used for displaying a model of the Residency Complex. The ruins of the building reminds us of the great uprising of 1857 in Lucknow and are preserved in the same condition in which they came under central protection in the year 1920.

The museum, designed to present a visual accounts of the freedom struggle of 1857, have a collection of five hundred eleven (511) objects which includes a model of the Residency, old photographs, lithographs, paintings, documents, period objects such as guns, swords, shields,

musketting cannons, rank badges, medals and other items. Diorama and paintings on canvas showing some of the battle at the Residency and other relating to the theme also form part of the display.

The exhibits present the story of 1857 in a chronological order. Original photographs and lithographs of many sites, connected with the uprising, and paintings depicting significant events of the uprising have been displayed along with portraits of local heroes. A number of maps showing strategic positions in Lucknow, the center of the uprising of 1857, map of the Residency and a drawing of the layout of the gallery have also been displayed.

Recently a new gallery has been added to the basement of the museum which houses the artifacts recovered during the excavation in the southern portion of the Residency complex. These include various terracotta human and animal figurines, a loaded revolver, porcelain wares, cannon balls, terracotta roof tiles, fragments of wine bottles, and silver plated whisk fly, etc.

(ii) **Mumtaz Mahal Museum, Red Fort, Delhi** houses forty two objects related to first War of Independence 1857 which includes, maps, lithographs, letters, paintings, inscriptions, arms used by the then Nawab of Pataudi and Bahadur Shah in the war of 1857, field glass used by General J. Nicholson during the siege of Delhi.

(iii) **Swatantrata Sangram Sanghralaya, Delhi** was set up in one of the double storeyed army barracks in the year 1995 and is located inside Red Fort considering the role of the Red Fort in the Freedom Struggle. The museum provides a glimpse of major phases of India's struggle for freedom, which includes Prelude to 1857 uprising, First War of Indian independence etc. till the time freedom was achieved on 15th August, 1947. Fourteen objects mainly consisting of lithographs, arms, letters etc. associated with First War of Independence, 1857 are displayed.

[English]

Smuggling of Sandalwood

2056. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sandalwood smuggling is rampant in the country and there was a seizure of a sizeable quantity of Sandalwood in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such activities;

(d) whether the Government proposes to launch any scheme to popularize plantation of Sandalwood trees in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Madam. No large scale smuggling of Sandalwood has been reported from different parts of the country. No sizeable quantity of sandalwood seizure has been reported in Delhi.

(c) Various steps have been initiated at State and Central Government level including funding for strengthening the infrastructure for protection machinery of various States and Union Territories, which has the primary responsibility for protection of forests, under the Integrated Forest Protection Scheme of Ministry of Environment and Forests apart from implementing the legal provisions under Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 etc.

(d) and (e) There is no specific scheme to popularize plantation of sandalwood trees in the country by Government of India.

Water Problem in Rocky Terrain States

2057. SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States of the country including Jharkhand have rocky terrain which results in slow percolation of water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government to tackle such problem in Jharkhand and other similar States; and

(d) the funds allocated and released for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) and (b) As per the studies conducted by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), more than 2/3rd area of the country including Jharkhand is underlain by hard rock formations, which results in slow percolation of water.

(c) and (d) The CGWB carries out surveys, monitoring and exploration activities to delineate potential aquifer zones and to assess their yield characteristics. The data generated through these studies is disseminated to the user agencies in the States.

The steps taken by the Government to maintain ground water levels in the country include:-

(i) Approval of schemes for demonstrative artificial recharge projects during 11th Plan in the entire country. The details of sanctions issued under the scheme have been given below:—

Sl. No.	State	No. of recharge structures	Funds allocated (Rs. in Lakh)	Funds released (Rs. in Lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58	130.020	91.014
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	108	259.66	77.901
3.	Karnataka	52	109.158	76.410
4.	Kerala	92	39.05	11.715
5.	Punjab	70	179.45	53.835
6.	Tamil Nadu	338	526.35	324.045
7.	West Bengal	76	111.09	33.320
Total		794	1354.778	668.240

- (ii) A scheme for "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells" approved with an outlay of Rs. 1798.71 crore for 7 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. An amount of Rs. 208.59 crore has been released under the scheme.
- (iii) Approval of the programme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies to help water conservation and ground water recharge.

The Water Resources Department, Government of Jharkhand has constructed check dams and recharge pits in the State. Ranchi Regional Development Authority has amended building bye laws incorporating mandatory provision for adoption of roof top rain water harvesting structure in Ranchi urban area for all buildings. State Government organizes awareness programmes and also provides subsidy upto Rs. 25,000/- to Government agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, Group Housing Societies, etc. for constructing rain water harvesting structures.

Watch List of USCIRF

2058. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom placing India on its 'watch list' for 2009 for not taking effective measures to ensure the rights of religious minorities in many States;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India does not take cognizance of an annual report prepared by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, which was submitted to the Government of the United

States of America, in August 2009, in compliance of their domestic legislative requirements.

(c) The Government of India is committed to the welfare and security of all Indians, irrespective of their religion.

[Translation]

Development of Closed/Abandoned Coal Mines

2059. SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN:

SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY: .

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to hand over closed coal mines to the Multinational Companies (MNCs) for their development;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such coal mines which have been identified for the propose, company-wise;

(c) the total quantity of coal likely to be produced annually through these mines; company-wise; and

(d) the action plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[English]

Forest Land for Development Schemes

2060. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government have to provide double measurement of land to the forest department for making use of certain area of forest land for public development schemes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) if so, whether various State Governments have requested the Union Government to allow them to provide the equal measurement of land *in lieu* of the forest land to be utilised by them;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to make amendments in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has accorded a general approval for diversion of Forest land for undertaking developmental activities by the State Government Departments for the welfare of the people and involving upto 1 ha. of forest land. For such public development schemes having upto 1.00 ha. no Compensatory Afforestation is required, as a specific measure in exception to the guidelines. In case of more than 1.00 ha. of forest land required by the State Government/State Government Undertakings, Compensatory Afforestation is proposed on equivalent non-forest land, wherein, the non-forest land also includes revenue lands/civil-soyam lands/zudpi jungle/ chhote/ bade jhar ka jungle/jungle-jhari land and all other such categories of lands. Some of the State Governments have requested to exempt them from providing equivalent non-forest land and let them take up compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land developed in extend to the area being diverted as was being done in the proposals of Central Government Undertakings.

(d) and (e) The present scheme has worked well and the rate of diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes has decreased from 1,43,000 ha to around 30,500 ha. The proposals received from the various State Governments have been examined and the Central Government has decided to continue with the present system of Compensatory Afforestation. Accordingly, no amendment in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been proposed in this regard.

[Translation]

Harassment of Indians at U.S. Airports

2061. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of instances involving harassment of Indians at the airports in foreign countries including USA, have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with these countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of these countries thereto; and

(e) the other measures taken or being taken by the Government in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (e) A statement indicating harassment of Indian nationals in some of the foreign countries is enclosed.

Statement

Yes. A few cases of harassment of Indian nationals at the airports in foreign countries have come to the notice of the Indian Missions/Posts. These instances were mainly reported from Angola, France, Germany, Italy, Syria, UK, USA and Ukraine, brief details of which is given below:

Country	Instances
1	2
Angola	7 instances of harassment and delay in clearance at the airport immigration were reported to our Mission. It may be mentioned that such harassment is common for all foreign visitors to Angola.
France	A few incidents of harassment of Indian nationals have been reported to have

1	2
	happened at the Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris. The Indian nationals were scrutinized in terms of the Schengen visa rules and included those who were in transit or traveling to other Schengen countries.
Germany	3 instances of deportation of Indian nationals from Munich airport. All the three cases involved violation of the conditions of the Schengen Visa.
Italy	There have been some cases that were reported to our Mission by members of the Sikh community that they were made to open their turbans in public during security checks at some Italian airports.
Syria	12 instances of harassment and delay in clearance at Damascus Airport were reported to our Mission. The Indians included businessmen and pilgrims.
UK	1 instance of detention of an Indian doctor at the Glasgow Airport on suspicion of carrying traces of substance which appeared to be explosive. He was released the next day.
USA	Due to US procedures related to customs and immigrations, sometimes Indian nationals do face inconvenience on arrival in/departures from the USA. Although routine checking and frisking of GOI dignitaries is exempted for dignitaries like Cabinet Ministers, following an evaluation by US Homeland Security & Customs Border Protection Authorities (CBP), some passengers are subjected to secondary scrutiny and inspection.
Ukraine	2 instances of detention of some Indian nationals were reported to the Mission for discrepancies in their visa/registration papers.

In the above-mentioned cases, Our Missions/Posts abroad took up the matter strongly with the local government and were able to resolve the matter satisfactorily. It was reported by these Governments that the delay occurred mainly due to local immigration procedures. As far as US is concerned, our Mission/Consulates convey prior intimation to the US authorities about arrivals/departures of Indian dignitaries in the USA for facilitation of customs and immigration procedures. Whenever any incident of harassment of an Indian national comes to the notice of our Missions/Posts abroad, the Mission officials take immediate action by approaching the concerned officials in the local Foreign Office, immigration authorities, etc.

**Loss of Indian Territory due
to Soil Erosion**

2062. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a part of Indian territory is shifting towards Pakistan due to soil erosion;
- (b) if so, the details thereof as on date;
- (c) the total area lost by India as a result thereof;
- (d) whether the flow of the Ravi and the Beas Rivers has been diverted by Pakistan;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether it has led to damage to the fertile soil of Punjab;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent soil erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (c) As informed by Government of Punjab, no part of Indian territory is shifting towards Pakistan due to soil erosion.

(d) to (h) As per Government of Punjab, construction of river training works at various locations on river Ravi by

Pakistan leads to damage of fertile soil. To check the erosion, counter protective works are carried out at these locations by India in consultation with a team from Central Water Commission (CWC). As informed by CWC, there is no information as per records that the flow of rivers Ravi and Beas have been diverted by Pakistan.

Shortage of Coal

2063. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to allot isolated small coal blocks for mining to coal companies of Co-operative Societies and private sector on lease basis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the estimated shortage of coal is likely to increase in the country by 2012;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Madam.

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

(c) and (d) As per the Working Group on Coal and Lignite, the total coal demand in the terminal year of 11th Five Year Plan i.e. 2011-12 is projected at 731.10 MT against the indigenous supply of 680 MT. The supply demand gap, therefore, will be to order of 51.10 MT in the year 2011-12. This comprises of 40.85 MT of coking coal and 10.25 MT of thermal coal.

(e) With a view to augment the supply of coal during the 11th Five Year Plan, the Government have initiated a series of steps including allocation of blocks for captive consumption and implementation of a large number of new projects by coal PSUs. The major coal

producer i.e. Coal India Limited (CIL) has envisaged 134 new projects with an ultimate capacity of 367.86 MT (to contribute 102.45 MT during 2011-2012). Similarly, SCCL has envisaged 38 new projects with an ultimate capacity of 55.40 MT (to contribute 8 MT in 2011-12) during the 11th Five Year Plan.

[English]

Norms for Construction Work around Protected Monuments

2064. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the norms/guidelines regarding construction work around protected monuments;
- (b) whether any Expert Committee was set up by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in 2006 to consider relaxation of ban on construction norms within 100 meters of protected monuments;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the recommendations of the Committee;
- (d) whether the ASI has granted permission/relaxation to allow construction work violating the norms/guidelines in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details of all such construction works during the last three years and the current year and the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Government has any proposal to inquire into all such cases; and
- (g) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) The Central Government in exercise of its power under Rule 31 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958 had issued a Notification in 1992, published in the Official Gazette of India vide S.O. No. 1764 of 16th June, 1992 to contain construction and mining activities within the prohibited and regulated areas, i.e. areas upto 100 metres and 200 metres further beyond, respectively, from protected limits.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. The Committee was constituted in 2006 in view of the fact that even much prior to the issue of 1992 Notification, defining prohibited and regulated areas, the areas close to some of the monuments had already been inhabited and the blanket ban on the construction/repairs activities had caused a lot of problems to the genuine owners of the properties. There were cases wherein the existing buildings constructed decades ago had become dilapidated but the owners were not in position to undertake any major repairs, addition and alteration or restoration/reconstruction.

To address the problems being faced by local inhabitants relating to constructions in prohibited and regulated areas of centrally protected monuments, an Expert Advisory Committee was constituted in 2006 to render advice to the Director General, ASI in the matter. The Committee comprised of eminent scholars, historians, architects as its members.

(d) and (e) The Committee after examining the proposals on case to case basis, made recommendations, on merit, taking into account the ground realities and also whether the proposed construction was likely to cause any adverse effect on the monument either visually or structurally. A State-wise list of permissions granted by the Archaeological Survey of India as per the recommendations of the Expert Advisory Committee is given in the enclosed Statement.

(f) and (g) As per the judgement of Delhi High Court, dated 30.10.2009 the cases pertaining to prohibited areas are to be reviewed.

Statement

*Number of proposals received and approved
(State-wise) for grant of permissions
for construction*

Sl. No.	State	Number of proposals placed before the Committee	Proposals approved
1.	Assam	3	2
2.	Punjab	7	1
3.	Chhattisgarh	1	—
4.	Delhi	176	119
5.	Goa	2	—
6.	Gujarat	46	24
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	1
9.	Karnataka	8	2
10.	Kerala	23	17
11.	Madhya Pradesh	7	—
12.	Maharashtra	63	16
13.	Orissa	28	10
14.	Rajasthan	10	3
15.	Tamil Nadu	10	6
16.	Uttarakhand	1	1
17.	Uttar Pradesh	31	9
18.	West Bengal	8	2
Total		426	214

[Translation]

Economic Development Programme In Madhya Pradesh

2065. SHRI PREMCHAND GUDDU:

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of economic development programmes being initiated by the Union Government in the country including Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the funds allocated during the said period for the plan programmes meant for development of backward areas, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the States including M.P.; and

(c) the progress of plan programmes being executed by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) Allocations for the plan schemes are made by Planning Commission to the Union Ministries. The state-wise allocations of these amounts and progress reporting are made by the administrative

Ministries responsible for implementation of these schemes/projects/programmes. Allocation of funds to, and expenditure incurred by the States including Madhya Pradesh under major developmental programmes of the Union Government during 2007-08, 2008-09 and the current year is given in a statement-I enclosed.

Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) is a special fund for the development of identified backward districts in the country. 24 districts of Madhya Pradesh are covered under BRGF. A statement-II containing annual allocation for backward areas is enclosed.

In addition, the State Governments are required to earmark specific proportion of the state plan funds to the welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population. A statement-III containing allocation of State Plan funds for welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is enclosed.

Statement-I

Details of major economic development programmes of the Union of India - All India and for State of M.P.

(Rs. in Lakh)

		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
		1	2	3
		4		
1.	NREGS			(Up to July 09)
	MP.	Funds released by Centre	260279.82	406111.54
		Funds released by State	28956.40	50799.87
		Expenditure	289172.60	355166.67
	All India	Funds released by Centre	1260520.01	2993960.00
		Funds released by State	152519.34	277626.36
		Expenditure	1585688.61	2713787.54
2.	IAY			(Up to Aug 09)
	M.P.	Central Release	11201.37	23436.36
		State Contribution	3733.79	7812.12
		Utilisation of Funds	15072.08	40829.83
	All India	Central Release	388237.01	879579.39
		State contribution	129273.07	293124.55
		Utilisation of Funds	546454.30	834834.33
				333210.52

		1	2	3	4
3.	NSAP				
	MP.	Allocation	24397.63	43592.42	44451.00
		Release	24397.63	43592.42	14817.00
		Utilisation of Funds	24397.63	25303.90	5386.68
	All India	Allocation	289148.20	450000.00	517543.95
		Release	288973.21	450000.00	172514.65
		Utilisation of Funds	312207.83	386008.21	155091.74
4.	PMGSY				
	M.P.	Allocation	44000.00	44000.00	
		Release	161565.00	187710.00	41222.00
		Expenditure	135873.00	219806.00	21198.00
	All India	Allocation	361500.00	361500.00	
		Release	1083380.00	1469839.00	408977.00
		Expenditure	1061869.00	151698.00	215088.00
5.	NRHM				
	M.P.	Budget Estimates	54405.00	57565.00	59721.00
		Release	63691.00	74783.00	
	All India	Budget Estimates	89806900.00	91918200.00	95863400.00
		Release	91982900.00	104775200.00	
6.	ICDS				
	M.P.	Funds Release	26458.36	29168.81	10938.04
	All India	Funds Release	310803.27	401319.16	177894.15
7.	ARWSP				
	M.P.	Allocation	25162.00	37047.00	33714.00
		Release	25162.00	38047.00	12736.67
		Expenditure	26755.60	37452.30	5581.66
	All India	Allocation	475701.00	689672.00	632998.00
		Release	469966.86	705602.21	237707.20
		Expenditure	492876.77	633908.42	82559.33

			1	2	3	4
8.	CRSP (Total Sanitation Campaign)				(up to Aug 09)	
	M.P.	Release	6793.58	9767.83	7987.48	
		Expenditure	6247.67	7524.65	3103.99	
	All India	Release	90893.37	97755.50	42291.17	
		Expenditure	79114.89	83772.28	33325.02	
9.	SSA					
	M.P.	Central Share Release	86770.00	85569.00	56719.00	
		State Share Release	37912.00	48314.00		
		Total Expenditure	123037.00	153094.00	30120.00	
	All India	Central Share Release	1147098.00	1262579.00	491903.00	
		State Share Release	568293.00	632463.00	79145.00	
		Total Expenditure	1582329.00	1934392.00	221098.00	
10.	MDMS				(up to July 09)	
	M.P.	Financial Progress	63583.00	60920.00	14650.00	
	All India	Financial Progress	583353.00	664031.00	148596.00	
11.	JNNURM					
	M.P.	Allocation for 7 year (2005-2012)			97850.00	
		ACA committed against original allocation			96805.00	
		Released made by centre (up to April- August 09)			3182.00	
		State Contribution			2190.00	
		Expenditure reported			4393.00	
	All India	Released made by Centre (up to April- August 09)			81965.00	
		State Contribution			58796.00	
		Expenditure Reported			120137.00	
12.	NHM					
	M.P.	Release	5537.49	6000.00		
		Expenditure	4424.39	5823.50		
	All India	Release	91732.77	101049.93		
		Expenditure	95902.42	113124.61		

		1	2	3	4
13.	AIBP				(up to Sept 09)
	M.P.	Release	50034.50	47378.24	44675.44
	All India	Release	544569.70	759822.13	248760.49
14.	RGGVY				(up to Aug 09)
	M.P.	Amount Disbursed	15726.00	18587.00	1357.00
	All India	Amount Disbursed	374536.00	565468.00	66631.00
15.	BRGF				(up to 30.11.09)
	M.P.	Allocation	45240.00	45240.00	45240.00
		Release	40482.00	32444.00	13971.00
	All India	Allocation	467004.00	467004.00	467004.00
		Release	359750.00	388976.00	199638.00
	Bharat Nirman (Village telephone)				(up to June 09)
	M.P.	Allocation			
		Expenditure	845.00	338.00	
	All India	Allocation	4473.00	1865.00	5500.00
		Expenditure	4473.00	1865.00	32.00

M.P. Madhya Pradesh

Statement-II*Backward Regions Grant Fund - Districts Component - Funds release*

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	State	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10 (till 30.11.2009)	
		Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	249.31	95.50	348.28	421.18	348.28	355.38	348.28	278.96
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.30	8.00	15.47	7.60	15.47	18.57	15.47	10.40
3.	Assam	145.44	61.62	168.19	113.58	168.19	128.23	168.19	1.33
4.	Bihar	522.48	246.96	638.99	639.28	638.99	721.55	638.99	83.83
5.	Chhattisgarh	197.50	136.60	248.48	271.22	248.48	205.44	248.48	129.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	Gujarat	87.40	37.50	107.31	8.10	107.31	36.04	107.31	88.21
7.	Haryana	26.38	22.50	30.44	25.80	30.44	25.68	30.44	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	26.39	30.00	30.50	42.85	30.50	23.48	30.50	0.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	41.18	22.50	48.85	15.30	48.85	63.28	48.85	24.00
10.	Jharkhand	289.39	315.00	343.56	105.60	343.56	312.77	343.56	175.61
11.	Karnataka	82.53	37.50	108.17	139.97	108.17	45.00	108.17	85.52
12.	Kerala	28.41	15.00	34.33	30.88	34.33	7.50	34.33	0.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	361.49	170.00	452.40	404.82	452.40	324.44	452.40	139.71
14.	Maharashtra	201.15	96.19	265.57	108.20	265.57	87.81	265.57	235.69
15.	Manipur	37.69	15.00	42.09	34.96	42.09	14.62	42.09	27.71
16.	Meghalaya	36.63	15.00	40.01	7.80	40.01	52.54	40.01	0.57
17.	Mizoram	23.54	15.00	24.98	34.17	24.98	2.00	24.98	21.28
18.	Nagaland	36.64	22.50	40.05	32.19	40.05	33.30	40.05	6.00
19.	Orissa	273.35	45.00	324.67	336.12	324.67	257.84	324.67	57.45
20.	Punjab	13.94	15.00	16.65	7.60	16.65	7.50	16.65	14.08
21.	Rajasthan	199.68	22.88	262.99	302.10	262.99	183.50	262.99	33.88
22.	Sikkim	12.53	23.45	13.97	7.60	13.97	12.67	13.97	10.86
23.	Tamil Nadu	90.94	30.00	114.04	23.10	114.04	113.53	114.04	62.09
24.	Tripura	12.14	15.00	13.21	7.60	13.21	11.82	13.21	0.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	510.28	300.00	636.09	163.71	636.09	571.74	636.09	454.73
26.	Uttarakhand	39.11	37.50	44.85	30.30	44.85	31.50	44.85	0.00
27.	West Bengal	191.16	70.50	255.90	275.87	255.90	242.03	255.90	54.73
	NABARD		3.30						
	Total	3749.98	1925.00	4670.04	3597.50	4670.04	3889.76	4670.04	1996.38

Statement-III

Allocation of State Plans funds for Madhya Pradesh including Tribal Sub-Plan & Schedule Caste Component Plan

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	Major Sector	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09			
		Approved Outlay	Tsp	Scsp	Approved Outlay	Tsp	Scsp	Approved Outlay	Normal	Tsp	Scsp
1.	Agriculture and Allied Activities	42775.58	8221.11	8165.79	53861.62	16573.05	6475.76	116763.00	75792.59	28139.50	12830.91
2.	Rural Development	134610.28	38593.07	23663.03	139931.72	38998.04	23156.47	167944.57	90959.86	46319.62	30665.09
3.	Special Areas Programme	15000.00	9949.50	2050.00	55879.00	27550.00	11206.00	64547.00	20258.80	31372.90	12915.30
4.	Irrigation and Flood Control	189401.41	33003.46	8118.25	179694.63	35073.53	9401.19	218481.07	179547.83	32507.16	6426.08
5.	Energy	121607.42	2117.27	2367.22	155356.75	9592.00	6250.00	163431.81	136505.58	11505.73	15420.50
6.	Industry & Mining	9600.65	1306.45	2008.95	9862.42	1543.40	1753.95	14576.94	9763.84	2541.79	2271.31
7.	Transport	89763.00	15123.62	8779.76	174045.39	31288.84	27533.16	180520.00	105847.36	42262.37	32410.27
8.	Science, Technology & Environment	1085.58	0.00	0.00	4955.00	307.00	155.00	8246.33	7626.83	298.00	321.50
9.	General Economic Services	22067.77	4176.00	2731.00	30314.75	6252.16	4217.47	33581.83	22259.58	6826.08	4487.17
10.	Social Services	265427.18	73283.70	63983.35	394170.72	107363.09	93066.71	435247.84	224072.36	110188.97	100986.51
11.	General Services	10561.13	0.00	0.00	3028.00	47.20	44.10	14920.61	10930.54	1743.50	2246.57
	Communications	100.00	0.00	0.00							
	Total	902000.00	185774.18	121867.35	1201100.00	274588.31	183259.81	1418261.00	883565.17	313705.62	220981.21

		2009-10			
S. No.	Major Sector	Approved Outlay	Normal	Tsp	Scsp
1.	Agriculture and Allied Activities	118429.37	73828.94	29355.01	15245.42
2.	Rural Development	210664.15	122896.46	50532.45	37235.24
3.	Special Areas Programme	71002	22001.04	37034.23	11966.73
4.	Irrigation and Flood Control	228591.22	153046.91	57661.47	17882.84
5.	Energy	135096.63	101646.27	15218.29	18232.07
6.	Industry & Mining	16759.25	13276.81	1967.54	1514.9
7.	Transport	199179.17	146152.95	30182.1	22844.12
8.	Science, Technology & Environment	7138.12	6695.5	252.89	189.73
9.	General Economic Services	35991.48	23929.48	7022.5	5039.5
10.	Social Services	585723.77	324509.33	141952.37	119262.07
11.	General Services	8841.37	8029.17	264.2	548
Total		1617416.53	996012.86	371443.05	249960.62

Nuclear Stockpile by Pakistan

2066. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is increasing its nuclear stockpile; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Government has seen reports in the public domain regarding Pakistan's expansion of its nuclear stockpile. These reports indicate that Pakistan is expanding its capacity to produce fissile material for nuclear weapons and enhancing its nuclear weapons delivery capabilities. Government continues to monitor all such developments and is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard India's security.

[English]

Loan to Pharma Companies under CSIR Scheme

2067. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Council of Scientific and Industrial Research grants loan for Research and Development to Public and Private Sector Companies under New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) Scheme:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the companies which have been granted loan during the last three years and the current-year;

(d) the progress made by these companies as a result of financial support;

(e) whether the loans granted to the companies have been recovered;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Madam. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research grants loan for Research and Development to companies under the New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) Scheme.

(b) Loans are granted to companies to carry out well focused R & D projects in Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode. The loan carries a simple interest of 3% per annum on the outstanding amount of the loan and is repayable in 10 yearly installments. The project implementation period is considered as the moratorium period. The interest accrued during the implementation period is amortized and is payable in a maximum of 3 to 5 installments.

(c) The names of the companies which have been granted loan during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-I. There is no loan given in the current year.

(d) The progress made by these companies in projects is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) Some companies are repaying the loan while there are some defaulters as well. In other cases, loan repayment will start after 6 months of project completion.

(f) The status of loan repayment from the companies is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(g) A systematic process is in place to deal with loan defaulters. The companies are pursued to repay the loan. Monitoring Committee of the project acts as arbitrator. Notice for recalling of entire due amount with penal interest @12% compounded monthly is served, if default continues.

Statement-I

Name of the companies granted loan during the last three years (April 2006 to March 2009)

Sl.	Name of Company
No.	
1.	J.K. Agri, Hyderabad
2.	Virchow Biotech, Hyderabad
3.	Samtel Color, Ghaziabad
4.	Virtual Wire Technology, New Delhi
5.	Godavari Sugar Mills, Mumbai
6.	Clutch Auto, Faridabad
7.	Cadila Pharmaceuticals, Ahmedabad
8.	Xcyton Diagnostic, Bangalore
9.	Mind Tree Ltd., Bangalore
10.	Biovet Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore
11.	Metahelix Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore

Name of the companies granted loan during current year (April 2009 to till date)

Nil

Statement-II

Progress made by companies in NMITLI projects

Sl.No.	Project Title	Progress made
1	2	3
1.	Development of high throughput marker assisted selection systems for improvement of drought tolerance and fibre quality related traits in cotton	High throughput platform for SSR marker screening is established based on fluorescent 96-capillary based screening system. 200 fluorescent markers have been deployed on 13 parents used in the breeding programme. Transcriptome sequencing of 19 DPA sample and drought

1	2	3
		sample and transcriptome sequencing using 454 lead to the identification of thousands of novel genes. Screening of parental DNA for polymorphism is under progress. A cost-effective method of screening SSR markers by using three-primer chemistry has been developed.
2.	Novel method for development of B-type Natriuretic peptide (BNP) for diagnosis and treatment of congestive heart failure	Production of rhBNP has been optimized. A large scale production facility for rhBNP has been built as per cGMP norms. Detailed pre clinical studies carried out and results are satisfactory.
3.	Development of Next Generation Plasma Display Technology and a 50 inch High Definition (HD) TV prototype	Developed and demonstrated 50" HD PDP prototype with existing materials/processes including its electronics. 12 Indian Patents filed. Lead free glass powders and pastes have been developed. Developed green phosphor, which has 15% better efficiency than commercial phosphors.
4.	Wireless Sensor Network Chipset based on Ultra — Wideband Technology	System specifications, System blocks, Digital baseband module design and Video compression — decompression modules have been achieved.
5.	Lactic acid and lactic acid based polymers— establishment of 300 TPA pilot plant for lactic acid production	Pilot plant is being erected.
6.	Design and development of cushion bonded organic ceramic clutch discs	About 30 formulations have been developed using various elastomeric components. One formulation (direct addition of ATBN to epoxy resin) has showed desired lap shear strengths and encouraging cushioning properties. Rigid bonded adhesive formulation have been developed through thermoplastics and thermosets route capable of withstanding temperature 300 — 325°C and 350°C respectively meeting the desired lap shear strength. Adequate preparatory work has been done to provide matching life clutch discs and clutch cover assemblies.
7.	Novel therapy for management of sepsis	Mice and rat models of Gram-negative bacteria induced sepsis have been successfully established. The characterization and fractionation of Mw is progressing well with a sub-fraction namely 085 giving a 20% enhancement in protection against sepsis over total Mw.
8.	A syndromic approach to diagnosis of infections: development of DNA macro-chips for simultaneous detection of pathogens causing AES (Acute Encephalitic Syndrome) and septicaemia	For AES Chip, Primers and targets for all the DNA and RNA pathogens have been designed and uniplex PCR was standardized for all the organisms. Primers have been designed for antibiotic resistant genes. Primers for all microorganisms (23) have been finalized.

1	2	3
9.	Distributed video surveillance system	Two hardware platforms (2/4 Channel and 16 Channel Hybrid) have been developed for Digital Video Recorder (DVR). Several new features in both hardware and software designs have been implemented to beat existing products in terms of features and cost. Unique algorithms have been developed for activity detection, human detection, view tampering, real-time image stitching algorithm for panoramic view, face detection, video pre-processing algorithms (scaling, marking etc.) and video watermarking with visible watermark. A state-of-the-art Remote Web based Video Management System (VMS) has been developed with advanced features. The VMS can manage up to 100 camera installations. One international patent on 'Real Time Image Stitching' has been filed.
10.	Development and characterization of an indigenous vaccine for Johne's disease	Industry has developed CGMP facility for pilot plant and commercial production of JD Vaccine.
11.	Evaluation of RNAi-based constructs for conferring resistance on transgenic rice against the blast fungus <i>Magnaporthe grisea</i>	Hairpin loop binary constructs with candidate genes chosen from <i>Magnaporthe grisea</i> developed. Developments of overexpression binary constructs with the identified candidate genes have been completed. Also, development of 10 transgenic rice events per construct for each of the target genes have been completed which will be generated in blast susceptible rice cultivars.

Statement-III*Status of loan repayment*

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Company name	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	5 and 25kw decentralized power packs	Sud-Chemie India Ltd., New Delhi	Payment in time
2.	Latent M. Tuberculosis: New Targets, Drug Delivery System, bio-enhancers and therapeutics	Lupin Ltd.	Not Due
3.	Nano-material catalysts and associated process technology for alkylation/ acylation/nitration of well identified industrial chemicals, pre-reforming of hydro-carbons and sulphur removal (<50 ppm) from petroleum fuels	Sud-Chemie India Ltd., New Delhi	Payment in time

1	2	3	4
4.	Versatile, portable PC based software for bioinformatics; and Development of Linux cluster version of Bio-suite	TCS, Hyderabad TCS, Hyderabad Jalaja Techn. Bang. FTIL, Secundrabad	Payment in time Payment in time Defaulter Defaulter
5.	Development of an oral herbal formulation for treatment of psoriasis	Lupin Ltd., Mumbai	Not Due
6.	Development of novel biotech therapeutic molecule – Lysostaphin Development of novel biotech therapeutic molecule – Lysostaphin Clinical Trial	BBIL BBIL	Not Due Not Due
7.	Microbiological conversion of Erythromycin to Clarithromycin and other novel biologically active molecules	Alembic Ltd., Vadodara	Payment in time
8.	Novel molecular diagnostics for eye diseases and low vision enhancement devices	LOPL, Pune Xcyton Diagnostic, Bangalore	Defaulter Payment in time
9.	Value added polymeric materials from renewable resources: Lactic acid and lactic acid based polymers	Godavari, Mumbai	Not Due
10.	Recombinant approach to produce D-linolenic acid and docosahexanoic acid (DHA) in sunflower and yeast	Avestha Gengraine	Defaulter
11.	A cost effective Simple Office Computing (Sofcomp) platform to replace PC	Encore Software	Defaulter
12.	A PC based high-end 3D visualization platform for computational biology — 'Darshee'	Strand genomics, Bangalore	Payment in time
13.	Improved Genome Annotation Through a Combination of Machine Learning and Experimental Methods: <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> As a Case Study	TCS, Hyderabad	Payment in time
14.	Development of Novel Fungicides	RRC, Bangalore	Payment in time
15.	Novel Expression System	Biocon Shantha Biotech	Payment in time Payment in time
16.	Development of Globally competitive 'Triple-Play' Broadband Technology	Divinet	Defaulter

1	2	3	4
17.	Market seeding of SofComp and Mobilis to develop wide-ranging applications as well as increase awareness	Encore Software	Defaulter
18.	Development of an Integrated micro PCR system with In-situ Identification	bigtech	Not Due
19.	Novel formulation for treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis — clinical studies	Lupin Ltd.	Not Due
20.	Development of high throughput marker assisted selection systems for improvement of drought tolerance and fibre quality related traits in Cotton	JK Agri, Hyderabad	Not Due
21.	Novel method for development of B-type Natriuretic peptide (BNP) for diagnosis and treatment of congestive heart failure	Virchow Biotech, Hyderabad	Not Due
22.	Development of Next Generation Plasma Display Technology a 50" High Definition (HD) TV Prototype	Samtel Color, Ghaz.	Not Due
23.	Development of sensor networks chipset based on ultra-wide band technology	Virtual wire tech, ND	Not Due
24.	Design and development of cushion bonded/rigid bonded organic, cerametallic cookie and single/fuel sintered buttons (copper/iron based), ceramic cookies and annular ring slutch discs and matching cover assemblies	Clutch Auto Ltd., Faridabad	Not Due
25.	Intellegent Viedo Surveillance System	Mind Tree Ltd., Bangalore	Not Due
26.	Novel therapy for management of sepsis	Cadila Pharma Ltd.	Not Due
27.	Development of DNA Macro-Chips for simultaneous detection of pathogens causing acute encephalitic syndrome (AES) Septicaemia and antibiotic resistance	Xcyton Diagnostics Ltd.	Not Due
28.	Development of Characterization of an indigenus vaccine for Johnes disease	Biovet, Bangalore	Not Due
29.	Evaluation of RNAi-based constructs for conferring resistance on trasgenic rice against the blast fungus Magnaporthe grisea	Metahelix Life, Bangalore	Not Due

[Translation]

**POK as part of Islamic Republic
of Pakistan**

2068. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan proposes to make northern areas of Pakistan occupied Kashmir of Jammu and Kashmir as a part of Islamic Republic of Pakistan;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) In August 2009, the Government of Pakistan issued the so-called Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order 2009. Pakistan maintains that the Order does not derogate from, or in any manner prejudice, its declared stand on Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India protested on September 11, 2009 to the Government of Pakistan regarding the so-called "Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order -2009". Pakistan has for the past six decades denied the basic rights to the people in those parts of the state of Jammu and Kashmir under its illegal occupation. The entire state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. The so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order -2009' and the "elections" in Gilgit-Baltistan held on 12 November 2009 are yet another cosmetic exercise intended to camouflage Pakistan's illegal occupation. Government is committed to ensure that the territorial integrity of India is not compromised under any circumstances. Under the Simla Agreement, the Government is committed to resolving all issues with Pakistan through peaceful negotiations and bilateral dialogue.

[English]

Vacant Posts in CBI

2069. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is under-staffed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the functioning of the CBI alongwith the sanctioned strength and vacancy position in each category of staff during the last three years and the current year and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the staff strength of CBI in various categories;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of cases received, disposed and pending in CBI during the last three years and the current year; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to fill up all the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Madam.

(b) As on 31.10.2009, out of 5961 sanctioned strength, 721 posts in various grades were lying vacant in the CBI. A Statement showing category-wise details of sanctioned strength, actual strength and vacancies in various grades in CBI during the last three years and current year is enclosed. With effective use and deployment of existing personnel, the vacancies have not affected the performance of the CBI adversely. Occurrence of vacancies and filling up of the same as per stipulated Recruitment Rules is an ongoing process.

(c) and (d) Government has recently decided to create 284 posts in the grades of Public Prosecutor, Inspector, Head Constable and Steno Clerks for Additional Special Courts. 62 posts that were lying vacant in various grades and were deemed to have been abolished, have also been revived.

(e) Details of cases registered, disposed and pending during last three years and current year are as under:

Cases	2006	2007	2008	2009*
Registered	1156	940	991	926
Disposed from investigation	1143	1216	1127	768
Pending under investigation	1417	1143	1005	1168

*(upto 31.10.2009)

(f) It is endeavor of the Government to fill up the vacancies at the earliest as per procedure prescribed in the relevant Recruitment Rules. Government has taken all necessary steps to ensure filling up of vacancies in time, which inter-alia include:

- Grant of Special Incentive Allowance @ 25% of Pay-Dearness Allowance upto the level of Senior Superintendent of Police and @ 15% for officers above that rank to attract officers on deputation.
- Amendment of recruitment rules for various posts from time to time to meet the requirements of the CBI.
- Decentralization of induction of Inspector on deputation in order to ensure speedy and smooth recruitment process.
- Immediate steps to fill up the vacancies arising from time to time are taken as per the laid down procedure.

Statement

As on 31.12.2006

Cadre	Sanctioned Strength	Actual Strength	Vacancy
1	2	3	4
Executive	4078	3261	817
Legal	230	155	75
Technical	154	60	94

1	2	3	4
Ministerial	1284	998	286
Group 'D'	144	121	23
Canteen Posts	69	57	12
Total	5959	4652	1307

As on 31.12.2007

Executive	4077	3254	823
Legal	230	159	71
Technical	154	52	102
Ministerial	1284	978	306
Group 'D'	144	122	22
Canteen, Posts	70	58	12
Total	5959	4623	1336

As on 31.12.2008

Executive	4077	3544	533
Legal	230	155	75
Technical	155	52	102
Ministerial	1284	942	342
Group 'D'	144	124	20
Canteen Posts	70	57	13
Total	5960	4874	1086

As on 31.10.2009

Executive	4078	3644	434
Legal	230	148	82
Technical	155	66	89
Ministerial	1428	1323	105
Canteen Posts	70	59	11
Total	5961	5240	721

[Translation]

**Additional Resources for Development
of Backward Areas**

2070. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to mobilise additional resources for the quick development of backward areas and for completing the developmental works undertaken during the current five year plan;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan in this regard; and

(c) the areas identified for removing regional imbalances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) was launched in August, 2006 replacing the erstwhile Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY). The programme has been designed to address the issue of regional imbalance and aims at catalyzing development in backward areas to fill critical gaps in development.

(c) The BRGF has two components viz. (a) the Districts Component covering 250 districts of 27 States, and (b) the Special Plans for Bihar and the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa. List of 250 districts covered under the Districts Component of BRGF is enclosed as statement. A special package for the Bundhelkhand region comprising of Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh has also been announced by the Central Government recently.

Statement

Andhra Pradesh

- 1 Adilabad
- 2 Anantapur
- 3 Chittoor

- 4 Cuddapah
- 5 Karimnagar
- 6 Khammam
- 7 Mahbubnagar
- 8 Medak
- 9 Nalgonda
- 10 Nizamabad
- 11 Rangareddi
- 12 Vizianagaram
- 13 Warangal

Arunachal Pradesh

- 1 Upper Subansiri

Assam

- 1 Barpeta
- 2 Bongaigaon
- 3 Cachar
- 4 Dhemaji
- 5 Goalpara
- 6 Hailakandi
- 7 Karbi Anglong
- 8 Kokrajhar
- 9 Lakhimpur
- 10 Marigaon
- 11 North Cachar Hills

Bihar

- 1 Araria
- 2 Aurangabad

3	Banka	30	Samastipur
4	Begusarai	31	Saran
5	Bhagalpur	32	Sheikhpura
6	Bhojpur	33	Sheohar
7	Buxar	34	Sitamarhi
8	Darbhanga	35	Supaul
9	Gaya	36	Vaishali
10	Gopalganj	Chhattisgarh	
11	Jamui	1	Bastar
12	Jehanabad	2	Bilaspur
13	Kaimur (Bhabua)	3	Dantewada
14	Katihar	4	Dhamtari
15	Khagaria	5	Jashpur
16	Kishanganj	6	Kabirdham
17	Lakhisarai	7	Kanker
18	Madhepura	8	Korba
19	Madhubani	9	Korea
20	Munger	10	Mahasamund
21	Muzaffarpur	11	Raigarh
22	Nalanda	12	Rajnandgaon
23	Nawada	13	Surguja
24	Pashchim Champaran	Gujarat	
25	Patna	1	Banas Kantha
26	Purbi Champaran	2	Dahod
27	Purnia	3	Dang
28	Rohtas	4	Narmada
29	Saharsa	5	Panch Mahals
		6	Sabar Kantha

Haryana

- 1 Mahendragarh
- 2 Sirsa

Himachal Pradesh

- 1 Chamba
- 2 Sirmaur

Jammu and Kashmir

- 1 Doda
- 2 Kupwara
- 3 Poonch

Jharkhand

- 1 Bokaro
- 2 Chatra
- 3 Deoghar
- 4 Dhanbad
- 5 Dumka
- 6 Garhwa
- 7 Giridih
- 8 Godda
- 9 Gumla
- 10 Hazaribagh
- 11 Jamtara
- 12 Koderma
- 13 Latehar
- 14 Lohardaga
- 15 Pakur
- 16 Palamu

- 17 Ranchi
- 18 Sahebganj
- 19 Saraikela Kharsawan
- 20 Simdega
- 21 West Singhbhum

Karnataka

- 1 Bidar
- 2 Chitradurga
- 3 Davangere
- 4 Gulbarga
- 5 Raichur

Kerala

- 1 Palakkad
- 2 Wayanad

Madhya Pradesh

- 1 Balaghat
- 2 Barwani
- 3 Betul
- 4 Chhatarpur
- 5 Damoh
- 6 Dhar
- 7 Dindori
- 8 Guna
- 9 Jhabua
- 10 Katni
- 11 Khandwa
- 12 Khargone

13	Mandla	2	Churachandpur
14	Panna	3	Tamenglong
15	Rajgarh		
16	Rewa	1	Ri Bhoi
17	Satna	2	South Garo Hills
18	Seoni	3	West Garo Hills
19	Shahdol		
20	Sheopur	1	Lawngtlai
21	Shivpuri	2	Saiha
22	Sidhi		
23	Tikamgarh	1	Mon
24	Umaria	2	Tuensang

Maharashtra

1	Ahmednagar
2	Amravati
3	Aurangabad
4	Bhandara
5	Chandrapur
6	Dhule
7	Gadchiroli
8	Gondia
9	Hingoli
10	Nanded
11	Nandurbar
12	Yavatmal

Manipur

1	Chandel
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Meghalaya

1	Ri Bhoi
2	South Garo Hills
3	West Garo Hills

Mizoram

1	Lawngtlai
2	Saiha

Nagaland

1	Mon
2	Tuensang
3	Wokha

Orissa

1	Balangir
2	Boudh
3	Deogarh
4	Dhenkanal
5	Gajapati
6	Ganjam
7	Jharsuguda
8	Kalahandi
9	Kandhamal
10	Keonjhar
11	Koraput
12	Malkangiri
13	Mayurbhanj

14 Nabarangpur

15 Nuapada

16 Rayagada

17 Sambalpur

18 Sonapur

19 Sundargarh

Punjab

1 Hoshiarpur

Rajasthan

1 Banswara

2 Barmer

3 Chittorgarh

4 Dungarpur

5 Jaisalmer

6 Jalore

7 Jhalawar

8 Karauli

9 Sawai Madhopur

10 Sirohi

11 Tonk

12 Udaipur

Sikkim

1 North District

Tamil Nadu

1 Cuddalore

2 Dindigul

3 Nagapattinam

4 Sivaganga

5 Tiruvannamalai

6 Villupuram

Trlpura

1 Dhalai

Uttar Pradesh

1 Ambedkar Nagar

2 Azamgarh

3 Bahraich

4 Balrampur

5 Banda

6 Barabanki

7 Basti

8 Budaun

9 Chandauli

10 Chitrakoot

11 Etah

12 Farrukhabad

13 Fatehpur

14 Gonda

15 Gorakhpur

16 Hamirpur

17 Hardoi

18 Jalaun

19 Jaunpur

20 Kaushambi

21 Kheri

12 Kushi Nagar

[English]

23 Lalitpur

Assessment of Economic Slowdown

24 Maharajganj

2071. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

25 Mahoba

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

26 Mirzapur

27 Pratapgarh

28 Rae Bareilly

29 Sant Kabeer Nagar

30 Shravasti

31 Siddharth Nagar

32 Sitapur

33 Sonbhadra

34 Unnao

Uttarakhand

1 Chamoli

2 Champawat

3 Tehri Garhwal

West Bengal

1 24 Paraganas South

2 Bankura

3 Birbhum

4 Dinajpur Dakshin

5 Dinajpur Uttar

6 Jalpaiguri

7 Maldah

8 Medinipur East

9 Medinipur West

10 Murshidabad

11 Purulia

(a) whether a meeting of Planning Commission was held to take stock of State of national economic in the backdrop of economic downturn and emerging drought situation due to monsoon failure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether issues such as revising the Eleventh Plan growth and sectoral targets were also discussed in the said meeting; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The first meeting of the newly constituted Full Planning Commission was held on 1st September, 2009 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister to discuss the state of economy and assessment of Integrated Energy Policy of the country. The issues such as deceleration in the growth rate in the Indian Economy on account of global slow down, negative growth rate in the agricultural sector during the current year due to drought, reduction in exports and status implementation of Integrated Energy Policy etc. came up for discussion.

(c) and (d) Revision of the Eleventh Plan growth and sectoral targets was not discussed in meeting. The following major conclusions emerged from the discussions:

1. There is a need to build on the strengths of the past to tackle the new challenges posed by global economic slow down and drought in the current year.
2. The consequences of drought can be managed as sufficient food stocks are available, however, there was a need for management of food economy, macro economy, drought and protection of kharif and rabi crops.

3. Need to converge National Rural Employment Scheme (NREGS) and other agricultural and rural schemes to minimize the impact of drought in 2009-10.
4. Reviving investment, containing fiscal deficit within the limits of prudence, raising resources and using them efficiently.
5. To mobilize resources to sustain the momentum of Planned Development of the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Growth Rate

2072. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to raise the projected economic growth rate of the country to nine percent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any special action plan to achieve this target; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) aims at achieving an average growth rate of 9%, with targeted growth rate of 4% per year in the agricultural sector, 10 to 11% per year in the industrial sector and 9 to 11% per year in the services sector. During the first year of Eleventh Plan (2007-08) the growth rate of GDP is estimated at 9% with 4.9% growth in agriculture, 8.1% in industry and 10.3% in services sector. However, there has been a deceleration in the growth rate in the Indian Economy on account of global slow down and negative growth rate in the agriculture sector due to drought situation during 2008-09. The growth rate of GDP for 2008-09 is estimated at 6.7 % (Revised Estimates) with 1.6% growth in agriculture, 4.2% in industry and 10 % in services sector.

(c) and (d) The economic position of the country is reviewed by the Government constantly at various levels. The Planning Commission in its meeting held under the Chairmanship of Honorable Prime Minister on September 1, 2009 reviewed the situation and arrived at the following conclusions to tackle the situation:

- There is a need to build on the strengths of the past to tackle the new challenges posed by the global economic slowdown and drought in the current year.
- The consequences of drought can be managed as sufficient food stocks are available. However, there is a need for management of food economy, macro economy, drought and protection of Kharif and Rabi crops.
- Need to converge National Rural Employment Scheme (NREGS) and other agricultural and rural schemes to minimize the impact of drought in 2009-10.
- Reviving investment, containing Fiscal Deficit within the limits of prudence, raising resources and using them efficiently.
- To mobilize resources to sustain the momentum of Planned Development of the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

Literacy Ratio

2073. SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY:

SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment of literacy ratio amongst the women;
- (b) if so, the ranking of India in relation to other countries in the world in this regard;
- (c) whether the lack of proper infrastructural development and illiteracy amongst women folk are hindrance to the development of the country;
- (d) if so, the reasons due to which the schemes meant for literacy of women are lagging behind;

(e) whether any targets were set to make women literate during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Madam. The assessment of literacy ratio is being done as part of the census exercise. The last such assessment was done during the Census - 2001.

(b) As per the United Nations Development Programme Report 2009, the ranking of India in adult literacy rate in the world is 147.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The main reasons for low literacy rates among females in the country are social, cultural and religious.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Flood-Prone Areas

2074. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flood prone area has increased in the country from 25 million hectares in the First Five Year Plan to 45.6 million hectares in Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any comprehensive study in this regard including the study on continued deterioration and encroachment of watersheds along river basins;

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

(e) whether the Government has also assessed the effect/impact of construction of dams and barrages in flood control; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) and (b) The flood prone area in the country was assessed by Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) in 1980 as 40 million hectares; which was reassessed as 45.36 million hectares by the Working Group on Water Resources for the XI Five Year Plan (2007-12) on the basis of report from the State Governments.

(c) to (f) The flood management being a State subject, the matter regarding comprehensive study on continued deterioration and encroachment of water sheds along river basins as well as on effect/impact of construction of dams etc. falls under the purview of respective State Governments and looked after by them.

Decline in Per Capita Net Income

2075. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita net income of the North Eastern States has declined during the last three years;

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

(c) whether since 1998, all Ministries have been earmarking 10% of their annual budget for North Eastern States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The Per capita income of the North Eastern States measured in terms of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Constant (1999-2000) prices with percentages changes as on 12.11.2009 for 2006-07; 2007-08 and 2008-09 is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) to (e) All non-exempted Ministries/Departments of Government of India are required to earmark at least 10% of their Gross Budgetary Support for projects/schemes to

be implemented by them in the North Eastern States. Accordingly, the allocation made since 1998-99 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Per capita net State domestic product at constant (1999-2000) prices for eight North Eastern States as on 12-11-2009 (for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Rupees			% Growth over previous year		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	20087	20570	NA	11.09	2.40	NA
2.	Assam	15152	15857	16597	5.08	4.65	4.67
3.	Manipur	14941	15667	16508	1.90	4.86	5.37
4.	Meghalaya	19292	20094	NA	4.27	4.16	NA
5.	Mizoram	19220	19750	20483	3.24	2.76	3.71
6.	Nagaland	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
7.	Sikkim	22277	23684	25257	7.22	6.32	6.64
8.	Tripura	22987	NA	NA	6.80	NA	NA

Note:— NA means Not Available.

- Information for 2008-09 is not available in respect of the State of Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.
- Information for 2007-08 and 2008-09 is not available in respect of the State of Tripura.
- Information for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is not available in respect of the State of Nagaland.

Statement-II

Earmarking by Central Ministries at least 10% of their Gross Budgetary Support for projects/schemes to be implemented by them in the North Eastern States (from 1998-99 to 2009-10)

Sl. No	Year	Allocations made (Rs. cr.)
1	2	3
1.	1998-1999	3211.28
2.	1999-2000	3565.13
3.	2000-2001	4197.11

1	2	3
4.	2001-2002	5158.30
5.	2002-2003	5460.06
6.	2003-2004	5105.75
7.	2004-2005	6786.71
8.	2005-2006	9150.14
9.	2006-2007	10731.52
10.	2007-2008	12942.34
11.	2008-2009	14752.90
12.	2009-2010	16326.16*

*Provisional; excludes allocation by Railway Board.

UID Project

2076. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL

KHATGAONKAR:

SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of ambitious Unique Identification (UID) project;
- (b) whether any hurdle is being faced in implementing the project;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of various departments proposed to be involved in the scheme;
- (e) the salient features of the scheme; and
- (f) the time by which the project is likely to be completed/implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) The UIDAI was constituted as per the Notification No-A-43011/02/2009-Admn.I issued on 28 January 2009 with an initial core team of 115 officials and staff. In continuation of this notification a notification (No-A-43011/02/2009-Admn.I (Vol. II) was issued on 2nd July 2009 appointing Shri Nandan Nilekani as Chairperson, UIDAI in the rank and status of a Cabinet Minister and for an initial tenure of five years. The Chairperson, the Director General and a few other officers and staff have joined the UIDAI and are in the process setting up the Authority and undertaking the activities as per the mandate entrusted vide the notification dated 28th January 2009. The first UID Numbers are expected to be issued in 12-18 months starting from August 2009. UIDAI expects to issue about 600 million UIDs by the end of five years of its operations.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The UIDAI plans to achieve the objective of issuing UID numbers objective through a partnership model. The UIDAI will leverage the existing infrastructure of government and private agencies across India. In addition, the Authority will partner with a number of agencies at the central and state level who will be 'Registrars' for the UIDAI. Registrars will process UID applications, and connect to the CIDR to de-duplicate resident information and receive UID numbers. These Registrars can either be enrollers, or will appoint agencies as enrollers, who will interface with people seeking UID numbers. The Authority will also partner with service providers for authentication. Various departments like the Census department, the Postal Department, Income Tax department, State and Central Government departments planning and implementing various social welfare schemes can all be Registrars/Enrollers. UIDAI has started consultations with the various ministries/departments and agencies at the Central and State level and is yet to enter into any formal arrangements.

(e) The salient features of the scheme are as follows:

- a. The UID number will only provide identity
- b. Enrolment of residents with proper verification
- c. A pro-poor approach
- d. The UID will prove identity, not citizenship: All
- e. The UID number will only provide identity
- f. Enrolment of residents with proper verification
- g. A pro-poor approach
- h. The UID will prove identity, not citizenship: All
- i. A partnership model
- j. The UIDAI will emphasize a flexible model for Registrars
- k. Enrolment will not be mandated

- l. The UID number will only provide identity
- m. Enrolment of residents with proper verification
- n. A pro-poor approach
- o. The UID will prove identity, not citizenship: All
- p. A partnership model
- q. The UIDAI will emphasize a flexible model for Registrars
- r. Enrolment will not be mandated
- s. The UIDAI will issue a number, not a card:
- t. The number will not contain intelligence
- u. The Authority will only collect basic information on the resident

(f) The first UID Numbers are expected to be issued in 12-18 months starting from August 2009. UIDAI expects to issue about 600 million UIDs by the end of five years of its operations.

BIMSTEC Convention

2077. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal of signing and ratification of Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Co-operation (BIMSTEC) convention on international cooperation in dealing with scourge of terrorism;

(b) if so, the details of the issues included therein; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to sign BIMSTEC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) India proposed a BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking. The Convention was adopted in October, 2008 at New Delhi by the Joint

Working Group on Counter Terrorism of BIMSTEC member States.

(b) The Convention will provide a legal basis for cooperation among the law enforcement agencies of BIMSTEC Member States for combating international terrorism, transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In particular, member States will provide each other the widest possible measures of mutual assistance in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and suppression of such crimes.

(c) The Cabinet has approved the signing and ratification of the Convention. It is proposed to sign the Convention at the first opportunity during the next high level meeting of BIMSTEC.

Rising Sea Level

2078. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI P. LINGAM:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sea level is rising due to global warming and poses threat to the safety of coastal communities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has suggested setting up a mission for coastal and island ecological security;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As per the study of the tide gauge records of the north Indian Ocean for more than 40 years, conducted by the National Institute of Oceanography, it is observed that the sea-level rose by 1.06-1.75 millimetres per year in the past century. This estimate is consistent with the estimated global sea-level rise of 1-2 millimetres per

year made by the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The scientific studies of climate scenario for the period up to the end of the century and beyond project likely rise in sea-level in the order of 55-60 mm.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal for setting up a Mission for coastal and island ecological security. However, the Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has recommended a separate Island Protection Zone Notification for the integrated management of the island.

Unique Identification Authority of India

2079. SHRI PULIN BIHARI BASKE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has set up Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI);

(b) if so, the composition and tenure of the authority; and

(c) the main functions of this authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) Yes.

(b) As per the Notification No-A-43011/02/2009-Admn.I issued on 28 January 2009 the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) was constituted with an initial core team of 115 officials and staff. In continuation of this notification a notification (No-A-43011/02/2009-Admn.I (Vol. II) was issued on 2nd July 2009 appointing Shri Nandan Nilekani as Chairperson, UIDAI in the rank and status of a Cabinet Minister and for an initial tenure of five years.

(c) As per the Notification issued on 28 January 2009 constituting the Unique Identification Authority of India, the UIDAI shall have the responsibility to lay down plan and policies to implement the UID Scheme, shall own and operate the UID database and be responsible for its updation and maintenance on an ongoing basis. Implementation of the UID scheme will entail, inter alia, following responsibilities being undertaken by UIDAI:

- (i) Generate and assign UID numbers.
- (ii) Define mechanisms and processes for interlinking UID with partner databases on a continuous basis.
- (iii) Frame policies and administrative procedures related to updation mechanism and maintenance of UID data base on an ongoing basis.
- (iv) Coordinate/liase with implementation partners and user agencies as also define conflict resolution mechanism.
- (v) Define usage and applicability of UID for delivery of various services.
- (vi) Operate and manage all stages of UID lifecycle.
- (vii) Adopt phased approach for implementation of UID specially with reference to approved timelines.
- (viii) Take necessary steps to ensure collation of NPR with UID (as per approved strategy).
- (ix) Ensure ways for leveraging field level institutions appropriately such as Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in establishing linkages across partner agencies as well as its validation while cross linking with other designated agencies.
- (x) Evolve strategy for awareness and communication of UID and its usage.
- (xi) Identify new partner/user agencies.
- (xii) Issue necessary instructions to agencies that undertake creation of data bases, to ensure standardization of data elements that are collected and digitized and enable collation and correlation with UID and its partner data bases.
- (xiii) Frame policies and administrative procedures related to hiring/retention/mobilization of resources, outsourcing of various tasks and budgeting and planning for UIDAI and all State units under UIDAI.

Allocation of Indus Water

2080. SHRIMATI POONAM VELJIBHAI JAT:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Gujarat for allocation of water of Indus Water Basin to the Kutch region of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard and the reaction of the Water Sharing States thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (c) In his letter dated 07.02.08 addressed to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources, Hon'ble Minister of Water Supply, Water Resources, Urban Development and Urban Housing, Government of Gujarat had referred to earlier letters dated 23.03.04 and 01.08.05 from the State Government requesting for appropriate action by Central Government for allocation of Indus water (i.e. Ravi-Beas-Sutlej water).

The then Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources in his reply dated 18.03.08 indicated the prevalent water issues amongst the present beneficiary States of Eastern Rivers, some of which are before the Hon'ble Supreme Court including a Presidential Reference on the Punjab Termination of Agreement Act, 2004 enacted by Punjab Vidhan Sabha. It was further stated that under the circumstances, till the existing issues get resolved and the present beneficiary States are in a position to spare some water, it might not be appropriate to open any issue for reallocation of water.

[Translation]

Success of MPLAD Scheme

2081. SHRI ARJUN MUNDA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated and spent therefrom under the MPLAD Scheme during the year 2008-2009, State-wise;

(b) whether the scheme is serving its purpose for which it has been formulated;

(c) if so, the details of the assessment made in this regard; and

(d) the mechanism adopted for assessing the achievement of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) State-wise details of funds allocated and spent therefrom under MPLAD Scheme during the year 2008-2009 is enclosed as statement.

(b) to (d) The MPLADS funds have been used for creation of durable community assets relating to national priorities viz. drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc.

To assess the impact of the Scheme at the ground level, the physical monitoring of works executed under MPLAD Scheme has been entrusted to NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS), an independent agency. The NABCONS have found that the MPLAD Scheme is a unique Scheme, having the characteristic features of decentralized development and has resulted in creation of good quality of assets, which have had a positive impact on the local economy, social fabric and the physical environment. They have further reported that the Scheme has been welcomed by the people due to its inherent strengths and its positive impact on their economic and social life. The assessment has been made on the basis of sample works from the selected district since 2007-08.

Since inception of the Scheme, as of 31.10.2009, an amount of Rs. 20351.25 crore has been released, out of which Rs. 18600.90 crore has been utilized. The percentage of cumulative utilization over cumulative release is 91.40%. About 12.82 lakh works have been recommended, 11.45 lakh works were sanctioned, and

about 10.49 lakh works have been completed. The percentage of cumulative works completed to cumulative works sanctioned, is 91.61%. High utilization percentage of the funds itself is a mechanism for assessment of the achievement of the scheme.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Funds released	Funds utilized the district authority*
1	2	3	4
1.	Nominated	29.00	29.03
2.	Andhra Pradesh	126.00	138.40
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	3.56
4.	Assam	41.00	40.83
5.	Bihar	121.00	135.31
6.	Goa	8.00	7.28
7.	Gujarat	69.00	81.16
8.	Haryana	31.00	30.27
9.	Himachal Pradesh	14.00	14.15
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	25.00	29.35
11.	Karnataka	61.50	62.48
12.	Kerala	36.00	58.45
13.	Madhya Pradesh	89.00	90.15
14.	Maharashtra	135.00	152.77
15.	Manipur	6.00	5.70
16.	Meghalaya	6.00	4.84
17.	Mizoram	4.00	5.05
18.	Nagaland	5.00	3.00
19.	Orissa	68.00	63.00
20.	Punjab	43.00	46.82

1	2	3	4
21.	Rajasthan	60.00	65.34
22.	Sikkim	4.00	4.67
23.	Tamil Nadu	116.00	132.73
24.	Tripura	5.00	7.55
25.	Uttar Pradesh	246.00	255.39
26.	West Bengal	114.00	136.98
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3.00	3.87
28.	Chandigarh	2.00	3.06
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.00	0.61
30.	Daman and Diu	3.00	1.96
31.	Delhi	11.00	20.48
32.	Lakshadweep	2.00	3.53
33.	Pondicherry	1.00	1.78
34.	Chhattisgarh	36.00	32.87
35.	Uttarakhand	15.00	13.96
36.	Jharkhand	38.50	37.63
Total		1580.00	1724.01

* expenditure includes funds released during the earlier years also.
Note: Figures are provisional

[English]

National Building Code of India

2082. Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to implement National Building Code of India, 2005 for regulating the construction of school buildings in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The National

Building Code of India, 2005 provides guidelines for regulating building construction activities across the country and serves as a model code for adoption by all agencies involved in building construction works.

Under the schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, the design, layout and cost of construction of school buildings are decided by the respective States/UTs. Government of India or its construction agencies are not involved in the construction of elementary and secondary school buildings sanctioned under these schemes.

Construction of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, and Kendriya Vidyalayas is done through Government construction agencies including Central Public Works Department, which are expected to follow the National Building Code.

Migration of Indian Families from Abroad

2083. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many families of Indian origin particularly Sikh have migrated to India from Afghanistan, Pakistan and various other countries due to atrocities/attacks committed against them;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Government provides any grant or package for their rehabilitation in the country on compassionate grounds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) No.

(b) No incident or complaint of atrocities/attacks committed against Sikhs in Afghanistan has come to notice of Government of India in the last three years. With respect to Pakistan, information available with the Government

does not suggest migration to India by Sikh families in Pakistan which faced imposition of Jaziya and other atrocities during the past three years. There is no record of migration of families of Indian origin particularly Sikhs from other countries on grounds of atrocities/attacks during this period.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Launch of Spacecrafts of Foreign Countries

2084. SHRI P.K. BIJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Spacecrafts launched for other countries during the last three years and the current year by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO); and

(b) the details of revenue earned as a result thereof, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) 12 satellites were launched for other countries during the last three years including six nano satellites launched during the current year by Indian Space Research Organisation.

(b) The revenue earned for launches during last three years is given below:—

Indonesia	—	Rs. 1.30 Crores
Argentina	—	Rs. 0.90 Crores
Italy	—	Rs. 40.70 Crores
Israel	—	Rs. 54.80 Crores
Canada	—	Rs. 2.00 Crores
Germany	—	Rs. 0.50 Crores
		<hr/>
		Rs. 100.20 Crores

The revenue for launches during current year:

Netherlands	—	Rs. 1.40 Crores.
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Scaling Down Infrastructure Targets

2085. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to scale down infrastructure targets to plug the infrastructure deficit in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the sectors likely to be affected as a result thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken/proposed to be taken to meet the huge deficit in infrastructure development in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has taken a number of initiatives to promote the development of infrastructure in general and private participation in particular. Some of these initiatives are as below:

- i. Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI) has been constituted on July 6, 2009. The objective of the Committee is to consider and take decisions in respect of all infrastructure related proposals costing more than Rs. 150 crores; to consider and decide measures namely, fiscal, financial, institutional and legal required to enhance investment in the infrastructure sector, including grant of requisite approvals to facilitate private sector investment in specific projects; to lay down annual parameters and targets for performance for all infrastructure sectors; and to review the progress of all infrastructure projects.
- ii. Public Private Partnership (PPP) Appraisal Committee has been constituted for streamlining and simplifying the appraisal and approval process for PPP projects.
- iii. Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme has been notified to enhance the financial viability of infrastructure projects.

- iv. India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. (IIFCL) has been set up for providing long term loans for financing infrastructure projects.

Coal Deposits in Reserve Forest

2086. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are large deposits of coal in some of the reserve forest areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has envisaged any plan for exploiting these coal deposits;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. As per the latest inventory of geological resources of coal in India, prepared by Geological Survey of India (GSI), a cumulative total of 267.21 billion tonnes of geological resources of coal have so far been estimated in the country as on 1.4.2009 which includes resources beneath forest cover area also. However, separate estimation of coal resources beneath the reserve forest areas of the country is not available.

(c) to (e) These deposits may also be exploited based on the economic feasibility of mining project and on obtaining necessary forestry clearance for the project.

Complaints on the Working of 15 Flagship Programmes

2087. SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI:

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a number of complaints on the working/efficacy of the Center's 15 flagship programmes and schemes from the various parts of the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) There have been some complaints regarding implementation of schemes like NREGS, PMGSY and IAY. The complaints received in the Ministry of Rural Development are immediately brought to the notice of concerned State Governments/UTs for necessary action and corrective measures. The Ministry of Rural Development has adopted a five pronged strategy comprising (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) people's partnership (iii) transparency, (iv) accountability and (v) vigilance and monitoring of rural development programmes for effective implementation.

The State wise releases of funds as well as monitoring of their utilization by each State, is undertaken by the respective Central Government Ministries/Departments implementing these schemes. The Central Ministries/Departments outline modalities clearly for implementation of these programmes in the policy guidelines. The responsibility of proper implementation lies with Central Ministries/State Governments. The states also provide utilization certificates from time to time and other reports, as may be prescribed based on which further release of funds is made. The Comptroller and Auditor General has the constitutional responsibility to audit the utilization of funds

and report any misuse/diversion of funds to the Parliament/State Legislatures.

Awareness Campaign for Girl Child

2088. SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON:

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has launched an awareness campaign at block level to promote education among girl child in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated to each State/U.T. for the purpose; and

(d) the estimated number of girl child likely to be benefited from this campaign?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government implements the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme and National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) for promotion of education of girls at elementary level under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Under the KGBV Scheme, residential schools are set up at upper primary level in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) for girls belonging predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minority communities. Under the NPEGEL, education at elementary level is provided to reach the 'hardest to reach' girls, especially those not in schools. Funds are also provided to the States under 'Innovation Head' of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for need based interventions for promotion of girls' education including awareness campaigns.

(c) A statement showing the details of funds allocated to each State/UT for KGBV, NPEGEL and under Innovation Head, during 2009-10 is enclosed.

(d) During 2009-10, provision has been made in the

Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) of States for benefiting 1.96 lakh girls in KGBVs and 2.44 lakh girls under NPEGEL.

Statement

The details of funds allocated to each State/UT for Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) and National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and under Innovation Head during 2009-10

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas	National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level	Funds under Innovation Head
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	45.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	12021.830	3605.431	225.36
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1021.950	12.760	190.79
4.	Assam	1063.598	40.572	345.00
5.	Bihar	15387.092	3146.778	478.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	2359.050	1192.464	270.00
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	71.470	0.00	15.00
8.	Daman and Diu	—	—	30.00
9.	Delhi	48.725	0.00	135.00
10.	Goa	—	—	30.00
11.	Gujarat	2755.393	725.870	375.00
12.	Haryana	324.120	316.573	300.00

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Himachal Pradesh	142.600	41.552	153.58
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	4001.350	359.364	330.00
15.	Jharkhand	6712.657	2563.137	360.00
16.	Karnataka	2332.000	587.872	0.00
18.	Kerala	—	—	204.89
17.	Lakshadweep	—	—	15.00
19.	Madhya Pradesh	8162.934	6929.948	732.00
20.	Maharashtra	2455.920	456.162	525.00
21.	Manipur	25.470	5.088	123.00
22.	Mizoram	25.470	7.440	120.00
23.	Meghalaya	77.480	—	35.00
24.	Nagaland	96.940	—	165.00
25.	Orissa	4454.662	3044.266	450.00
26.	Puducherry	—	—	43.50
27.	Punjab	31.940	5.020	300.00
28.	Rajasthan	5985.690	3221.851	391.34
29.	Sikkim	—	—	21.00
30.	Tamil Nadu	1189.710	595.932	449.96
31.	Tripura	91.320	4.120	52.56
32.	Uttar Pradesh	23010.058	13295.995	1065.00
33.	Uttarakhand	585.910	252.680	181.00
34.	West Bengal	1559.800	1360.120	300.00
Total		95995.139	41770.995	8456.98

[Translation]

National Environment Awareness Campaign

2089. SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes formulated by the Union Government under the National Environment Awareness Campaign for the year 2009-10;

(b) the funds allocated by the Union Government to the States/UTs for this purpose; and

(c) the extent of improvement likely to be brought out in the field of environment as a result of such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) is a programme in itself under the 'Environment Education, Awareness and Training' Scheme of the Ministry of Environment & Forests and is conducted every year. During the year 2009-10, NEAC has been launched on the theme of 'Climate Change' under which different awareness and action programmes are being taken up by the participating agencies including NGOs across the country.

(b) Under NEAC, funds are released to the approved participating organisations through Regional Resource Agencies appointed for different States and Union Territories. For NEAC 2009-10, different Regional Committees have recommended a total financial assistance of Rs.8,17,14,000/- for implementation of the programme in different States and Union Territories.

(c) NEAC will result in enhanced awareness amongst the people about environmental issues to invoke their informed participation in the protection of environment.

[English]

Review of Norms for AIBP

2090. SHRI R. THAMARASELVAN:
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government for easing the norms for Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) as the existing norms are very stringent and large number of irrigation projects are deprived of the fund under the programme;

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

(c) whether a number of major and medium irrigation projects started during Ninth Five Year Plan onwards with Central grant under the AIBP are still incomplete;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to get these projects completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) and (b) Requests from the State Governments for modifications/ further liberalization of guidelines of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and modification in the guidelines is a continuous process taken up by the Ministry of Water Resources from time to time. Guidelines for AIBP were last amended in December 2006 by the Central Government making them more liberal and oriented to giving major thrust to development of irrigation facilities in drought prone/tribal areas, in States having irrigation development below national average and in agrarian distressed districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra included in the Prime Minister's relief package. Further liberalization of norms is under consideration with Central Government. In recent times, normally all the eligible AIBP release proposals received in time have received central assistance under AIBP.

(c) and (d) So far, 272 major/medium projects/project components have been funded under the AIBP. Out of these, 110 major/medium projects have been reported as completed and remaining projects/project components are in various stages of progress. Generally, the reasons for delay in completion of the projects are land acquisition problems, resettlement and rehabilitation problems,

contractual problems, litigations, geological surprises delay in completion of work to be taken up by other agencies such as railway crossing etc.

(e) Irrigation is a state subject and planning, execution and funding of the irrigation projects is within the purview of the concerned state governments. The Ministry of Water Resources has a comprehensive monitoring set up which also monitors AIBP assisted projects. Field officers of the Central Water Commission visit the projects normally twice a year and submit a detailed monitoring report inter-alia containing bottlenecks in project implementation and also suggest remedial measures. Secretary (Water Resources) convenes review meetings with the senior officers of the State Governments and Central Water Commission from time to time to review physical and financial performance of the projects under AIBP. Apart from it, since December 2006, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the state government contains year wise physical targets of potential creation under ABIP. The guidelines provides that if physical target of potential creation in a year is not achieved, the next instalment of grant will be released only on achieving physical target of potential creation. The MOU also specifies target date of completion of the project.

Information and Communication Technology in Schools

2091. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of schools in Information and Communication Technology Programme during year 2010-11; and

(b) if so, the locations identified in each State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Information and Communication Technology in Schools" covers Government and Government-aided secondary and higher secondary schools in the country. The number of schools to be covered in any State in any year depends on receipt of viable proposals from the concerned State Government and on availability

of funds. The locations of schools are identified by the State Government.

Upgradation of an Institute as IIT

2092. SHRI K.P. DHANAPALAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria/norms for upgrading an institute as Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in the country;

(b) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State of Kerala in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) There are no set criteria/norms for up-gradng an Institute as Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). However, an Expert Committee headed by Prof. S.K. Joshi, Ex-Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), while identifying promising academic institutions having the potential for upgradation into IITs, considered parameters including faculty, research publications/patents, research guidance, courses offered, students' population and physical infrastructure, etc.

(b) and (c) The Government of Kerala has requested the Central Government for setting up of an IIT in Kerala. Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Cochin was one of the Institutes identified by Prof. S.K. Joshi Committee. However, the Joshi Committee felt that in the light of substantial gap between the selected Institutes and the IITs, it would not be correct to position these Institutes straightway alongside the IITs. Prof. Anandakrishnan Committee which was subsequently set up to examine the vision documents of the identified Institutions and suggest the plan of action for their upgradation, recommended that five of the Institutes including CUSAT identified by the Joshi Committee be converted into a system of Indian Institutes of Engineering Science and Technology (IEST) rather than IITs.

Civilian Nuclear Agreements with Foreign Countries

2093. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries with whom civilian nuclear co-operation agreements have been entered into after the landmark Indo-US nuclear agreement; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to create public awareness and acceptance of the use of nuclear power energy for peaceful and developmental purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) After the signing of an Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy on October 10, 2008, India has entered into following civil nuclear cooperation agreements:

- (i) An Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Construction of Additional Nuclear Power Plant Units at Kudankulam Site as well as in the construction of Russian Designed Nuclear Power Plants at New Sites in the Republic of India was signed on December 5, 2008.
- (ii) An agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Namibia on Cooperation in Peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy was signed on August 31, 2009.

(b) The Government has a structured public awareness programmes to disseminate authentic information and acceptance to nuclear energy in various target groups. These include exhibitions and seminars in schools, exhibitions at various scientific/technical fora, technical visits of public/media personnel to stations/sites and workshops etc. The web sites of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Nuclear Power Corporation of India

Limited (NPCIL) and other units of DAE have information about nuclear power and these are regularly updated.

Study on Irrigation Potential

2094. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI PURNMASI RAM:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Institute of Managements (IIMs) have submitted any report relating to gap between the irrigation potential created and utilised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government to the findings of the studies conducted by IIMs; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to utilise maximum irrigation potential in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (d) Realising the importance and the need for taking appropriate measures for optimally utilizing the created facilities for irrigation, the Ministry of Water Resources awarded studies to Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kolkata and Lucknow for ascertaining the possible reasons for the gap between irrigation potential created and irrigation potential utilized and identifying the measures for ensuring optimal utilization. In the reports submitted by IIMs several reasons have been identified for the gap between irrigation potential created and irrigation potential utilized and some of the important reasons found to contribute considerably to the gap are as under:

- i. Lack of proper operation and maintenance
- ii. Incomplete distribution system
- iii. Non-completion of command area development
- iv. Changes from the initially designed cropping pattern
- v. Diversion of irrigable land for other purposes.

The report of the studies carried out by IIMs were circulated to all the State Governments and other stake-

holders. With a view to further deliberate on the findings of the studies and recommendations made by IIMs and the suggestions received from the State Governments and other stakeholders, a workshop was organized by Ministry of Water Resources on 17th March 2009 at Delhi. The findings of the studies and the important points which emerged during the deliberations at the workshop have been forwarded to the State Governments for necessary actions.

Ministry of Water Resources provides necessary assistance to the States for undertaking command area development under the scheme "Command Area Development and Water Management". Ministry of Water Resources also provides assistance to States for extension, renovation and modernization (ERM) of major and medium irrigation projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) as per approved guidelines. Further, scheme for "Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies" has also been approved by Government of India under which assistance is provided to States for restoration of water bodies as per the approved guidelines.

Encroachment of Sanjay Gandhi National Park

2095. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several acres of land at Sanjay Gandhi National Park situated at North Mumbai have been encroached upon by the people living around;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is planning to resettle these people elsewhere; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. As informed by the State Government of Maharashtra, approximately 200 ha. of forest land is under encroachment by the people living around the Park.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. As per the order of the Hon'ble High Court in Writ Petition No. 305/95, total 25144 encroachers are found eligible for rehabilitation. Out of these 8711 eligible encroachers have already been rehabilitated at Chandivali, Taluka Kurla, Mumbai.

[Translation]

Water Flow in Major Rivers

2096. SHRI JAGADANAND SINGH:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water flow in major rivers in the country including river Ganga indicates a decreasing trend particularly during lean period;

(b) if so, the decreasing trend of each of the major rivers during normal period and lean period separately, during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the reasons for such decrease, river-wise; and

(d) the concrete measures taken by the Government to maintain normal water flow in major rivers and their tributaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) The analysis of the flow data carried out by Central Water Commission indicates that the flow in the river vary from year to year primarily due to variation in the rainfall in the catchment area. The analysis of long term data of major rivers do not indicate significant declining trend.

(b) and (c) The availability of water through river flow in 81 important reservoirs is monitored by Central Water Commission. The maximum live storage capacity attained in the 81 important reservoirs as a whole during the last three years and during 2009-10 are as under:

Year	Maximum live storage capacity attained in billion cubic meters (BCM)
2006-07	120.451
2007-08	124.867
2008-09	112.688
2009-10 (till date)	97.014

The variation in the maximum live storage capacity may be attributed to monsoon rainfall observed during the respective years. The average monsoon rainfall for the country as a whole during the years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 have been reported by India Meteorological Department (IMD) to be 886.6 millimeters (mm), 944.6 mm, 877.4 mm and 698.1 mm respectively. The information about maximum live storage capacity attained during the last 3 years in respect of important river basins is enclosed as statement.

(d) The occurrence of the rainfall and the generation of river flow is a natural phenomenon. However, due emphasis has been laid in the National Water Policy on conservation of water resources. The National Water Policy states that "the resources should be conserved and the availability augmented by maximizing retention, eliminating pollution and minimizing losses".

Statement

Basin-wise information about maximum storage capacity attained in 81 important reservoirs

River Basin	Maximum storage capacity (in billion cubic meters) attained		
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4
Ganga	16.629	15.533	10.963
Indus	9.676	13.416	7.079
Narmada	11.333	9.117	11.461
Tapi	7.272	5.692	3.960

	1	2	3	4
Mahi		3.720	2.322	2.179
Sabarmati		0.721	0.260	0.217
Rivers of Kutch		0.813	0.521	0.244
Godavari		12.391	9.640	4.282
Krishna		30.423	29.636	29.770
Mahanadi and neighbouring EFRS		11.664	11.833	9.946
Cauvery and neighbouring EFRS		7.215	5.167	5.776
West flowing rivers of South		13.010	9.551	11.137
Total		124.867	112.688	97.014

CBI raid and inquiry against All India Service Officers

2097. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI S. ALAGIRI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Officers from All India Services, especially IAS, IPS and IFS (Forests) retired as serving officers against whom CBI inquiry has been initiated or pending during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of cases filed in the Judicial Courts, year-wise during the said period;

(c) the number of cases initiated by CBI for possessing assets disproportionate to their own sources of income during the same period, year-wise;

(d) the number out of them for which charge-sheets have been filed;

(e) the number of officers of Joint Secretary level and above alongwith the Departments to which the Officers belonged in the above cases; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken to expedite the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) During the last three years i.e. 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 (upto 30.10.2009), CBI has registered 88 cases against All India Services Officers including IAS, IPS, IFS (Forests) as per details below:

Year	No. of cases registered
2006	65
2007	12
2008	4
2009 (upto 30.10.2009)	7

(b) During the said period, CBI has filed charge-sheets in 102 cases against All India Services Officers as per details below:

Year	No. of cases charge- sheeted
2006	32
2007	23
2008	41
2009 (upto 30.10.2009)	6

(c) During the said period, CBI has registered 5 cases of disproportionate assets against All India Services Officers as per details below:

Year	No. of cases registered
2006	1
2007	2
2008	0
2009 (upto 30.10.2009)	2

(d) CBI has not filed charge-sheet in any of the above 5 disproportionate assets cases.

(e) Out of these 5 disproportionate assets cases, 3 cases are against the officers of Joint Secretary level and above, working in the following Departments/Organisations:

- (i) Madras Fertilizers Ltd. Chennai
- (ii) Government of Assam
- (iii) Ministry of Shipping

(f) CBI endeavours to complete investigation in all the cases at the earliest.

Opening of Schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

2098. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several proposals of State Governments for opening schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) are pending with the Union Government;

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

(c) the present status of such proposals; and

(d) the funds allocated under SSA for 2009-10, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The Annual Works Plan & Budget (AWP&B) proposals of States/UTs under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) are approved by Ministry of Human Resource Development on the recommendations of Project Approval Board at the beginning of financial year. The AWP&B for 2009-10 of all the States/ UTs already stand approved.

(d). The details of SSA Central funding released to States/ Union Territories till 24.11.2009 is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement			
<i>Central funding released under SSA</i>			
As on 24.11.2009			
Sl. No.	States/UTs (other than NER)	Total Central Budget Support (i.e. BE 2009-10) (In Lakhs)	Amount released (central share) during 2009-10 (In Lakhs)
1	2	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh		13569.90
2.	Bihar		45000.00
3.	Chhattisgarh		46892.60
4.	Goa		550.58
5.	Gujarat		8031.73
6.	Haryana		10000.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh		8608.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir		30000.00
9.	Jharkhand		15000.00
10.	Karnataka		44220.60
11.	Kerala		11989.50
12.	Madhya Pradesh		100249.00
13.	Maharashtra		48023.00
14.	Orissa	1193392.00	63061.60
15.	Punjab		8973.00
16.	Rajasthan		112724.00
17.	Tamil Nadu		48366.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh		178448.30
19.	Uttarakhand		13997.29

1	2	4	5
26.	West Bengal		94142.00
21.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands		312.44
22.	Chandigarh		826.00
23.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli		350.18
24.	Daman and Diu		69.00
25.	Delhi		1163.00
26.	Lakshadweep		41.00
27.	Pondicherry		273.96
28.	National Component		1117.89
Total Non NER		1193392.00	906000.57
		Total	Amount
Sl. No.	States/UTs (NER States)	Central Budget Support (i.e. BE 2009-10) (In Lakhs)	released (central share) during 2009-10 (In Lakhs)
29.	Assam		42480.00
30.	Arunachal Pradesh		4117.00
31.	Manipur		500.00
32.	Meghalaya	116608.00	8383.00
33.	Mizoram		2645.00
34.	Nagaland		1413.00
35.	Sikkim		986.00
36.	Tripura		4273.00
Total NER		116608.00	64797.00
Grand Total		1310000.00	970797.57

*[English]***Sanctuaries for Blackbucks**

2099. SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN:
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:
SHRI JAYARAM PANGI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of sanctuaries for Blackbucks in the country;
- (b) whether due to heavy rains in May, 2009 in Tal Chhaper Sanctuary, several Blackbucks were killed;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any prospective scheme is being formulated for the protection of Blackbucks in the sanctuary; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) One National Park and three Sanctuaries have been notified specifically for the conservation of Blackbucks in the country. Besides these Protected Areas, Blackbucks are found in other National Parks and Sanctuaries and also outside the Protected Areas.

(b) and (c) As per the information received from the State Government of Rajasthan, 75 Blackbucks died due to shock caused by stormy rains with heavy hailstorms between 28 May and 31 May, 2009 in Tal Chhaper Sanctuary in Churu district.

(d) and (e) The Central Government provides financial assistance to Protected Areas including Blackbuck Sanctuaries and National Park as per the Annual Plan of Operations (APOs) submitted by the State Governments subject to availability of funds and fulfilment of necessary procedural requirements under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant'. Accordingly, no other scheme for Blackbucks is contemplated.

Ground Water Exploration

2100. CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH:
SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR alias KUSHAL
TIWARI:
SHRI BASORI SINGH MASRAM:
SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government provides financial and technological assistance to the State Governments for conducting surveys, monitoring and augmentation of ground water level;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has approved any proposals for exploration of ground water in the hilly regions of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (e) the funds allocated and released by the Government for the said purpose, State-wise; and
- (f) the details of the work undertaken in this regard?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), a subordinate office of this Ministry, carries out surveys, monitoring and exploration activities to delineate potential aquifer zones and to assess their yield characteristics. The data generated through these studies is disseminated to the user agencies in the States. The CGWB also renders technical assistance/guidance to States in ground water related matters. As regards augmentation of ground water level, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by sanctioning various schemes/programmes. Some of the measures taken in this regard include:—

- (i) Sanction issued for implementation of demonstrative projects on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water, initiated in 2006-07, during the X Plan, in identified areas of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and for demonstrative artificial recharge projects during the last three years of XI Plan, as per the details given hereunder:—

Sl. No	States	Funds released under X Plan scheme (Rs. in Lakh)				Funds released Under XI Plan scheme (Rs. in Lakh)		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1.	Tamil Nadu	156.21	66.94	0	0	0	33.3	290.745
2.	Andhra Pradesh	91.32	0	39.12	0	0	0	91.014
3.	Madhya Pradesh	104.21	0	16.267	0	0	0	0
4.	Karnataka	64.53	0	22.11	0	0	0	76.41
5.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	77.9	0
6.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	11.715	0
7.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	53.835	0
8.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	33.267	0
Total		416.27	66.94	77.497	0	0	210.017	458.169

(ii) Sanction of a scheme for "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells" with an outlay of Rs. 1798.71 crore for 7 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. State-

wise details of funds released to the States for Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities and for subsidy to the farmers are given below:—

Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells

Sl. No.	States	IEC (Rs. in crore)			Subsidy (Rs. in crore)		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Tamil Nadu	0	2.0	3.75	0	86.9662	15.2418
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Madhya Pradesh	0	2.0	0	0	0	0
4.	Maharashtra	0	2.0	0	0	9.3202	2.5318

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Gujarat	0	2.0	1.25	0	34.7062	7.2969
6.	Karnataka	0	2.0	0	0	0.1923	26.1577
7.	Rajasthan	0	2.0	0	0	0.156	17.414
Total		0	12.0	5.0	0	131.3409	68.6422

(c) to (f) CGWB carries out ground water exploration in various parts of the country including hilly regions as part of their regular activity. After collecting necessary scientific data, successful exploratory wells are handed over to the concerned State agencies for utilization. There is no scheme for Central assistance to States for taking up surveys and activities relating to monitoring and augmentation of ground water.

Development of Projects by China in PoK

2101. SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made on the strategic implications for India on the upgradation of the Karakoram road by China in the region illegally occupied by Pakistan;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Government's position is that Pakistan has been in illegal occupation of parts of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir since 1947. The Chinese side is fully aware of our position and concern about upgradation of the Karakoram Highway by them. Government has asked the Chinese side to cease their activities in PoK. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments

having a bearing on India's interests and takes all necessary measures to protect them.

[Translation]

Damage to Qutab Minar

2102. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has expressed apprehension of any damage to world heritage Qutub Minar in Delhi as a result of the noise pollution by aeroplane flying over it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation has been requested to take necessary action in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the State-wise details of other historical and world heritage sites in critical condition as a result of noise pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. A number of flights pass close to the Qutub Minar. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has requested the Directorate General, Civil Aviation (DGCA) to look into the matter and take up Environment Impact Study to assess the impact of the flights on the monument. As a follow up action, the DGCA has interacted with the engineering experts of the Indian

Institute of Technology and other research institutes. A project is being designed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation/DGCA to evaluate the vibration level prevailing on the structure of Qutub Minar due to flight-movements. Based upon its outcome, corrective measures, if any, would be taken.

(e) No monument is reported to be in critical condition due to noise pollution.

[English]

SAARC Meet on Climate Change

2103. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a summit of Environment Ministers of SAARC countries was held recently;

(b) if so, the outcome of the summit;

(c) whether a joint statement was issued at the summit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by SAARC countries to jointly present their case regarding climate change in Copenhagen Convention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Yes Madam, the 8th Meeting of the Environment Ministers of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was held in New Delhi on 19-21 October 2009. The SAARC Environment Ministers noted the grant of one million dollar each by Government of India to SAARC Forestry Centre, Thimphu and SAARC Coastal Management Centre, Male. The SAARC Environment Ministers also noted the proposal of the Government of Bhutan to consider Climate Change as the theme of the 16th SAARC Summit in April 2010. Other important decisions inter alia were: issuing of a Delhi Statement on Cooperation in Environment agreeing on specific joint actions to further strengthen environmental governance, biodiversity

conservation and climate change cooperation; direction to identify a few regional projects based on the concept papers circulated by India on biodiversity, solid waste management, training/capacity building programme for zoos of SAARC countries; establishment of 50 weather stations for advance storm warning systems in SAARC Member States with the help of Government of India starting with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh; and direction to finalize a Regional Environment Treaty for signing at the 16th SAARC Summit.

(e) SAARC Countries regularly coordinate their position on climate change as members of the Group of 77 and China. In the 15th Conference of Parties of United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held at Copenhagen in December 2009, Sri Lanka, as current chair of SAARC countries is scheduled to make a statement reflecting the views of SAARC countries in the opening plenary session.

Infrastructure Development in KBK Region

2104. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has asked for certain outlay for the development of infrastructure in the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) region of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the funds are likely to be sanctioned for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The State Government of Orissa has submitted a draft Special Plan for the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts of the State seeking Special Central Assistance of the tune of Rs. 4550 crore for the period 2009-2017.

(c) The Central Government is seized of the matter.

[English]

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Excellence

2105. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any monthly financial assistance/honorarium is provided to the senior people who have excelled in the field of literature, art and other similar fields by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration to enhance the said monthly assistance; and

(d) if so, the time by which the enhancement is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Government of India is implementing the "scheme of financial assistance to persons distinguished in letters, arts and such other walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances and their dependents".

To be eligible under the Scheme

- (i) a person's contribution to art and letters, etc. must be of significance;
- (ii) personal income of the applicant (including income of the spouse) must not exceed Rs.4000/- per month; and
- (iii) The applicant should not be less than 58 years of age.

(c) and (d) The monthly assistance under this scheme has been enhanced from Rs. 2000/- per month to Rs. 4000/- per month with effect from 01.04.2009.

Funds for Bharat Nirman Yojana

2106. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allocated additional funds for implementation of Bharat Nirman programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the targets fixed and achieved under the said programme; and

(d) the extent to which the additional allocation has been utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) Government launched Bharat Nirman five years ago as a time-bound business plan for rural infrastructure. It has succeeded in reaching basic infrastructure of roads, electricity and telephone to a large number of villages. It has also achieved most of the targets of rural water supply, rural housing and has increased irrigation potential. Government of India has stepped up the allocation for Bharat Nirman from Rs. 31,280 crore for 2008-09(BE) to Rs. 45,500 Crore for 2009-10 (BE) which is an increase of 45 %. Government has stepped up the allocation for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) programme by 59% over BE 2008-09 to Rs. 12,000 crore. Government has also allocated Rs. 7000 crore to Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) which represents a 27% increase over 2008-09 (BE). The allocation for the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) has been increased by 63 per cent to Rs. 8,800 crore in Budget Estimates 2009-10. To broaden the pace of rural housing, Government has proposed to allocate, from the shortfall in the priority sector lending of commercial banks, a sum of Rs. 2,000 crore for rural housing fund in the National Housing Bank (NHB).

The details of the targets fixed and achieved under the Bharat Nirman Programme is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Physical Progress under Bharat Nirman (2005-09) as on 8.7.2009

Sl. No.	Bharat Nirman Goal 2005-09	Target 2005-09	Target 2005-06	Achievement 2005-06	Target 2006-07	Achievement 2006-07	Target 2007-08	Achievement 2007-08	Target 2008-09	Achievement 2008-09	Cumulative achievement 2005-09	% Cumulative achievement 2005-09	Remarks
1.	Rural Roads												
a.	Coverage of Habitations to connect villages that have a population of 1000 (or 500 in hilly/tribal areas) with a road	59564	7034	5552	16130	8279	20071	7040	18100	11398	32269	54.18	
b.	New connectivity in kms.	146185	15492.42	18054	35182.16	21423	43990	21902	35220	24026	85405	58.42	
c.	Upgradation of through-routes in kms	194130	11394.41	3898	54669.26	44307	59316.3	58145	52720	48669	155019	79.85	
2.	Rural Housing												
	Total No. Houses	6000000	1500000	1552000	1533000	1498000	2127000	1992000	840000	1860000	6902000	115.03	
3.	Drinking Water Supply												
a.	Uncovered/Partially covered Habitations	55067	11897	13121	18120	12440	20931	11457	16774	14748	51766	94.01	
b.	Slipped back Habitations	331604	34373	79544	40000	89580	84915	75201	101733	84673	328998	99.21	
c.	Quality problem villages	216968	10000	4550	15000	5330	49653	94130	99402	105951	209961	96.77	
4.	Telephone connectivity	66822	—	17392	—	12859	36571	24341	10792	2834	57426	85.94	
	No. of villages to be connected												
5.	Rural Electrification												
a.	Electrification of villages	100000	10000	9819	40000	28706	40000	9301	25000	12056	59882	59.88	
b.	Connection to 2.3 crore households	23000000	300000	17000	4000000	655000	4000000	1622000	6000000	3084558	5378558	23.39	
6.	Irrigation to bring an additional 10 million hectares (mha) under assured irrigation	10	1.9	1.676	2.4	1.943	2.85	1.701	2.85	1.196	6.52	65.16	

* Based on ground verification of 66802 habitation, 62957 habitations found eligible to be connected. 3421 habitations already connected under other schemes. Hence the revised target is now 54390 habitations.

*Similarly, on ground verification of villages to be electrified were 1.25 lakhs with 1.0 lakh by M/o power and 25,000 villages through MNRES.

Translation]

Visit of Minister of State to Liberia and Ghana

2107. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State in his Ministry visited Liberia and Ghana recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed during his visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes. Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Liberia from 16-19 September, 2009 and made a transit halt at Accra (Ghana) on 19th September 2009.

Liberia:

A twelve member high-level official and business delegation accompanied the Minister of State. The business delegation composed of companies in the sectors of agriculture, mining, IT education, telecommunication, transportation and small industries.

Apart from calling on the Liberian President, Her Excellency Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the delegation held extensive talks with Acting Foreign Affairs Minister, H.E. Mr. William V.S. Bull, and the Ministers of Justice, Agriculture, Education, Telecommunication, Commerce and Industry and the Chairman of the National Investment Commission.

In the discussions with the Liberian leadership, India conveyed its commitment to become an active partner in Liberia's development and underlined that India's approach would be to respond to the needs of Liberia and participate in efforts and projects which are deemed to be priorities by the Liberian side.

Details of assistance offered to Liberia are as follows:

- US\$2 million grant-in-aid for projects in the education and health sectors.
- Donation of 25 buses to augment the public transportation facilities in the capital Monrovia.

- Setting up of an IT Centre of Excellence in Liberia.
- Setting up of two "Hole-in-the-Wall" computer education centres in Liberia.
- To assist Liberia in capacity building and training, particularly Liberian diplomats and policemen.
- Training of Liberian women in solar energy development at the Barefoot College, Tilonia in Rajasthan.

India appreciated the accession of Liberia to the Pan-African e-Network Project of the Government of India, through which it is deriving the benefits of tele-education and tele-medicine facilities.

Indian business delegation held intensive discussions and identified opportunities in mining, small enterprises development, IT education, agriculture and commercial farming.

The Liberian side offered substantial tracts of land for development of commercial cropping for increasing Liberia's food security as well as for export purposes.

Dr. Tharoor also met with members of the Indian Female Formed Police Unit which is rendering security services as part of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). He also interacted with the Indian community in Liberia.

Both countries recognized the need for comprehensive reform of the United Nations and the expansion of the UN Security Council to make it more representative of existing world realities. Liberia recognized the pioneering and substantive contribution of India towards UN activities particularly peacekeeping. Liberia also appreciated the role of the Indian contingent of UNMIL, particularly the first ever Indian Female Formed Police Unit (FFPU). Liberia agreed to extend its support for India's candidature of the non-permanent seat from the Asian Group for the period 2011-2012 for which elections are to be held in October 2010. India appreciated the Liberian gesture.

A Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations was signed during the visit.

Ghana:

During his brief halt at Accra, Dr. Tharoor called on H.E. Prof. John Evans Atta Mills, President of Ghana. He conveyed the good wishes of Prime Minister Dr. Manmoham Singh to President Atta Mills on the centenary birthday celebrations of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, the first President of Ghana. He also discussed with President Atta Mills matters of mutual interest, both bilateral and international.

President Mills warmly appreciated India's development, calling it a model country. He was deeply appreciative of the assistance provided by India for the economic development of Ghana and sought greater investment by Indian companies in agriculture, railways and the energy sectors. President Mills also unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms.

Pollution in Delhi

2108. SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction activities in Commonwealth Games sites has increased the pollution level in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take several measures to bring down the level of pollution in view of forthcoming Commonwealth Games;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to reduce the vehicular pollution in Delhi which has reached alarming levels in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring ambient air quality in Delhi at 11 locations (4 continuous monitoring stations and 7 manual stations). The monitoring in Delhi by CPCB is being conducted with a view to assess overall ambient air quality and not specifically relating to construction activities

of forthcoming Commonwealth Games in 2010. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee imposes specific conditions to contain fugitive dust emission due to construction activities while granting consent to establish.

(c) to (e) The various steps taken by the Government to reduce the air pollution in Delhi in view of the Commonwealth Games are mentioned below:

- (i) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is being used as fuel for public road transport.
- (ii) Bharat Stage III emission norms for 4-wheelers in Delhi as well as Bharat Stage II emission norms for 2 & 3 wheelers have been made applicable w.e.f. 01-04-2005.
- (iii) Bharat Stage IV emission norms for all categories of new four wheelers vehicles in Delhi as well as Bharat Stage III norms for new two and three wheelers have been notified for implementation with effect from 1st April, 2010.
- (iv) Augmentation of infrastructure, i.e., construction of flyovers, bridges, road networks and broadening of existing roads has been done.
- (v) Introduction of Bus Rapid Transport corridors is in progress.
- (vi) Augmentation of Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) including expansion of Delhi Metro Network has been undertaken.

[English]

**Drop Out Rate at Higher
Secondary Level**

2109. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the drop out rate at the higher secondary level across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; category-wise and gender-wise during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether drop out rate, for the girls is more than that of the boys in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The drop out rates at the higher secondary level are not maintained in this Ministry as there are multiple streams of education after class X. The all India drop out rates for classes I to X for the last three years for which figures are available were 59.88%, 61.62% and 61.92% for 2006-07, 2005-06 and 2004-05 respectively.

(c) and (d) During the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, the drop out rates for girls for classes I to X were slightly higher than those for boys at all India level as a whole. With a view to reduce the drop out rate for girls at the secondary level, the centrally sponsored schemes 'Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan' envisages special focus on girls' enrolment and retention through various measures including appointment of women teachers, provision of toilets for girls, etc. The Girls' Hostel scheme is meant to create residential facilities for girls at the secondary stage in educationally backward blocks. Under the scheme incentive to Girls for Secondary Education', a financial incentive is provided to all SC/ST girls joining class IX in government and government-aided schools.

[Translation]

Funds for Vocationalisation of Secondary Education

2110. SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from various State Governments for the Central assistance under Centrally-sponsored schemes for vocationalisation of secondary education during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government with regard to each of these proposals; and

(c) the number of unemployed youths targeted to be benefited under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Under the centrally sponsored scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education proposals have been received since 1.4.2006 from the States of Jharkhand, Mizoram, Puducherry, Sikkim and Orissa. State Governments of Sikkim and Puducherry were given financial assistance of Rs. 250.00 lakh and Rs. 15.53 lakh respectively in 2006-07. No releases have been made to any State under this scheme since 1.4.2007.

(c) Under the scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, an enrolment capacity of about 10 lakh has been created since the inception of the scheme in 1988.

[English]

Inter-Linking of Rivers

2111. SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government has taken the consent of concerned Government of neighbouring countries for execution of inter-linking of rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The stage has not come to seek such consent.

New Policy on Distance Education

2112. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new policy on distance learning in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the role of Distance Education Council (DEC) under the new policy;
- (d) the existing mechanism to monitor and to evaluate education being imparted through distance mode by several institutions; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to have an effective mechanism in place to have control over the institutions imparting distance education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) Yes, Madam. The draft policy on Distance Education has been uploaded on the website of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education for seeking views/comments of the stake holders, including general public. The Distance Education Council (DEC), in the draft policy has been assigned the role of determining the standard of delivery of courses/programmes through distance mode and the concerned Statutory regulatory bodies have been assigned the role of ensuring quality of courses/programmes in their respective disciplines.

Technology for Converting Carbon into Liquid

2113. SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any technology has been developed recently for converting Carbon Di-oxide into liquid and passing it into the earth;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the benefits and implications of the technology to the environment;
- (c) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has engaged in any research in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (e) No, Madam. However, since 2007, the Department of Science and Technology has initiated a national programme on Carbon Sequestration Research so as to compete with other countries in this emerging and strategic area from the perspective of pure/applied research vis-à-vis the requirements of Technology Development and Demonstration and its Industrial applications in the important sectors of economy such as power, coal mining and utilization, carbon capture and storage technologies. The present effort addresses CO₂ sequestration through Micro algae Bio-fixation techniques; carbon capture process development, policy development studies and network terrestrial agro-forestry sequestration modeling. Similarly, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is engaged in CO₂ sequestration and some laboratory scale experiments have been carried out in this area.

Annual Production of NEC

2114. SHRI BANSA GOPAL CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the annual production of North Eastern Coalfield (NEC) in Assam;
- (b) whether many underground mines in Assam have been closed; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The production of Coal of NEC during 2008-09 was 1.01 mt.

(b) and (c) The production in underground mines in Margherita, Baragolai and Tipong has been suspended by

DGMS by invoking section 22(3) of Mines Act 1952 since 07.11.2008. The Ledo underground mine has been sealed from surface on 07.11.2008 following occurrence of accidents on 04.11.2008 and 07.11.2008.

Damage to Environment

2115. SHRI S. SEMMALAI:

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the damage caused to the environment by the discharge of effluents from leather and textile units in various States of the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to give incentives to these industries for installation of pollution control plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified 17 categories of highly polluting industries which includes Tannery, i.e., Leather Industry. Most of the tannery and textile units fall under small and medium enterprises (SME) sector and are located mainly in clusters. The major States accounting for tanneries are Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Punjab. As per the information available with the CPCB, the discharge of effluents has been one of the causes of water quality deterioration of Sutlej river by tanneries located at Jalandhar (Punjab), of river Ganga by tanneries of Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) and of river Palar by tanneries of Vanyambadi (Tamil Nadu).

Textile units are mainly located in the States of Tamilnadu, Gujarat, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. A total of 1,683 textiles units are established in these five States, out of which 1,479 units are reported to be complying with the effluent norms.

(c) and (d) The Central Government provides financial

assistance to the tune of 25% of the project cost for installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for small scale industrial units including textile and tannery clusters. CETPs have been installed at major tannery clusters in Jalandhar (Punjab); Jajmau, Unnao, Banthera (all in Uttar Pradesh), Vanyambadi (Tamilnadu) and Kolkata (West Bengal). CETPs have also been installed in major textile clusters liker Tirupur (Tamilnadu) and Pali (Rajasthan).

[Translation]

Working of AICTE

2116. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN:

SHRI S. ALAGIRI:

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

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

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the working of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints from parents regarding mismanagement in AICTE recognized educational institutions in the country;

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

(e) whether the Government has initiated any punitive action against these institutions during the last three years and the current year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government is reviewing the functioning of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) on a continuous basis with the objective of bringing in transparency in its functioning, reforms in governance and removing discrepancies in procedures.

(c) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Integrated Coastal Area
Development Programme**

2117. SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to implement the integrated coastal area development programme in the State of Orissa;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for the purpose;

(c) whether the State Government of Orissa has sought additional funds for implementing the said programme; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide the funds as demanded by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Project Preparation Facility component of the World Bank assisted Integrated Coastal Zone Management project includes the preparation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for the stretches of Paradip-Dhamra and Gopalpur-Chilika and capacity building projects in the area of coastal management in the State of Orissa. Under this component an amount of Rs. 40,40,000 has been earmarked for the State of Orissa.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Orissa has not sought for any additional fund for the project referred at para (a) and (b) above.

[Translation]

Preservation of Traditional Folk Arts

2118. SHRI RAJU SHETTI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any special budgetary provisions to promote and preserve the traditional folk arts of each State in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Culture has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with the objective of promotion and preservation of traditional folk arts of States within their respective jurisdictions. Although budgetary provisions are not made state-wise, a total budget of Rs. 2159 lakhs has been allocated to ZCCs under Plan during 2009-10 (including Rs. 759 lakhs under NE head) for implementation of their schemes. The details of the ZCCs and the schemes implemented by them are given in the enclosed statement. In addition, Sangeet Natak Akademi and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts have provisions for supporting the traditional art forms by way of grants, festivals, collections, documentation, research and publication etc; and the Ministry of Textiles operates schemes through the office of Development Commissioners of Handlooms and Handicrafts.

Statement

Details of ZCCs and their schemes

Sl.No.	Name of the centre	Headquarter	Member States
1	2	3	4
1.	North Zone Cultural Centre	Patiala	Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Chandigarh

1	2	3	4
2.	West Zone Cultural Centre	Udaipur	Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Union Territory of Daman and Diu and Nagra Haveii
3.	South Zone Cultural Centre	Thanjavur	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Puducherry.
4.	South Central Zone Cultural Centre	Nagpur	Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra
5.	Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre	Kolkata	Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura, West Bengal and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
6.	North Central Zone Cultural Centre	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttrakhand and Delhi.
7.	North East Zone Cultural Centre	Dimapur	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

ZCCs are implementing the following schemes to promote the traditional folk arts of the member-states:-

- (1) **National Cultural Exchange Programme:** With a view to present art forms of one region to another and expose the diverse cultural heritage of each region to the rest of the country, the folk/tribal artistes are sent on exchange manner to participate in the programmes organized by the seven Zonal Cultural Centres.
- (2) **Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme:** The Scheme was introduced in 2003-04 with a view to promote development of new talents in the field of music and dance, folk and tribal art forms, under the able guidance of Gurus.
- (3) **Young Talented Artistes Scheme:** The Scheme was introduced during the year 2004-05 to recognize and encourage young talents in the various folk arts forms of different regions in the country.
- (4) **Documentation of Vanishing Art Forms:** Under the Scheme, documentation of various traditional folk art forms is undertaken, especially of those which are seen to be vanishing.

(5) **Shilpagram Activities:** ZCCs have set up Shilpagrams at Chandigarh, Khajuraho, Udaipur, Guwahati, Allahabad and Shantiniketan to encourage various forms of traditional folk/tribal arts from rural India. These Shilpagrams are attracting a large number of domestic as well as foreign visitors. Through these Shilpgrams, a large number of artistes and artisans are benefitted and a large number of people are made aware of our rich cultural heritage.

(6) **Loktarang - National Folk Dance Festival and OCTAVE - Festival of the North East:** All the ZCCs participate in these National level festivals organized every year in New Delhi and/or other places. A large number of folk/tribal artistes from all corners of the country perform during these festivals to showcase the diverse folk/tribal arts of our different regions/states.

Illegal Deforestation

2119. SHRI RAMKISHUN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any complaints about the illegal deforestation in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAI RAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Union Government receives complaints from time to time about scattered tree fellings in various parts of the country. The complaints so received are forwarded to the respective States/ UTs for remedial action. The Central Government also provides financial assistance to the State/ UT Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Intensification of Forest Management" with the objective for strengthening the forest protection measures.

[English]

Prediction of Rainfall

2120. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any progress in evolving a foolproof system to predict rainfall in advance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Continuous improvement of weather forecasting services is a high priority activity for the agencies of the Ministry of Earth Sciences by adopting methodologies and modeling frameworks that have undergone rigorous performance evaluation in operational R&D environment. Following are important steps that are undertaken/underway.

(i) An improved numerical prediction models with 50Km grid globally and 27Kms/9Kms over India are already implemented.

- (ii) All available global satellite radiance data sets are being assimilated in the numerical models for improving the forecasts.
- (iii) A multi-model Man-Machine-Mix approach using the forecasts from different models has been adopted for improving the forecast skill on experimental basis.
- (iv) Focusing on strengthening the existing observational network with expansion, improving the forecasting methodology and quick dissemination of weather forecast assessments/warnings to the users, a comprehensive modernization programme is currently underway.
- (v) Focused R&D initiatives on understanding and prediction of the Indian monsoon rainfall variability, increasing accuracies of medium range weather predictions and potential predictability of monsoon are currently under implementation during the XI Plan.

Lease Deed to Forest Dwellers

2121. SHRI JAYARAM PANGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide the lease deed to the persons including Scheduled Tribes who have encroached upon the forest land for agricultural and other purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria fixed in this regard;

(c) whether certain State Governments have sent any proposals to the Union Government to provide lease deed to such persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Madam.

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

**Primary Schools Running with High
Pupil Teacher Ratio**

2122. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are significant number of primary schools running with very high Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has any provision for providing additional teachers in primary and upper primary schools; and

(d) if so, the district-wise details of additional teachers provided under SSA in last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) As per Selected

Educational Statistics (2006-07) published by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) in the country at primary and upper primary levels is 45:1 and 35:1 respectively.

(c) Government of India under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme provides (i) one teacher for every 40 children in primary and upper primary; (ii) at least two teachers in a primary school; (iii) one teacher for every class in the upper primary. Of the three teachers sanctioned under SSA for every new upper primary school, one each will need to be a teacher with mathematics and science specific educational background (iv) wherever there is a need for additional teachers at upper primary level, to maintain the PTR of 40:1, the additional teachers sanctioned under SSA will need to be recruited from those with Science/Mathematics educational background.

(d) Details of teachers provided under SSA in the last three years and the current year is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of teachers provided under SSA

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of teachers provided			
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1624	1633	153	152
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	973	790	827	396
3.	Assam	0	0	0	3042
4.	Bihar	80522	35965	31756	9039
5.	Chhattisgarh	11251	2605	1594	1594
6.	Goa	16	0	0	0
7.	Haryana	1465	1986	0	12
8.	Himachal Pradesh	264	420	684	80
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	444	10583	8145	2400

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Jharkhand	27574	4448	5724	1439
11.	Karnataka	4791	6009	1266	1214
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1405	2238	3145	2798
13.	Maharashtra	0	0	10068	2119
14.	Manipur	0	365	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	2500	534	1888	1691
16.	Mizoram	320	287	222	479
17.	Nagaland	168	0	22	400
18.	Orissa	6176	3990	4894	13176
19.	Punjab	410	21	464	1935
20.	Rajasthan	45606	24616	3000	0
21.	Sikkim	28	0	25	8
22.	Tamil Nadu	10180	1676	1577	2086
23.	Tripura	807	114	1106	1439
24.	Uttar Pradesh	23285	18162	19260	5212
25.	Uttarakhand	1205	1319	1196	493
26.	West Bengal	0	4800	10392	4146
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	10	4	0	0
28.	Chandigarh	205	0	0	0
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	233	0	5	18
30.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	32
31.	Delhi	20	8	8	0
32.	Lakshadweep	10	8	13	5
33.	Puducherry	0	12	10	6

**Shortage of Funds for
Performing Arts**

2123. SHRI SHIVARAMA GOUDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the schemes under which beneficiaries awarded in performing arts under grant-in-aid are either delayed, deferred or declined or lapsed due to acute shortage of funds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the measures taken by the Government to overcome such deficiencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The grant is released to the beneficiaries after the required documents are submitted by them as per terms and conditions of the scheme. An increasing use of Ministry's website has been made, to publicise the documentation requirements of the scheme to enable the applicants/grantees meet the deficiencies at a faster pace.

Also the system of releasing the sanctioned funds through cheques/demand drafts has been changed and now sanctioned funds are transferred electronically direct in the bank account of the grantees.

Visit of US Secretary of State

2124. SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during her visit to this region called upon India to resolve all outstanding differences with Pakistan bilaterally for mutual benefits;

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

(c) the details of the support offered by the US to help resolve the differences between the two countries; and

(d) the issues identified for such resolution?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) During her visit to Pakistan in October, 2009, US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton said that USA would like to see India and Pakistan resolve their outstanding differences. She added that USA would encourage both countries to address the problems that only India and Pakistan can resolve.

(c) and (d) The Government of USA has stated recently that it is up to India and Pakistan to resolve bilateral issues between the two countries. USA has called upon Pakistan to take action against the Mumbai terrorist attack suspects, end cross-border infiltration and ensure that Pakistan is not used as a platform for terrorists to attack either India or other neighbouring countries.

**Inclusion of Red Sanders Wood in
Wild Life Act, 1972**

2125. SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal for inclusion of Red Sanders in Schedule VI of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for inclusion of 'Red Sanders' in Schedule VI of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. However, no decision has been taken in this matter.

[Translation]

Pollution Control Work on River Ganga

2126. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the works undertaken from the funds allocated for cleaning river Ganga;

(b) whether any proposals have been received to establish sewage treatment plants for the most polluted cities situated on the bank of Ganga river; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase I was launched as a centrally funded scheme in 1985 with the objective of improving the water quality of the Ganga. Various pollution abatement works like Interception & Diversion of sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation works, crematoria works, etc. were taken up. GAP Phase - II which included the tributaries of Ganga namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda, besides Ganga, was approved in stages from 1993-1996. GAP Phase II was merged with the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in December, 1996. An expenditure of Rs.837.40 crore has been incurred for river Ganga and a sewage treatment capacity of 1025 million liters per day (mild) has been created so far under both the phases of the Plan. Proposals have been received for construction of Sewage Treatment Plants at Allahabad (105 mild), Varanasi (140 mild) in Uttar Pradesh, and Hazipur (22 mild), Buxar (16 mild), Begusarai (17 mild) & Munger (28 mild) in Bihar.

[English]

Shortfall of Water for Irrigation

2127. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether erratic rainfall during the last three years has led to shortfall in availability of water for irrigation purpose in the country;

(b) if so, the areas most affected in each State;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take steps to provide water to these areas during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) and (b) India Meteorological Department (IMD) has informed that variability of rainfall in time and space during monsoon is a common feature and that during 2007, 2008 and 2009, the variation between the monsoon rainfall in the year for the country as a whole and the normal monsoon rainfall was 6%, -2% and -22% respectively. As per IMD, in 2007 and 2008, monsoon rainfall was normal while during the year 2009, it was deficient. As per the information provided by IMD, the rainfall was deficient in 6 States, 4 States and 19 States in 2007, 2008 and 2009 respectively. During 2008, maximum deficiency of -52% was observed in Puducherry which continued in 2009 also at -45%. In 2007, maximum deficiency of -36% in rainfall was observed in Himachal Pradesh. The State-wise rainfall and variation from normal rainfall during monsoon period is given in the Statement-I to III and the district-wise information is given in the Statement-IV to VI.

(c) and (d) Necessary actions related to water management are undertaken by respective State Governments. However, Central Water Commission monitors storage position of 81 important reservoirs of the country on daily basis and reports are provided to "Crop Weather Watch Group" of the Ministry of Agriculture, which issues necessary advisory to State authorities for crop planning strategies.

Statement-I

Statewise rainfall (in mm) during the monsoon period 1.6.2007 to 30.9.2007

Sl. No.	State/UT	Actual rainfall (mm)	Normal rainfall (mm)	Variation in monsoon rainfall in 2007 and normal rainfall
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar (UT)	1702.6	1755.2	-3%

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1667.1	1834.9	-9%
3.	Assam	1484.4	1434.1	4%
4.	Meghalaya	4699.7	5585.7	-16%
5.	Nagaland	986.9	1344.1	-27%
6.	Manipur	900.3	839.3	7%
7.	Mizoram	2006.4	1345.1	49%
8.	Tripura	1950.6	1476.6	32%
9.	Sikkim	1964.9	2023.9	-3%
10.	West Bengal	1743.4	1333.6	31%
11.	Orissa	1441.9	1164.9	24%
12.	Bihar	1343.0	1039.2	29%
13.	Jharkhand	1253.5	1092.5	15%
14.	Uttar Pradesh	642.1	856.1	-25%
15.	Uttarakhand	1564.4	1223.1	28%
16.	Haryana	305.9	462.4	-34%
17.	Chandigarh (UT)	644.7	846.6	-24%
18.	Delhi	545.9	667.1	-18%
19.	Punjab	340.3	501.8	-32%
20.	Himachal Pradesh	497.0	773.7	-36%
21.	Jammu and Kashmir	498.1	513.6	-3%
22.	Rajasthan	358.5	417.9	-14%
23.	Madhya Pradesh	827.6	989.0	-16%
24.	Chhattisgarh	1104.8	1205.8	-8%
25.	Gujarat	1002.7	678.2	48%
26.	DNH & Daman (UTs)	2488.0	2142.2	16%

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Diu (UT)		574.2	
28.	Goa	3605.1	2773.9	30%
29.	Maharashtra	1147.6	1005.2	14%
30.	Andhra Pradesh	755.0	607.8	24%
31.	Tamil Nadu	337.9	315.6	7%
32.	Pondicherry (UT)	358.3	326.7	10%
33.	Karnataka	1082.4	834.7	30%
34.	Kerala	2786.3	2143.0	30%
35.	Lakshadweep (UT)	1467.1	985.2	49%
Country as a whole		944.6	892.2	6%

Statement-II

Statewise rainfall (in mm) during the monsoon period 1.6.2008 to 30.9.2008

Sl. No.	State/UT	Actual rainfall (mm)	Normal rainfall (mm)	Variation in monsoon rainfall in 2008 and normal rainfall
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	1752.1	1755.2	0%
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1809.5	1834.9	-1%
3.	Assam	1420.0	1434.1	-1%
4.	Meghalaya	4030.5	5585.7	-28%
5.	Nagaland	940.9	1344.1	-30%

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Manipur	848.0	839.3	1%
7.	Mizoram	1309.3	1345.1	-3%
8.	Tripura	1208.1	1476.6	-18%
9.	Sikkim	2030.9	2023.9	0%
10.	West Bengal	1498.0	1333.6	12%
11.	Orissa	1418.6	1164.9	22%
12.	Bihar	1145.0	1039.2	10%
13.	Jharkhand	1097.5	1092.5	0%
14.	Uttar Pradesh	975.6	856.1	14%
15.	Uttarakhand	1151.0	1223.1	-6%
16.	Haryana	531.7	462.4	15%
17.	Chandigarh (UT)	1113.0	846.6	31%
18.	Delhi	633.7	667.1	-5%
19.	Punjab	603.8	501.8	20%
20.	Himachal Pradesh	737.9	773.7	-5%
21.	Jammu and Kashmir	524.3	513.6	2%
22.	Rajasthan	417.7	417.9	0%
23.	Madhya Pradesh	816.6	989.0	-17%
24.	Chhattisgarh	1064.4	1205.8	-12%
25.	Gujarat	711.9	678.2	5%
26.	DNH and Daman (UT)	2280.5	2142.2	6%
27.	Diu (UT)		574.2	
28.	Goa	3301.8	2773.9	19%
29.	Maharashtra	952.2	1005.2	-5%
30.	Andhra Pradesh	629.9	607.8	4%

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Tamil Nadu	325.1	315.6	3%
32.	Pondicherry (UT)	156.4	326.7	-52%
33.	Karnataka	788.8	834.7	-6%
34.	Kerala	1678.3	2143.0	-22%
35.	Lakshadweep (UT)	933.9	985.2	-5%
Country as a whole		877.4	892.2	-2%

Statement-III

Statewise rainfall (in mm) during the monsoon period 1.6.2009 to 30.9.2009

Sl. No.	State/UT	Actual rainfall (mm)	Normal rainfall (mm)	Variation in monsoon rainfall in 2009 and normal rainfall
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)	1671.8	1755.2	-5%
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1512.2	1834.9	-18%
3.	Assam	1171.5	1434.1	-18%
4.	Meghalaya	3227.5	5585.7	-42%
5.	Nagaland	776.4	1344.1	-42%
6.	Manipur	608.5	839.3	-27%
7.	Mizoram	1088.4	1345.1	-19%
8.	Tripura	1348.3	1476.6	-9%
9.	Sikkim	1398.2	2023.9	-31%
10.	West Bengal	1121.2	1333.6	-16%

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
11. Orissa		1168.0	1164.9	0%	25. Gujarat		609.0	678.2	-10%
12. Bihar		750.9	1039.2	-28%	26. DNH and Daman (UTs)		2004.6	2142.2	-6%
13. Jharkhand		839.2	1092.5	-23%	27. Diu (UT)		899.6	574.2	57%
14. Uttar Pradesh		515.0	856.1	-40%	28. Goa		2814.6	2773.9	1%
15. Uttarakhand		898.1	1223.1	-27%	29. Maharashtra		806.4	1005.2	-20%
16. Haryana		299.9	462.4	-35%	30. Andhra Pradesh		448.5	607.8	-26%
17. Chandigarh (UT)		758.9	846.6	-10%	31. Tamil Nadu		315.1	315.6	0%
18. Delhi		484.8	667.1	-27%	32. Pondicherry (UT)		180.3	326.7	-45%
19. Punjab		331.2	501.8	-34%	33. Karnataka		969.3	834.7	16%
20. Himachal Pradesh		507.4	773.7	-34%	34. Kerala		1958.9	2143.0	-9%
21. Jammu and Kashmir		338.5	513.6	-34%	35. Lakshadweep (UT)		997.9	985.2	1%
22. Rajasthan		272.0	417.9	-35%					
23. Madhya Pradesh		692.8	989.0	-30%					
24. Chhattisgarh		796.2	1205.8	-34%					
					Country as a whole		698.1	892.2	-22%

Statement-IV*Rainfall during monsoon period of 2007 in Districts with Deficient/Scanty rainfall*

State	District	Actual rainfall (mm)	Normal rainfall (mm)	Variation in monsoon rainfall in 2007 and normal rainfall
1	2	3	4	5
NAGALAND	Phek	1063.0	1321.4	-20%
	Tuensang	689.7	1386.2	-50%
UTTAR PRADESH	Ambedkar Nagar	590.3	906.0	-35%
	Balrampur	705.5	1076.8	-34%
	Banda	461.1	870.6	-47%
	Barabanki	486.5	930.8	-48%

1	2	3	4	5
	Farukhabad	407.5	777.7	-48%
	Fatehpur	471.1	853.5	-45%
	Hardoi	324.1	804.9	-60%
	Kanpur Dehat	422.2	726.8	-42%
	Kushi Nagar	390.7	1138.7	-66%
	Lucknow	653.4	812.6	-20%
	Maharajganj	927.6	1235.0	-25%
	Mirzapur	628.8	839.4	-25%
	Pratapgarh	564.0	893.8	-37%
	Rae Bareilly	616.5	829.1	-26%
	Sant Ravidas Nagar	634.1	874.6	-27%
	Sonbhadra	597.7	953.3	-37%
	Sultanpur	670.1	902.5	-26%
	Unnao	584.3	805.8	-27%
	Varanasi	614.6	841.8	-27%
	Agra	306.9	692.8	-56%
	Aligarh	413.3	623.7	-34%
	Auriya	292.5	725.6	-60%
	Badaun	513.6	754.2	-32%
	Bulandshahr	404.6	675.2	-40%
	Etah	312.4	654.3	-52%
	Etawah	198.9	755.1	-74%
	Firozabad	427.5	692.8	-38%
	Ghaziabad	252.7	627.7	-60%
	Hamirpur	388.3	743.9	-48%
	Jalaun	305.7	783.0	-61%

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Jhansi	288.2	847.0	-66%
		Jytiba Phule Nagar	626.8	814.6	-23%
		Lalitpur	542.7	954.0	-43%
		Mahamaya Nagar	264.3	641.1	-59%
		Mathura	230.1	534.0	-57%
		Meerut	289.3	766.4	-62%
		Muzaffarnagar	395.9	711.6	-44%
		Pilibhit	523.4	971.5	-46%
		Shahjahanpur	631.1	851.5	-26%
CHANDIGARH		Chandigarh	644.7	846.6	-24%
HARYANA		Ambala	467.2	788.6	-41%
		Bhiwani	279.6	355.0	-21%
		Faridabad	340.9	460.3	-26%
		Fatehabad	180.6	296.8	-39%
		Gurgaon	386.4	508.0	-24%
		Jhajjar	301.2	379.3	-21%
		Jind	334.5	432.6	-23%
		Kaithal	228.7	479.5	-52%
		Karnal	453.2	588.9	-23%
		Kurukshetra	182.0	569.4	-68%
		Mahendragarh	330.3	419.8	-21%
		Panchkkula	573.0	910.7	-37%
		Panipat	216.5	518.6	-58%
		Rewari	294.0	488.8	-40%
		Rohtak	214.5	499.2	-57%
		Sonepat	236.1	523.0	-55%
		Yamuna Nagar	520.1	898.1	-42%

1	2	3	4	5
PUNJAB	Amritsar	403.2	509.7	-21%
	Bhatinda	161.0	335.4	-52%
	Fatehgarh Sahib	150.0	549.0	-73%
	Ferozpur	218.6	340.9	-36%
	Hoshiarpur	424.0	719.6	-41%
	Kapurthala	137.6	355.9	-61%
	Ludhiana	296.5	528.1	-44%
	Moga	225.0	390.6	-42%
	Nawashahar	400.4	728.6	-45%
	Patiala	348.8	547.4	-36%
	Sangrur	71.0	483.7	-85%
HIMACHAL PRADESH	Chamba	204.4	879.5	-77%
	Kangra	1200.8	1567.4	-23%
	Kulu	324.3	569.8	-43%
	Lahaul and Spiti	123.5	455.7	-73%
	Simla	487.5	719.0	-32%
	Sirmur	866.3	1403.1	-38%
	Solan	789.1	1037.9	-24%

Statement-V

Rainfall during monsoon period of 2008 in Districts with Deficient/Scanty rainfall

State	District	Actual rainfall (mm)	Normal rainfall (mm)	Variation in monsoon rainfall in 2008 and normal rainfall
1	2	3	4	5
NAGALAND	Phek	891.8	1321.4	-33%
	Tuensang	519.0	1386.2	-63%

1	2	3	4	5
PONDICHERRY	Pondicherry	156.4	326.7	-52%
KERALA	Cannur	2086.1	2713.0	-23%
	Ernakulam	1875.4	2348.6	-20%
	Kottayam	1536.1	1968.0	-22%
	Kozhikode	2220.6	2776.8	-20%
	Malapuram	1407.9	2033.1	-31%
	Palakked	1260.6	1688.8	-25%
	Trissur	1566.8	2198.0	-29%
	Wynad	1302.3	2758.6	-53%

Statement-VI*Rainfall during monsoon period of 2009 in Districts with Deficient/Scanty rainfall*

State	District	Actual rainfall (mm)	Normal rainfall (mm)	Variation in monsoon rainfall in 2009 and normal rainfall
1	2	3	4	5
MANIPUR	Imphal	608.5	826.5	-26%
NAGALAND	Kohima	962.4	1321.4	-27%
	Phek	698.0	1321.4	-47%
	Tuensang	636.1	1386.2	-54%
SIKKIM	Sikkim	1398.2	2023.9	-31%
JHARKHAND	Koderma	448.7	940.7	-52%
	Palamau	702.9	1034.3	-32%
	Santhal Parganas	851.4	1157.3	-26%
BIHAR	Araria	1082.7	1358.2	-20%
	Bhojpur	397.8	905.9	-56%
	Gaya	684.7	949.4	-28%

1	2	3	4	5
	Jahanabad	490.2	842.6	-42%
	Katihar	629.1	1113.2	-43%
	Khagaria	749.7	1041.5	-28%
	Muzaffarpur	711.6	1010.5	-30%
	Nalanda	475.8	899.3	-47%
	Patna	674.8	952.2	-29%
	Saharsa	846.2	1071.5	-21%
	Samastipur	563.5	948.9	-41%
	Sitamarhi	662.7	1081.2	-39%
	Siwan	375.4	988.3	-62%
	Vaishali	474.0	937.1	-49%
UTTAR PRADESH	Allahbad	418.4	823.1	-49%
	Ambedkar Nagar	514.6	906.0	-43%
	Azamgarh	693.5	946.6	-27%
	Ballia	281.2	894.8	-69%
	Balrampur	711.1	1076.8	-34%
	Banda	532.2	870.6	-39%
	Basti	628.0	987.1	-36%
	Deoria	375.8	973.6	-61%
	Farukhabad	425.7	777.7	-45%
	Fatehpur	350.2	853.5	-59%
	Gazipur	615.0	929.2	-34%
	Gonda	728.3	1029.8	-29%
	Gorakhpur	828.5	1079.1	-23%
	Hardoi	539.5	804.9	-33%
	Jaunpur	486.8	904.3	-46%

1	2	3	4	5
	Kanpur City	430.5	741.1	-42%
	Kanpur Dehat	343.1	726.8	-53%
	Kushi Nagar	252.1	1138.7	-78%
	Maharajganj	451.4	1235.0	-63%
	Mau	311.1	992.8	-69%
	Mirzapur	307.4	839.4	-63%
	Pratapgarh	520.2	893.8	-42%
	Rae Bareilly	297.8	829.1	-64%
	Sahuji Maharajnagar	364.5	880.4	-59%
	Sant Ravidas Nagar	567.5	874.6	-35%
	Sonbhadra	466.7	953.3	-51%
	Sultanpur	558.8	902.5	-38%
	Unnao	560.8	805.8	-30%
	Varanasi	392.7	841.8	-53%
	Agra	252.0	692.8	-64%
	Aligarh	233.6	623.7	-63%
	Auriya	434.4	725.6	-40%
	Badaun	553.3	754.2	-27%
	Bijnore	635.2	929.9	-32%
	Bulandshahr	364.5	675.2	-46%
	Etah	215.7	654.3	-67%
	Etawah	335.2	755.1	-56%
	Firozabad	322.8	692.8	-53%
	Ghaziabad	204.3	627.7	-67%
	Hamirpur	529.6	743.9	-29%
	Jalaun	391.8	783.0	-50%

1	2	3	4	5
	Jhansi	450.1	847.0	-47%
	Jytila Phule Nagar	477.9	814.6	-41%
	Lalitpur	567.0	954.0	-41%
	Mahamaya Nagar	133.2	641.1	-79%
	Mainpuri	421.9	670.8	-37%
	Mathura	340.8	534.0	-36%
	Meerut	216.1	766.4	-72%
	Moradabad	526.0	847.2	-38%
	Muzaffarnagar	225.3	711.6	-68%
	Pilibhit	648.0	971.5	-33%
	Rampur	325.0	965.1	-66%
	Saharanpur	555.0	764.0	-27%
UTTARAKHAND	Almora	472.1	882.0	-46%
	Chamoli	520.5	776.5	-33%
	Dehradun	1239.0	1767.6	-30%
	Garhwal Pauri	690.9	1277.6	-46%
	Garhwal Tehri	305.1	887.0	-66%
	Nainital	1083.5	1522.3	-29%
	Rudraprayag	502.7	1664.9	-70%
	Udham Singh Nagar	433.0	1174.7	-63%
DELHI	Delhi	484.8	667.1	-27%
HARYANA	Bhiwani	188.4	355.0	-47%
	Faridabad	347.1	460.3	-25%
	Fatehabad	130.7	296.8	-56%
	Hissar	208.5	337.5	-38%
	Kaithal	175.3	479.5	-63%

1	2	3	4	5
	Karnal	437.2	588.9	-26%
	Kurukshetra	233.6	569.4	-59%
	Mahendragarh	251.9	419.8	-40%
	Panchkkula	362.1	910.7	-60%
	Panipat	264.0	518.6	-49%
	Rewari	251.0	488.8	-49%
	Rohtak	333.2	499.2	-33%
	Sirsa	49.6	252.8	-80%
	Yamuna Nagar	696.5	898.1	-22%
PUNJAB	Amritsar	201.0	509.7	-61%
	Bhatinda	198.9	335.4	-41%
	Faridkot	233.1	348.9	-33%
	Fatehgarh Sahib	125.7	549.0	-77%
	Ferozpur	97.0	340.9	-72%
	Gurdaspur	494.7	757.2	-35%
	Hoshiarpur	497.7	719.6	-31%
	Moga	243.0	390.6	-38%
	Muktsar	100.8	299.9	-66%
	Nawashahar	460.2	728.6	-37%
	Patiala	421.5	547.4	-23%
	Sangrur	315.2	483.7	-35%
HIMACHAL PRADESH	Chamba	227.4	879.5	-74%
	Kangra	946.6	1567.4	-40%
	Lahaul and Spiti	216.6	455.7	-52%
	Mandi	737.9	1140.1	-35%
	Simla	547.3	719.0	-24%

1	2	3	4	5
	Sirmur	831.8	1403.1	-41%
	Solan	757.9	1037.9	-27%
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	Doda	273.6	370.8	-26%
	Jammu	562.5	860.6	-35%
	Kathua	469.2	1033.5	-55%
	Kupwara	163.6	209.1	-22%
	Ladakh (Leh)	4.5	36.4	-88%
	Pulwama	159.4	216.2	-26%
	Srinagar	124.7	187.1	-33%
	Udhampur	669.5	1283.6	-48%
RAJASTHAN	Barmer	172.4	237.7	-27%
	Bikaner	162.0	210.3	-23%
	Churu	182.2	319.2	-43%
	Hanumangarh	157.6	256.4	-39%
	Jaisalmer	88.5	144.4	-39%
	Jalore	176.0	408.0	-57%
	Jodhpur	134.5	292.2	-54%
	Nagaur	145.1	362.1	-60%
	Pali	270.6	452.0	-40%
	Sri Ganganagar	147.0	201.2	-27%
	Ajmer	245.0	459.4	-47%
	Banswara	704.6	909.8	-23%
	Baran	581.6	812.8	-28%
	Bhilwara	341.2	629.5	-46%
	Bundi	366.7	683.0	-46%
	Dausa	362.8	590.3	-39%

1	2	3	4	5
	Dholpur	350.6	625.3	-44%
	Jaipur	286.6	533.4	-46%
	Jhalawar	604.9	899.1	-33%
	Jhunjhunu	244.8	417.2	-41%
	Karauli	427.1	635.7	-33%
	Kota	499.9	732.4	-32%
	Rajsamand	389.2	485.3	-20%
	Sawai Madhopur	329.8	701.8	-53%
	Sikar	173.1	409.7	-58%
	Sirohi	470.9	616.6	-24%
	Tonk	287.8	573.7	-50%
MADHYA PRADESH	Barwani	450.1	673.3	-33%
	Bhind	373.1	681.0	-45%
	Dewas	661.2	983.9	-33%
	Dhar	603.6	796.2	-24%
	Guna	575.8	957.9	-40%
	Gwalior	376.7	785.5	-52%
	Harda	998.8	1274.6	-22%
	Jhabua	563.0	792.3	-29%
	Khandwa	478.0	858.1	-44%
	Morena	501.9	689.4	-27%
	Raisen	908.3	1143.2	-21%
	Rajgarh	601.1	919.3	-35%
	Ratlam	621.1	886.8	-30%
	Sehore	747.4	1127.8	-34%
	Shajapur	582.5	941.2	-38%
	Sheopur	311.5	775.7	-60%

1	2	3	4	5
	Shivpuri	636.5	811.2	-22%
	Ujjain	631.3	844.1	-25%
	Vidisha	735.6	1044.6	-30%
	Balaghat	971.4	1321.1	-26%
	Chhatarpur	560.2	984.8	-43%
	Damoh	594.7	1065.4	-44%
	Dindori	480.2	1230.0	-61%
	Katni	437.5	1055.3	-59%
	Mandla	800.4	1289.3	-38%
	Panna	646.7	1069.6	-40%
	Rewa	498.8	1025.3	-51%
	Sagar	844.0	1086.7	-22%
	Satna	577.9	950.1	-39%
	Seoni	870.0	1153.5	-25%
	Shahdol	612.7	1063.1	-42%
	Sidhi	604.9	1041.5	-42%
	Tikamgarh	551.4	971.5	-43%
	Umaria	654.7	1103.7	-41%
MAHARASHTRA	Raigad	2027.5	3163.9	-36%
	Thane	1801.0	2410.8	-25%
	Jalgaon	529.1	690.4	-23%
	Kolhapur	1705.4	1374.5	24%
	Nandurbar	602.6	893.2	-33%
	Pune	673.4	962.5	-30%
	Aurangabad	509.9	636.7	-20%
	Latur	450.5	775.5	-42%

1	2	3	4	5
	Nanded	426.4	836.3	-49%
	Parbhani	587.6	790.2	-26%
	Amraoti	570.3	775.2	-26%
	Bhandara	910.1	1211.6	-25%
	Chandrapur	650.9	1160.7	-44%
	Gadchiroli	825.6	1297.5	-36%
	Gondia	890.6	1251.1	-29%
	Wardha	618.8	905.2	-32%
	Washim	477.8	848.6	-44%
	Yeotmal	478.1	906.4	-47%
CHHATTISGARH	Bastar	963.0	1316.7	-27%
	Bilaspur	722.4	1095.0	-34%
	Dantewada	679.1	1297.1	-48%
	Durg	691.5	1038.7	-33%
	Janjgir	824.1	1230.5	-33%
	Jashpur	974.5	1478.7	-34%
	Kanker	840.8	1273.2	-34%
	Korba	800.0	1276.4	-37%
	Koriya	795.7	1176.5	-32%
	Kowardha	502.4	932.3	-46%
	Raigarh	952.7	1325.7	-28%
	Rajnandgaon	690.8	1068.8	-35%
	Surguja	535.9	1178.3	-55%
ANDHRA PRADESH	East Godavary	440.8	709.5	-38%
	Guntur	429.8	567.4	-24%
	Krishna	453.8	700.5	-35%

1	2	3	4	5
	Nellore	252.0	317.2	-21%
	Prakasam	297.2	393.5	-24%
	Vishakhapatnam	491.2	657.0	-25%
	West Godavary	515.5	757.2	-32%
	Adilabad	594.4	959.4	-38%
	Karimnagar	486.1	819.0	-41%
	Khamman	537.9	866.5	-38%
	Mahabubnagar	456.1	587.7	-22%
	Medak	416.9	789.7	-47%
	Nalgonda	342.7	545.9	-37%
	Nizamabad	596.4	928.8	-36%
	Warangal	503.9	805.5	-37%
PONDICHERRY	Pondicherry	180.3	326.7	-45%

**Damage to Heritage
Structures/Sites**

2128. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of heritage structures/sites are under threat of destruction;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring out legislation for protection of these structures;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to protect the heritage structures/sites in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) No, Madam. All the centrally protected monuments under Archaeological Survey of India are in good state of preservation. The provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act 1958 in vogue are sufficient to take care of the monuments and there is no proposal to bring out any new legislation, in this regard. However, the National Commission for Heritage Sites Bill, 2009 already introduced in the Rajya Sabha, would facilitate formation of short and long term policies for conservation, protection and management of even those heritage sites that are presently unprotected.

(e) As per the provisions of the AMASR Act — 1958, the monuments of national importance have been declared protected. The conservation work at these monuments is attended regularly depending upon the need of the repairs and availability of the resources.

[Translation]

Education Projects in Jharkhand

2129. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various ongoing/ pending education projects in Jharkhand;

(b) whether the Government has received any complaints in regard to irregularities in the construction of schools in the various districts of Jharkhand;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of funds allocated and spent on education projects in Jharkhand by the Union Government till date?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (d) The details of various ongoing/ pending education projects in Jharkhand and funds allocated and spent on education projects in Jharkhand by the Union Government are as follows:

S.No.	Details of ongoing / pending Education Projects	Funds released/ allocated
1	2	3
1.	Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in 1074 schools.	Rs. 1074.00 lakhs (2007-08)
2.	Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC)	Rs.3.33 lakhs released to an NGO in Jharkhand in 2003-04.
3.	Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Teacher Education, Central assistance is provided to the State Governments.	Rs.223.10 lakhs has been released during 2008-09.
4.	22 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas are functioning in as many districts of Jharkhand State. The Government has recently approved opening of two new Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas one each in Pakur & Palamu districts have large concentration of SC/ ST population.	Rs. 14616 lakhs have been spent on construction of JNV Buildings in Jharkhand till date.
5.	Construction for eight Kendriya Vidyalayas in various Districts of Jharkhand is pending.	A sum of Rs.597.41 lakhs has been allocated for existing Kendriya Vidyalayas in Jharkhand during the year 2009-10.
6.	Promotion/implementation of Elementary Education in the Jharkhand State through the Jharkhand Education Project Council, Ranchi including SSA, NPEGEL, KGBV.	An amount of Rs. 156494.588 lakhs has been allocated for the year 2009-10.
7.	The Government of India has approved for the establishment of an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Ranchi in the State of Jharkhand during the year 2009-10.	Rs.500 lakhs has been earmarked during 2009-10
8.	12 Community Polytechnics are functioning in Jharkhand	Rs. 102.50 lakhs has been released during 2009-10.
9.	Scheme for setting up of new Polytechnics.	Rs.3447 lakhs during 2009-10 has been provided to 17 districts.

1	2	3
10.	Scheme for strengthening of existing Polytechnics.	13 proposals are pending.
11.	A Central University of Jharkhand has been established and came into existence on 1-3-2009. Pending selection of site, allotment of land, and development of permanent campus, the University has started its academic activities from temporary premises in Ranchi.	The entire expenditure both recurring and non-recurring of the University will be met by the Central Government through UGC Rs.625.94 lakhs have been released.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

(e) the details of assistance provided by the Government to the victims of exploitation?

Exploitation of Indian Workers in Foreign Countries

2130. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been continuous rise in the number of cases of exploitation and harassment of Indian workers in foreign countries, particularly in the gulf countries;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring changes in Immigration Act to check these incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Indian missions abroad are approached by Indian workers in the Gulf and other countries on account of non-payment, arbitrary reduction or delay in payment of wages, longer working hours and lack of proper accommodation, food and medical facilities, etc. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The Ministry has already initiated action to revamp the emigration system through a new legislation proposed.

(e) Indian Missions extend help as and when overseas Indians require assistance. In addition, in 17 ECR countries 'Indian Community Welfare Fund' has been established to extend on-site welfare services to all overseas Indians in distress.

Statement

Year-wise details of cases of problems faced by Indian workers as reported by the Indian Mission.

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	2006	2007	2008	2009	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Bahrain	1384	1851	1088	1310	
2.	Kuwait	3375	4095	4083	3584	
3.	Qatar	632	912	616	1093	
4.	Saudi Arabia	1490	1744	2896	4978	
5.	UAE	1408	1972	2693	1702	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Sudan	-	-	-	40	Embassy of India in Sudan have informed that they have received 40 cases since January, 2006.
7.	Iran	-	-	2	3	(i) 7 Indian workers were involved in the 2 cases reported in the year 2008. (ii) 120 Indian workers were involved in the 3 cases reported in the year 2009.
8.	Sri Lanka	1	-	1	2	
9.	Brunei	4	3	3	5	

[English]

International Scrutiny of Emission Reduction Mechanisms

2131. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has agreed for International Scrutiny of Emission Reduction Mechanisms adopted by the country;

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

(c) whether India alongwith other developing countries have been resisting such mechanisms at international climate change negotiation platforms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) India has consistently argued that developing countries have no emission reduction obligations and they will take nationally appropriate mitigation actions on voluntary basis as supported and enabled by finance and technology provided by developed countries. Voluntary actions of developing countries will be subject to international monitoring, report and verification (MRV) as per agreed procedures to the extent that these actions receive international support.

(c) and (d) India's position on Climate Change negotiations is anchored in the principle of equity and "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities" of Parties as enshrined in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. India and other developing countries have also consistently stated that the developed countries must fulfill their commitments under the Convention to provide resources to developing countries to enable them to undertake actions for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. Negotiations on these issues are underway and the Parties are expected to reach an agreed outcome on the negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009.

[Translation]

Jalkundi Project

2132. SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jalkundi project on the rivers flowing to India from Nepal is proposed to be constructed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an Agreement for the said project was signed between the Governments of India and Nepal in 1954 but the project has been pending ever since then;

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

(e) the steps taken by both the countries to complete this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) As per the information received from the Ministry of External Affairs, survey work for Jalkundi Dam Project was undertaken in 1955 with the approval of the Government of Nepal. The project aimed to provide flood mitigation, irrigation facilities and hydel power to both India and Nepal. The project did not progress beyond the survey stage as its cost benefit ratio was not favourable.

National Libraries

2133. SHRI ARJUN ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of national libraries in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government proposes to set up any national library in the country including in Bihar;

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

(d) whether the Union Government has also received any proposals from other States in regard to setting up of a national library in their States;

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

(f) the reasons for their pendency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) National Library, located in Kolkata, is the only National Library under the Ministry of Culture.

(b) No Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No Madam.

(e) to (g) Does not arise.

[English]

Medical Facilities at Navodaya Vidyalaya

2134. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to upgrade medical facilities at Jawahar Navodaya Schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) have medical rooms equipped with first-aid facilities and have full time staff nurses. In addition, consultant Medical Officers are also appointed on honorarium basis to visit the Vidyalayas. In case of emergency, the students are treated at the nearby Government hospitals. The employees of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti have been provided with medical facilities as per provisions of Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules.

Shortage of Quality Institutes

2135. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing shortage of good institutes for higher education which costs the country both in terms of money and skilled manpower;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of students going abroad for higher education;

(d) whether the Government is aware that India loses about Rs. 48,800 crore in foreign exchange annually due to the outflow of students; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government to prevent the outflow of students and foreign exchange and to enable them higher education in India at cheaper fees?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) There is no dearth of good institutions of higher education in the country. The Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management, the University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Calcutta University are some of the institutions recognized the world over for their quality and excellence.

(c) to (e) No separate information is available in respect of Indian students pursuing higher education abroad. There are no restrictions on cross-border students' mobility and such mobility can be owing to a variety of reasons such as affordability, access to bank loans, exposure to foreign societies, aptitude for particular branches of studies, inability to gain admission to top Indian institutions due to capacity limitation etc. Continuous efforts are being made by Government to upgrade the quality of higher educational institutions and faculty. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the XI Plan for the expansion of higher education, for setting up of institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of Innovation University aiming at World Class Standard, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science and Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology and Schools of Planning and Architecture. Expansion of capacity of the existing institutions, incentivizing State Governments for increasing State outlays on higher education, introduction of semester system faculty improvement programme and other reforms are also being implemented in the XI Plan for improving the quality of higher educational institutes and faculty. The Government also proposes to permit quality foreign educational institutions to enter India, for which a legislative proposal

for entry and operation of such foreign educational institutions is under consideration. All these measures are expected to reduce outflow of students abroad.

Restriction on H-1B Visa

2136. SHRI AMARNATH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether restrictions have been imposed by the US Government on issuing H-1B visas to Indian professionals;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of Indian IT Companies located in US and facing difficulties as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the US Government; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009, US firms receiving bailout money under the Troubled Assets Relief Programme (TARP) must operate as an "H-1B dependent company" when applying to hire foreign nationals under H-1B category. These companies are required to attest to actively recruiting American workers, not displacing American workers with H-1B visa holders, and not replacing laid-off American workers with foreign workers. H-1B dependent companies are those in which 15% or more of their workforce carry H-1B visas.

Data about the number of Indian IT companies located in USA and facing difficulties as a result of restrictions on H-1B visas is not available with the Ministry of External Affairs.

(c) and (d) The Government of India is fully committed to protecting the interests of Indian professionals working in USA. Pointing out that India is the largest contributor of highly skilled workers to the US economy, the need for higher allocation of H-1B visas for Indian professionals has been emphasised in various bilateral fora with the US Government.

Menu under Mid-day Meal Scheme

2137. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students availing the benefits of Mid-day Meal Scheme in the country; State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has convened a meeting recently with State School Secretaries and Special Project Directors regarding the change of menu in the Mid-Day Meal Scheme and other related issues;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to improve the quality of food served through mid-day meal scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) 11.19 Crore students availed Mid-Day Meal during the year 2008-09 in the country. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) A conference of State/UT Education Secretaries was held on 29th July, 2009 to 1st August, 2009 to review the implementation of various schemes of the Department of School Education and Literacy. Menu was not discussed in the meeting because it is decided locally on the basis of availability of raw materials and food habit.

(d) Though the overall responsibility to ensure all logistic and administrative arrangements for regular serving of wholesome, cooked mid day meal in every eligible school, Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS)/Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) centres lies with the State Government/UT administration, the Central Government, through National, Regional and State level review meetings had been continuously urging the State/UT Governments to:—

- ensure that food is cooked in a hygienic environment
- food items are stored in dry and safe places
- adequate drinking water is made available
- cooks are properly trained in adopting hygienic habits.

The 42 monitoring institutions have been assigned the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) in States/UTs. The State Government/UT Administration is also required to send

Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) to the Central Government. The Central Government analyzes the reports of monitoring institution as well as QPRs and asks States/UTs to take remedial measures, if required, to avoid recurrence of such deficiency in future. States have also been urged to involve the parents and community members to supervise the cooking and serving of mid-day meal.

The following modifications made in the MDMS will also help to improve the quality of the food:—

- (i) Revision of food norm for upper primary.
- (ii) Revision of cooking cost (excluding the labour and administrative charges) from Rs. 1.68 to Rs. 2.50 for primary and Rs. 2.20 to Rs. 3.75 for upper primary children with effect from 1.12.2009.
- (iii) A separate provision for engagement of cook-cum-helper on honorarium basis @Rs. 1000 per month to each cook-cum-helper.
- (iv) Revision of cost of construction of Kitchen-cum-Store.
- (v) Transportation assistance to 11 Special Category States at Public Distribution System (PDS) rate prevalent in these States.

Statement

No. of children availed MDM during 2008-09

Sl. No.	State/UT	Average No. of Children availing MDM		
		Primary	Upper Primary	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4388594	1953494	6342088
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	120699	60650	181349
3.	Assam	2427900	337034	2764934
4.	Bihar	8570801	2488208	11059009
5.	Chhattisgarh	2444339	943977	3388316

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Goa	73691	0	73691
7.	Gujarat	3048424	886790	3935214
8.	Haryana	1278000	595000	1873000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	470630	339604	810234
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	848026	321056	1169082
11.	Jharkhand	3305734	574835	3880569
12.	Karnataka	3609920	2073136	5683056
13.	Kerala	1835141	1252417	3087558
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6547742	2322211	8869953
15.	Maharashtra	8253837	2680031	10933868
16.	Manipur	194033	33658	227691
17.	Meghalaya	260116	139859	399975
18.	Mizoram	101577	51392	152969
19.	Nagaland	180854	34039	214893
20.	Orissa	4236747	1913745	6150492
21.	Punjab	1195590	727733	1923323
22.	Rajasthan	5855854	2215623	8071477
23.	Sikkim	79312	22925	102237
24.	Tamil Nadu	3161496	1860534	5022030
25.	Tripura	345120	56834	401954
26.	Uttarakhand	697101	278010	975111
27.	Uttar Pradesh	10712381	2729625	13442006
28.	West Bengal	7671009	1591276	9262285
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	27780	19427	47207
30.	Chandigarh	47766	27132	74898

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	24315	6538	30853
32.	Daman and Diu	10917	4391	15308
33.	Delhi	1181211	5810	1187021
34.	Lakshadweep	7046	3752	10798
35.	Puducherry	53650	40000	93650
Total		83267353	28590746	111858099

Source: AWP&B 2009-10

National Coastal Protection Project

2138. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal to the Union Government to include anti-sea erosion works in the National Coastal Protection Project (NCP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the works proposed in the NCP have been taken up under Twelfth Finance Commission awards;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the State of Kerala has also requested for financial assistance for the balance works under NCP which comes to the tune of around Rs. 54.68 crores;

(f) if so, whether the Union Government has considered the request of the State Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A revised proposal for anti-sea erosion works amounting to Rs 216.96 crore was received from the

State Government of Kerala in June 2003 for inclusion in the National Coastal Protection Project. The proposal envisages construction of 52.065 Km. of new sea walls, reformation of 59.448 Km of old damaged sea wall and 21 numbers of groynes in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Manjeri, Kozhikode, Thalesseery and Kasaragode Divisions.

(c) and (d) 12th Finance Commission has sanctioned Rs. 175 crore as grant-in-aid to the State for Coastal Zone Management for the period 2006-2010. This envisages construction of 33.64 Km of new sea wall, 21 groynes and reformation work for 52.52 km of already constructed seawall.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Tilting of Qutub Minar

2139. SHRI P. VISWANATHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of tilting UNESCO world heritage monument Qutub Minar is gradually increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to assess the tilt and ensure that it does not aggravate further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) No, Madam. The Survey of India has conducted geodetic survey of Qutub Minar in the year 2005 at the behest of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to study its verticality. In its report submitted to ASI last year, the Survey of India has concluded that there was no tilt. However, as advised by it to collect high frequency data, ASI has assigned the task of conducting geodetic survey of the Qutub Minar, every year, to the Survey of India.

ASI is taking all measures to ensure that no damage is caused to the structure.

Earthquake Monitoring Laboratories in Schools

2140. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to introduce earthquake monitoring laboratories in schools all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National School of Seismology Project (NASSP) has evolved strategies for handling the effects of earthquakes on people and infrastructure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to introduce earthquake monitoring laboratories in schools all over the country. However, a pilot project on School Earthquake Monitoring Laboratories has been successfully implemented by the Government covering 100 identified schools in seismic zones IV and V in NW Himalaya (Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh), Delhi region and NE parts of India covering all the 7 States. Apart from installing the equipment in duly identified schools, series of training programmes have also been organised with the help of experts for the students and science teachers to create awareness.

Currently, an additional 30 schools are identified in NE region to build earthquake monitoring laboratories to impart training and awareness raising among the school children.

(c) There is no Central Government project under the name of National School of Seismology.

(d) Does not arise.

**Unauthorised Teacher
Training Institutes**

2141. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to regulate and check the growth of unauthorized teachers' training institutes;

(b) whether the Government proposes to disband the National Council for Teachers Education in accordance with the provisions of the Repeal Bill;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Under the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993, institutions are required to apply to the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) for grant of recognition for running a teacher education course in accordance with the extant law and laid down procedure. Qualification in teacher education obtained from a non-recognized course/institution is not considered as a valid qualification for the purposes of employment under the Central Government, any State Government or University, or in any school, college or other educational body aided by the Central Government or any State Government. Whenever it comes to the notice of the NCTE that an institution running a teacher education course has violated the law, appropriate action, including withdrawal of recognition, is taken.

(b) to (d) The Sudeep Banerjee Report on functioning of the NCTE had, inter alia, recommended that the NCTE Act be repealed. Having regard to the implications of such repeal and the recommendations of the Report of the Yashpal Committee on "Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education" (2009) and the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, a decision has been taken that the NCTE Act may not be repealed at present.

[Translation]

Educational Development Index

2142. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently conducted a survey to assess the Educational Development Index (EDI) at present in each State;

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

(c) whether the present level of EDI in the country is satisfactory; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) To assess progress of States and Union Territories towards the goal of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE), an Educational Development Index (EDI) has been developed by National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA). State-wise ranking on a composite index for Primary and Upper Primary level of education on 2007-08 data is enclosed as statement. The EDI has been developed on four broad parameters of access, infrastructure, teacher related indicators and elementary education outcomes.

To achieve universal elementary education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is implemented in partnership with the States/UTs. A multipronged approach has been adopted under the SSA for improving educational outcome. These include, inter alia, opening of schools, strengthening of schools and improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, provision of annual school grants and regular training of teachers. Educationally Backward States receive priority in allocation of funds under the SSA. In addition, capacity building of these States through trainings and workshops has been undertaken, especially in components in which these States are not performing well.

Statement*Composite EDI Value & Rank for the year 2007-08*

State /UT	Index	Rank	Composite
1	2	3	
Andaman and Nicobar islands	0.707	15	
Andhra Pradesh	0.740	11	
Arunachal Pradesh	0.485	34	
Assam	0.515	31	
Bihar	0.406	35	
Chandigarh	0.763	6	
Chhattisgarh	0.570	29	
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.656	20	
Daman and Diu	0.750	8	
Delhi	0.780	4	
Goa	0.716	14	
Gujarat	0.748	9	
Haryana	0.755	7	
Himachal Pradesh	0.695	17	
Jammu and Kashmir	0.678	18	
Jharkhand	0.491	32	
Karnataka	0.743	10	
Kerala	0.791	2	
Lakshadweep	0.788	3	
Madhya Pradesh	0.590	26	
Maharashtra	0.727	13	
Manipur	0.611	24	
Meghalaya	0.556	30	

1	2	3
Mizoram	0.705	16
Nagaland	0.653	23
Orissa	0.572	28
Puducherry	0.808	1
Punjab	0.732	12
Rajasthan	0.653	22
Sikkim	0.656	21
Tamil Nadu	0.771	5
Tripura	0.609	25
Uttar Pradesh	0.586	27
Uttarakhand	0.660	19
West Bengal	0.488	33

Dams in the Country

2143. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the name and location of dams under construction in the country with the help of Central Assistance including in backward and rural areas as on date, State-wise;

(b) the status of stage-wise work progress of each of these dams alongwith the funds allocated and spent therefrom separately by Union Government and the State Governments; and

(c) the date of commencement of work on each of the dams and the time by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Defence Personnel in Pakistani Jail**

2144. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Defence personnel in Pakistani jails;

(b) whether any efforts have been made in the past two years to negotiate with the Pakistani Government for release of Indian POWs languishing in Pakistani jails; and

(c) if so, the number of Indian POWs released so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) According to available information, 74 Missing Defence Personnel are believed to be in Pakistani jails, including 54 since 1971.

(b) and (c) Government has repeatedly taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels and during high-level contacts for their release. However, Pakistan does not acknowledge the presence of any Missing Defence Personnel in its custody. During the visit of External Affairs Minister to Pakistan in January 2007, Pakistan Government was persuaded to receive a delegation of relatives of Missing Defence Personnel to permit them to visit prisons in Pakistan, where they are believed to be incarcerated. A delegation of relatives, accordingly, visited 10 jails in Pakistan from June, 1-14, 2007. The delegation could not conclusively confirm the physical presence of the 74 Missing Defence Personnel. Pursuant to the visit of the delegation of the relatives of Missing Defence Personnel, a Tri-Service Committee for monitoring matters on the subject has been formed in the Ministry of Defence.

IIT and IIIT under Public Private Partnership

2145. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) and Indian Institute

of Information Technology (IIIT) in various parts of the country on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the locations identified for the purpose;

(c) whether modalities have been worked out to set up these institutes under PPP model;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) The Government of India have already established eight new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab and Rajasthan. All the IITs are centrally funded Institutes and not set up on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. There is a proposal by the Government to set up 20 new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) during the XIth Plan period in PPP mode. Modalities of the Central, State and Private Partners' contributions as well as locations of these Institutes are yet to be finalized as the necessary approvals (of the Expenditure Finance Committee and the Cabinet) are yet to be obtained.

*[Translation]***Survey of Indian Languages/Dialects**

2146. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct a national survey of Indian languages and dialects to ascertain their degree of endangerment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to preserve and maintain these languages and dialects?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No,

Madam. The Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs is the authority competent to undertake such a survey.

(c) The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, a subordinate office of the Ministry of Human Resource. Development, was set up in the year 1969 to coordinate the protection, preservation and development of all Indian languages, including non-scheduled languages. CIIL is actively engaged in the preservation and development of all Indian languages including non-scheduled languages and languages of Scheduled Tribes through its various programmes and schemes.

[English]

Peaceful Use of Atom

2147. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is using the power of the atom wisely for universal good;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the steps being taken for peaceful uses of nuclear energy for applications in agriculture, food production and preservation, medicine and water dissalination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) Details of benefits from Atomic Energy are as follows:

(I) Electricity generation capacity

Operational	4120 MWe	In 17 Nuclear Power Plants
Under Construction	3160 MWe	In 6 Nuclear Power Plants
Recently approved projects	2800 MWe	In 4 Nuclear Power Plants

(II) Agriculture

Crop varieties developed using radiation induced mutation and cross breeding developed at BARC and notified by Ministry of Agriculture for commercial cultivation (Details are shown in the enclosed Statement.)	37
Varieties developed during last three years out of above	11

(iii) Food preservation

Number of radiation processing plants for food products	10
Number of plants set up during last three years out of above	3

(iv) Medicine

Tata Memorial Centre, an autonomous institution under Department of Atomic Energy runs a comprehensive programme on treatment, training, research, technology development and outreach in the treatment of cancer.

A state of art teletherapy machine, Bhabhatron has been developed and 12 such machines are operational in different parts of the country.*

(v) Water Desalination

Desalination plants have been set up as detailed below:—

Trombay, Maharashtra	4 Plants
Rajasthan (in cooperation with DRDO)	2 Plants of 30,000 litres per day
Tamil Nadu	3 Plants of 5000 litres per day in 3 different villages
	2 Plants (45 lakh litres per day — thermal and 18 lakh litres per day Reverse Osmosis(RO) at Kalpakkam.*
	24 lakh litres per day RO Plant at Kudankulam Residential Township.
	102 lakh litres perday plant at Kudankulam Project. *

*Set up during last three years.

Statement**Table 1 : 37-BARC, Trombay Crop varieties Released and Notified for Commercial Cultivation by Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India**

Crop	Variety	Year of Release	Released for	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
Groundnut (<i>Arachis hypogaea</i>)	TDG-39	2009	Karnataka	Large seed, Kharif season
	TBG-39	2008	Rajasthan	season
	TG-51	2008	West Bengal, Orissa Bihar and N.E. States	Rabi-Summer, Early maturity (~ 90 days)
	TLG-45	2007	Maharashtra	Large seed, Kharif season
	TG-38	2006	West Bengal, Orissa Assam/N.E. States	High yield potential in residual moisture situation Rabi/Summer
	TG-37A	2004	Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, West Bengal, Orissa, Assam/N.E. States	Fresh seed dormancy Oil 51%
	TPG-41	2004	All India	Large seed (70g/100 seeds) Fresh seed dormancy On farm trials 4551 kg/ha 49% increase
	TG-26	1995	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh	Semi-dwarf, early maturity, high harvest index, high partitioning efficiency, fresh seed dormancy Second popular TG variety, high yielding ability (9000-10000 kg/ha), wider adaptability
	TKG-19A	1994	Maharashtra	Large seed, fresh seed dormancy
	TG-22	1992	Bihar	Medium-large seed, fresh seed dormancy
TAG-24	1991	Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Karnataka	Identified as national variety, Most popular in all groundnut growing states, High yield potential (9000-10000kg/ha), Semi dwarf habit, early maturity, high harvest index, high partitioning efficiency, wider adaptability	

1	2	3	4	5
	Somnath (TGS-1)	1989	Gujarat	Large seed Spreading habit
	TG-3	1987	Kerala	More branches
	TG-17	1985	Maharashtra	Less branches
	TG-1	1973	Maharashtra, Gujarat	Large seed
Soyabean (<i>Glycine max</i>)	TAMS 98-21	2007	Maharashtra	High yielding Resistant to bacterial pustules, myrothecium leaf spot and soybean mosaic virus diseases
	TAMS-38	2005	Maharashtra	Early maturing, resistant to bacterial pustule, <i>Myrothecium</i> leaf spot
Mustard (<i>Brassica juncea</i>)	TPM-1	2007	Maharashtra	Yellow seed Tolerant to powdery mildew
	TM-2	1987	Assam	Appressed pod
	TM-4	1987	Assam	Yellow seed
Sunflower (<i>Helianthus annuus</i>)	TAS-82	2007	Maharashtra	Black seed coat Tolerant to drought
Greengram (<i>Vigna radiata</i>)	TM-96-2 (Trombay Pesara)	2007	Andhra Pradesh (<i>rabi</i> and summer) and rice fallows	Resistant to Powdery mildew and <i>Corynespora</i> leaf spot
	TJM-3	2007	Madhya Pradesh (<i>kharif</i> and summer)	Resistant to Powdery mildew, Yellow mosaic virus and <i>Rhizoctonia</i> root — rot diseases.
	TMB-37	2005	Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, West Bengal	Tolerant to yellow mosaic virus
	TARM-18	1995	Maharashtra	Resistant to powdery mildew
	TARM-1	1995	Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa	Resistant to powdery mildew

1	2	3	4	5
	TARM-2	1992	Maharashtra	Resistant to powdery mildew
	TAP-7	1983	Maharashtra, Karnataka	Tolerant to powdery mildew
Blackgram (<i>Vigna mungo</i>)	TU 94-2	1999	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus
	TAU-2	1992	Maharashtra	High yielding
	TPU-4	1992	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh	Large seed
	TAU-1	1985	Maharashtra	Large seed Most popular variety in Maharashtra
Pigeonpea (<i>Cajanus cajan</i>)	TT-401	2007	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh	High yielding, tolerant to pod borer and pod fly damage
	TAT-10	1985	Maharashtra	Early maturing
	TT-6	1983	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala	Large seed
Cowpea (<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>)	TRC-77-4 (Khalleshwari)	2007	Chhattisgarh (<i>rabi</i>)	Suitable for rice based cropping system
Rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i>)	Hari	1988	Andhra Pradesh	Slender grain type
Jute (<i>Corchorus capsularis</i>)	TKJ-40	1983	Orissa	High yielding

Monitoring Mechanism for Global Warming

2148. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scientific mechanism to monitor the Green House Gas emission resulting in global warming;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the measures adopted/to be adopted by the Government to launch public awareness programme on global warming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) There is no scientific mechanism to

monitor the Green House Gas (GHG) emission resulting in global warming. However, the GHG emissions are measured and reported in the National Communications (NATCOM) of Parties to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as per the guidelines of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). India has submitted its initial NATCOM to UNFCCC in 2004.

(d) Public awareness on global warming is created through supporting various conferences/seminars and also through the National Environmental Awareness Campaign. This campaign runs through approximately 10,000 organizations including NGOs, Academia and Schools. etc.

Bid for Membership of Washington Accord

2149. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's bid to become a full-fledged member of the Washington Accord, an international agreement for standardising engineering education, has been turned down by the 13-member group;

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

(c) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) No, Madam. However, on the basis of the observations of the visiting team from Washington Accord and comments of AICTE-NBA thereon, the provisional membership of National Board of Accreditation (NBA) was extended for a further period of two years with effect from June, 2009.

Re-constitution of NTCA

2150. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has re-constituted the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for its re-constitution;
- (d) whether the NTCA has been dissolved three years ago;
- (e) if so, the reasons for its dissolution
- (f) the composition, role and functions assigned to the re-constituted Authority; and
- (g) the total number of Tiger Reserves that come under the purview of the Authority and the total number of Tigers in the reserves at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has been reconstituted vide Notification No. 15-25/09 NTCA dated 4th September, 2009, since the term of the said Authority as constituted earlier expired on 3.9.2009.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) The composition of the National Tiger Conservation Authority is given in the enclosed Statement-I. The powers and functions of the National Tiger Conservation Authority are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(g) There are 38 tiger reserves in the country which come under the purview of the said Authority. As per the findings of the recent All India tiger estimation in 2008 using the refined methodology, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The State-wise tiger population and area of tiger occupied landscapes are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

*Statement-1***The Gazette of India****EXTRAORDINARY
PART III - Section 4
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY****No. 170] New Delhi, Friday, September, 4 2009/Bhadra13, 1931****MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS****NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 1st September, 2009

No. 15-25/09NTCA.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (2) of Section 38L of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972), the Central Government hereby appoints the following Chairperson and Members to the National Tiger Conservation Authority for a period of three years from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette and for that purpose makes the following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment and Forests number S.O.1403 (E), dated the 4th September, 2006, namely:—

In the said notification,—

- (a) in the opening paragraph, the words "for a period of three years with effect from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette" shall be omitted;
- (b) for serial numbers 1 to 26 and the entries relating thereto, the following serial numbers and entries shall be substituted, namely:—

- "1. The Minister in charge of the Ministry — Chairman of Environment and Forests
2. The Minister of State for Environment — Vice- and Forests (Vacant) Chairperson
3. Shrimati Maneka Gandhi, Member of — Member Parliament (Lok Sabha)
4. Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) — Member Vacant

5. Shri Santosh Bagrodia, Member of — Member Parliament (Rajya Sabha)
6. Shri Brijendra Singh — Member 28, Sunder Nagar, New Delhi-110003.
7. Shri Valmik Thapar — Member G-13, Maharani Bagh, New Delhi-110014.
8. Shri P.K. Sen — Member B-II/2275, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070.
9. Dr. Prakash Murlidhar Amte — Member Lok Biradari Prakar, Hemal Kasa, Post Bhamragad, District Gad Chiroli, Maharashtra. Pin-442710.
10. Dr. Urmila Pingle — Member 3-34/5 Madhuvan Enclave, St. No. 4, Habshiguda, Hyderabad-500007. Andhra Pradesh.
11. Dr. K. Ullas Karanth — Member Centre for Wildlife Studies, 1669, 31st Cross, 16th Main, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore, Karnataka-560070.
12. Shri Samar Singh — Member P-I, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016.
13. Dr. Aparajita Datta — Member Door No. 3076-5, 4th Cross, Gokulam Park, Mysore-570002. Karnataka
14. Secretary, Ministry of Environment — Member and Forests
15. Director General of Forests and — Member Special Secretary
16. Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs — Member
17. Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice — Member and Empowerment
18. Chairperson, National Commission — Member for the Scheduled Tribes

19. Chairperson, National Commission — Member
for the Scheduled Castes
20. Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj — Member
21. Director, Wildlife Preservation, — Member
Ministry of Environment and
Forests
22. Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra — Member
Pradesh
23. Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar — Member
24. Chief Wildlife Warden, Chhattisgarh — Member
25. Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka — Member
26. Chief Wildlife Warden, Mizoram — Member
27. Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal — Member
28. Shri P.B. Singh, Joint Secretary and — Member
Legislative Counsel, Legislative
Department, Ministry of Law and
Justice
29. Additional Principal Chief Conservator — Member
of Forests (Project Tiger) Ministry of Secretary";
Environment and Forests
- (a) paragraph 2 shall be omitted

Dr. RAJESH GOPAL, Addl. Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests (Project Tiger) and
Member-Secretary NTCA

[No. ADVT/3/4/Exty./187-N/09]

Note.—The principal notification constituting the National Tiger Conservation Authority was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, *vide* notification number S.O.1403(E), dated the 4th September, 2006 and subsequently was amended *vide* numbers S.O. 1889(E), dated the 2nd November, 2006 and S.O. 981(E), dated the 15th June, 2007.

Statement-II

Powers and functions of the National Tiger Conservation Authority as prescribed under section 380 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006

- (a) to approve the tiger conservation plan prepared by the State Government under sub-section (3) of section 38V of this Act;
- (b) evaluate and assess various aspects of sustainable ecology and disallow any ecologically unsustainable land use such as, mining, industry and other projects within the tiger reserves;
- (c) lay down normative standards for tourism activities and guidelines for project tiger from time to time for tiger conservation in the buffer and core area of tiger reserves and ensure their due compliance;
- (d) provide for management focus and measures for addressing conflicts of men and wild animal and to emphasize on co-existence in forest areas outside the National Parks, sanctuaries or tiger reserve, in the working plan code;
- (e) provide information on protection measures including future conservation plan, estimation of population of tiger and its natural prey species, status of habitats, disease surveillance, mortality survey, patrolling, reports on untoward happenings and such other management aspects as it may deem fit including future plan conservation;
- (f) approve, co-ordinate research and monitoring on tiger, co-predators, prey habitat, related ecological and socio-economic parameters and their evaluation;
- (g) ensure that the tiger reserves and areas linking one protected area or tiger reserve with another protected area or tiger reserve are not diverted for ecologically unsustainable uses, except in public interest and with the approval of the National Board for Wild Life and on the advice of the Tiger Conservation Authority;

- (h) facilitate and support the tiger reserve management in the State for biodiversity conservation initiatives through eco-development and people's participation as per approved management plans and to support similar initiatives in adjoining areas consistent with the Central and State laws;
- (i) ensure critical support including scientific, information technology and legal support for better implementation of the tiger conservation plan;
- (j) facilitate ongoing capacity building programme for skill development of officers and staff of tiger reserves, and
- (k) perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act with regard to conservation of tigers and their habitat.

Statement-III

Forest occupancy and population estimates of tiger as per the refined methodology

State	Tiger km ²	Tiger Numbers		
		No.	Lower limit	Upper limit
1	2	3	4	5

Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex

Uttarakhand	1901	178	161	195
Uttar Pradesh	2766	109	91	127
Bihar	510	10	7	13
Shivalik-Gangetic	5177	297	259	335

Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex

Andhra Pradesh	14126	95	84	107
Chhattisgarh	3609	26	23	28
Madhya Pradesh	15614	300	236	364

	1	2	3	4	5
Maharashtra		4273	103	76	131
Orissa		9144	45	37	53
Rajasthan		356	32	30	35
Jharkhand**		1488	Not Assessed		
Central Indian		48610	601	486	718

Western Ghats Landscape Complex

Karnataka	18715	290	241	339
Kerala	6168	46	39	53
Tamil Nadu	9211	76	56	95
Western Ghats	34094	412	336	487

North East Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains

Assam*	1164	70	60	80
Arunachal Pradesh*	1685	14	12	18
Mizoram*	785	6	4	8
Northern West Bengal*	596	10	8	12
North East Hills, and Brahmaputra	4230	100	84	118
Sunderbans	1586	Not Assessed		

Total Tiger Population	1411	1165	1657
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*Population estimates are based on possible density of tiger occupied landscape in the area, not assessed by double sampling.

**Data was not amenable to population estimation of tiger. However, available information about the landscape indicates low densities of tiger in the area ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 per 100 km².

[Translation]

Environment Conservation

2151 SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the demand of a national policy on environment conservation by the conference of Vice-Chancellors of the North Zone held in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, whether the Government has decided to chalk out an action plan in this regard taking cognizance of the deteriorating environmental conductors;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has taken any significant measures to create public awareness in regard to maintaining environmental balance; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Ministry is not aware of any such conference of Vice-Chancellors of the North Zone held in Uttaranchal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Under the Environment Education, Awareness and Training (EEAT) Scheme launched in 1983-84, various programmes are implemented to enhance people's awareness about environmental issues for preservation and conservation of environment. These programmes include National Environment Awareness Campaign, National Green Corps, Seminars / Symposia / Workshops, Advertising and Publicity etc. These programmes are aimed at different target groups to encourage their participation in the efforts for protection of environment.

[English]

Diversion of Forest Land for Public Purposes

2152. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided not to permit diversion of forest land for public purposes without people's consent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has sent a list of conditions to all the States to be followed meticulously;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether more powers have been given or proposed to be given to Gram Sabhas and tribal community for diversion of forest land;

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

(g) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for monitoring these guidelines in States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) The Union Government permits diversion of forest land for public purposes under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 wherein opinions of the local people is ensured as per the guidelines mentioned in section-4 of Chapter-2 of the Hand book of the Ministry. This envisages that wherever any proposal for diversion of forest land is submitted, it should be accompanied by a resolution of the 'Aam Sabha' of the Gram Panchayat/Local Body of the area endorsing the proposal that the project is in the interest of people living in and around the proposed forest land except in cases wherever consent of the local people in one form or another has been obtained by the State or the project proponents and the same is indicated in the proposal explicitly.

Further, the Union Government has also, vide letter no. 11-9/1998-FC (Pt) dated 03.08.2009, requested all the State/UT Governments to submit evidences ensuring compliance of the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, along with the project proposals for diversion of the forest land for non-forest purposes.

There is no pending proposal with the Union Government providing more powers to the Gram Sabhas and tribal community on the issue of diversion of forest land.

(g) The Union Government attaches adequate importance to the diversion projects where there is likelihood that the local people will be adversely impacted. The monitoring of compliance of the conditions is primarily done by the State/UT Governments. The Union Government also undertakes monitoring on sample basis through its six Regional Offices.

**Gap between Rural and
Urban Sector**

2153. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gap between the rural and urban sectors is everwidening as far as development and growth are concerned;

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

(c) whether there are serious disparities in primary education and primary health facilities provided to urban and rural people; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to bridge the gap between development in rural and urban areas in various sectors of development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) There is a direct relationship between aggregate poverty and average consumption. National Sample Survey (NSS) consumption data relating

to Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) for three years between 2004-05 and 2006-07 indicates improvement in consumption pattern across all MPCE (Monthly Per Capita Expenditure) levels both in rural and urban areas. This is indicative not only of favorable poverty reduction trends but also of the inclusive growth and development in rural and urban areas. The All India Percentage of Rural and Urban Population by MPCE levels is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) To remove the disparities between rural and urban areas with regard to availability of primary education and health facilities, the Government has already taken a major initiative to implement the Flagship programmes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) in the education sector and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in the primary health sector. Creation of rural infrastructure in education and primary health sectors is expected to narrow down the gap between the rural and urban areas. Similarly, for alleviating poverty in rural areas, a comprehensive wage employment programme namely National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is being implemented which guarantees 100 days wage employment to all the rural households in a financial year. Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a holistic self employment generation program under which rural poor are organized into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and are provided assistance through a mix of credit and subsidy to set up self employment units. The rural poor are also provided financial assistance for construction of a house under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). Building rural infrastructure through Bharat Nirman primarily aims at improving the living conditions of rural masses.

Statement

All India Percentage of Rural and Urban Population by MPCE levels 2004-07

MPCE (Rs.)	% Population below the level			MPCE (Rs.)	% Population below the level		
	2006-07 (At current prices)	2005-06	2004-05 Urban		2006-07 (At current prices)	2005-06	2004-05 Urban
1	2		3	4	5		6
235	1.2	2	2.8	335	1.5	3	3.5
270	3.2	4.5	6.1	395	3.9	6.3	7.4

1	2	3	4	5	6		
320	7.5	11.4	14.4	485	9.5	13.3	15.9
365	12.7	18.7	23.9	580	17.4	21.8	25.8
410	20.8	27.9	33.9	675	25.8	30.6	35.7
455	29.1	36.5	43.6	790	35	41.6	45.8
510	39	46.6	54.4	930	46.1	52.3	56.1
580	50.3	58.9	65.3	1100	57.2	62.7	65.9
690	64.9	72.3	77.5	1380	70.3	75.7	77.4
890	80.3	86.1	88.8	1880	82.9	86.5	87.8
1155	90.6	93.2	94.7	2540	91.4	93.5	93.9

Source: Economic Survey 2008-09.

[Translation]

Setting up of Plant for Production of Titanium

2154. SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY:

SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed an Agreement with Russia for setting up of a plant for the production of titanium;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount proposed to be invested for setting up of such plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Thorium Power Plants

2155. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether thorium is in abundance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any reactor has been designed that can run by the thorium;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether thorium can replace uranium in the reactors for generation of power; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy, has established 10.21 million tonnes of monazite resources under all categories (indicated, inferred and speculative). Indian monazite contains about 9-10% of ThO₂ and about 8,07,713 tonnes of Thorium metal can be recovered from the above resources.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The Department of Atomic Energy has designed a 300 MWe advanced Heavy Water Reactor to generate most of its power from thorium based fuel.

(e) Complete replacement of uranium by thorium in existing Indian Reactors is not feasible without a major change in design. However, thorium has been used in a few bundles of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors earlier. Large scale use of thorium is planned in the 3rd stage of the Indian Nuclear Power Programme.

(f) The Department of Atomic Energy plans to initiate steps towards construction of an Advanced Heavy Water Reactor, a mainly thorium based reactor, during the XI Plan period. Large scale deployment of thorium for nuclear power generation is envisaged to be carried out after adequate nuclear installed capacity using Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors and Fast Breeder Reactors has been set up.

Special Package to Jharkhand

2156. SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide special package to Jharkhand to create adequate infrastructure to tap its immense natural and mineral resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated to the State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) There is no such proposal under consideration in the Planning Commission.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Unified Policy on Climate Change

2157. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the countries across the Himalayan region propose to have a unified policy on climate change;

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

(c) the measures taken or being taken to halt and reverse the ecological degradation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to have unified policy on climate change by countries across the Himalayan region.

(c) Guidelines and best practices for sustaining Himalayan eco-system have been outlined in the document entitled 'Governance for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem' (G-SHE) in September, 2009 and have been shared with all State Governments in the Himalayan region.

Computer Literacy

2158. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to bring Lap Top costing 10 dollars in order to increase computer literacy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken or being taken to improve computer literacy among students in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) A Technical

Committee has been constituted for realizing the goal of ultra low cost access-cum-computing devices, their field trials, testing, validity and evaluating various developments that have taken place in this area, as also to set specifications for usability in adverse conditions like: moisture in the air; extreme temperature; erratic power supply; and use of open source softwares, etc.

(c) Under the Scheme of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) @ Schools, financial assistance is provided to all State Governments/Union Territories for establishing computer labs and imparting computer literacy as well as computer aided learning in Government and Government aided secondary and higher secondary schools based on Computer Education Plans (CEPs) submitted by State Governments/UTs.

Re-introduction of Cheetahs

2159. SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government, in principle, has approved a plan to re-introduce Cheetahs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations identified where these Cheetahs will be nurtured;

(c) the number of Cheetahs imported or being imported for this purpose alongwith the name of the country;

(d) the details of animals imported and died during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the time bound programme proposed to be implemented to increase their numbers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No decision on reintroduction of Cheetah in India has been taken. However, a consultative meeting on Cheetah reintroduction in India was held in Gajner, Rajasthan on the 9th and 10th September, 2009. It was organized by Wildlife Trust of India in collaboration with other conservation organizations. The meeting was also attended by representatives of Non Government Organizations, International Union for Conservation of

Nature and International Cheetah experts, apart from Central and State Government officials. The important recommendation of the meeting was to conduct detailed surveys and analysis to ascertain habitat suitability, etc. for Cheetah reintroduction.

(c) No Cheetahs have been imported from any country for the purpose of reintroduction in wild. However, four number of African Cheetahs (2 male and 2 female) were acquired by the Sakkarbaug Zoo at Junagadh, Gujarat on 29th March, 2009 from Singapore Zoological Gardens, Singapore, under the 'Zoo-to-Zoo Animal Exchange Programme'.

(d) There are no reports of death of Cheetah in Indian Zoos during the last three years.

(e) There is no such programme.

[Translation]

Report of Administrative Reforms Commission

2160. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:

SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administrative Reforms Commission has submitted its Sixth Report;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Sixth Report of the Administrative Reforms Commission titled "Local Governance - An inspiring journey into the future" focuses on issues relating to rural and

urban local governance with a specific focus on the need for democratic decentralization. Copies of the Report have been placed in the Parliament Library and can also be viewed on this Department's website <http://darpg.nic.in>. The Government's decision on the recommendations are also available at the said website.

(c) Recommendations pertaining to States have been sent to them for consideration and implementation. Other accepted recommendations are being implementation by government.

Contract Employment in Coal Mines

2161. SHRI DEORAJ SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to instruct the management of coal PSUs to ensure that contractors engaged large number of locals in their work force;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by PSUs to strictly adhere to these instructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No Madam.

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

[English]

Functioning of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas

2162. SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently reviewed the functioning of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof including the deficiencies observed during the review;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of these Vidyalayas;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide assistance for enhancing the infrastructure of JNVs particularly in backward areas of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The Ministry had set up a Committee in 2001 under the Chairmanship of Shri Y.N. Chaturvedi to review the functioning of the management structure and operating mechanism of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti. Details of the main recommendations of the Committee and action taken thereon are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) Government provides full budgetary support for creation of necessary infrastructure in all Jawahar Navodaya Viidyalayas in the country.

Statement

Sl. No.	Observation made by the Committee	Action taken report
1	2	3
1.	Need for review of the Admission Policy and need for expansion	It has been decided to introduce lateral entry of students in Class XI based on their performance in CBSE/State Board exams from the academic year 2005-06 for optimum utilization of resources.
2.	Need for review of existing Recruitment and transfer policy of teaching and non-teaching staff of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)	No change is envisaged in the present recruitment/selection procedure of teachers, which is done by outside agencies. The appointments to non-teaching posts at school level are made locally by the Principals.

1	2	3
3.	Provision of adequate attention towards the promotion of sports, yoga and physical education.	Special Yoga training programme has been started in selected JNVs of the country in collaboration with Kaivalyadharam, Lonavala.
4.	Needs for safety aspects of children in hostels, particularly of girl children.	Need based sanctions are issued for construction of separate compound walls for girls hostel within the available financial resources.
5.	Consideration of stress level on the staff because of their duties in academics and hostel management.	Principals have been informed during Principal's Conference that work load on teachers is evenly distributed in accordance with CBSE/NVS norms.
6.	Consideration of Lateral admission of students in Class IX and XI against the vacant seats in Navodaya Vidyalayas.	Lateral entry tests for admission in class IX has been introduced with effect from academic year 2003-04 to fill vacant seats. Lateral entry of students to class XI has also been introduced from 2005-06.

Fishermen in Pakistani Jails

2163. SHRIMATI POONAM VELJIBHAI JAT:

SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 610 dated 8.7.2009 and state:

(a) the progress so far made towards the release of Indian fishermen and their fishing boats from the Pakistani jails;

(b) the details of the fishermen and boats released till date during the current year since January, State-wise including Gujarat; and

(c) the outcome of the Judicial Committee which was set-up to ensure the expeditious release of fishermen and fishing boats?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) According to available information, 593 Indian fishermen and 426 Indian boats are in Pakistani custody. 277 Indian fishermen were given consular access on 11-12 June, 2009, bringing the number of fishermen granted consular access to 553. Pakistan had last released 99 Indian fishermen on 26 November, 2008. Efforts are being made to secure release of the remaining Indian fishermen and their boats.

(c) The decision to form an India-Pakistan Judicial Committee on Prisoners was taken during EAM's visit to Pakistan in January 2007, and the first meeting of the committee was held on 26 February, 2008. The Committee made recommendations to two Governments, which inter alia, included immediate release of the consular access to fishermen, and exchange of a consolidated list of nationals in each other's jails. The Committee visited jails in Pakistan in June 2008 and jails in India in August 2008. It also held its meetings during these visits. In its last meeting held in India in August, 2008 the Committee again recommended, inter alia, immediate release and repatriation of all prisoners to their respective countries who had completed their sentences and whose nationality had been confirmed. Pakistan released 34 Indian fishermen in August 2008, and another 99 fishermen in November 2008. India had released 14 Pakistani fishermen in its jails in May 2008 in pursuance of the Committee's recommendations.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Endangered Wild Animals

2164. SHRI ARJUN MUNDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of smuggling of endangered wild animals to other countries are on the increase;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported from each State/Union Territory during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the number of smugglers booked, arrested and sentenced during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken to curb the smuggling of endangered wild animals from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Instances of large scale smuggling of endangered wild animals indicating increasing trend in their smuggling from the country, has not been brought to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) and (c) Details have not been collated at Government of India level.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to check smuggling of wild animals and its articles are as under:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime and amended from time to time for stringent penalties for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.
2. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.
3. Financial support is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes - *Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, Project Tiger and Project Elephant*, to State /UT Governments for the conservation and management of wildlife and its habitats.
4. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.
5. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.

6. India is also a founder member of the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking, which is an international forum working against wildlife crime.

[English]

Development of Model Villages

2165. SHRI PULIN BIHARI BASKE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to chalk out a programme to develop model villages for SC/ST community in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the villages identified for the purpose, State-wise;

(c) the salient features of the programme and funds allocated for the same during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to include more villages in the programme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The Department of Science and Technology has been implementing a Coordinated Programme on Resource Management and Development for the Empowerment of Scheduled Castes in different parts of the county through the input of Science and Technology since 2007. The villages covered under this coordinated programme, so far, are Chhamroli, Sinota, Dharamchuk, Bagath, Chakarpur, Matela and Rajpura in Uttarakhand; Majhas and Kalol in Himachal Pradesh; Tal in Jammu and Kashmir; Kadinamkulam, Kottukal, Veliyathu Nadu, Chittadi, Cherichil, Paruthikkad, Mundur and Puthupariyaram in Kerala; Illayanainarkulam

and Edumalai in Tamil Nadu and Tummalapalli and Miyalavaripalem in Andhra Pradesh. On an average every year around one hundred and fifty lakh rupees are allocated under this programme.

(d) Yes, Madam.

(e) The department has already initiated the programme for those villages which are predominately inhabited by Scheduled Caste community in the states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

(f) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Pollution from Sugar Mills

2166. SHRI PREMCHAND GUDDU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines in respect of environment are being violated by the sugar mills across the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any complaints regarding damage of crops due to polluted water drained from various sugar mills; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the guilty officials granting environmental clearances to these sugar mills causing pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The environmental guidelines include framework for siting of an industry which may be issued by the concerned State Government or the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) in a particular State or by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) at national level. The adherence to the said guidelines is to be ensured by the respective SPCBs. The Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) has not reported violation of guidelines by sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) A total of 19 complaints regarding pollution caused by sugar mills have been received in the CPCB, in the last four years, including 16 complaints for Uttar

Pradesh. There is an allegation of damage of crops by disposal of effluent of sugar industry in 08 complaints out of which 06 are for Uttar Pradesh during the said period.

(c) Grant of environmental clearance is a separate process under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The sugar mills above 5000 tonnes per day cane crushing capacity require prior environmental clearance under the law. The compliance of the conditions of environmental clearance is monitored by the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry, the CPCB and the concerned SPCBs. The issue of pollution relates more to compliance of these conditions and not the grant of environmental clearance per se.

Endangered Heritage in World Heritage Fund

2167. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Heritage Fund has included certain historical heritages in the country in the list of endangered heritages;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Heritage sites are inscribed in the World Heritage List by the World Heritage Committee (WHC) of UNESCO. There are 22 cultural sites of India in the list. None of them have been put in the "List of World Heritage in danger" by the WHC.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Illegal Payments by US Companies

2168. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:
 DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:
 SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
 SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI:
 SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any reference regarding illegal payments to Indian companies/officials allegedly by the US companies for making trade agreements;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the US as well as Indian companies officials involved therein;

(c) whether any investigation/enquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Indian Ambassador in USA has informed the Government that several references regarding illegal payments to the officials in India have been made in the US report on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and Anti-corruption Enforcement for the second half of 2008 and early part of 2009.

(b) The following companies are alleged to have made improper payments to some Indian officials:

Name of the US Companies	Name of Indian subsidiary Companies
(i) M/S Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corporation (Webtec)	M/s Pioneer Friction Ltd.;
(ii) M/s York International Corporation	M/s York India
(iii) M/s Dow Chemicals Corporation	M/s DE - Nocil Corp. Protection Ltd.
(iv) M/s Pride International Inc.	M/s Pride Foramer
(v) M/s Richard Morlok and Mario Covino	Not indicated

From the said US report, it infers that the officials belong to the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Defence, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Department of Revenue and Government of Maharashtra

(c) to (e) In view of the report of improper payment to a key official in Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, Faridabad by DE-Nocil, a subsidiary of Dow Chemicals, an inquiry was ordered by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation into the matter and a case was registered by CBI in 2007. The Ministry of Defence have constituted a Board of Officers for investigating the allegations pertaining to Indian Navy. The Ministry of Railways have suspended business dealings with M/s Pioneer Friction Ltd., Kolkata and M/s Webtec, USA. A detailed inquiry has also been ordered by the State

Government of Maharashtra in respect of alleged improper payment made by M/s Richard Morlok and Mario Covino.

In September, 2009, the CVC has asked the CBI to look into each of these instances of corruption and furnish a report. The Commission also held a meeting with the concerned Departments for expeditious action.

[English]

Illegal Trade in Wildlife

2169. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:
 SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
 SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts from the tiger range countries have called for a collective political commitment to save the animals and to combat illegal trade in wildlife;

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether experts from the tiger range countries have also urged the Government to stop infrastructure projects in core breeding areas;

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to save the animals including tigers and to combat illegal trade in wild life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Union Government is fully Committed to save the wild tigers, their habitat and to combat illegal trade in wildlife

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. This recommendation is in consonance with the tiger conservation initiative of the Government.

(e) The important steps to protect the wildlife including tiger and combat illegal trade in wildlife are as follows:—

- i. A network of Protected Areas including Tiger Reserves have been established in the country for conservation of wildlife and its habitats.
- ii. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended time to time for better protection of wildlife.
- iii. Stringent penalties are imposed on offenders for contravention of the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- iv. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the States/Union Territories under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats and Project Elephant, for better conservation and management of wildlife and its habitat.

v. The National Tiger Conservation Authority for conservation of tigers and their habitat has been established.

vi. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been established for control of illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

vii. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.

viii. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

ix. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

x. India is also a founder member of the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking, which is an international forum working against wildlife crime.

Leakage of Gas

2170. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale gas burning takes place on a regular basis in the coal mines in Jharkhand and adjoining West Bengal;

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

(c) whether the facilities to trap the gas is not available in those sites;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to set up facilities to trap the gas for commercial use instead of burning; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (a) above.

(e) and (f) The Government of India have formulated a Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy in 1997 to expedite commercial development of CBM in the country. As per the policy, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP and NG) is the administrative Ministry and Directorate of Hydrocarbons (DHN) is the nodal agency for development of CBM in the country. Under this policy, 26 CBM blocks have been allotted to different operators through 3 rounds of global bidding. Another 8 CBM blocks are under allotment in the recently concluded CBM Round IV global bidding by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

[Translation]

Minimum Support Price of Forest Products

2171. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any proposal to formulate a policy for determining the minimum support price of forest products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Ministry thereto; and

(d) the time by which the said policy is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) One proposal has been received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh for fixing the minimum support price of non nationalized minor forest produce.

(c) and (d) No policy has been formulated in this regard.

Inter-State Water Disputes

2172. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:

SHRI P. BALRAM:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take steps to develop a continuous process to resolve long pending Inter-State river water disputes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the present status of each of the pending cases of Inter-State water disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (c) The mechanism for settlement of water disputes is available in the form of Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 which provides for settlement of disputes by negotiations failing which referring such dispute to a tribunal for adjudication. The ISRWD Act, 1956 has been amended in the year 2002 whereby the adjudication of the water disputes by the tribunal has been made time-bound.

(d) As per the ISRWD Act, 1956, the water dispute arises among two or more State Governments when the Central Government receives request under Section 3 of the Act from any of the basin State with regard to existence of water dispute. The details of the present inter-State water disputes under ISRWD Act, 1956 are as follows:

S.No.	River/Rivers	States concerned	Date of Reference to the Central Government	Date of Reference to the Tribunal
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ravi & Beas	Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan		April, 1986
2.	Cauvery	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pudducherry	July, 1986	June, 1990

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Krishna	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra	September, 2002 - January, 2003	April, 2004
4.	Madel/Mondovi/ Mahad ayi	Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra	July, 2002	-
5.	Vansadhara	Andhra Pradesh & Orissa	February, 2006	-

The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) submitted report and decision under section 5(2) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 on 5.2.2007. Party States and Central Government have sought guidance/ clarification from the tribunal under section 5(3) of the Act. The tribunal has not submitted its further report to the Government. Further, party States have also filed Special Leave Petition (SLP) in Hon'ble Supreme Court against the report and decision of the tribunal as mentioned above. The Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal passed orders on Interim Relief Applications of the States on 9.6.2006.

The water dispute related to Ravi & Beas was referred to the Ravi & Beas Waters Tribunal (RBWT) in 1986 under Section 14 of the said Act. RBWT submitted its report on 30.1.1987 under section 5(2) of the Act. Party States and Central Government have sought explanation/guidance under section 5(3) of the Act from the Tribunal. The Tribunal has not submitted its further report to the Government.

In respect of Mahadayi/Mandovi River Water Disputes raised by Government of Goa, the Ministry of Water Resources is of the opinion that water dispute contained in the request of Government of Goa cannot be settled by negotiation. Meanwhile, the Government of Goa filed a suit in the Supreme Court for setting up of Water Dispute Tribunal for adjudication of above River Water Dispute and an Interlocutory Application (IA) for stay in construction activity in September 2006.

In respect of Vansadhara Water Dispute, the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 06.02.2009 directed the Central Government to constitute the tribunal within a period of six months. As the work of constitution of tribunal is time consuming, the Ministry of Water Resources has prayed Hon'ble Supreme Court to grant a further period of

six months to constitute the tribunal beyond the time stipulated in the above orders.

Generation of Electricity from Atomic Energy

2173. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of electric energy being generated through the atomic energy during the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the names of those States where electricity is being generated through atomic energy and its percentage as compared to the total electricity generated in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The electricity generated through nuclear power since 2006-07 is:

Year	Generation in Million Units
2006-07	18801
2007-08	16956
2008-09	14927
2009-10 (upto October)	10667 *

* Overall capacity factor 60% as compared to 50% for the year 2008-09.

(b) Nuclear power stations are in operation in Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Nuclear power stations are central sector stations. These stations benefit all the States / Union Territories in the Northern, Western & Southern Electricity Regions. The nuclear share in the total electricity generation in the country (in 2009-10, upto October, 2009) is about 2.4%.

[English]

Multi-Purpose Cultural Complexes

2174. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned any multi-purpose cultural complexes for the State of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Two multi-purpose cultural complexes have been sanctioned for the State of Kerala:

- I. A multi-purpose cultural complex at Nalanda Hills in Thiruvananthapuram was sanctioned in the year 1998 with a total cost of Rs. 200.00 Lakh, to be shared equally between the State Government and the Central Government.
- II. A multi-purpose cultural complex at Aanakulam, Kozhikode was sanctioned in the year 2007 with a total cost of Rs. 200.00 Lakh, to be shared equally between the State Government and the Central Government.

[Translation]

Quality of Research work in Universities

2175. SHRI JAGADANAND SINGH:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH:

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

(a) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve quality of research in universities;

(b) whether the Government has received any proposal of linking all research and educational institutes in the country through a high-width broadband network; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Looking at the declining quality and quantum of scientific research in India, a Task Force under Prof. M.M.Sharma was constituted by the Central Government for basic Scientific Research in universities. In its Report, the Task Force has inter alia, recommended creation of 1000 positions of Research Scientists at various levels, five fold increase in the number of Ph.Ds from Indian universities within a span of ten years with proper standards, promotion of formal linkage between the Universities and national level institutions including the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratories through joint research projects and training, inbuilt component of research in post-graduate programmes pertaining to Science and Technology, upgradation of infrastructural facilities in universities to promote quality scientific research, and, creation of networking centers in Basic Sciences in leading Departments of Universities to promote collaborative research. The Task Force has been converted into an Empowered Committee for monitoring the implementation of its recommendations. The following scheme have been implemented by UGC as per guidelines formulated by the Prof. M.M. Sharma's Empowered Committee:

- (i) 1800 Junior Research Fellows have been granted to the science departments recognized as CAS/DSA/DRS in universities;
- (ii) Award of 500 Post-doctoral Fellowships in all areas of Sciences designated as "Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-doctoral Fellowships" has been launched;

(iii) An infrastructure strengthening grant of Rs. 5 lakhs to each of the 700 science departments of 97 colleges with potential for excellence has been released by University Grants Commission (UGC).

(b) and (c) The Government is implementing a Central Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Education through Information & Communication Technology (NMEICT) which has a provision of broadband connectivity to Universities and Institutions of higher learning. It was decided that the work of creation of the broadband network under NMEICT be entrusted to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) Mahanagar Telecom Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) combine and they should be given flexibility to rope in RailTel and PowerGrid as per local needs. An amount of Rs.300.00 crore has been provided to the Department of Telecommunications during 2008-09 for the purpose.

On an average, every university will be provided a Local Area Network (LAN) of 400 nodes which will be connected via 1 Gbps link to the National Knowledge Network (NKN) Port. Government polytechnics and National Institutes of Technology (NITs) shall also be provided broadband connectivity under the scheme. BSNL has been asked to provide connectivity to 6000 colleges which are eligible to receive grants under section 12-B of the UGC Act in the first phase. The institutions shall also be provided e-learning material free of cost.

Impact of Corruption

2176. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether corruption in Indian public life has affected the economic growth and wastes precious national resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the second Administrative Reform Commission has made any recommendations on the issue of corruption;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the rampant corruption in public life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) It is a general perception that corruption distorts the rule of law and weakens institutions of governance. It also hurts economic growth and wastes national resources.

(c) and (d) The second Administrative Reforms Commission has made certain recommendations on the issue of 'Corruption' in its 4th Report titled "Ethics in Governance". This report focuses on preventive measures for reducing corruption and strengthening vigilance mechanism. In addition to the above, the Commission has made several recommendations to take up initiatives like (i) social audit of schemes (ii) empowerment of citizens (iii) public grievance redressal mechanism (iv) ombudsman at local level (v) pro-active disclosure of information to ensure transparency (vi) district complaints authority etc. which will help indirectly in curbing corruption.

(e) Government is fully committed to implement its policy of "Zero Tolerance against Corruption" and is moving progressively to eradicate corruption from all spheres of life by improving transparency and accountability. Several steps have been taken to combat corruption and to improve the functioning of Government. These include.

- (i) Issue of Whistle Blowers Resolution, 2004;
- (ii) Enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005;
- (iii) The pro-active involvement of Ministry/Department through Annual Action Plan on Vigilance as a preventive measure;
- (iv) Issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting process by the CVC;
- (v) Issue of instructions by the CVC asking the organizations to adopt Integrity Pact in major Government procurement activities; similar

instructions have been issued by the Central Government on 16th June 2009 advising the State Governments to adopt Integrity Pact in major procurements;

- (vi) India is amongst the countries who have signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
- (vii) Introduction of e-Governance and simplification of procedures and systems;
- (viii) Issue of Citizen Charters.

[English]

Members in Haj Committees

2177. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the permissible number of members in the management of State Haj Committees as per Haj Act, 2002;
- (b) whether the members in the management of States Haj Committees have been appointed as per Haj Act, 2002;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the details of States where members in the management of Haj Committee are not as per the said Act; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to appoint the members in the management according to the Haj Act, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The permissible number of members in State Haj Committee as per Haj Act 2002 are 16 (sixteen).

(b) to (d) The formation of State Haj Committees is the prerogative of respective States.

(e) All the States are being encouraged to form State Haj Committees as per Haj Act 2002.

Package for Agrarian Distress Districts

2178. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted any proposals under Prime Minister's Package for Agrarian Distress Districts in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated and released under the scheme to the State during the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (d) Under the approved "Rehabilitation Package for the Farmers in Suicide Prone Districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra", six major and medium irrigation projects of Kerala were identified for assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). So far, Rs. 2.72 crores for Karapuzha Irrigation Project and Rs. 0.91 for Kanhirapuzha Irrigation Project have been released to Government of Kerala during 2006-07 and 2008-09 respectively. The proposal for AIBP assistance in respect of remaining projects have not been received from the Government of Kerala. Subsequently, specific activities related to mitigation of agrarian distress in Kuttanad district of Kerala were also approved in July 2008 and that for agrarian distress in Idukki district in November as part of Rehabilitation Package for the Farmers in Suicide Prone Districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra. A proposal related to "Supporting Research by a Consortium of Competent Organizations on "TMB Operation and Kayal Ecology" has been submitted by Government of Kerala. The proposal has since been approved by Ministry of Water Resources and Rs. 14.00 lakhs has been released as first installment for the study. No other proposal of Government of Kerala is pending in the Ministry of Water Resources.

Impact of Climate Change

2179. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted/proposed to be conducted on climate change in India alongwith other countries to enable the scientists to gauge the changing aspects of the environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the impact of climate change in India;

(c) whether the Union Government has asked the State Governments to prepare an action plan on climate change;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of various States thereon; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to grant Technical and Financial Assistance to the States for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A study on 'Impact of Climate Change in India' has been launched under a Joint Indo-UK Research Programme. The Study comprises of State level vulnerability and adaptation assessment, linking water in agriculture and river basin, development and dissemination of high resolution climate change scenario for India, impact on health and socio-economic impact of climate extremes.

(c) and (d) Government has requested the State Governments to prepare State level Adaptation Action Plans on Climate Change consistent with the objectives of National Action Plan on Climate Change.

(e) Necessary assistance is provided to State Governments subject to availability of funds.

*[Translation]***Water Testing Laboratory**

2180. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating on any proposal of setting up a water testing laboratory in each of the districts particularly in backward regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received proposals from some States regarding setting up of water testing laboratory in their respective States during the last three years and the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development has made allocation of two percent of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) funds to support activities which, include setting up of water testing laboratories in the districts and sub divisions.

(c) to (e) The Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development received proposals for setting up/strengthening of district level water quality laboratories from six States viz. Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat during the last three years. State wise details of release of funds is given in the statement enclosed.

The Ministry of Urban Development also assists the States with Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for development of Urban Infrastructure including setting up of water treatment plants having water testing laboratory facilities under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

Statement

Status of proposals received from States for setting up/ strengthening of 'Water Quality Laboratories' during last three years

(Rs. In lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Amount Released
1.	Uttar Pradesh	147.07
2.	Mizoram	6.00
3.	Jharkhand	4.00
4.	Karnataka	4.00
5.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.00
6.	Gujarat	33.00
Total		200.07

*[English]***Mid Day Meal Schemes**

2181. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent any proposal to consider extension of Mid Day Meal Scheme to all High Schools and students of IX and X in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) the funds proposed to be released for this purpose during the current year to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Andhra Pradesh had sent a proposal to consider extension of Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) to High Schools (*i.e.* classes IX and X) in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Andhra Pradesh Government has been informed that the Government does not have any proposal to extend MDMS to students of classes IX and X. As such, no funds have been earmarked for release during current year for implementation of MDMS in classes IX and X.

New Climate Forecasting System

2182. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Climate Conference has in the recent past approved the creation of a new Climate Forecasting System;

(b) if so, whether India has participated in the Conference;

(c) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the salient features of the said System;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up the new Global Framework for Climate Services in the country to improve climate forecasts and share that information around the world also; and

(e) if so, the countries who have so far set up such new system and the extent to which the same is authentic as compared to the existing system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Third World Climate Conference (WCC-3) held at Geneva, Switzerland during 31 August — 4 September 2009, organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), has only decided to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to strengthen production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services.

(b) and (c) India participated in the said Conference. Several Heads of State and Government, Ministers and

Heads of Delegation were present at the High-level segment of the WCC-3. The Conference requested the Secretary General of the WMO to convene an intergovernmental meeting (IGM) of member states to set up a task force of high-level, independent advisors to prepare a report, and recommend on proposed elements of the GFCS.

(d) and (e) The Task Force of WMO on Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) will finalize the framework of GFCS for its consideration and adoption by the next WMO Congress in 2011. The Government has no proposal to set its own Global Framework for Climate Services.

[Translation]

Literacy in Tribals

2183. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, the number of tribals who are illiterate in the country at present, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch a literacy programme for the tribals keeping in view the widespread illiteracy among them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Maharashtra Government have sent any proposal to the Union Government seeking financial assistance for the literacy programme for the tribals;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) A statement showing number of Scheduled Tribe (ST) illiterates in the country as per the Census 2001 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. However, the Saakshar Bharat, an Adult Literacy Programme launched on 8.9.2009 does focus on illiterate women, SC/ST and other minorities in the country to make them literate in a time bound manner. The programme encompasses functional literacy, skill development, equivalency programme and life long learning opportunities through continuing education. To encourage adults to join the literacy campaign, the entire cost of the teaching learning material and literacy teaching will be met by the Government. The programme also provides for environment building and mass mobilization to motivate the non-literates to join the literacy campaign.

(e) to (g) No specific proposal have been received from the Government of Maharashtra for improving the literacy of ST population only.

Statement

State-wise number of Scheduled Tribe population in the age Group of 7+ (as per the census - 2001)

S.No.	States/UTs	Persons
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,619,983
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	285,786
3.	Assam	1,033,026
4.	Bihar	433,272
5.	Chhattisgarh	3,789,910
6.	Delhi	-
7.	Goa	210
8.	Gujarat	3,222,009
9.	Haryana	-
10.	Himachal Pradesh	95,064
11.	Jharkhand	3,412,302
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	564,160
13.	Karnataka	1,512,548

1	2	3
14.	Kerala	112,042
15.	Madhya Pradesh	5,654,112
16.	Maharashtra	3,151,424
17.	Manipur	217,603
18.	Meghalaya	609,171
19.	Mizoram	74,675
20.	Nagaland	515,743
21.	Orissa	4,203,733
22.	Punjab	-
23.	Rajasthan	3,073,429
24.	Sikkim	31,405
25.	Tamil Nadu	325,122
26.	Tripura	361,522
27.	Uttar Pradesh	54,530
28.	Uttaranchal	78,472
29.	West Bengal	2,077,219
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8,514
31.	Chandigarh	-
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	63,707
33.	Daman and Diu	4,389
34.	Lakshadweep	6,712
35.	Pondicherry	-
Total		36,379,192

[English]

Loans for Vocational Courses

2184. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks do not offer loans to students for less mainstream courses of vocational study such as hair styling, pet grooming, bartending; and

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to extend loans to these students?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, vocational courses are offered at the higher secondary stage in Government and Government aided higher secondary schools at a nominal or no fee. Short-term non-formal training on skill development is imparted under the scheme of community development through polytechnics without charging any fee. Therefore, bank loans are generally not required.

[Translation]

Brain Mapping Technology

2185. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists in Neurology in California University have developed a new technique for brain mapping;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this new technique is likely to be used for research in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this technique is likely to be used in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The scientists of the Brain Mapping Centre, University of

California have developed new application techniques and methodologies for brain mapping using existing instruments like electro-encephalography (EEG), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET). Neuroimaging and brain mapping techniques provide extraordinary power to understand neurological disorders, providing spatially detailed information on the extent and trajectory of the disease as it spreads in the living brain.

(c) to (e) Many of these facilities, except magneto-encephalography (MEG), are clinically available in a number of institutions across India. Some of the analytic techniques would be useful for the country and some of these are already being pursued in Indian institutions such as National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), Delhi. The techniques are useful for both basic and applied research pertaining to the brain and nervous system, and their disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, stroke and brain tumours. Scientists in India are already using a number of techniques developed by the California investigators and Indian scientists have joint research projects with the US scientists. A number of Indian clinicians, scientists and students have visited the centre and obtained the training. Our scientists have already initiated the electronic instrumentation aspects of MEG on a pilot level.

[English]

Water Saving Technology

2186. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has advised State Governments to adopt water-saving technologies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the response of the various State Governments in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has provided assistance to institution involved in developing water saving technology;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the other measures taken by the Government to promote water saving technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed water saving technologies for different agro-ecological regions of the country. These can be used by State Government Departments and Organizations. The State Governments extend the water saving technologies to the farmers through their Extension Departments and Water and Land Management Institutes (WALMIs).

(d) to (f) Ministry of Agriculture promotes transfer of technologies for water conservation and water use efficiency through its programmes/schemes namely; National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Cotton Development Programme, Integrated Scheme of Oilseed, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) and Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMA) etc.

Ministry of Water Resources approved a Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) at 5000 demonstration sites at the cost of Rs. 24.46 crore in 25 States/UTs of the country. Agricultural Universities, Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institutes, International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Water and Land Management Institutes (WALMIS) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) have been identified for demonstrating farm practices and irrigation technologies aimed at increasing yield and income per drop of water.

National Accreditation Board for Education and Training

2187. SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Accreditation Board for Education and Training (NABET) has commenced rating schools at primary, secondary and higher secondary levels on parameters of infrastructure, support mechanism and school governance to raise the country's education system to global standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NABET accreditation is reviewed every year to keep it valid and inforce; and

(d) whether the Central Board of Secondary Education and the Indian Council for Secondary Education are likely to insist on NABET accreditation for its affiliated schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Quality Council of India has informed that National Accreditation Board for Education and Training (NABET) has accredited 9 (nine) higher secondary schools based on standard for quality school governance. However, NABET is not an organisation under this Ministry and the details of the activities of NABET are not maintained in this Ministry.

(d) The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) has informed that they have no plans to insist on NABET accreditation for their affiliated schools.

Bilateral Civil Nuclear Agreement

2188. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up light water reactor plants under Indo-US Civil Nuclear Deal;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations identified and capacity; and

(c) the extent to which these plants are likely to help in capacity addition and overall development of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Government has accorded 'in-principle' approval for the following sites for locating Light Water Reactors based on international co-operation:

Location	Capacity (MWe)	Co-operation with
Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu	4 x 1000 (additional)	
Haripur, West Bengal	6x1000*	Russian Federation
Jaitapur, Maharashtra	6x1650	France
Chhayamithi Virdi, Gujarat	6x1000*	USA
Kowada, Andhra Pradesh	6x1000*	

*Actual capacity will depend on the rating of the reactors set up.

(c) The LWRs based on international co-operation can add about 40,000 MWe of nuclear power capacity in the country, progressively over next 20 years or so.

National Heritages Sites

2189. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA':

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of National Heritage Sites in the country, State-wise;

(b) the authorities responsible for the protection and conservation of these sites; and

(c) the details of other sites for which proposal has been received for declaring as a National heritage, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) There are 3675 monuments/sites declared as of national importance in the country. State-wise list of these monuments/sites is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The Archaeological Survey of India looks after the maintenance, conservation, preservation and development of environment of these centrally protected monuments.

(c) A list of all such monuments is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

List of Centrally Protected Monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India

Sl. No.	Name of State	Nos. of Monuments
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	137
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	03
3.	Assam	55
4.	Bihar	70
5.	Chhattisgarh	47
6.	Daman and Diu (U.T.)	12
7.	Goa	21
8.	Gujarat	202
9.	Haryana	90
10.	Himachal Pradesh	40
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	69
12.	Jharkhand	12
13.	Karnataka	507
14.	Kerala	26
15.	Madhya Pradesh	292
16.	Maharashtra	285
17.	Manipur	01
18.	Meghalaya	08
19.	Nagaland	04

1	2	3
20.	N.C.T. Delhi	174
21.	Orissa	78
22.	Pondicherry (U.T.)	07
23.	Punjab	31
24.	Rajasthan	162
25.	Sikkim	03
26.	Tamil Nadu	413
27.	Tripura	08
28.	Uttar Pradesh	743
29.	Uttaranchal	042
30.	West Bengal	133
Total		3675

Statement-II

List of monuments for which proposals have been received for declaring them protected as of national importance

Sl. No.	Name of Monument/site and location
1	2
RAJASTHAN	
1.	Sita Ram Ji Temple, Deeg, Bharatpur
2.	Jamwan Ramgarh fort, Jaipur, District Jaipur
3.	Ancient Mound, Guhana, Bharatpur
4.	Ancient Mound, Khoh, Bharatpur
5.	Ancient mound, Bahaj, Bharatpur
6.	Ancient Mound, Naunera, Distt., Bharatpur

1	2
7.	Ancient Mound, Saheda, Bharatpur
8.	Bala Qila in Alwar and a step well in Neemrana in Alwar
9.	Rambagh, Deeg, Bharatpur
10.	Raisingh Ji Ka Mahal at Toda Raisingh Distt. Tonk
11.	Parshvanath Temple, Village Machind Distt. Rajsmand
JHARKHAND	
12.	Temple at Haradih, Distt. Ranchi
13.	Shahpur Quila, Shahpur, Palamu
14.	Navratanagarh Fort and Temple Complex, Gumla
15.	Tiliagarhi Fort, Sahebganj
16.	Fort and Jain Rock. Cut sculptures at Koluha, Hill, Chatra
17.	Brahmo temple at Tagore Hill, Ranchi
18.	Kayatha Shiva Temple at Kayatha, Village Ramgarh Distt. Hazaribagh
GUJARAT	
19.	Ancient Site at Juni-Karan, Kutch
KERALA	
20.	Janardana Temple, Panamaram, Waynad District
21.	Vishnu Temple, Nadavayal District Wayad
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	
22.	Trilochan Nath Temple, Mahadera Basoli, District Kathua
WEST BENGAL	
23.	Brindaban Chandra Temple and Radha Damodar Temple, Distt. Bankura
24.	Nauseri Banu Mosque and Chowk Masjid, Kella Nizamat, District Murshidabad

1	2
25.	Archaeological Site (Sakeesena Mound) Mogalbari, District Paschim Medinapur
26.	Khwaza Anwar Berh(Nawab Bari), District Barddhaman
27.	Motijhil Mosque and Cemetery at Murshidabad, West Bengal
28.	Preservation of the Moynagarh, Block-Moyna
ORISSA	
29.	Biranchi Narayana Temple, Buguda, Orissa
30.	Group of Temples at Ranipur Jarial, District Bolangir
MAHARASHTRA	
31.	Fortification wall of Daulatabad Fort, Aurangabad
32.	Old High Court Building, Nagpur, District Nagpur
33.	Dhura Barao (Putli Barao) at Sindkhed Raja Distt. Buldana
UTTARAKHAND	
34.	St. Thomas Church, Dehradun, District Dehradun
35.	Shri Kedarnath Temple (Dham) Village Kedarnath Tehsil Ukhimath, Distt. Rudraprayag
36.	Excavated Site at Village Virpur Khurd, Virbhadra, Tehsil-Rishikesh, Distt. Dehradun
37.	Excavated Site of Jagatgram, Barhwala, Dehradun
38.	Mound at Kashipur, Site of Govishana Fort, Kashipur, Udham Singh Nagar
39.	Ancient Naula, Village Syunrakot, Patti Tallasyunra, Someshwar, Distt. Almora
40.	Vishnu temple, Village Kotali, Bankot, Tehsil Gangolihat, Distt. Pithoragarh
41.	Excavated Sites, Dehradun

1	2
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UTTAR PRADESH

42. Excavated Site at Sringerpura Distt. Allahabad
43. Kothi Talab(Tank) at Ganesh Bagh, Karwi and Kothi Talab (Bus Stand, Karwi), Lucknow
44. Ancient Site, Siswania, Distt. Basti

HARYANA

45. Palace building near to Firozshah Palace and Tehkhana, Hissar, Distt. Hissar.

MADHYA PRADESH

46. Ginnurgarh Fort, Sehore Distt., Madhya Pradesh.

PUNJAB

47. Ancient Buddhist Stupa Site SGL 11 at Village Sanghol (Ucha Pind), Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib
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[Translation]

**B.Ed. Courses run by
Private Institutions**

2190. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has given permission to large numbers private educational institutions in the country to run B.Ed, degree courses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the norms/ guidelines of the Government to run such courses by these institutions;
- (d) whether it has come to notice of the Government that permission has been granted even to such private institutions which do not possess requisite infrastructural training as well as human resources;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether the Government has any proposal to review the norms/ guidelines in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) inter alia grants recognition to institutions to run various teacher education courses, including B.Ed, course, in accordance with the extant law and laid down procedure. As on 31st August, 2009, the NCTE had granted recognition in respect of 6,929 B.Ed, courses/ institutions with a annual intake of 6,92,900 students.

(c) The National Council for Teacher Education (Regulation Norms and Procedure) Regulations, 2009, notified on 31st August, 2009 lays down the procedure for grant of recognition for teacher education courses, norms and standards for the teacher education courses, course content and duration, minimum qualifications for admission to the course and minimum qualifications for persons to teach such course.

(d) and (e) The NCTE continuously carries out enquiries and inspection in respect of teacher education institutions to verify their adherence to the NCTE Act and its Regulations. Whenever it comes to the notice of the NCTE that an institution running a teacher education course has violated the law, appropriate action, including withdrawal of recognition, is taken. During the last one year, the NCTE has withdrawn recognition in respect of 805 institutions, including 430 B.Ed, institutions/ courses, which were found to be violating the NCTE Act/ Regulations.

(f) and (g) The NCTE periodically reviews its existing Regulations relating to grant of recognition and norms and standards for teacher education courses. The Regulations notified in August, 2009 was a result of review of its earlier Regulation of December, 2007.

*[English]***Modernisation of Mining Operations**

2191. SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to modernize mining operations in coalfields including Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd. (MCL); and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The details of up-gradation in underground and opencast mines of CIL including MCL are briefly given below:

(i) Underground mines:

The thrust areas for the future will be the Bord and Pillar (B&P) method with higher degree of mechanization like continuous miner technology in conjunction with mechanized drilling and roof bolting system. However, use of long wall technology, wherever, geo-mining conditions permit, will be continued as a mass production technology. So there will be a judicious mix of B&P with continuous miner, B&P with Side Discharge Loader (SDL)/Load Haul Dumper (LHD) combination, mechanized long-wall and special mining methods.

The provision of underground man riding system, full face shaft sinking and incline drirage machines are proposed for new mines so as to start production much earlier than typical existing system besides also being cost effective.

(ii) Open Cast Mines:

The up-gradation of equipment size matching with bench height and stripping ratio are being introduced. For Dumpers, up-gradation from 35/50 Tonne to 60 Tonne, 85 Tonne to 100 Tonne, 120 Tonne to 150 Tonne as well higher sizes are being introduced.

Use of high capacity hydraulic shovels (10 to 25 Cubic Metres (cum.)) will find increased accepta-

bility. High capacity dozers of sizes upto 850 Horse Power (HP) will complement the higher capacity excavators.

In addition to the above, following steps have been taken/are being proposed to be taken for modernization/up-gradation of its mines in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited:

- (a) Recently four numbers of Surface Miners have been procured and deployed.
- (b) To enhance overburden removal, higher capacity Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMMs) are being procured
- (c) For fast evacuation of coal, eight nos. of Rapid Loading Systems have been planned and action initiated.
- (d) For beneficiation of coal, four nos. of coal washeries of 10 million tones per year (mty) capacity each, shall be setup.

**Schools in Andaman and
Nicobar Islands**

2192. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Primary, Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, location-wise;
- (b) whether these schools lack basic amenities like availability of safe drinking water, clean toilets, etc.;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the school buildings/class rooms and teachers quarters are in dilapidated condition;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the funds provided/being provided by the Union Government for renovation/repair of school buildings/class rooms/teachers' quarters and for other facilities/amenities to the students during the last three years and the current year; and

(g) the corrective measures/steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) There are 306 schools in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and these include 172 primary schools, 52 middle schools, 40 secondary schools and 42 senior secondary schools. The location-wise details of these schools are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) All the schools have drinking water and 291 schools have toilet facility.

(d) and (e) The Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has informed that the overall condition of school buildings and teachers' quarters is satisfactory.

(f) The funds provided for renovation/repair of school buildings/class rooms/teachers' quarters and for

other civil works during last three years and current financial year is as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2006-07	9.24
2007-08	8.76
2008-09	16.37
2009-10	11.61

(g) The responsibility of repair and maintenance of the school buildings and teachers' quarters and for other facilities for students is with the Union Territory Administration. However, Union Territory also makes use of funds provided under Centrally Sponsored Schemes from time to time.

Statement

The location-wise details of School in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Location	Primary school	Middle school	Secondary school	Senior Secondary school	Total
South Andaman	29	16	08	15	68
Wimberlygunj	23	04	05	05	37
Hut Bay	05	03	02	02	12
Rangat	38	09	07	07	61
Mayabunder	21	03	04	02	30
Diglipur	35	06	08	04	53
Car Nicobar	05	03	02	03	13
Nancowry	14	07	03	02	26
Campbell Bay	02	01	01	02	06
Total	172	52	40	42	306

Raising the Standard of Secondary Education

2193. SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Secondary Education has decided to raise the secondary education standard in India to international standards;

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken to raise the

education standard imparted by the secondary schools in the country to International Backtiorate (IB) level;

(c) whether two types of school-syllabus are to be introduced for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has its affiliated schools in 21 foreign countries and has taken the following steps to further raise its education standards and in consonance with international best practices:

- i. There will be no class X Board examination with effect from 2011 for students studying in higher secondary schools affiliated to CBSE and who do not wish to move out of the CBSE system after Class X. The students studying in the schools which do not have higher secondary classes, will however, be required to appear in a Board examination.
- ii. The Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) has been strengthened in all affiliated schools of CBSE for class IX students from the session 2009-10.
- iii. Grading System has been introduced for CBSE class X Board Examination, 2010, and for class IX students for continuous and comprehensive evaluation from the session 2009-10.

Establishment of IIT in Rajasthan

2194. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the location identified for setting up of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus in Rajasthan;

(b) the funds allocated and spent therefrom during the last three years and the current year, year-wise; and

(c) the time by which the said institute is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) On the recommendation of a Committee set up by the Government of Rajasthan, the Site Identification Committee (SIC) of this Ministry visited Jodhpur and found the city to be suitable for setting up of an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) there.

(b) and (c) The Cabinet approved the establishment of eight new IITs, including one in Rajasthan on 17.07.2008. IIT-Rajasthan commenced its session with effect from 2008-09 from the campus of its mentor, IIT-Kanpur. It takes between 5 to 6 years to establish the permanent campus of an IIT, with an estimated cost of Rs. 76000 crores (without the cost of land). During the years of 2008-09 and 2009-10, Rs. 6.50 crores and Rs. 30.00 crores were allocated for setting up of IIT Rajasthan, out of which Rs. 6.50 crores and Rs. 7.50 crores have respectively been released till date.

[Translation]

Review of Water Projects

2195. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the ongoing/pending water projects in the country including the projects in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the current status of these projects in Jharkhand, project-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated and utilised for each of the project in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (c) Irrigation is a State subject and planning, execution, funding and priority of execution of irrigation projects is within the purview of the concerned State Governments. In order to expedite completion of ongoing projects, the Union Government launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in 1996 to provide financial assistance to the state governments.

There are 7 major and 17 medium ongoing irrigation projects in Jharkhand. Financial assistance under AIBP

has been provided to the Jharkhand state for 9 irrigation projects. Out of these 9 projects, 2 projects have been completed. One project namely Torai project has been deferred by the state government due to public agitation and other projects are ongoing. Under the AIBP, Central

assistance is released on receipt of AIBP release proposal from the State Government in accordance with the AIBP guidelines in force from time to time. The year wise details of central assistance released to irrigation projects of Jharkhand are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Central Assistance (CA)/ grant released under AIBP during 1996-1997 to 2009-10

Central Assistance Released under AIBP to Jharkhand

Sl. No.	Name of State/Project (Started in Plan)	Amount (Rs. in crore)								Grand Total	
		1996-97 to 2001- 2002 Loan	2002- 2003	2003- 2004	2004- 05	2005- 06	2006- 07	2007- 08	2008- 09		2009- 10
Jharkhand											
1	Gumani (V) (Ongoing)	21.9400	4.0000			1.3620	0.3900	3.7100	0.0000	0.0000	31.4020
2	Torai (V) (Deferred)	2.5000						0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2.5000
3	Latratu (VII) (Completed)	2.1300						0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2.1300
4	Kansjore (VII) (Ongoing)	9.5600	1.0000			0.4800		0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	11.0400
5	Sonua (VI) (Ongoing)	7.4750	2.3350	1.8330	5.9950	0.7080		0.9000	0.0000	0.0000	19.2460
6	Surangi (VII) (Ongoing)	-7.2900	2.3350		2.5250			1.1344	0.0000	0.0000	13.2844
7	Tapkara Res. Scheme (VI) (Completed)	0.5150						0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.5150
8	Upper Sankh (Ongoing)	0.0000			8.2700	1.4400	0.9000	1.8000	2.7000	0.0000	15.1100
9	Panchkhero (Ongoing)	0.0000			4.4950	1.0470		1.6800	1.0200	0.0000	8.2420
(Jharkhand) Total		51.4100	9.6700	1.8330	21.2850	5.0370	1.2900	9.2244	3.7200	0.0000	103.4694

[English]

Base Station at Moon

2196. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has any proposal to set up Base Station at Moon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Station is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC

GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Introduction of Yoga in Schools

2197. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to make Yoga compulsory in all schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yoga is one of the core components of health and physical education that has been a compulsory subject upto the secondary school stage in the Central Board of Secondary Education curriculum since 1988. The National Curriculum Framework 2005 uses a holistic definition of health within which physical education and Yoga contribute to the physical, social, emotional and mental development of a child.

Naval Satellite by ISRO

2198. SHRI P. VISWANATHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Space Organisation (ISRO) has any proposal to launch its first Naval Satellite;

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

(c) whether there is also a proposal to create Maritime Security Advisory Board; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) This satellite will provide communication facility to various naval vessels and is likely to be launched by end of 2010/beginning of 2011.

(c) No such proposal is there with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Sri Chaluaraya Swamy Temple

2199. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government released funds for development of Sri Chaluaraya Swamy Temple in Melukotte, Mandya District of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of works likely to be taken up for the development of temple; and

(c) the time by which the work on this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) A provision of Rs. 10 lakhs has been made in the current financial year (2009-10) for conservation of Sri Chaluaraya Swamy Temple in Melukotte, Mandya District of Karnataka. In this connection, the following works are taken up:

(a) Three phase electrification of the temple complex.

(b) Application of the colour wash to the temple complex.

(c) Providing new drainage to the kitchen block to drain out waste water from the temple including de-silting.

(d) Providing plinth protection course to the temple complex.

(c) It may take about 3 years to complete the project.

Foreign Students Studying in India

2200. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign students studying in the country at present, country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to attract more foreign students to study in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) A Statement indicating the country-wise number of existing foreign students studying in India, as furnished by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is enclosed.

(b) According to the ICCR, the steps taken to attract more foreign students to study in India include creation of 175 additional slots during 2009-10 by the Ministry of External Affairs for Afghan nationals over and above the 500 slots initially offered to Afghanistan on an annual basis, offer of additional 251 slots to the African countries with effect from 2009-10 over and above the initial 247 slots, revision of Scholarship rates with effect from July, 2009 to make the scholarships more attractive, simplification of research visa procedure by the Ministry of Home Affairs and steps to be taken in pursuance of the recommendations of Inter-Ministerial Committee on Welfare of foreign students constituted on 22 April, 2008.

Besides, continuous steps are taken to upgrade the quality of Indian higher educational institutions and faculty. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the XI Plan for the expansion of higher education, for setting up of institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of Innovation universities aiming at world class standards, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology and Schools for Planning and Architecture. Expansion of capacity of the existing institutions, incentivizing State Governments for increasing State outlays on higher education, strengthening of science based research in universities, frequent updating

of curricula, introduction of semester system, faculty improvement programme and other reforms are also being implemented in the XI Plan for improving the quality of higher educational institutions and faculty.

Statement-I

Country-wise status of existing foreign students who are studying in India

Sl. No.	Name of the country	Number of students
1	2	3
1.	Afghanistan	1654
2.	Nepal	238
3.	Bangladesh	236
4.	Srilanka	187
5.	Iraq	83
6.	Maldives	76
7.	Mauritius	75
8.	Indonesia	61
9.	Fiji	60
10.	Mongolia	60
11.	Tajikistan	53
12.	Vietnam	46
13.	Kenya	45
14.	Uzbekistan	44
15.	Yemen	43
16.	Kazakhstan	32
17.	Ethiopia	30
18.	Iran	30

1	2	3	1	2	3
19.	South Africa	29	45.	Gambia	4
20.	LAO PDR	27	46.	Zimbabwe	4
21.	China	25	47.	Congo	3
22.	Russia	25	48.	Italy	3
23.	Mozambique	23	49.	Myanmar	3
24.	Thailand	23	50.	Slovenia	3
25.	Uganda	22	51.	Trinidad and Tobago	4
26.	Cambodia	21	52.	Armenia	2
27.	Syria	13	53.	Botswana	2
28.	Kyrgystan	12	54.	Columbia	2
29.	Tanzania	12	55.	Croatia	2
30.	Turkmenistan	12	56.	Czech Republic	2
31.	Namibia	10	57.	Malaysia	4
32.	Sudan	10	58.	Palestine	2
33.	Egypt	9	59.	Swaziland (Concurrent from Pretoria)	2
34.	Ghana	9	60.	Argentina	1
35.	Guyana	10	61.	Austria	1
36.	Japan	9	62.	Belgium	1
37.	Poland	9	63.	Bhutan	1
38.	Israel	7	64.	Bulgaria	1
39.	Romania	7	65.	Greece	1
40.	Somalia	7	66.	Hungary	1
41.	France	6	67.	Ivory Coast	1
42.	Spain	6	68.	Jamaica	1
43.	Ukraine	6	69.	Jordan	1
44.	Minsk	7			

1	2	3
70.	Mexico	1
71.	Papua New Guinea	1
72.	Phillipines	1
73.	Rwanda (Concurrent from Kampala)	1
74.	Seychelles	1
75.	South Korea	1
76.	Tuvalu (Fiji)	1
77.	USA	1
78.	UK	1
79.	Zambia	1
Total		3471

[Translation]

Setting up of Community Colleges

2201. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has formulated any action plan for setting up of community colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of such colleges;

(c) the locations identified for setting up of such colleges in the country; and

(d) the manner in which these colleges are likely to function?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) had submitted a proposal for setting up of community colleges during XI Plan Period to this Ministry. The same is under

consideration of the Government. Details of the proposal are being worked out.

[English]

Migratory Birds

2202. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is conducting a surveillance on the movement of migratory birds in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked and spent for this project during the current year; and

(d) the steps being taken to protect the migratory birds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. In the wake of possible transmission of avian influenza virus from migratory birds to poultry through intermixing at wetlands etc., the State Department of Forests and State Department of Animal Husbandry, have been directed to monitor areas visited by migratory birds along with surveillance of poultry intensive areas. No funds are separately earmarked by the Ministry for this purpose.

However, there is a joint collaborative project among Food and Agricultural Organization, Bombay Natural History Society and Ministry to monitor prevalence of AI virus in migratory wild birds. A sum of Rs. 1399250.00 has been received by Bombay Natural History Society from Food and Agricultural Organization in the current year for this project and an expenditure of Rs. 682092.00 has been incurred by Bombay Natural History Society in the current year.

(d) Steps taken to protect the migratory birds are as follows:

- (1) Important migratory birds have been included in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby according them protection.

- (2) The important habitats of migrating birds have been declared as Protected Areas.
- (3) Financial assistance is provided to State/UT Governments for protection and management of Wildlife, including habitats of Migratory birds.
- (4) India is a signatory to the conservation of migratory species including Birds for better conservation of such species and has the obligation for conservation of migratory species.
- (5) India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Siberian crane conservation.
- (6) Financial assistance is provided to research institutions and non governmental organizations for carrying out research on conservation of migratory birds.
- (7) Awareness is generated among local people for conservation and protection of migratory birds and their habitat.

Historical Monuments in Agra

2203. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

PROF. RAMSHANKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of recommendations made by the Supreme Court for the protection of Taj Mahal in Agra;
- (b) the action taken in this regard;
- (c) whether Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has proposed to prepare a plan to promote the viewing of historical monuments at Agra in view of the forthcoming Common Wealth Games, 2010;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether historical monuments situated at Trans Yamuna area of Agra has less visitors;
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard;
- (g) the details of monuments in Agra having Cultural Notice Board and not having the Notice Boards; and

(h) the steps taken to instal Cultural Notice Boards in these monuments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court has given several directions from time to time in connection with the protection of Taj Mahal. These include, among others (i) restrict construction activities near Taj Mahal; (ii) prohibit petrol/diesel vehicular traffic within 500 meters radius of Taj Mahal; (iii) create green-belt around Taj Mahal; (iv) remove commercial activities, shops etc. from the premises of Taj Mahal; (v) ban polluting industries, brick kilns within 20 km radius of Taj Mahal.

The Archaeological Survey of India has compiled with the directions of the Supreme Court.

(c) and (d) No specific plan has been chalked-out by the Archaeological Survey of India. However, all the basic tourist related amenities viz. drinking water, toilets, wheel chair, ramps for physically challenged person, signages, etc. have already been provided at all the protected monuments in Agra and Fatehpur Sikri.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h) The cultural notice boards have already been provided at all the ticketed monuments in Agra. The upgradation of the cultural notice boards is a continues process.

Visit of Prime Minister to USA

2204. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI:

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister is going to USA to discuss the issue of opening of two new Indian consulates in Atlanta and Seattle;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of issues likely to be discussed and the agreements likely to be signed with the USA during his visit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) During his visit to USA from 22-25 November, 2009 Prime Minister reviewed bilateral cooperation and discussed regional and global issues of shared interest and common concern with President Barack Obama and senior leadership in USA.

The following Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and other documents were signed during the visit:

1. MoU for cooperation in Energy Security, Energy Efficiency, Clean Energy and Climate Change.
2. MoU on Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security.
3. MoU for Collaboration in Solar Energy Research and Development.
4. MoU for Collaboration in Wind Energy Research and Development.
5. India-USA Counterterrorism Cooperation Initiative
6. Memorandum of Intent for setting up a Global Disease Detection centre in Delhi.
7. Agreement for Access to Traditional Knowledge Digital Library.
8. MoU for Cooperation in the area of Patents, Designs and Trademarks.

Administrative processes are being completed for opening new Consulates of India in Atlanta and Seattle.

Railway Network at Indo-China Border

2205. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is extending its railways right upto the Myanmar border with a 350 kilometer line linked to the South East Asian Rail network and is simultaneously planning to extend its Tibet Railway to Nepal to facilitate easy movement along the Sino-India border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) According to reports China is developing a railway line from Dali to Ruili on the China-Myanmar Border. China is also planning to extend the Qinghai-Tibet Railway line, to connect Lhasa with Khasha on the China-Nepal Border. Government is giving careful and special attention to the development of infrastructure in the border areas opposite China, in order to meet our strategic and security requirements and also to facilitate the economic development of these areas.

Earthquake in Himalayan Plateau

2206. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Himalayan plateau is more prone to earthquake of high intensity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the huge population living in cities/towns in Himalayan plateau are vulnerable to these earthquakes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes Madam, Himalayas are more prone to earthquake than other parts of India.

(b) The region forms part of the seismically most active parts of the country, viz., Zone-V and – IV, as per the Seismic Zoning Map of India published by the Bureau of

Indian Standards [IS-1893 (Part-1): 2002]. From the concept of plate tectonics, the Indian plate is moving in a north-north-east direction and colliding with Eurasian plate along the Himalayan mountain range. This collision is responsible for the formation of faults in and along the Himalaya. The Himalayan region has witnessed four great earthquakes of the world in the past, viz., the 1897-Shillong Plateau (M: 8.7), 1905-Kangra (M: 8.0), 1934-Bihar-Nepal (M: 8.3) and 1950-Assam (M: 8.5) earthquake. In the recent past, the Himalayan region has also experienced three more disastrous earthquakes, viz., the Uttarkashi earthquake of 1991 (M: 6.6), Chamoli earthquake of 1999 (M: 6.8) and the Muzaffarabad earthquake of 2005 (M: 7.6). These earthquakes have caused damage to property and loss of life in the region.

(c) In the event of an earthquake, there is always a danger to life and property and would depend upon the intensity of the earthquake.

(d) Various earthquake disaster management and mitigation measures are in place through the efforts coordinated by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the country. Significant of them is the issuance of guidelines for earthquake resistant design and construction of structures that have been laid down by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Housing Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) and Building Material Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) etc. for their adoption by appropriate planning and development authorities.

Notable actions initiated by MHA include:

- (i) Strengthening the capacity building of engineers, architects, lead masons and masons in earthquake resistant construction.
- (ii) Structural safety audit and retrofitting.
- (iii) Creating greater awareness on earthquake risk, vulnerability and emergency response.
- (iv) Strengthening of the techno-legal regime.
- (v) Selective retrofitting of lifeline infrastructure like district hospitals etc. to ensure earthquake impact minimization.

Further, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued National Disaster Management Guidelines for management of earthquakes and is widely circulated among Ministries of Government of India and states/UTs administrations. National and state level disaster management plans are envisaged to be prepared in accordance with the NDMA guidelines by appropriate authorities to minimize the loss of life and property due to earthquakes. National Executive Committee (NEC) constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, MHA will recommend such various disaster management plans to NDMA for approval and funding support for effective implementation.

Opening of New Science Museum

2207. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open new Science Museums in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the locations identified in each State/U.T.;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which these Science Museums are likely to be opened for the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) As per existing scheme of Science Centres and Museums, new centres/museums are taken up where the State Government provides unencumbered land at a mutually acceptable location and agrees to bear 50 percent share of the capital cost.

(b) to (d) Details of Science Centres where work is presently under way, along with the anticipated expenditure and tentative time schedule of completion are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Work at the following Science Centres is presently under way

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Location	State	Anticipated Capital cost (figure in crore)	When expected to be completed (year)
01.	Regional Science Centre	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	6.50	2010
02.	Regional Science Centre	Ranchi	Jharkhand	6.50	2010
03.	Regional Science Centre	Dharwad	Karnataka	6.50	2011
04.	Regional Science Centre	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	6.50	2011
05.	Regional Science Centre	Jaipur	Rajasthan	6.50	2011
06.	Regional Science Centre	Pilikula, Mangalore	Karnataka	6.50	2011
07.	Regional Science Centre	Pimpri Chinchwad	Maharashtra	8.50	2012
08.	Sub-Regional Science Centre	Solapur	Maharashtra	2.00	Completed
09.	Sub-Regional Science Centre	Jorhat	Assam	3.00	2013

Setting up of Innovation Universities

2208. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE:

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO

DUDHGAONKAR:

DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up 14 innovation universities aimed to attain world class standard in higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the locations identified for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government has sought opinion of all stake holders in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the criteria likely to be adopted for admission in these universities;

(f) whether these universities are likely to be set up with private participation;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the details of the funding structure for the universities;

(i) the action plan of the Government in this regard; and

(j) the time by which these universities are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (j) The Eleventh Plan envisages establishment of 14 universities aiming at world class standards. The locations identified for establishment of 14 innovation universities are as under:

Sl. No.	Location
1.	Amritsar (Punjab)
2.	Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh)
3.	Jaipur (Rajasthan)
4.	Patna (Bihar)
5.	Guwahati (Assam)
6.	Kolkata (West Bengal)
7.	Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)
g.	Kochi (Kerala)
9.	Gandhi Nagar (Gujarat)
10.	Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)
11.	Mysore (Karnataka)
12.	Pune (Maharashtra)
13.	Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)
14.	Bhubaneswar (Orissa)

A concept note on the innovation universities has been prepared and placed in the public domain for stake holder comments and responses have been received from various quarters, as inputs for finalizing the concept.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of Academicians

2209. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts of academicians in prestigious institutions like National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the vacant posts; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) 153 academic posts in National Council for Educational Research and Training, (NCERT) are vacant. Details of vacant posts are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the posts	Number of vacant posts
1.	Professor	25
2.	Reader	39
3.	Lecturer	89

(c) NCERT has already advertised for 51 posts. Filling up of vacancies is a continuous process.

[English]

Water Storage Capacity of Reservoirs

2210. SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI:

SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the overall position of water storage capacity of reservoirs in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any mechanism to monitor the storage position of reservoirs of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to maintain optimum water level in these reservoirs and the success achieved as a result thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to carry out water conservation and development work through concerned user groups; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to motivate such user groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) The total live storage capacity of the dams completed in the

country is reported as 225 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). The State-wise details in this regard is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) CWC is monitoring storage position of 81 important reservoirs of the country. The data is collected on daily basis from the concerned authorities. The data is compiled and a weekly report on the storage position of these 81 reservoirs is prepared and circulated to concerned authorities.

(d) to (f) Water being a state subject, the monitoring, operation and regulation of water level in all dams/reservoirs and water conservation and development works comes under the purview of the respective project authorities/state Governments. National Water Policy (2002) envisages that management of water resources for the diverse uses should incorporate a participatory approach by involving of all stakeholders. Under Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) programme, Water Users' Associations (WUAs) are associated in planning, design,

execution, operation and maintenance of micro-distribution network below outlets in irrigation commands. State Governments have been encouraged to form Water Users' Associations (WUAs). A sum of Rs. 1000 per ha to be shared in the proportion of 450:450:100 as Central: State:Farmers is being provided. In addition, farmers have been provided training and other capacity building measures such as visit of important project sites, demonstration and adaptive trials etc, for better water management. 56,934 WUAs have constituted in the country.

Further, Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) is implementing Farmer's Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) through out the country with the help of 60 institutions viz Agriculture Universities, ICAR Research Institute, ICRISAT and WALMIs to promote the water conserving techniques for farming. Various technologies are demonstrated to the farmers under this programme. Further, MOWR has also been encouraging the water conserving techniques for farming by awarding the Jain Krishak Award and Watsave Award.

Statement

State-wise Storages in India

Sl.No.	Name of State	Live Storage Capacities under			
		Completed Projects	Ongoing Projects	Total	Consideration Projects
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27305.13	6148.33	33453.46	1611.28
2.	Assam	12.46	—	12.46	725.49
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	241.06	241.06	37934.03
4.	Bihar	1842.22	675.3	2517.52	5822.22
5.	Chhattisgarh	6217.24	787.55	7004.79	519.3
6.	Goa	44.3	227.16	271.46	—
7.	Gujarat	16137.8	7406.84	23544.64	3446.02
8.	Haryana	—	—	—	258
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13917.15	188.73	14105.88	985.8

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	93.8	93.8	1831.59
11.	Jharkhand	2472.07	6877.64	9349.71	475.53
12.	Karnataka	33631.21	1413.15	35044.36	66.23
13.	Kerala	5384.27	1336.22	6720.49	1686.07
14.	Madhya Pradesh	26906.28	7026.46	33932.74	7335.04
15.	Maharashtra	25523.01	13242.89	38765.9	763.23
16.	Manipur	396.5	8449.58	8846.08	—
17.	Meghalaya	697.96	—	697.96	516.26
18.	Mizoram	—	663	663	1561
19.	Nagaland	1220	—	1220	526.1
20.	Orissa	17224.61	1997.66	19222.27	21099.7
21.	Punjab	2368.75	—	2368.75	—
22.	Rajasthan	8284.85	1425.95	9710.8	1807.02
23.	Sikkim	—	—	—	1.467
24.	Tamil Nadu	6500.47	68.49	6568.96	13.24
25.	Tripura	312	—	312	—
26.	Uttarakhand	5671.08	2726.52	8397.6	153.63
27.	Uttar Pradesh	15345.01	2711.59	18056.6	18406.45
28.	West Bengal	1475.15	184.44	1659.59	
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—
32.	Delhi	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
33.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—
34.	Pondicherry	13.79	—	13.79	—
Total in MCM		218903.31	63892.36	282795.67	107544.697
Total in BCM		218.90*	63.90	282.80	107.54

* Projects having a live storage capacity of 10 M.Cum and above only are included. An additional live storage capacity of 6.241 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) (approx.) is estimated to be created through projects having a capacity of less than 10 MCM thus making a total live storage capacity of 225.14 (BCM) of completed Projects.

MCM: Million Cubic Metre

BCM: Billion Cubic Metre

State Forest Development Agency

2211. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the ongoing National Afforestation Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal to constitute State Forest Development Agency (SFDA);

(d) if so, the purpose of SFDA; and

(e) the other measures taken by the Union Government to strengthen the National Afforestation Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. The Government has approved a proposal to strengthen the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) in which inter-alia the institutional arrangement, fund flow mechanism as well as the cost norms have been streamlined. In addition, two new components, namely, "Training and Capacity Building" and "Value Addition and Marketing of Forest Produce" have been included in the scheme.

(c) and (d) Under the revised Operational Guidelines of the NAP scheme, each programme implementing State/UT will constitute a State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. SFDA will be a federation of Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) of the State/UT. The SFDA is envisaged to obtain, scrutinize and approve the proposals of FDAs, send a consolidated State proposal giving FDA-wise details to the Government of India for sanction, receive and disburse the funds to the FDAs as well as monitor the project implementation.

(e) Other initiatives taken by the Union Government to strength the NAP include:—

(i) Transfer of funds to the implementing agencies through Electronic Clearing System (ECS).

(ii) Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism.

Water Logging and Faulty Drainage System

2212. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI BHARAT RAM MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is problem of water salinity, water logging and drainage system in irrigated commands in most parts of the country;

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

(c) whether water logging and faulty drainage system causes flood like situation in some States including Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government to check the salinity of water, water logging and faulty drainage system; and

(e) the funds allocated and released in this regard to various States. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. With the start of the planned irrigation development in the post independence era, farmers started using irrigation water in the irrigated commands. In areas, where rainfall is high and the drainage is deficient, this results in the inundation of adjoining areas and rise of ground water table. The seepage from unlined canals further aggravates the problem. The rise in ground water table brings the excessive harmful salts on the land surface causing salinity. As per the Study Report, January, 2009 on "Assessment of Water logging and Salt Affected area in the Major and Medium Irrigation Projects in the country" undertaken by the Central Water Commission in collaboration with Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Jodhpur. State-wise details of water logged and salt affected areas in major and medium irrigation commands are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) In the event of excess rain, flood like situations are observed in certain States including Uttar Pradesh due to faulty drainage system. However, Rajasthan occasionally suffers from flash floods.

(d) Both preventive as well as ameliorative measures are being taken to check water logging and salinity. The preventive measures include lining of canals in vulnerable reaches, on-farm development works such as construction of lined field channels and drains, rotational supply (warabandi) of irrigation water to farmers, conjunctive use of surface and ground water, propagation of improved methods of irrigation among farmers through training, adaptive trials and demonstrations.

Ameliorative measures include construction of surface and sub-surface drains, vertical drainage and bio-drainage for disposal of excess water and leaching of soil to flush out excess salts from root zone of crops. The above measures have proved effective in checking water logging and salinity.

(e) State-wise details of funds released to take up various components of Command Area Development and Water Management Programme including reclamation of water logged areas during last two years of XI Plan are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

The State-wise magnitude of salinity and water logging in irrigated commands of Major and Medium Irrigation Projects.

(Area in 000 ha.)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total Command area (Major and Medium)	Total Water logged area	Salt Affected Area
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11631.41	28.267	12.933
2.	Bihar	5939.255	627.888	156.887
3.	Chhattisgarh	2009.823	0.00	0.00
4.	Goa	38.120	0.00	0.00
5.	Gujarat	5334.172	265.260	307.320
6.	Haryana	3868.356	16.459	19.393
7.	Himachal Pradesh	35.83	0.261	0.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	269.80	3.97	0.075
9.	Jharkhand	399.477	0.00	0.00
10.	Karnataka	4012.862	0.00	5.781

1	2	3	4	5
11. Kerala		935.20	12.33	3.997
12. Madhya Pradesh		4862.888	0.543	4.410
13. Maharashtra		7696.820	426.408	34.541
14. Orissa		2640.77	85.99	34.78
15. Punjab		4471.190	34.970	131.998
16. Rajasthan		5051.890	8.409	2.053
17. Tamil Nadu		2171.885	32.518	30.696
18. Uttarakhand		251.71	0.225	0.0134
19. Uttar Pradesh		23400.763	126.681	283.146
20. U.T. (Puducherry)		11.50	0.047	0.053
21. West Bengal		3412.493	46.40	6.47
22. Arunachal Pradesh		0.00	0.00	0.00
23. Assam		326.02	2.092	0.00
24. Manipur		68.41	0.486	0.00
25. Meghalaya		3.40	0.056	0.00
26. Mizoram		0.00	0.00	0.00
27. Nagaland		6.15	0.00	0.00
28. Sikkim		0.00	0.00	0.00
29. Tripura		25.76	0.023	0.00
India		88895.62	1719.279	1034.541

Statement-II*Details of Central Assistance Released to States*

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Annual release during 07-08	Annual release during 08-09
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	0.000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	238.585	250.000
3.	Assam	0.000	594.610

1	2	3	4
4.	Bihar	0.000	0.000
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.000	0.000
6.	Goa	0.000	0.000
7.	Gujarat	3057.660	0.000
8.	Haryana	2332.219	4411.190
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.000	0.000
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	777.610	1292.830
11.	Jharkhand	0.000	0.000
12.	Karnataka	5771.293	1500.000
13.	Kerala	0.000	0.000
14.	Madhya Pradesh	490.066	0.000
15.	Maharashtra	622.268	2623.630
16.	Manipur	184.073	554.470
17.	Meghalaya	0.000	0.000
18.	Mizoram	6.428	0.000
19.	Nagaland	19.431	0.000
20.	Orissa	1101.905	2976.250
21.	Punjab	3589.235	6091.130
22.	Rajasthan	1804.383	4630.310
23.	Sikkim	0.000	0.000
24.	Tamil Nadu	1740.481	0.000
25.	Tripura	0.000	0.000
26.	Uttar Pradesh	5746.302	7094.760
27.	Uttarakhand	0.000	409.920
28.	West Bengal	231.578	0.000
Total		27713.517	32429.100

[Translation]

Reservation for SCs/STs

2213. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to reserve posts meant for SCs/STs in proportion to their population in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Reservation to SCs, STs and OBCs in services is available at the rate of 15%, 7.5% and 27% respectively in case of direct recruitment on all India basis by open competition. In case of direct recruitment on all India basis otherwise than by open competition, reservation for them is 16.66%, 7.5% and 25.84% respectively. Thus total reservation for three categories of backward classes in direct recruitment is at present 49.5% or 50%. If reservation to SCs and STs is provided in proportion to their population in the country, total reservation would exceed the limit of 50% which, according to the Supreme Court judgment in the matter of Indra Sawhney vis Union of India, is not permissible. However, in case of direct recruitment to Group C and D posts normally attracting candidates from a locality or region, reservation for SCs and STs has been fixed generally in proportion to their population in the concerned State.

River Linking Projects

2214. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government fails to run the river-linking Project smoothly inspite of incurring expenditure of Rs.20 to 30 crore per year;

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

(c) the annual budget of National Water Development Agency formed to link rivers;

(d) the amount incurred on this project and the details of work undertaken and its present status;

(e) whether any time limit has been set to complete this project;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises of two components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component and of 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have been completed. Detailed Project Report (DPR) of one priority link namely Ken - Betwa has also been completed. Further, NWDA has taken up the DPRs of another two priority links namely Par - Tapi - Narmada & Damanganga - Pinjal after concurrence of the concerned states, which are planned to be completed by December, 2011. Fifth priority link namely Godavari (Polavaram)- Krishna

(Vijawada) is part of the Polavaram project of the Andhra Pradesh. Planning Commission has given investment clearance to the Polavaram Project and the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up the above project including link component as per their proposals. Further, NWDA has received 31 proposals of intra - state links from 7 States out of which Pre Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 7 intrastate links have been completed.

A provision of Rs. 32.44 crore has been kept for the year 2009-10 for the preparation of (PFRs) / FRs / DPRs of river link proposals under NPP, preparation of PFRs/ FRs of Intra-state links proposed by states and other studies in this regard by NWDA. NWDA has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 271.44 crore from 1982-83 upto October, 2009 for carrying out above works.

(e) to (g) The completion of link proposals under NPP depends upon consensus and cooperation of concerned states and agreement with neighbouring countries. The policy of the Government is to implement the scheme by consensus. The Government has constituted a group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) and consisting of other officers of CWC, NWDA and Secretaries of Irrigation/Water Resources Departments of the concerned states in June, 2002 to discuss with the states the issues for arriving at a consensus regarding sharing of surplus water and preparation of DPRs by NWDA.

[English]

Welfare Fund for Overseas Workers

2215. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Community Welfare Fund has been constituted to extend on site welfare services to Indian Workers in distress;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner by which this fund is created and utilised?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) The Ministry has set up the 'Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)' in the Indian Missions in 17 Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) Countries and Maldives to provide on-site welfare for the Overseas Indian Citizens who are in distress. The Fund (ICWF) is aimed at providing the following services on a means tested basis in the most deserving cases:

- (i) Boarding and lodging for distressed overseas Indian workers in Household/domestic sectors and unskilled labourers;
- (ii) Extending emergency medical care to the overseas Indians in need;
- (iii) Providing air passage to stranded overseas Indians in need;
- (iv) Providing initial legal assistance to the overseas Indians in deserving cases.
- (v) Expenditure on incidentals and for airlifting the mortal remains to India or local cremation/burial of the deceased overseas Indian in such cases where a sponsor is unable or unwilling to do so as per the contract and the family is unable to meet the cost.

The ICWF is funded through budgetary support from the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, funds raised by the Indian Missions by levying service charge on Consular services and through Voluntary contributions from the Indian community. The Fund is administered by the respective Heads of Missions.

[Translation]

Per Capita Income and National Income

2216. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:
SHRI P.L. PUNIA:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita income and the national income of the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the per capita income and the national income has increased during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to increase the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) According to the Press Notes on " Revised Estimates of Annual National Income, 2008-09 and Quarterly Estimates of Gross Domestic Product, 2008-09" released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) on 29th May, 2009 the estimates of per capita income (measured in terms of per capita Net National Product (NNP) at factor cost) and National income (measured - in terms of Net National product at factor cost) during the last three years are given in table.

Table: Per Capita Income and National Income at factor cost

Year	At constant (1999-00) prices		At current prices	
	Per Capita Income (Rs.)	National Income (Rs. crores)	Per Capita Income (Rs.)	National Income (Rs. crores)
2006-07	22,580	25,33,432	29,524	33,12,568
2007-08	24,295	27,64,795	33,283	37,87,597
2008-09	25,494	29,41,971	37,490	43,26,384

(b) and (c) For the current year 2009-10 data is available only for Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the first two quarters. According to this data, the GDP at constant prices (1999-00) during April to September 2009 is estimated to have grown by 7.0% over the corresponding period of previous year. The data on per capita income and the national income is not compiled on quarterly basis.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting up of Wildlife Forensic Facility

2217. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for setting-up of Wildlife Forensic Facility at Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi in Trichur District, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Madam. No proposal for setting of wildlife forensic facility at Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi in Trichur District, Kerala has been received.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Radiation Emergency Response Centre

2218. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a network of radiation emergency response centres in different parts of the country to deal with nuclear emergency situations;

(b) if so, the details thereof **alongwith the cost** involved;

(c) the benefits that are likely to be **accrued** as a result thereof; and

(d) the time by which such centres are likely to be operational in the country with their locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Government has set up Eighteen (18) Emergency Response Centres (DAE-ERCs) at the following locations:—

1. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai.
2. Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS), Tarapur.
3. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS), Kakrapar.
4. Kaiga Generating Station (KGS), Kaiga.
5. Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS), Kota
6. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Jaipur.
7. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Shillong.
8. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Nagpur.
9. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Bangalore.
10. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Delhi.
11. Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS), Narora.
12. Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), Alwaye.
13. Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), Jaduguda.
14. Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC), Kolkata.
15. Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Hyderabad.
16. Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS), Kalpakkam.
17. Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (RRCAT), Indore.
18. Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP), Kudankulam.

These centres are developed for the preparedness for response to any nuclear and radiological emergencies affecting the public domain. The ERCs will also provide appropriate advice to the administration/local security agencies regarding the counter/rescue measures etc., required in the presence of any radiation field/contamination in public domain either due to any accident or by deliberate acts.

The emergency response centres are having various radiation monitoring systems for the quick assessment of the radiological status by the Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) comprising of radiation safety experts of DAE.

Additionally these centres are being utilized for training of the 'First responders from NDRF (National Disaster Response Force).

These 18 ERCs are developed at a total cost of Rs. 9.25 crores.

(c) This will strengthen emergency preparedness and response capability of the nation and will enable the first responders from NDRF/Police or any other agencies to get proper advice and guidance in case of nuclear and radiological emergency in public domain.

(d) The 18 ERCs mentioned at (b) above are in operation.

Conservation of Dal Lake

2219. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has sanctioned Rs. 300 crores for the clean-up of the Dal Lake, in Srinagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in cleaning this Lake;

(c) whether any comparative water analysis survey since the launch of the project has been carried out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the mechanism evolved by the Government to monitor the progress of this task?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) The project of 'Conservation and Management Plan for Dal-Nagin Lake in Srinagar', Jammu and Kashmir was sanctioned in September, 2005 for Rs. 298.76 crore under the National Lake Conservation Plan of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Works relating to various components of the project namely, sewerage system and sewage treatment plants, hydraulic works, solid waste management, catchment area treatment, dredging and de-weeding, shore-line development works, public awareness and participation, etc. are under execution by Jammu and Kashmir Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (Jammu and Kashmir LWDA), the State implementing agency for the project. An amount of Rs. 160.01 crore has been made available so far by Government of India to the implementing agency, against which an expenditure of Rs. 141.89 crore has been incurred till the end of October, 2009. Three sewage treatment plants having a total treatment capacity of 15.2 mild (million litres per day) have been commissioned. The overall physical progress of the project till end of October, 2009 is 48%.

(c) to (e) Analysis of the water quality of the lake is being regularly carried out by the Jammu and Kashmir LWDA and State Pollution Control Board. The water quality of the lake in terms of some critical parameters viz. dissolved oxygen, nitrogen and phosphorous loads has shown improvement over the years since the start of the project.

Release of Funds from CAMPA

2220. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh is pending with the Ministry for the release of funds from the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA);

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the amount sought for release;

(c) the action taken or being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for delay in releasing the funds to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had submitted the Annual Plan of Operations (APO) of Rs. 105.49 crores (for 3 year) for undertaking site specific activities such as Compensatory Afforestation (CA), Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA), Penal Compensatory Afforestation (PCA), Catchment Area Treatment Plan (CAT), etc., and Rs. 565.58 crores (for 5 year) for the activities proposed to utilise money under Net Present Value.

(c) and (d) The Central Government with the concurrence of the Supreme Court of India formulated the guidelines in consultation with the States/Union Territories to utilize the money deposited in Ad-hoc CAMPA by establishing State CAMPAs. As per these guidelines and the Supreme Court order dated 10.7.2009, a sum of Rs. 1000 crores per year, for the next 5 years, shall be released to the State CAMPAs in proportion of 10% of the principal amount deposited by the States/Union Territories in Ad-hoc CAMPA subject to fulfilment of following conditions:

(i) the details of the bank account opened by the State Executive Committee (in Nationalized Bank) are intimated to the Ad-hoc CAMPA;

(ii) the amount towards the NPV and the protected area may be released after the schemes have been reviewed by the State Level Executive Committee and the Annual Plan of Operation is approved by the Steering Committee; and

- (iii) the amount towards CA, Additional CA, PCA and the Catchment Area Treatment Plan may be released in the respective bank accounts of the States/UTs immediately for taking up site specific works already approved by the MoEF while granting prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Accordingly, an amount of about Rs. 89.78 crores have been released to the State CAMPA Andhra Pradesh on 28.08.2009 after fulfilling the requisite conditions.

Plan for Carbon Emission Check

2221. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any ambitious plans to keep carbon emission of the country under check;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set norms in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the range of incentives proposed for various sectors mentioned in Kyoto Protocol; and

(e) the extent to which these norms and incentives are likely to help in climate change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Government has released the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which outlines India's strategy to meet the challenge of Climate Change. Two of the eight National Missions i.e. National Solar Mission and National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency relate to mitigation of emissions and include ambitious programmes aimed at generating solar power and conserving energy. Energy Efficiency mission envisages setting norms for achieving energy efficiency under 'Perform, Achieve and Trade' Scheme. Further, public and private sector entities participate in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol which helps in reducing emissions. These initiatives have the effect of reducing carbon emissions.

(d) Kyoto Protocol permits the use of three flexible mechanisms i.e. Emissions Trading, Joint Implementation and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), out of which the CDM provides incentives in the form of sale of carbon credits by developing countries to developed countries. CDM projects in various sectors e.g. renewables, energy efficiency, biomass, fuel efficiency, transport etc. are eligible for these incentives.

(e) Incentives available through sale of Certified Emission Reduction (CERs) under the CDM help in mitigating the financial and other risks of projects in developing countries. India has approved 1464 CDM projects which, if registered by the Executive Board of CDM, can result in flow of US \$ 6.15 billion into the country through sale of CERs till 2012.

Diplomatic Pressure on Myanmar

2222. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India is putting some kind of diplomatic pressure on Myanmar to restore democracy there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India alongwith USA is also urging the Myanmar Government to release Aung San Suu Kyi from detension; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) We have emphasized to the Government of Myanmar that the process of national reconciliation and political reform initiated by the Government of Myanmar should be taken forward expeditiously. We have reiterated that it should be inclusive and broad-based, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the various ethnic groups. India will continue to play a constructive role in working towards this end.

Scrapping Centrally Sponsored Scheme

2223. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government runs as many as 138 Centrally Sponsored Schemes and the proposal to scrap and merge a few identical programmes into manageable schemes remains unsolved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had appointed an independent evaluation office for evaluation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in operation at present is 138. Plan Schemes are discontinued/merged/modified on the basis of Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise while preparing a Plan. The primary purpose of ZBB exercise is to ensure convergence, efficiency and efficacy of schemes according to Plan objectives and priorities and also the use of available resources in the most judicious and economically efficient manner. Such an exercise is done regularly.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. The Government has not appointed an independent evaluation office for evaluation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Heritage Sites in Tentative List of UNESCO

2224. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some structures of India are in the tentative list of UNESCO's world heritage sites;

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

(c) whether Golconda Fort is also in the list;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Golconda Fort is facing threat of being removed by the UNESCO from its proposed world heritage site list in the wake of indiscriminate constructions around the site;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government to protect the same;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the details of other heritage sites proposed to be declared as World heritage sites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Details of heritage sites are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Golconda Fort, Hyderabad was included in Tentative List in 1998.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

(h) The heritage sites given at the statement are considered for inscription as World Heritage Sites in future.

Statement

State-wise List of Heritage Sites in India in the Tentative List of UNESCO for nomination as World Heritage Site

State	Sl. No.	Name of the site	Category
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Golconda Fort, Hyderabad, 1998	Cultural
Arunachal Pradesh	2.	Namdapha National Park, 2006	Natural

1	2	3	4
Assam	3.	Majuli Island, 2004	Cultural
Bihar	4.	Tomb of Sher Shah Suri, Sasaram, 1998	Cultural
Bihar	5.	Excavated Remains At Nalanda, 2009	Cultural
Gujarat	6.	Rani Ki Vav, Patan, 1998	Cultural
	7.	Wild Ass Sanctuary, Gir, 2006	Natural
Himachal Pradesh	8.	The Kangra Valley Railway, 2009	Cultural
	9.	Great Himalayan National Park, 2009	Natural
Jammu and Kashmir	10.	Buddhist Monastery Complex, Alchi, Leh, 1998	Cultural
	11.	Hemis Gompa, Leh, 1998	Cultural
Kerala	12.	Mattanchery Palace, Ernakulam, 1998	Cultural
Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra	13.	Western Ghats, 2006	Natural
Madhya Pradesh	14.	Group of Monuments, Mandu, 1998	Cultural
	15.	The Maharaja Railways of India, Gwalior, 2009	Cultural
Maharashtra	16.	Church Gate Extension, Mumbai, 2009	Cultural
	17.	Matheran and its extension, Raigad, 2005	Cultural
Orissa	18.	Bhitarnika Conservation Area, 2009	Natural
Punjab	19.	Sri Harimandir Shahib, Amritsar, 2004	Cultural
	20.	Le Corbusier, Chandigarh, 2005	Cultural
Rajasthan	21.	Desert National Park, 2009	Natural
Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh	22.	The Jantar Mantars of India, Jaipur, Delhi, Ujjain, Varansi, 2009	Cultural
Sikkim	23.	Kangchendzonga National Park, 2006	Natural
Uttar Pradesh	24.	Ancient Buddhist Site Sarnath, 1998	Cultural
Uttarakhand	25.	Oak Grove School, Massoree, 2009	Cultural
West Bengal	26.	Group of Temples Bisnupur, 1998	Cultural
	27.	Neora Valley National Park, 2009	Natural

Base Station at Antarctica

2225. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up third Base Station at Antarctica;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which new Station is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Government has proposed to set up a state-of-art permanent Research base in the Larsemann Hills of East Antarctica, comprising landing place for the barges for offloading men and material, living accommodation for scientists and logistics staff, state-of-the-art laboratory facilities, a fuel dump, helipad, warehousing facilities, water-supply system, waste-water and sewages treatment mechanisms etc. The proposed third Indian station is expected to provide another platform to the Indian scientists to undertake scientific research in East Antarctica.

- (c) The new station is likely to be set up by 2012.

[Translation]

Indus Water Dispute

2226. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Pakistan has held any meeting on Indus water dispute during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (c) With the signing of the Indus Waters Treaty 1960, the Indus water dispute came to an end, with India having

been given the unrestricted use of the waters of the rivers Ravi, Beas, Sutlej along with their tributaries and Pakistan largely having been given the unrestricted use of the waters of the rivers Indus, Jhelum and Chenab along with their tributaries, except for uses by India as specified. Under the provisions of the Treaty, meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission were held during the last three years and the current year, wherein issues arising between the two sides during the course of the implementation of the Treaty were discussed. Both sides exchanged their views with a view to resolve the issues.

[English]

Committee to Change the Nomenclature of SSA

2227. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up any Committee to change the nomenclature of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Committee has submitted its reports;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Madam.

- (b) to (e) Question do not arise.

Attack on Temples in Bangladesh

2228. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Hindu villages are being targeted by muslim extremists in Bangladesh and a few temples and houses have been destroyed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has raised the issue with the Government of Bangladesh;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Bangladesh Government thereto; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to ensure safety and security of Hindus in Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (e) The primary responsibility for the protection of the life and property of all its citizens rests with the Government of Bangladesh. It has been conveyed to the Government of Bangladesh that the lives and property of all minorities, including the Hindus, should be protected. The Government of Bangladesh have assured us that they are committed to safeguarding minority rights.

Mining Activities in Forest Land

2229. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has leased the forest land for mining activities in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the total area of forest land so leased out for mining alongwith the terms and conditions, State-wise;

(c) whether the mining agencies are following the terms and conditions satisfactorily; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Union Government, on the

request of the concerned State/UT Governments, has diverted forest land for lease allowing mining activities. Since the enactment of the Act, a total of 1309 cases have been approved under various categories of mining involving diversion of about 1,00,871 hectare of forest land. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement. The Union Government, while according approval, does impose certain conditions to minimize adverse impact of mining activities on environment. These conditions comprise of general conditions like, Compensatory Afforestation, demarcation of the lease area on ground, environmental clearance etc. and standard conditions like, phased reclamation of the mined area, safety zone, Catchment Area Treatment Plan, strip plantation etc. and specific conditions keeping in view the impact of the project. Additionally, the Union/State Government may impose any other condition in the interest of conservation, protection or development of forests, wildlife and environment.

(c) and (d) The Union Government accords approval to the diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes only after the compliance report indicating fulfilment of the stipulated conditions is received through the State Government. In general, the stipulated conditions are fulfilled by the User Agency. The monitoring of the compliance of stipulated conditions is primarily ensured by the concerned State/UT Government and the six Regional Offices of the Ministry. However, in case of violations of the stipulated conditions, the Act provides for penal actions against the offenders which, *inter alia*, include penal Compensatory Afforestation, additional Compensatory Afforestation etc.

Statement

Category of Project: Mining

As On: 27.11.2009

Sl. No.	State/UT	Approved During the Period: 25.10.1980 to 31.12.2004		Approved During the Period: 01.01.2005 to 27.11.2009	
		No. of cases	Area (in ha)	No. of cases	Area (in ha)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8	19.59	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	127	12869.27	36	2889.43
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	53.25	7	7.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Assam	43	103.06	33	50.72
5.	Bihar	9	417.57	0	0
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	59	12843.65	34	2079.09
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
9.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
10.	Delhi	0	0	0	0
11.	Goa	39	1530.39	7	184.18
12.	Gujarat	52	9761.08	1	31.20
13.	Haryana	0	0	0	0
14.	Himachal Pradesh	36	945.25	9	248.73
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0
16.	Jharkhand	92	8867.74	3	97.66
17.	Karnataka	109	8401.06	25	2196.94
18.	Kerala	1	29.20	0	0
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	119	9314.86	15	1061.36
21.	Maharashtra	88	2372.75	9	848.13
22.	Manipur	0	0	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
24.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
25.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
26.	Orissa	119	13996.37	20	1278.46
27.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0
28.	Punjab	0	0	1	1.66

1	2	3	4	5	6
29.	Rajasthan	141	4310.08	2	1150.00
30.	Sikkim	0	0	1	4.64
31.	Tamil Nadu	24	351.85	4	11.45
32.	Tripura	3	4.52	4	8.05
33.	Uttar Pradesh	5	2006.44	0	0
34.	Uttaranchal	14	247.72	0	0
35.	West Bengal	5	276.91	0	0
Total		1098	88722.61	211	12148.71

Grand total = No. of cases – 1309; Area – 1,00,871 hectare

Central Universities in Jammu and Kashmir

2230. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up two separate Central Universities for the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the second University has been approved in place of Indian Institute of Management (IIM);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the funding pattern of these two Universities; and

(f) the time by which these Universities are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Central Universities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009 was promulgated by the President on 20.10.2009 to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009. By way of this amendment, the Central University of Jammu and Kashmir has been renamed as the Central University of Kashmir with territorial

jurisdiction limited to the Kashmir Division and a new university by the name of Central University of Jammu having territorial jurisdiction extending to the Jammu Division has been established. The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2009 has since been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 24.11.2009 for replacement of the said Ordinance.

(c) and (d) Earlier, the Government had decided to set up one Central University and one Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in the State during the current Plan period but in view of the constant demand for a second Central University and severe constraints on the availability of financial resources, it was decided to shelve the establishment of IIM and to establish a second Central University.

(e) The financial requirement of each of these Universities during the 11th Plan period is estimated at Rs. 240 crore. This expenditure would be met by the Central Government through the University Grants Commission.

(f) The first Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Kashmir has already been appointed with effect from 2.3.2009 and, pending finalization of permanent site, the University has started functioning from a temporary office in Srinagar. The process for appointment of the first Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Jammu has also been set in motion and the University is likely to start functioning soon.

[Translation]

**National Curriculum
Framework, 2005**

2231. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NCERT has developed a new syllabus with the objective of providing simple and stress free education to school going children;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps taken or being taken by the Government to provide uniform and quality school education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005, seeks to make learning a joyful experience for the students. Based on NCF - 2005, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has developed syllabi and textbooks for all stages of school education.

(e) Uniform Syllabi developed by NCERT, based on NCF - 2005 have been prescribed by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for all its affiliated schools. Several States have adopted or adapted curricula and syllabi developed by NCERT. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, quality parameters such as basic infrastructure, school and class-room environment, teacher training etc. have been identified for providing assistance to the States to achieve them.

[English]

**Credit from International Forum for
Forestry Management**

2232. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India has not been able to get any credit at international forums for the work in the forestry management;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) No, Madam. India's role in the field of forestry is widely recognised, including India's efforts at stabilization of country's Forest and Tree Cover while ensuring inclusive development of the local communities through Sustainable Forest Management practices, capacity building of officers of other countries including SAARC countries by way of training in various aspects of forestry in leading forestry institutions of India, etc.

(c) Country is an active participant of a number of international treaties, forums and processes related to forestry which include United Nations' instruments/bodies including United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNFCCC), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) instruments/bodies including Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), Asia Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN); International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), etc.

[Translation]

Development of Forests

2233. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take several measures to promote forest based industries for the benefit of tribals and the people working therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the schemes being launched /proposed to be launched by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Government has initiated various steps to promote sustainable forest management of forests, which inter-alia include value addition of Timber and Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs) through schemes including National Afforestation programme, Integrated development of Wildlife Habitats, Intensification of forest management scheme, etc. to improve the livelihood generation sources for the local communities including tribals by involvement of these communities.

[English]

Fluency in Three Languages

2234. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an annual conference of Council of Boards of School Education (COBSE) was held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the issues discussed therein;

(c) whether it was urged in the said conference that Board should ensure fluency in three languages viz. English, Hindi and mother tongue;

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

(e) the action plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The annual conference of Council of Boards of School Education (COBSE) was held on 24 and 25 August, 2009 at New Delhi. The theme of the Conference was "Role of Boards

of School Education, and Examination Reforms". The issues discussed at this Conference related mainly to examination reforms, specially in the context of National Curriculum Framework, 2005.

(c) and (d) It was recommended to the Boards to take concrete measures to ensure the implementation of the three language formula.

(e) COBSE is an association of the Boards of School Education in India, and it is for the member Boards to take appropriate action on the implementations of the Conference.

Smuggling of Indian Artifacts

2235. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of smuggling of Indian artifacts, which are mostly stolen from archaeological sites, have been increasing in the country in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether the Government has proposed to set up antiques data base in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has set up any Committee of experts for preparation of antiques data base in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the antiques data is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Madam

(b) Yes, Madam

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India has launched "National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities" (NMMA) on 19th March, 2007 which has the mandate of documenting archaeological resources, including antiquities, throughout the country.

(d) and (e) The NMMA has set up State Level Implementation Committees (SLIC) in about 20 States and in the remaining states setting up of SLICs is in the offing. These SLICs comprise of heritage experts, State and Central Government officials. They, with the help of a large number of documentation centres across the country are required to prepare data base of monuments and antiquities.

(f) The NMMA is given 5 years time-frame ending in March 2012 to accomplish the task.

Conservation of Kollam Lake

2236. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sasthamcotta fresh water lake in Kollam is under threat from being choked by water lilies which have covered 15% of its surface area as well as from saline water seeping in as a result of the breaching of the nearby Pattakadavu bund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the local environmental groups have made any representation to this effect to various authorities demanding the constitution of a statutory body for the protection of this lake;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to conserve this fresh water lake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Though many wetlands in the country are under threat due to various anthropogenic pressures, there is no corroborative evidence of Sasthamcotta fresh water lake being under threat due to weed infestation or from seepage from Pattakadavu bund. The State Government has already taken action to repair the Pattakadavu bund which had some breach recently.

(c) and (d) Some Non-Governmental organizations have made representations to the State Government demanding the constitution of a statutory body for the

protection of Sasthamcotta lake. The Kerala Government has already initiated action in this regard.

(e) Sasthamcotta has been identified as one of the wetlands under the National Wetland Conservation Programme under which financial assistance is provided for undertaking conservation activities based on the action plan submitted by the State Government. The State Government has taken up sanitation and pollution abatement activities under its Suchitra Mission.

Autonomy to IITs

2237. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Anil Kakodkar to improve the working of IITs by giving autonomy to them;

(b) if so, the terms of reference and composition of the Committee; and

(c) the time by which its Report is likely to be submitted to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. In the recent meeting of the Council of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), held on 19th October, 2009, under the chairmanship of Minister of Human Resource Development, it has *inter-alia* been decided to constitute a Committee, headed by Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT-Bombay and four other members, to suggest a road map for future of the IITs, including giving them more autonomy and suggest ways and means for raising more resources and also to bring focus back on research. The Committee will submit its report within four months.

IIMs & IITs as full-fledged Universities

2238. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes

of Management (IIMs) into full-fledged universities, as recommended by the Prof. Yash Pal Committee on higher education;

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

(c) whether the Government also proposes to implement the recommendations of R.C. Bhargava Review Committee on IIMs to address the issues of shortcomings in governance and lack of accountability;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The recommendation made by the Prof. Yash Pal Committee is under examination in the Ministry.

(c) and (d) Some of the recommendations made by the R.C. Bhargava Review Committee on IIMs have already been implemented such as reduction of size of the Boards of new IIMs and involvement of existing IIMs in establishment and management of new IIMs etc.

(e) Does not arise.

Adult Education Centres

2239. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up Adult Education Centres at the panchayat levels; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Saakshar Bharat provides for establishment of Lok Shiksha Kendras (Adult Education Centres) in Grain Panchayats of the districts covered under the programme. Lok Shiksha Kendras will be responsible for coordinating the entire range of activities under the programme within their territorial jurisdiction.

Autonomy to National Commission for Higher Education and Research

2240. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a Constitutional Amendment Bill to grant autonomy to the proposed National Commission for Higher Education and Research; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

Encroachment of Land

2241. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:
CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Chhattisgarh for environment clearance in favour of Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints against BALCO for illegal mining activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed the Government to maintain *status quo* in the case of BALCO for encroaching land and deforestation activities;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Two proposals, involving 639.169 ha for Bauxite mining in Saguja district and 365.056 ha for

coal mining in Dharamjaygarh district of Chhattisgarh, were received for environment clearance (EC). The proposal for Bauxite mine was accorded EC on 06.10.2008 by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) According to the information provided by the State Government majority of the land under possession of BALCO falls in the category of revenue forest/chhote-bade Jhar ke jungle and complaints of illegal felling of trees have been received from time to time. In one such case, a fine of Rs. 4,04,000/- was realized from BALCO. Some of the complaints are pending in the Court of Upper Collector, Korba for decision. However, the recent complaint dated 19.02.2006 received from Dainik Jagaran, Raipur about illicit mining of Bauxite by BALCO was found to be baseless by the State Forest Department.

(e) and (f) The Supreme court vide its order dated 29.02.2008 considered the report filed by CEC on BALCO. It was alleged that BALCO is in possession of illegal encroachment to the extent of land/revenue forest land. they are using for non-forest purpose. The court directed BALCO to file its response on the report of CEC. The Court further directed that BALCO, meanwhile, shall not cut/remove trees, if any. The Forest/Revenue Department shall not permit to remove the trees which are already cut.

(g) BALCO was directed to pay Rs. 30,52,69,839/- as NPV for 325.101 ha of revenue forest land and Rs. 4,70,97,382/- as compensatory afforestation as per directions contained in its order dated 17.10.2007 of the Supreme Court in WP (civil) no. 202/1995 and 171/1996 and by the High Court, Bilaspur order dated 06.02.2009 in WP no.5328/1996.

The matter has not been finally decided by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions

2242. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up National Authority for Regulation in Accreditation of higher educational institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the main functions and objectives of the Authority;

(c) the modalities being developed to regulate the process of accreditation;

(d) whether the views of all stake holders have also been taken in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which such Authority is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) and (f) Proposal for mandatory accreditation of all higher education institutions and programmes of study therein and for the purpose to establish a National Regulatory Authority for Accreditation of Higher Educational Institution is under consideration of the Government.

(d) and (e) The draft of the proposal was discussed in the 56th meeting held on 31st August, 2009 of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), the highest policy advisory body to advise the Central Government and State Governments and having representation from various stakeholder groups in education. CABE approved the proposal for mandatory accreditation and assessment in higher education with the rider that the proposed law should take into consideration the concerns expressed by some States with regard to the autonomy of the process of accreditation.

The State Governments of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat have also separately welcomed the proposal. No adverse comment has been received from any other State Government.

Protected Green River Zone

2243. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experts and activists working for rejuvenation of India's threatened rivers has requested the Union Government for demarcation of land belonging to

the rivers, flood plains and water bodies and notification of such lands as "Protected Green River Zones";

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (d) whether they have also sought budgetary allocations for the purpose and to take measures to stop encroachments;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) As per the information received from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, no such request has been received from the Experts and Activists for demarcation of land belonging to the rivers, flood plains, water bodies and for notification of such land, as "Protected River Zones".

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Fixing Priorities in Five Year Plan

2244. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has spelled out priorities in the implementation of current Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the specific areas identified for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase allocation of funds to these areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. The growth targets have been translated in terms of the multi-dimensional economic and social objectives in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, reflecting the inclusiveness of this growth. There are 27 targets coming under six major categories at the national level for realizing inclusive growth, and these major categories are: (a) Income and Poverty (b) Education (c) Health (d) Women and Children (e) Infrastructure (f) Environment.

(c) and (d) The projected Eleventh Five Year Plan allocations under these priority areas as compared to Tenth Five Year Plan allocations are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Table: Sectoral Allocation- Tenth Plan and Eleventh Plan

(Rs. crore at 2006-07 prices)

S.No.	Sectors	Tenth Plan		Eleventh Plan	
		BE#	% of Total	Projected	% of Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Education	62461	7.68	274228	19.29
2	Rural Development Land Resources and Panchayati Raj	87041	10.70	190330	13.39
3	Health Family Welfare and Ayush	45771	5.62	123900	8.71
4	Agriculture and Irrigation	50639	6.22	121556	8.55
5	Social Justice	36381	4.47	90273	6.35

1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Physical Infrastructure	89021	10.94	128160	9.01
7	Scientific Departments	29823	3.66	66580	4.68
8	Energy	47266*	5.81	57409	4.04
	Total Priority Sector	448403	55.10	1052436	74.03
9	Others	365375	44.90	369275	25.97
	Total	813778	100.00	1421711	100.00

Source: Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) Document.

Note: # Tenth Plan BE represents the actual allocation during the five years and not the original Tenth Plan projections;

* includes APDRP (Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme) grant component only.

[English]

Visits of Foreign Dignitaries to India

2245. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

SHRI RAMESH RATHOD:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

SHRI P. VISWANATHAN:

DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of visits by foreign dignitaries to India during the last four months till date;

(b) the issues on which deliberations were held with them;

(c) whether any bilateral agreements were signed and any promises were made by them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of visits undertaken by the Prime Minister as well as External Affairs Minister during the above period;

(f) the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to further improve the relations with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (e) Details of visits by foreign Heads of State, Vice Presidents, Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers to India and visits abroad of Hon'ble Prime Minister and of the External Affairs Minister during the last four months are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

(b) to (d) and (f) and (g) Details are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

Visits of Heads of State, Vice Presidents, Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers who have visited India in the past four months

Sl.No	Dignitary	Dates
1	2	3
1.	H.E. Ms. Sujata Koirala, Nepalese Foreign Minister	10-14 August 2009
2.	H E Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, PM of Nepal	18-22 August 2009

1	2	3
3.	H.E. Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of Namibia	30 August-03 Sep 2009
4.	H.E. Dr. Dipu Moni, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh	7-10 September 2009
5.	H.E. Mr. Lars Lokke Rasmussen, Prime Minister of Denmark	11-12 September 2009
6.	H.M. King George Tupou, King of Tonga	11-20 September 2009
7.	H.E. Mr. Mizengo K Pinda, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania	13-17 September 2009
8.	H.E. Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia	13-16 September 2009
9.	H.E. Madam Nguyen Thi Doan, Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam	30 September-4 October 2009
10.	H.E. Mr. Moctar Ouane, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mali	8-13 October 2009.
11.	H.E. Mr. Mohamad Nasheed, President of Maldives	21-25 October 2009
12.	H.E. Mr. Sergei Lavrov Russian Foreign Minister of Russia	27 October 2009
13.	H.E. Mr. Alexis Thambwe Mwamba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo.	27-30 October 2009
14.	H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of Sri Lanka	31 October 2009
15.	H.E. Mr. Ratnasiri Wickremanayake, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka	31 Oct.-01 November 2009
16.	H.E Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt, PM of Sweden – India EU Summit	5-7 November 2009
17.	HRH The Crown Prince of Spain	10-12 November 2009
18.	H.E. Mr. Kevin Rudd, PM of Australia	11-13 November 2009
19.	H.E. Mr. Jaime Bermudez Merizalde, Foreign Minister and H.E. Mr. Luis Guillermo Plata Paez Trade, Industry and Tourism Minister of Colombia	10-11, November 2009
20.	H.E. Mrs. Maite Nkoana Mashabane, Minister for International Relations of South Africa	12-16 November 2009
21.	H.E. Mr. Stephen Harper, PM of Canada	15-18 November 2009
22.	H.E. Mr. Jose Brito, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities, Cape Verde	18-21 November 2009.
23.	H.E. Manouchehr Mottaki, Foreign Minister of Iran	16-17 November 2009

Statement-II*Visits abroad of Hon'ble Prime Minister and of the Minister of External Affairs during the last four months***Visits abroad of Prime Minister of India**

1.	PM to Pittsburgh, USA for G-20 Summit	September 22-27
2.	PM to Thailand [7th ASEAN-INDIA Summit]	October 23-25
3.	PM to USA	November 22-26
4.	PM to Trinidad and Tobago for CHOGM	November 26-28

Visits abroad of External Affairs Minister

Sl. No.	Place	Date of Dep.	Date of Arr	Purpose of visit
1.	Thimpu, Bhutan	18.6.09	19.6.09	Official visit
2.	Trieste, Italy and Prague, Czech Republic	25.6.09	01.07.09	G-8 + outreach Ministerial meeting on Af-Pak/India-EU Troika talks + Bilateral
3.	Tokyo, Japan	02.07.09	05.07.09	Annual bilateral Ministerial level strategic dialogue
4.	Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt	12.07.09	17.07.09	NAM Ministerial and NAM Summit
5.	Phuket, Thailand	21.07.09	23.07.09	EAS/ASEAN-India/ASEAN
6.	Singapore, Australia	04.08.09	09.08.09	India-PIF Post Forum Dialogue in Australia and bilateral talks with Australia
7.	Brazil	31.07.09	01.08.09	Trilateral Ministerial Meeting, JCM and Bilateral
8.	Belarus, Turkmenistan	15.9.2009	18.9.09	Bilateral Meetings
9.	New York, USA	22.9.09	27.9.09	UNGA
10.	Moscow, Tashkent	20.10.09	24.10.09	Bilateral Meetings
11.	Washington, USA	21.11.09	25.11.09	State visit of PM
12.	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	26.11.09	29.11.09	CHOGM

Statement-III

Afghanistan External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, visited Kabul on November 18-19, 2009 to represent India at the inauguration ceremony of President Hamid Karzai. In his inauguration address delivered after he was sworn in. President Hamid Karzai specifically mentioned that Afghanistan enjoys strategic relations with India. He also referred to India's contribution of US\$ 1.3 billion to

Afghanistan's reconstruction and to thousands of Afghan students educated in Indian universities. During the inauguration ceremony and at the lunch that followed, EAM had the opportunity to briefly interact with a number of dignitaries present including Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta. At a round table meeting of Foreign Ministers arranged by the Afghan Foreign Minister following lunch, EAM reiterated India's abiding interest in Afghanistan and its commitment

to assisting the Government and people of Afghanistan in realizing a democratic, peaceful, pluralistic and prosperous Afghanistan.

The historical and cultural links between India and Afghanistan have been buttressed by India's significant role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan. India has reiterated its commitment to assisting the Government and people of Afghanistan in realizing a democratic, peaceful, pluralistic and prosperous Afghanistan.

Argentina President of Argentina Dr. Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner visited India from Oct. 13-15, 2009. Discussions between our leadership and President of Argentina covered bilateral, regional and global issues. On bilateral issues, the principal focus was on developing economic and commercial linkage over a wide area including agriculture and agro industry, mining and hydrocarbons. Also discussed were cooperation in science and technology and in multilateral fora including the UN.

Ten Agreements/MoUs were signed:

- (i) Exchange of Letters for Business Visa providing for 5 year multiple entry gratis visa for a single stay of 90 days;
- (ii) Program of Cooperation in Science and Technology for 2009-11;
- (iii) MoU on Sports Cooperation;
- (iv) MoU on cooperation in the field of Trade Promotion and Technology transfer in International Trade;
- (v) Institutional Cooperation Agreement between the Argentine Council on Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India;
- (vi) MOU for cooperation and technical assistance between Argentine SEGEMAR and Geological Survey of India (GSI);
- (vii) Agreement on Outer Space;
- (viii) MoU between INTI and National Research Development Corporation (NRDC);
- (ix) MoU between ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) and ENARSA; and
- (x) Agreement for cooperation in the peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy

Australia During the visit of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on 11-12 November 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding on Water Resources Management was signed. Bilateral, regional, international and economic issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Building upon the significant expansion of our relations in recent years, the Prime Ministers of India and Australia upgraded the relationship to a strategic partnership and affirmed their desire to intensify their contacts with each other. They emphasized the need to reinvigorate bilateral parliamentary exchanges and welcomed the proposal to establish a new Young Political Leaders Exchange Programme. The two Prime Ministers acknowledged the signing of a MOU on Cooperation in the field of Water Resources. The recent agreement on India-Australia holding an Annual Ministerial Dialogue on Education was yet another decision. Australian Prime Minister reiterated Australia's support for India's candidature for a permanent seat of a reformed UNSC.

Australia has emerged as a major destination for Indian students with more than 80,000 students pursuing studies in Australia. PM conveyed his concerns to Prime Minister Rudd about the safety, security and well being of our students and the Indian community in Australia. The Australian Prime Minister has assured that Australia is fully committed to ensuring their security and will take all steps necessary in this regard, including the strengthening of regulatory measures.

On 06 August, 2009, External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, visited Sydney and held meetings with Premier Nathan Rees of New South Wales, prominent Indians, Indian students and ethnic Indian media. In Cairns, following the PFD Partners' Meeting on 07 August, EAM called on PM Kevin Rudd and had bilateral interaction with Foreign Minister Stephen Smith of Australia. From Cairns, EAM and the delegation visited Melbourne on 8-9 August. Apart from his interactions with Indian community and students, EAM

held meetings with Premier John Brumby of Victoria, and the Chancellor of Melbourne University.

During his discussions, EAM shared with Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Foreign Minister Stephen Smith, Indian Government's deep concerns about the safety and security of our students in Australia and impressed that measures need to be put into place, to address their legitimate grievances so that our students get a good quality educational experience. As a result of this high level request, the Australian Government has taken various steps and announced a series of measures, including stricter policing in Victoria and New South Wales, aimed at ensuring the safety and security of Indian students in Australia. These steps have been useful and the incidence of attacks has decreased.

The various Ministerial visits from Australia including the visit of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to India from 11-12 November 2009 and the visit of our EAM to Australia have further strengthened the bilateral relationship.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr. Dipu Moni held delegation level talks with EAM and the entire gamut of bilateral relations were discussed. The Foreign Minister also called on Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Minister for Water Resources and Parliamentary Affairs.

Belarus External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, visited Belarus from 16-17 September 2009.

Agreements signed: (1) Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Physical Training and Sports (2) MoU on Establishing Digital Learning Center at High Technology Park in Minsk

Details of discussions: During the visit, EAM had meetings with his host Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus and discussed matters of mutual interest in bilateral relations and exchanged views on international and regional matters of interest and concern. He also called on H.E. Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus on September 17. He laid a wreath at the Victory Square Monument, in memory of unknown soldiers, in Minsk on September 16.

Brazil External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, visited Brazil from 31st July-1st August, 2009. EAM co-chaired the Joint Commission Meeting. Detailed discussions were held on means and ways for strengthening and diversifying cooperation in various sectors with a special focus on pharmaceuticals, hydrocarbons, mining and agriculture. EAM also interacted with India-Brazil Business Forum and representatives of Indian businesses based in Brazil.

Follow-up steps are being initiated on the Agreements/MoUs signed during this visit.

Canada Mr. Stephen Harper, Canadian Prime Minister visited India during 15-18 November 2009. He met with Prime Minister on 17 November 2009 and discussed all aspects of India-Canada relations and exchanged views on international issues. MOUs on Energy Cooperation and to establish a Joint Study Group to look into the feasibility of an India-Canada Free Trade Agreement were signed during the visit.

India-Canada bilateral agenda agreed by the two sides during the visit of Prime Minister Stephen Harper to India in November 2009 would be implemented to strengthen India-Canada relations.

Cape Verde H.E. Mr. Jose Brito, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities, Cape Verde, visited India from 18-21 November, 2009. Full range of bilateral relations was discussed. Views exchanged on important international and regional issues of common interest such as UN reforms, international terrorism, climate change, energy security and the Doha Round.

Agreements signed Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations:

- Cape Verde Foreign Minister conveyed his government's support for India's candidature for the Non-permanent seat (2011-2012) on the UN Security Council.
- Government of India offered the following assistance:—
 - (i) US\$5 million Line of Credit for setting up of a Technological Park.

- (ii) Rs. 10 million Grant for education sector.
- (iii) Grant for Setting up of an IT Centre of Excellence in Cape Verde.

Colombia Foreign Minister, Mr. Jaime Bermudez Merizalde and Trade, Industry and Tourism Minister Mr. Luis Guillermo Plata Paez of Colombia Nov 10-11, 2009. Held discussions on further enhancing and diversifying bilateral relations with a special focus on cooperation in mining, S&T and space.

Two Agreements were signed:

- (i) MOU on Cooperation in the Area of Bamboo Application; and
- (ii) Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA)

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) H.E. Mr. Alexis Thambwe Mwamba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the DRC visited India from 27-30 October 2009. Full range of bilateral relations was discussed. Views exchanged on important international and regional issues of common interest such as UN reforms, international terrorism, climate change, energy security and the Doha Round.

Agreements signed Cultural Cooperation Agreement between India and DRC.

- Foreign Minister Mwamba conveyed complete solidarity of the government and people of DR Congo with India in combating terrorism, and agreed to collaborate at the UN for early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International terrorism.
- He reiterated DR Congo's support to India's candidatures for both permanent and non-permanent seats (2011-2012) on the UN Security Council.
- Mr. Mwamba appreciated the international peacekeeping efforts of India in DR Congo in particular since early 60s.
- Government of India assured its continued support and cooperation to the DR Congo in its

rapid economic development and announced following programmes of assistance:—

- (i) Lines of Credit for US\$ 263 million for two hydroelectric power projects and the Kinshasa railway system rehabilitation project, in five years as follows.
- (ii) Grants for setting up an IT Training Centre of Excellence and three learning stations under the Hole-in-the-Wall computer education centres.

Denmark The Prime Minister of Denmark, Mr. Lars Lokke Rasmussen paid a working visit to India on September 11, 2009. Danish PM met PM and discussed issues related to upcoming COP-15 Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen (7-18 December 2009). The two leaders also discussed bilateral and regional issues.

India and Denmark signed a MOU on Cooperation in the field of Environment during Danish PM's visit. The MoU on Cooperation in the Field of the Environment will encourage cooperation and exchange of views in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development between the organizations, private institutions and business enterprises, and governments of the two countries.

European Union Prime Minister of Sweden Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt in his capacity as the President of the European Council visited India to attend the India-EU Summit on 6 November 2009. Other dignitaries accompanying him included Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, Mr. Carl Bildt, Foreign Minister of Sweden and Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations, European Commission. Bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest were discussed.

During the Summit, the India-EU Agreement in the field of Nuclear Fusion Energy Research was signed. A Joint Declaration was also issued at the end of the Summit.

Iran Iranian Foreign Minister Mottaki visited India on November 16-17, 2009. During the visit he called on the Hon'ble Vice President and the Prime Minister. He met with EAM and held delegation level talks covering a wide range of bilateral, multilateral and regional issues, including the

threat of terrorism confronting the two countries. Among the topics discussed were cooperation projects in the fields of oil and gas, power, surface transport and infrastructure, including the Chabahar Port and the International North South Corridor. It was agreed that an Indian cultural centre would be set up in Tehran, and an Indian cultural week held in Tehran and Shiraz in 2010. The two sides also discussed trade facilitation mechanisms and the need for an early conclusion of bilateral agreements on investment promotion and protection, avoidance of double taxation and discussions on a Preferential Trade Agreement. The Iranian FM reiterated an invitation to PM from President Ahmadinejad to visit Iran.

India-Iran relations are based not just on multi-faceted historical and civilisational links but also on cooperation in the area of hydrocarbons, trade, commerce and investment, as also a shared interest in regional stability. Iran plays an important role as a transit country for access to Central Asia and Afghanistan. Regular contacts with the Government of Iran are maintained through high level exchanges as also regular institutional mechanisms such as the Joint Commission, the Foreign Office Consultations cum Strategic Dialogue and Consultations between the National Security Councils of the two countries.

Japan At the invitation of Mr. Hirofumi Nakasone, the Foreign Minister of Japan, External Affairs Minister. Shri S.M. Krishna, paid an official visit to Japan from 3-4 July 2009 for the 3rd annual Strategic Dialogue of the Foreign Ministers of India and Japan. Their discussions covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations and regional and global issues of common interest. EAM also called on Mr. Taro Aso, the then Prime Minister of Japan, and met Mr. Seiji Maehara, first Vice President of the opposition Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) during his visit. He also formally inaugurated the new building of the Indian Embassy in Tokyo, and met with members of the Indian community in Japan.

Mali H.E. Mr. Moctar Ouane, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation visited India from 8-13 October 2009. Full range of bilateral relations was discussed. Views exchanged on important international and regional issues of common interest such as UN reforms, international terrorism, climate change, energy security and the Doha Round.

Agreements signed:

- Agreement on political, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation.
- Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations
- MOUs with the EXIM Bank for operationalising the Lines of Credit for (i) US\$36 million electricity inter-connection project between Mali and Cote d'Ivoire; and (ii) US\$15 million in the field of agriculture.

Both sides agreed to jointly work for early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International terrorism.

- India expressed support for the Conference on Peace, Security and Development in the Sahelo Saharian region organized by the Government of Mali.
- Mali offers its support to India's candidature for the non-permanent seat (2011-2012) on the UN Security Council.

Mongolia (a) The President of Mongolia, H.E. Mr. Ts. Elbegdorj paid a State Visit to India on 13-16 September 2009. The two sides discussed all aspects of bilateral relations and exchanged views on international and regional issues of mutual interest.

The following Agreements/Memoranda of Understanding were signed during the visit:

- (1) Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Health.
- (2) Agreement on Stabilization Loan Assistance.
- (3) MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Statistics.
- (4) MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Use of radioactive Minerals and Nuclear Energy.
- (5) Cultural Exchange Programme for 2009-2012.

Necessary follow-up action on the decisions taken at the talks between the two sides during the visit of the Mongolian President are being taken.

Namibia HE Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of Namibia, visited India from 30th August to 3rd September 2009. Enhancement of bilateral relations, international fight against terrorism, cooperation with Africa, UN Reforms, impact of the international financial crises and developments in the respective regions were among the deliberations that were held.

The following Agreements/Memoranda of Understanding were signed during the visit:

- (i) MOU on cooperation in the field of Defence.
- (ii) Country agreement on Pan-African e-network project.
- (iii) MOU on cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources.
- (iv) MOU on exemption from visa requirement for holders of diplomatic and official passports.

Nepal Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Prime Minister of Nepal, visited India from 18-22 August, 2009. Prime Minister's delegation included Mr. Sharat Singh Bhandari, Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. Rajendra Mahto, Minister for Commerce and Supplies, Mr. Surendra Pande, Minister for Finance, Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Energy and Mr. Mahendra Prasad Yadav, Minister for Industry.

During Prime Minister of Nepal's visit, discussion were held on issues of mutual interest and concern and both sides expressed their satisfaction at the state of bilateral relations between the two countries and resolved to work together to further strengthen and enhance cooperation consistent with the wishes and aspirations of the people of both the countries. They also reaffirmed their determination to consolidate and expand the areas of cooperation with a view to taking the relationship to a new height on the basis of mutual respect, understanding and mutual benefit. During the visit, Foreign Secretaries of India and Nepal signed an MoU regarding continuation of Indian grant assistance for the Goitre control programme in Nepal. A Joint Press Statement was also issued during the visit.

The Nepalese Foreign Minister, Ms. Sujata Koirala visited India from 10-14 August 2009. During the visit, issues of mutual interest were discussed. India expressed full support for the successful completion of the peace process and for Nepal's efforts for its economic development. The visit was a preparatory one preceding the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, to India from 18-22 August 2009.

In addition to the on-going programmes of cooperation, Government of India is implementing the decisions taken during the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal.

Russia Russian Foreign Minister Mr. Sergei Lavrov and Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Yang Jie Chi visited Bengaluru for the ninth India-Russia-China Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting, which was held on 27 October 2009. External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Ministers of Russia and China discussed strengthening trilateral cooperation in the areas of agriculture, health, disaster mitigation and relief. There was an exchange of views among the three Ministers on global issues such as UN reforms, climate change and global economic governance architecture. They also exchanged views on developments in the region, including on Afghanistan, Iran and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. It was agreed to strengthen trilateral cooperation including trilateral business interaction. The Ministers condemned terrorism and discussed measures to counter terrorism. A Joint Communique was issued at the end of the meeting reflecting the decisions arrived at during the meeting.

External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna visited Moscow from 20-22 October 2009 to co-chair the 15th session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Sergei Sobyenin. The two sides reviewed the progress on various decisions arrived at during the previous session of the Inter-Governmental Commission and discussed ways of further enhancing bilateral trade and investment relations. Both sides agreed to intensify cooperation in a number of priority sectors such as information technology, pharmaceuticals, fertilisers and

energy. It was also decided to revise the bilateral trade turnover target upwards to US\$ 20 billion by 2015 from the earlier target of US\$ 10 billion by 2010. A protocol reflecting the decisions arrived at during the meeting was signed at the end of the session. On the sidelines, EAM held bilateral discussions with his Russian counterpart Mr. Sergei Lavrov and also called on President Mr. Dmitry Medvedev.

Spain The Crown Prince of Spain Prince Felipe of Asturias paid an official visit to India from 10-11 November, 2009 at the invitation of the Vice President of India. He was accompanied by his spouse Princess Letizia. In New Delhi, the Prince had meetings with the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha and EAM. The Prince also inaugurated the Cervantes Institute in New Delhi, named after the well-known Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes and an Indo-Spanish Investment Seminar in Mumbai. The issues relating to bilateral cooperation in all the areas including political, commercial, cultural and regional and multilateral issues were discussed during the visit.

Sweden The Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Frederik Reinfeldt was on an official visit to India from November 5-7, 2009. Deliberations were held with the Indian leaders including the Prime Minister on the entire gamut of bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of concern to both sides.

The two agreements signed were (a) MoU on Cooperation in the Field of the Environment and (b) MoU on Defence Cooperation.

The MoU on Cooperation in the Field of the Environment will support and encourage the exchange of views and cooperation in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development between the two governments, agencies, academic institutions and enterprises. The MoU concerning Cooperation in the field of Defence envisages exchange of expertise and personnel in military training, military medicine, health services, logistics and maintenance and mutual utilization of military technical cooperation and educational courses and programmes.

Thailand EAM visited Phuket, Thailand for the ASEAN-India and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Conferences on July 22-24, 2009. Prime Minister visited

Hua-Hin/Cha-am, Thailand on October 23-25, 2009 to participate in the 7th India-ASEAN Summit and the 4th East Asia Summit. During the visit, he also held discussions on the sidelines with the Prime Minister of Thailand, apart from other HoSs/HoGs of EAS member countries. During the meetings, discussions were held on various aspects of bilateral and regional cooperation and ways to strengthen these.

Turkmenistan External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, visited Turkmenistan from 17-18 September 2009.

Agreement Signed: Programme of Cooperation between the two Foreign Ministries

Details of discussions: EAM called on the Turkmen President and during the meeting, he offered India's assistance to Turkmenistan in hydrocarbon sector by way of using expertise of Indian companies in the sector. EAM also offered to set up a fertilizer plant in Turkmenistan. EAM also desired India's willingness to cooperate in areas of agriculture, tourism, railways, road construction, transport and IT. During the meeting, they discussed various issues of bilateral interest and regional importance. During official talks between EAM and his Turkmen counterpart, both the Ministers expressed satisfaction on growing relations and cooperation between the two countries. The delegation led by EAM, also had detailed discussions with Turkmen Deputy PM, in-Charge of Oil and Gas sectors, for enhancing cooperation and greater fruitful cooperation in gas and oil sector.

USA Prime Minister paid a State visit to USA during 22-26 November, 2009. He met with US President Barack Obama and discussed India-US relations and its future course of action as per the new Strategic Dialogue agenda. The two leaders reaffirmed their respective commitment to India-US Strategic Partnership. President Obama stated that he saw India-US relationship to be one of the key partnerships of the 21st Century. Bilateral Memorandum of Understandings/Intent on: (i) Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security; (ii) Cooperation on Energy Security, Energy Efficiency, Clean Energy and Climate Change; (iii) Counter Terrorism; (iv) Establishment of a Regional Global Disease Detection Centre in New Delhi; (v) Solar Energy; (vi) Wind Energy and (vii) Intellectual Property Rights were signed

on the sidelines of the visit. An Access Agreement on Traditional Knowledge Digital Library between the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India and the US Patent and Trademark Office was also concluded. A Singh-Obama Knowledge Initiative to strengthen bilateral educational ties and exchanges was also announced during the visit.

External Affairs Minister visited New York during 21-27 September 2009 attend the UNGA Summit. He met with US Secretary of State, Ms. Hillary Clinton and discussed the progress made in the India-US Strategic Dialogue jointly announced by them on 20 July 2009 in New Delhi.

Government of India would be implementing the agenda of India-US Strategic Dialogue jointly announced by the two sides on 20 July, 2009 in New Delhi and the understanding reached between Prime Minister and President Obama during the former's State visit to Washington from 22-26 November, 2009.

USA (G-20) PM visited Pittsburgh, USA from 23-27 September to attend the G-20 Summit. The G-20 Summit agreed on a framework of strong, sustainable and balanced growth. It was decided to continue the stimulus measures till recovery is assured. It also endorsed a package of regulatory measures. The Summit addressed the reform of the international financial institutions and agreed to at least five per cent shift in IMF quotas to dynamic emerging market and developing countries, and a similar shift of at least three percent in World Bank voting power for developing and transition countries. There was agreement that G-20 countries will fight protectionism and aim for a successful conclusion of the Doha Round in 2010.

On Climate change, the G-20 reaffirmed the primacy of the UNFCCC and decided to cooperate for an agreed outcome at Copenhagen.

The Pittsburgh Summit designated the G-20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation.

Uzbekistan External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, visited Uzbekistan from 22-23 October 2009.

Details of discussions: EAM called on the President of Uzbekistan His Excellency Mr. Islam Karimov. Status of

bilateral relations, after the successful visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Tashkent in April 2006, was reviewed. It was decided to give further impetus to agreed sectors of bilateral cooperation, including hydrocarbons and mining, as well as explore new areas of cooperation like health, IT and agriculture. It was noted that relations between India and Uzbekistan rested on strong historical and cultural foundations, and had developed into vibrant and mutually rewarding bilateral relations since 1991.

During talks between EAM and His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Norov, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, issues discussed included trade and economic cooperation, educational and cultural exchange programmes, science and technology and visa policy. Both Ministers expressed satisfaction over growing bilateral cooperation, and discussed regional and global issues.

Vietnam Ms. Nguyen Thi Doan, Vice President of Vietnam paid an official visit to India from Sep 30-October, 4 2009. During her visit, she called on Shri Hamid Ansari, Vice-President and met Shri S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson UPA and Shri L. K. Advani, Leader of Opposition among other dignitaries. Bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Joint Research on Himalayan Glaciers

2246. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have agreed to conduct joint research on protection of Himalayan Glaciers, and conservation of forest reserves;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether two sides have also agreed to share their expertise on issues relating to protection and conservation of tiger and Tibetan antelopes and to enhance forest reserves;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) India and China have signed an Agreement on cooperation on addressing climate change that covers, inter-alia, cooperation in observation and monitoring of climate change and undertaking mutually cooperative activities and programmes as appropriate. One of the cooperative activities under this agreement is to undertake joint research and developmental activities.

(c) to (e) India has bilateral protocol with China, which, inter-alia, stipulates measures to curb illegal activities involved in poaching of tigers, smuggling and selling of tiger bones and other parts of tiger as well as its derivatives.

Dilapidated Condition of Fort of Maharashtra

2247. SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey has been conducted of the forts in Vijaydurga and Sindhudurga in Maharashtra which are of historical importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these forts are in a dilapidated condition and are in urgent need of repairs and further maintenance;

(d) if so, whether Archaeological Survey of India is taking steps to protect and ensure their proper upkeep and maintenance; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V.

NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. On the basis of survey carried out, it has been found that both the forts need certain repair works like filling up of the cavities caused by scouring action of the sea waves, repairs and consolidation of fort walls and other elements of the structures.

(c) to (e) These forts are in fairly good state of preservation. Further the conservation and preservation of monuments is a continuous process. The Archaeological Survey of India undertakes the necessary repairs as per the requirement and availability of financial resources.

[Translation]

Shortage of Teachers in various Professional Institutes

2248. SHRI MAHESH JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of teachers in various professional institute like the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs);

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

(c) whether such institutes are witnessing a constant exodus of their teachers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) There is a gap between the sanctioned strength and the teachers in position in the Centrally funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs) like IITs, IIM. The details are given below:

Sl.No.	Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs)	Faculty Sanctioned Strength	Faculty in position
1	2	3	4
1	Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)	4267	2983
2	Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)	468	388
3	National Institutes of Technology (NITs)	3747	2603

1	2	3	4
4	Schools of Planning & Architecture (SPAs)	127	62
5	Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad	192	138
6	Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISERs).	250	145
7	Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore	478	210
8	National Institute of Training & Industrial Engineering (NITIE), Mumbai	67	46
9	National Institute of Foundry & Forge Technology (NIFFT), Ranchi	42	32

Recruitment of faculty is a continuous process and vacancies keep arising due to retirement, resignations, etc. Institutions plan suitable strategies to attract and retain quality faculty members. The recent pay revision of teachers of Centrally funded Technical institutions subsequent to the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission should go a long way in attracting and retaining teachers in these institutions.

[English]

Nuclear Recycle Board

2249. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up Nuclear Recycle Board for production of plutonium on large scale;

(b) if so, the objectives and composition of the Board; and

(c) the action plan drawn up by the Board for the current plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Madam. Order setting up Nuclear Recycle Board (NRB) has been issued on 24.09.2009.

(b) The objective of the NRB is speedier implementation of the reprocessing projects, commercial scale operation of the plants and to manage associated Waste Management activities in integrated plants. The composition of the Nuclear Recycle Board is given below:

1. Director, BARC	Chairman
2. Director, IGCAR	Member
3. Joint Secretary (Finance), DAE	Member
4. Joint Secretary (I&M), DAE	Member
5. Joint Secretary (R&D), DAE	Member
6. Internal Financial Adviser of Board	Member
7. Director, Nuclear Recycle Group, BARC	Member
8. Director, Nuclear Fuels Group, BARC	Member
9. Chief Executive, Heavy Water Board	Member
10. Chief Executive of the Board	Member-Secretary.

(c) The Nuclear Recycle Board is yet to start functioning.

[Translation]

Production of Uranium

2250. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of uranium has increased during the last three years in the country;

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

(c) whether production of uranium in the country is sufficient to meet the requirement of nuclear plants in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make the country self-reliant in the production of uranium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) It is not in public interest to disclose information on the quantity of uranium produced in the country.

(c) No, Madam. At present there is a mismatch in the requirement and production of uranium in the country.

(d) and (e) In order to meet the enhanced requirement of uranium for the country's nuclear power programme, Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a public sector undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy has embarked upon a massive expansion programme to augment its production capacity substantially. UCIL besides operating six mines and two processing plants in Jharkhand is constructing a new mine at Mohuldih in Jharkhand and a new mine and a processing plant at Tummalapalle in the Cuddapah District, Andhra Pradesh, a mine and mill at Kylleng Pyndengsohiong Mawthabah (KPM) in the West Khasi Hill District of Meghalaya State and a mine and mill at Gogi in the Gulbarga District of Karnataka State. However these projects will be taken up after receipt of all statutory clearances and approval of the Government of India.

[English]

Reduction in Teaching Posts in IITs

2251. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has reduced the number of sanctioned teaching posts in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs);

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

(c) the number of vacant teaching posts in IITs in the country and since when these posts are lying vacant;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) As per the meeting of the Standing Committee of IIT Council (SCIC), held on 05.03.2005, the teacher-student ratio in the Indian institutes of Technology (IITs) was being taken as 1:9. Subsequently, the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, in its communication dated 19.03.2008, delegated the powers of creation of faculty posts in IITs to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, subject to the norm of faculty-student ratio as 1:10.

(c) to (e) Number of vacant teaching posts at present, as reported by the IITs, is 1345. Vacancies arise due to retirement, resignation, joining of faculty members in other Institutes, etc. IITs are autonomous institutions and recruitment of faculty is done by them as per their respective Statutes and not by the Government. Recruitment of faculty is a continuous process and all out efforts are made by the Institutes to fill up the vacant posts. IITs have been employing suitable strategies to attract and retain quality faculty which include provision of good residential accommodation, medical facilities, initial research grants, financial support for participation in National/International conferences, suitable scheme for sharing of consultancy charges, etc.

[Translation]

Loss of Revenue on Stamp Duty

2252. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States are suffering loss of revenue on account of registration and stamp duty in the absence of any kind of contract with the local companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to repeal the Coal Bearing Areas Act, 1957 for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Ministry of Coal is not aware about any loss of revenue being caused to the State Governments towards registration and stamp duty in the absence of any kind of contract with the local coal companies.

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

(c) There is no proposal before the Ministry of Coal for repeal of the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development), 1957.

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

[English]

Scheme for Appointment of Urdu Teachers

2253. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether mandatory condition of the availability of 25% Urdu speaking population for implementation of the "Scheme for Appointment of Urdu Teachers", under Ministry of HRD, has lead to the non-implementation of the scheme

in Muslim concentrated areas of non-Hindi States especially in Assam where there is strong demand for the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above condition has been relaxed for appointment of Hindi teachers for teaching Hindi in non-Hindi speaking States;

(d) if so, the rational behind the move;

(e) whether the Government proposes to relax this clause for appointment of Urdu teachers also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The scheme was revised in 2008-09. The condition of availability of 25% Urdu speaking population in a locality was meant to ensure that Urdu teachers are sanctioned in areas that actually need them. The scheme depends on proposals from State Governments. There is no material to conclude that the condition of availability of 25% Urdu speaking population has come in the way of implementation of the scheme, as the condition applies to a locality and not to a district as a whole.

(c) and (d) As per the guidelines of the scheme, financial assistance is provided to the non-Hindi speaking States for appointment of Hindi teachers to implement "Three Language Formula".

(e) There is no such proposal at present.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

CVC List of Corrupt Officer

2254. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has prepared any list of corrupt I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any action against such enlisted officers under the legal provisions;

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether such I.A.S./I.P.S. officers are still holding various posts in Central and State Government Departments even after including their names in such list; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No Madam, the Commission has not prepared any list of corrupt IAS/IPS officers.

(b) to (e) The question does not arise.

[English]

Monitoring of Central Universities

2255. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to set up an efficient regulatory framework to oversee the functioning of the 14 new Central Universities; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Madam. There is no proposal to set up any regulatory framework to oversee the functioning of the new Central Universities. The University Grants Commission has, however, constituted three separate Committees to harmonize academic programmes, to identify areas for uniform provision in the ordinances, and to suggest ways and means to avoid duplication of curriculum in these Universities.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Teachers

2256. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT:

SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:

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

- (a) whether the Universities Grants Commission (UGC) mandates all the States and Central Universities to observe strict adherence in maintaining/recruiting the required strength of teachers in each department;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons thereto; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure recruitment and retention of high quality faculty in the State and the Central Universities?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the University Grants Commission(UGC), all Central Universities are required to strictly adhere in maintaining the required strength of teacher in each department. In case, the ratio falls short of the ideal faculty strength the university concerned is required to take remedial steps. However, the universities are allowed to selectively re-employ superannuated teachers for a maximum period of three years or till such time the teacher attains the age of 70 years whichever is earlier, to overcome the crisis of shortage of teaching staff.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Quality of teaching in higher education is a matter of great concern. When the Pay Review Committee recommendations in respect of teachers in colleges and universities were taken up by the Central Government, the salaries and other allowances for teachers, higher than those for the Group "A" Civil Services, was agreed to by the Government on the condition that the eligibility conditions would be tightened and qualifications would be of a high order. The generous pay package being provided to academic faculty in institutions of higher learning would act as a motivating factor for talent to enter and continue in the academic profession. In addition, the age of superannuation of teachers in higher education has also been increased from 62 year to 65 years to enable institutions of higher learning to tide over shortages, if any, with the help of experienced academics.

**Ambassadors posted in
Indian Missions**

2257. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Ambassadors posted in various countries as on date, category-wise;

(b) the number of posts of Ambassadors lying vacant including the period of their vacancy and the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up, country-wise; and

(c) the number of Ambassadors belonging to the Indian Foreign Service, Indian Administrative Service, other Central Service or persons from public life?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) There are presently 112 Heads of Missions

(Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Permanent Representatives having rank of Ambassador) in countries abroad. The category-wise break-up is as follows- 1 Head of Mission has the rank of Minister of State, 24 are in the rank of Grade I of IFS, 41 are in the rank of Grade II of IFS, and the rest are in the rank of Grade III of IFS.

(b) There are 12 posts of Heads of Missions that are presently vacant, as per table enclosed as statement. The date from which each of these posts is vacant is also indicated. The Government is processing the steps for filling up these posts in the near future.

(c) Out of the 112 Indian Heads of Missions working at present, one HOM is from the Indian Administrative Service, and four HOMs are persons from public life or academics. All the other heads of Missions are from the Indian Foreign Service.

Statement

Posts of HOMs presently vacant

Station	Status	Designation of HOM	Vacant Since
1. Addis Ababa	Vacant	Ambassador	09/08/09
2. Kuala Lumpur	Vacant	High Commissioner	09/11/09
3. Niamey [Niger]	Vacant	Ambassador	01/05/09
4. Pyongyang	Vacant	Ambassador	01/07/09
5. Vienna	Vacant	Ambassador	01/11/09
6. Wellington	Vacant	High Commissioner	01/05/09
7. Algiers	Vacant	Ambassador	11/10/09
8. Baghdad	Vacant	Ambassador	20/12/04
9. Kinshasa	Vacant	Ambassador	25/08/09
10. Ulaanbaatar	Vacant	Ambassador	04/10/09
11. Warsaw	Vacant	Ambassador	21/09/09
12. Bangkok	Vacant	Ambassador	25/11/09

Nuclear Arsenal of Pakistan

2258. SHRI DEORAJ SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is concerned over the fact that Taliban and Al-Qaeda have an eye on Pakistan's nuclear arsenal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Government has seen reports that the Taliban and Al Qaeda are keen to acquire nuclear weapons or nuclear materials. Government hopes that Pakistan Government will continue to take steps for securing its nuclear assets.

(c) Government continues to monitor all developments related to Pakistan's nuclear programme and is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard India's security.

Shortage of Teachers

2259. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

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

- (a) whether Government has been facing difficulties in finding teachers for the newly created institutes of higher education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the country is facing shortage of faculty at every stage of education after passing of Right to Education (RTE), Act, 2009; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to address the problem of shortage of quality teaching staff in schools, colleges and universities?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam.

There is a general shortage of teaching faculty across institutions in higher education.

The Government/ UGC have, however, recently initiated various measures to attract bright young people to adopt teaching in higher education as a career. These include, revised and much attractive pay scales and service conditions to teachers in the University and colleges; enhancement in rates of junior and senior Research Fellowships by about 50%; disbursement of grant for presentation of research papers in international forum, conferences; permitting the Universities to engage guest faculty, allowing contractual appointments for faculty; allowing consultancy charges to be shared by the faculty. Certain institutes have adopted strategies to attract and retain quality faculty which include providing of good residential accommodation, good medical facilities, initial research grants, financial support for participation in national/ international conferences, suitable schemes for sharing of consultancy charges etc. The age of superannuation of teachers in Central Institutions has been enhanced from 62 years to 65 years. They can further be reemployed after superannuation till the age of 70 years.

(c) and (d) After the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 comes into force, additional teachers would be required for the country as a whole at the elementary level.

Under the new Centrally Sponsored scheme called Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA) meant for universalisation of access to secondary education and improvement of quality, there is a provision for appointment of additional teachers to improve the pupil-teacher ratio and regular in-service training to teachers.

[English]

Unwillingness to Work in Cadre States

2260. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the IAS and IPS officers belonging to the North Eastern States cadres are reluctant to stay in their cadre States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether these bureaucrats keep on looking for opportunities to move out of North Eastern Region on deputation or on training; and

(d) if so, the measures taken or contemplated by the Government to check such an unhealthy trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) The IAS and IPS officers allotted to North Eastern State Cadres are working in their respective cadres. They do come on Central deputation and proceed on inter-cadre deputation as per the extant policy and with the concurrence of their respective State Governments. In respect of IAS officers belonging to cadre/joint cadres in north-eastern states as per information available (as on 1.1.2009) except for Joint Cadre of Manipur-Tripura, the officers on central deputation were within the prescribed central deputation reserve.

Illegal modification of Weapons by Pakistan

2261. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Pakistan has illegally modified missiles and reconnaissance aircrafts supplied by USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its implications on India;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with the US authorities; and

(d) if so, the reaction of US authorities thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M.

KRISHNA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has taken note of media reports according to which Pakistan has illegally modified Harpoon missiles and P-3C aircraft which it had acquired from USA.

(c) The Government of India has conveyed to the Government of USA our deep concerns about illegal modification by Pakistan of weapons and missiles acquired from USA.

(d) The US Government shared our concerns and agreed that these developments were indeed very serious.

[Translation]

Visit of Dalai Lama

2262. SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has lodged a protest to India for allowing Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Indian Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) The Chinese side expressed their concern on the visit of Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh which they claim is a "disputed area". Government's clear and consistent position that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India and that Dalai Lama is free to visit any part of India has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now Papers to be laid.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council

for Promotion of Sindhi Language, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 887/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:—
 - (i) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment Regulations, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 541(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st July, 2009.

- (ii) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Second Amendment Regulations, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 542(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st July, 2009.
- (iii) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fifth Amendment Regulations, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 770(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 2009.
- (iv) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Fifth Amendment Regulations, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 771(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 2009.
- (v) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third Amendment Regulations, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 819(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 2009.
- (vi) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 820(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 888/15/09]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Article 320(5) of the Constitution:—
 - (i) The Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) Amendment Regulations, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 727(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 2009.
 - (ii) The Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) Amendment

Regulations, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 544(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 889/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Coal Mines Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 774(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd October, 2009 under Section 7A of the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 890/15/09]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 2008-2009.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 891/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under various sections of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:—
 - (i) S.O. 2804(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd November, 2009 regarding amendments to fly ash utilization notification of 1999.

- (ii) S.O. 1545(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 2009 declaring Mount Abu and its surrounding region as Eco-sensitive zone.

- (iii) S.O. 2399(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2009 recognizing the laboratories, mentioned therein, as environmental laboratories.

- (iv) S.O. 1802(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2009 recognizing the laboratories, mentioned therein, as environmental laboratories.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 892/15/09]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:-

- (i) The Environment (Protection) Fifth Amendment Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 595(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 2009.

- (ii) The Environment (Protection) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 543(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2009

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 893/15/09]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 407(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 2008 repealing the Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board Recruitment Rules, 2007, issued under sub-section (1) of Section 63 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 894/15/09]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Sections 38 and 40 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002:—

(i) S.O. 2726(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th October, 2009 declaring provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 shall not apply to the Biological Resources, mentioned therein.

(ii) S.O. 2524(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 2009 notifying the species of plants and animals which are on the verge of extinction, mentioned therein, for the State of Mizoram.

(iii) S.O. 2525(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 2009 notifying the species of plants and animals which are on the verge of extinction, mentioned therein, for the State of Orissa.

(iv) S.O. 2526(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 2009 notifying the species of plants and animals which are on the verge of extinction, mentioned therein, for the State of Meghalaya.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 895/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing Action Taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Minister during various sessions of Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Lok Sabha:—

Tenth Lok Sabha

1 Statement No. XXXVI Eleventh Session 1994
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 896/15/09]

Eleventh Lok Sabha

2 Statement No. XXXIX Second Session, 1996
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 897/15/09]

Twelfth Lok Sabha

3 Statement No. VII First Session, 1998
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 898/15/09]

4 Statement No. XLIV Second Session, 1998
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 899/15/09]

Thirteenth Lok Sabha

5 Statement No. XLVII Third Session, 2000
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 900/15/09]

6 Statement No. XL Fourth Session, 2000
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 901/15/09]

7 Statement No. XLVI Sixth Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 902/15/09]

8 Statement No. XLV Seventh Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 903/15/09]

9 Statement No. XXXIII Ninth Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 904/15/09]

10 Statement No. XXX Tenth Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 905/15/09]

11 Statement No. XXXVI Eleventh Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 906/15/09]

12 Statement No. XXVII Twelfth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 907/15/09]

13 Statement No. XXIV Thirteenth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 908/15/09]

14 Statement No. XXIII Fourteenth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 909/15/09]

Fourteenth Lok Sabha

- 15 Statement No. XX Second Session, 2004
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 910/15/09]
- 16 Statement No. XVIII Third Session, 2004
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 911/15/09]
- 17 Statement No. XVIII Fourth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 912/15/09]
- 18 Statement No. XVI Fifth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 913/15/09]
- 19 Statement No. XV Sixth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 914/15/09]
- 20 Statement No. XIV Seventh Session, 2006
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 915/15/09]
- 21 Statement No. XII Eighth Session, 2006
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 916/15/09]
- 22 Statement No. XI Ninth Session, 2006
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 917/15/09]
- 23 Statement No. X Tenth Session, 2007
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 918/15/09]
- 24 Statement No. VIII Eleventh Session, 2007
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 919/15/09]
- 25 Statement No. VII Twelfth Session, 2007
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 920/15/09]
- 26 Statement No. V Thirteenth Session, 2008
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 921/15/09]

27 Statement No. III Fourteenth Session, 2008
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 922/15/09]

28 Statement No. II Fifteenth Session, 2009
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 923/15/09]

Fifteenth Lok Sabha

29 Statement No. I Second Session, 2009.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 924/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): On behalf of Shrimati D. Purandeswari, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati, for the year 2008-2009.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 925/15/09]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 28 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956:—
- (i) The UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009 published in Notification No. F.1-16/2007 (CPP-II) in weekly Gazette of India dated the 10th July, 2009.
- (ii) The University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for award of M. Phil/Ph.D. Degree), Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. F.1-1/2002 (PS) Exemp. in weekly Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2009.

- (iii) The University Grants Commission (Minimum qualifications required for the appointment and Career Advancement of teachers in Universities and Institutions affiliated to it) (3rd Amendment) Regulation, 2009 published in Notification No. F.1-1/2002 (PS) Exemp. in weekly Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2009.
- (iv) The University Grants Commission (Fitness of Institutions for Grants) (Amendment) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 111 in Gazette of India dated the 15th August, 2009.
- (v) The University Grants Commission (Fitness of Certain Universities for Grants) (Amendment) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 112 in Gazette of India dated the 15th August, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 926/15/09]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1761(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2009 regarding implementation of reservation for students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes to Jirania in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council, Tripura in regard to Central Educational Institutions situated therein issued under various Sections of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 927/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Diplomatic and Consular Officers (Fees) Amendment Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 752(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th October, 2009 issued under sub-section (3) of Section 8 of the Diplomatic and Consular Officers (Oaths & Fees) Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 928/15/09]

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

2nd Report

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Madam, I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED
CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

3rd Report

[English]

SHRI GOBINDA CHANDRA NASKAR (Bangaon): Madam, I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on "Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Food Corporation of India (FCI)".

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

1st to 5th Reports

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Varanasi): Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance (2009-10):

- (1) First Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Financial Services, Expenditure and Disinvestment);

- (2) Second Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue);
- (3) Third Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Planning;
- (4) Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; and
- (5) Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

12.04 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Need to accord permission to CBI to file chargesheet against the accused persons of 1984 riots indicted by the Nanawati Commission

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, we take 'Zero Hour' matters.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL (Bhatinda): Hon. Speaker, Madam, our country belongs to all of us. Every community, including every minority — be it a Muslim, be it a Christian, be it a Sikh, be it everyone — has equal right and equal status in our country. I belong to a community that comprises of less than two per cent of our country's population. Our community is small in number but has always, made huge sacrifices in the interests of our nation. Even in our country's freedom struggle, out of 2,125 Indians killed by the British, 73 per cent were Sikhs; out of 2,646 people sent to Kala Pani, 80 per cent were Sikhs; out of 121 Indians hanged and executed, 78 per cent were Sikhs. Our community, that helped build India by shedding its blood and sacrificing its sons, could never have imagined that to put an end to the tyranny of foreigners, after 37 years, they would be targeted by their own people on the basis of their turbans and their long hair. Today, I speak as a Sikh representing my community but more specially my gender. The Sikh women who saw their husbands, sons, fathers and brothers burnt, hunted and mercilessly killed in front of their eyes. For three consecutive days,

a turban Sikh man was hunted as a praise hunt and the very protectors of society themselves, it seems, had turned into hunters!

I have these experiences myself as a young college girl, locked up in the store of our servant's quarter with my two little brothers and my ailing 85 year old grandfather with my mother begging us to try, not to even breathe so that the mob, plundering and ransacking our house, in search of us, would not find us.

Many sisters of my community were not so lucky. The 1984 riots saw thousands of wives being widowed, thousands of children being orphaned, thousands of mothers lost their beloved sons, and the sisters their loving husbands. To lose a single loved one in the family is heart-breaking. Imagine the plight of those women who lost their husbands, their sons, their father, their brothers in one stroke. This is not conjecture.

I would tell you about Manjeet Kaur of Shakurpur who lost 21 members of her family that night; Mina Kumari from Sultanpuri who was getting prepared for her wedding, lost nine male members of her family, who were wiped out that night and she herself was kidnapped and tortured. These are not thousands of faceless victims; there are people like you and me who have lived this pain and horror for the last 25 years with the one hope that some day, the guilty will be brought to book, who did this to them. There are 11 eye-witnesses, who have taken the mighty and the powerful and even recorded their statements in front of magistrate under section 164 Cr.P.C. But in spite of that, no charge sheet was filed.

In 25 years, ten Commissions have sat on this. But to what avail? In November 1984, Marwah Committee was appointed, but the enquiry stopped midway. We had Misra Commission, which indicted police officers, but they were given promotions. We had Kusum Mittal Committee, which indicted 72 police officials, but they got promotions. We had Jain Aggarwal Committee recommended registration of cases against Shri Sajjan Kumar and others, but no case was registered. We had Potty Rosa Committee which also recommended registration of cases against Shri Sajjan Kumar and others, but the cases were closed during Congress tenure. We had Jain Aggarwal and Narula

Committees — all recommended cases to be registered, but not a single case was registered.

I will cut the long story short. In August 2005, Nanavati Commission of Inquiry submitted its report, recommending registration of cases against Shri Sajjan Kumar and others. Four cases were registered by the CBI in 2005; but even after four years, the CBI has still not filed a single charge sheet against him.

On November 24th, in this House, I asked a question to the Government whether it had received the CBI's request for a fresh charge sheet. The answer I got was that it had received it. For my question as to the constraints for not according permission to the CBI, I was given an ambiguous reply which says that the request of the CBI is under consideration.

Twenty five years have passed since this massacre took place. A charge sheet which should normally take three months, it took four years for the CBI. For what reason? How long do we have to wait for justice? Is 25 years not long enough?

I do not like to say this. When an Ex-Prime Minister was killed, the assassins were hanged in four years. When another Prime Minister was killed, Nalini is spending 18 years in jail. But when 7,000 Sikhs were butchered in broad daylight, the entire country has witnessed; after 25 years, not a single person is punished. They go around scot-free.

I demand an answer from this Government. I demand an answer, why is no decision being taken by the Government to give the CBI permission to file a charge sheet? Give us yes or no; but at least, give us an answer. Surely, after 25 years, we deserve an answer. I am proud to be an Indian, because this great country has enshrined in its Constitution, secularism, that preaches that every community be treated with equal dignity and respect. In the eyes of our law, everybody is equal — be it the Prime Minister or *aam admi*. Let us uphold the essence of secularism. Let us together and collectively stand behind what is right and unitedly fight what is wrong. The Holy Granth says, "Ek Pitah Ekas Ke Hum Barik" It means, God

is one and we are all his children. India is one and we are all Indians. First, we divided humanity on the basis of religion; let us not divide India in the name of communalism.

I appeal to all the hon. Members to support us in this fight for justice....(*Interruptions*)

We should restore, to some extent, the dignity of the 7,000 innocent lives that were wiped out mercilessly, but most importantly to ensure that no community in our country, no minority community in our country, should ever live in the fear of their own countrymen, in their own motherland. Thank you....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Madam Speaker, I fully associate myself with this issue.

MADAM SPEAKER: You please send your name. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Whoever wants to associate themselves can send their names.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Rewati Raman Singh, Shri Ram Chandra Dome, Dr. Tarun Mondal, Shri Shailendra Kumar, Shri B. Mahtab, Dr. Anup Kumar Saha, Sk. Saidul Haque, Shri Mahendra Kumar Roy, Shrimati Susmita Bauri, Shri Nripendra Nath Roy, Shri Pulin Bihari Baske, Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, Shri Khagen Das and Shri Dara Singh Chauhan are also associated with this issue.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam Speaker, the leader of Opposition wants to say something.

SHRI L.K.ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Madam Speaker, generally whatever discussed during the zero hour is meant only for record. However, I feel that this issue is so serious that the leader of the House should take note of this issue and its shortcomings, 25 years have elapsed, we have witnessed the year 1984. I cannot forget. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Bahrapur): When you were the Minister of Home Affairs, what did you do.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): You please sit down. Madam, this is not the way. He is not allowing our leader to speak. This is not the way to interrupt the Leader of Opposition. He intentionally interrupts. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: O.K. I have asked him not to interrupt. Now you please sit down. He has resumed his seat.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Madam, see, he is again on his legs. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down....(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Madam Speaker, many commissions have been set up, many announcements were made and decisions were taken, however, my request is that the manner in which the entire House heard this serious issue, in a similar manner the Leader of the House should also, keeping aside all previous issues, take cognizance of the issue and promise the House that proper action will be taken and if necessary a committee will be constituted. There is no need to set up any commission. Many commissions have been set up but I want that a committee should be constituted for taking proper action as certainly some action has to be taken on this issue. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): A committee should be constituted on the issue of Gujarat also. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I can give reply to everything. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Madam Speaker, Advaniji has said that the Government should respond on this and it is reasonable. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: The Leader of the House is speaking.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam Speaker, there is no doubt, as the hon. Member was speaking, definitely, she brought us back to one of the most tragic events which happened two-and-a-half decades ago. I was present in Delhi on that day; of course, I came late that day. Everybody knows what happened on that day. The short point that I can tell is that every one of us, feels ashamed that it happened. I agree with her entirely what she said in her concluding part of her observations she said - what happened, perhaps we cannot get back the lives which were lost. We cannot remove the agony which the affected persons felt but surely we can take a vow and draw a lesson that in future it does not happen. I have taken note of it and I will talk to the Prime Minister and to other colleagues in the Government and would see what best can be done in the given situation. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ (Sambhal): Madam, a Committee may be constituted on the issue of Gujarat also. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: He has already pointed it out.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BANSA GOPAL CHOWDHURY (Asansol): Madam, today question was about coal industry, it is a very serious matter. Today during Question Hour, we were talking about reaction. The prices of coal have increased by 15% in the country. We observe that coal sector is facing problem because of Ministry of Coal and the Government. We have discussed this issue in the House and find that our coalfields are affected by fire. On the one hand, wastage of coal i.e. national property worth crores of rupees is taking place and on the other hand last year Coal India earned annual profit of Rs. 5000/- crore and now it has increased the rate of coal by 15%. Now this step will have cascading effect on entire economy as even now on the one hand the small and medium industries are

not getting coal and illegal mining is going on and on the other hand, prices are increasing in the country and even after this, the Government has increased the prices of coal by 15%. We fully oppose this. We want that the Government should take some measures to check this. Our country is suffering loss and coal belt is suffering loss due to fire. Today every coalfield is affected by fire. Government is not paying any attention towards the coal sector. We find that wastage of coal worth crores of rupees is taking place in coal sector. On the one hand, there is corruption in Eastern Coalfields, B.C.C.L. and wastage of coal is taking place and on the other hand, the government has increased the prices of coal. We are strongly opposing it. We have discussed this earlier also. We want that the Government should take step to check this. We want that the Government should pay attention towards the Coal Sector but since the Government is not paying any attention, therefore, we are opposing it.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please, let others speak.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BOLPUR): Madam, this is a very important issue. We want to response from the Government, particularly on the rise in price of coal. It has a cascading effect on the industry. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Let him speak.

Sk. Sadul Haque.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: We want a response from the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Let other member's speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE (Bardhaman-Durgapur): Madam, in the month of October the Coal India Limited has increased the value of coal by 15 per cent as a result of which the price of controlled coal has increased from Rs. 2000 per tonne to Rs. 2300 per tonne. Madam, 60 per cent of the coal will be available at such a rate and for the other 30 per cent of the coal the State Governments will have to sign an MoU with the Coal Authority. The price of such coal will be Rs. 4800 per tonne. For other 10 per cent coal the Government will have to depend on the imported coal which will have to be purchased at a price fixed by the foreign countries. Such an increase in price of coal will affect the large section of people because most of the energy produced is based on coal. Such an increase in price of coal will inevitably increase the price of electricity. In the meantime, the NTPC and DVC have increased the per unit rate of electricity by 90 paise. All over the country coal is the main source of production not only in energy but also in basic and heavy industry. Hence, such an action on the part of the Coal India Limited will hamper the overall growth of the nation.

MADAM SPEAKER: I want to tell all the hon. Members not to cross the floor when an hon. Member is speaking.

Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE: Coal India has made a profit of Rs. 5744 crore last year. They have a saving balance of Rs.30,000 crore. So, why such a policy and price increase?

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I had just said that you should not cross between the Chair and the hon. Member who is speaking.

Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE: Such increase is not only illogical but also detrimental to the development of the nation. Many States like West Bengal will be worst sufferers of such a decision. Another question is why import coal from other countries when we have a great coal belt and coal reserve? So why not more coal be lifted in a planned manner in accordance with the demand of the country? Why is this dependence of coal on foreign countries?

In such a situation, I urge upon the Government to withdraw increase of price of coal and also change the policy of supply of coal to States as envisaged by the Coal India Limited. The Government should come forward to form a Regulatory Authority for determining the price of coal. The Government should take action to strengthen the lifting of coal from the coal reserve. So, I urge upon the Government to immediately withdraw the price increase in the field of coal.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE (Uttar Kannada): Madam, Speaker, there was a leakage in the Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant in Karnataka on 24th November. Through you, I would like to apprise the whole country about the inquiry being conducted in this regard. Hon. Prime Minister and Shri Chavan Sahib in a statement assured that an inquiry will be conducted in the matter. But till date they have not got any information as to what action is being taken. The incident of leakage took place on 24 November but no F.I.R. has been registered till yesterday i.e. 01 December. The culprit has not been arrested so far. What is the reason?

Madam Speaker, we are putting our nuclear agenda before the world for setting up of a new nuclear power plant. But what about the present condition of the Kaiga Power Plant. The people working there want to sell the heavy water outside the plant. What does it means? What are the schemes of the Government regarding the safety of the nuclear power plants? We want reply from the Government. What to talk about the Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant, there are a number of plants in the country which are related to this matter. Prime Minister or the leader of the House should make a statement in the House about the action taken by the Government in regard to the security of the nuclear power plant.

Madam, Speaker, the S.P. has shown his inability as he has not received any information from the officers or the Director of Kaiga. The S.P. had intentionally written the letter. Two unnatural deaths have taken place during the last two months. The scientists who died were Ravi Kumar Mudika and Ramalingam. The matter is under

investigation but the outcome is not known. No response has been received in this regard. How is it possible that scientists, labourers are dying and no inquiry is conducted? Today, there is nuclear leakage. The Government state that 55 persons have been affected by radiation. But S.P. Sahib says 92 persons are affected. What does the Government know? The Environment Minister Shri Jairam Ramesh is quite concerned about the environment. But he is not present here. When the Western Ghat will charred completely and some untoward incident would take place in the Kaiga Nuclear power Plant then the leader of the House should make a statement.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Madam, I want to raise a very important matter relating to the vending contractors working in the Railways. Small Railway vending contractors who are confined to one small stall or one small trolley only are being evicted systematically in all categories of stations — 'A', 'B' and 'C'. The matter has been brought before the hon. Minister. The Minister intervened and the Minister wrote a letter to the concerned officers:

"These small licencees are running their small business from railway premises. Please see that they are not unnecessarily victimized till such time a review of the policy is made, especially as these people belong to the weaker sections."

In spite of this letter, the officers are ignoring the situation and eviction process is continuing. This is not only confined to one station but also to most of the 'A' 'B' and 'C' railway stations. I am particularly referring to stations at Shahdara, Panipat, Sonipat, Sarai Rohilla and Muzaffarnagar and stations at Khurda of Orissa and West Bengal.

I am bringing this matter, to the notice of the Ministry, through you. ...*(Interruptions)* Madam, let them not teach me....*(Interruptions)* The Minister has already intervened....*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Madam Speaker, I am bringing this matter before you so that the concerned Ministry officials may take immediate steps without ignoring the intervention of the letter of the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Machhlishahr): Madam, Speaker, through you, I would like to raise a very important issue which is also related to all the members. I would like to draw the attention to the problem being faced by the family of a poor suffering from some serious diseases like heart disease, cancer, kidney disease etc. and state that on the recommendation of Members of Parliament out of the total number of patients suffering from such serious diseases at present only two patients are being sanctioned financial assistance for treatment in a month from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Earlier, no such restriction was there. During the regime of NDA Government all such demands for treatment of patients used to be met and assistance was provided. Due to adoption of such a policy by the Government, a serious problem has come up before Members of Lok Sabha. There are at least five to seven legislative assembly segments under a Parliamentary Constituency. Under such a large constituency when a patient approaches a member he or she comes with the hope of contacting his or her own Member of Parliament and seek some sort of help. As far as a disease is concerned, no one bothers about whether the person concerned voted for or not, which party he or she belong to etc. For providing treatment a MP always thinks of giving facilities to all the people of his or her constituency. In such a vast constituency presently the assistance for only two patients is being granted from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. This is very less. The number of such beneficiaries should be increased or the system be discontinued. All the people who make demands should be provided assistance from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Through you, we raise this demand to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you. Shri Radha Mohan Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): Madam, it should be increased. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Madam, this is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: If you would like to associate send your notice to the Table.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: If you would like to associate yourself with the matter then send your name to the Table with such intention.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Madam, even two patients are not being granted assistance. In a written response to my first letter it was mentioned that the matter would be seen in the light of the financial provision. So, even two patients are not getting it. What you are informing, even those two are not certain. I sent my first letter and got a response in which it was stated that the assistance would be provided as per the availability of the funds.

MADAM SPEAKER: Alright, this question has already been raised by him.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Even it is not decided that every member shall be provided. Not even one has been provided.

MADAM SPEAKER: Alright. Shri Radha Mohan Singh

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You have spoken. Now listen to him. When you were speaking, he did not interrupt. Shri Radha Mohan Singh ji you speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Dr. Ramchandra Dome, Shri Jagdambika Pal, Shri Rakesh Pandey, Shri Brijbhushan Singh, Shri Shailendra Kumar, Dr. Anuj Kumar Saha, Shri Pulin Bihari Baske, Sk. Saidul

Haque, Smt. Sushmita Bauri, Shri Mahendra Kumar Rai, Shri P. Lingam have associated themselves with the speech of Shri Tufani Sarojji.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Mr. Minister, at least come out with some reply. There should be a reply from the Government. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Reply is not given every time in Zero Hour. Please, take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please, take your seat.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (East Champaran): Madam, Chakiya is a railway station under the eastern-central railway which has been awarded B grade status by the Ministry of Railways. This station is located in such a place where tourists from our country as well as abroad pay a holy visit to the highest Baudh Stupa Kesaria of the world. The condition of this railway station is such that neither power nor any facility of potable water is available there even after having received the status of Grade B station. There is no room to accommodate ticket booking clerk. Four to five thousand passengers come there daily and they have to travel without ticket due to lack of sufficient ticket counters and booking clerks. There is no stoppage for Lokmanya Tilak, 5257 and 5268 operating from Raksaul as well as train No. 9269, 9270 is operating between Muzafferpur to Porbandar at this station whereas these trains pass through this very station. This station is situated nearby the Porbandar-Silchar Highway corridor. Tourists from the country as well as from abroad pass through Chakiya city by road. Long jam can be witnessed in the railway crossing situated in the east as well west of this railway station. Through you, I would like to request to the Government of India to immediately start the construction of Railway over bridge over there.

[English]

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR (Barasat): Madam Speaker, I want to speak regarding the BPL list of West Bengal. Alleviation of poverty and amelioration of severe hunger were serious subjects that have been decided

upon during the Millennium Development Goals signature, in which leaders of our great nation along with 146 leaders of different countries had signed. These two were taken to be serious points. Today, it is with the Tendulkar Committee. The whole country is looking forward to the Report of this Committee.

We are trying to find out what the Government is trying to do regarding the poor people of the nation, in which hunger is rampant and starvation deaths are occurring in different parts, particularly after the insufficient rainfall and crop failure. The farmers have been committing suicide throughout the nation.

With respect to West Bengal from where I come, the BPL list is completely erroneous. The Government there, including the panchayats, are not working upto the standard. There should be a national registry in which it should be maintained how the BPL list is being formed in the State of West Bengal and other states. The poor people of West Bengal are suffering so much. They are not getting the quota of vegetables, pulses, cereals, and grains which they are supposed to get through different schemes that have been approved by the Central Government.

So, I wish to draw your kind attention, and through you, the attention of the Minister and the Ministry concerned, and the Government of India that there should be accountability placed on the State of West Bengal so that the BPL list is corrected, and the poor people of West Bengal get a chance to live a normal life and not suffer from severe hunger that they are undergoing today. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI PAKAURI LAL (Robertsganj): Hon'ble Madam Speaker, I rise to speak for the first time in this House. At the outset, I salute you and all other members of the House. I am going to narrate a very vered problem to the Government today. Hon'ble Speaker, Madam I would like to refer to the reservation of seats made under article 332 of the Constitution for the Scheduled Tribes in Panchayats Legislative Assemblies and Lok Sabha in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Madam Speaker, I have to apprise the Government that nearly 10 castes of the state of Uttar Pradesh such as Gond, Kharwar, Chero Bega, Buinyan, Panika, Pathari, Agariya, Parhinya, and Sanhariya etc. have been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. But no seats are being reserved for them in Panchayats Legislative Assemblies and Lok Sabha and even in jobs as per the provisions of Article 332. Students are not getting scholarship. As per 2001 census, reservation of seats was made base for the purpose whereas these ten castes had been included in the year 2002. People belonging to scheduled Tribes are not getting licences as per their quota under the public distribution system. These Scheduled Caste Communities did not get the benefit of reservation in the elections of Panchayats held in the year 2005. No single candidate is being recruited from tribal community as a Swasthya Mitra, Panchayat Mitra, Siksha Mitra, Safai karmi etc. Now the election for the Panchayat is to be held in the year 2010 and if the provision of reservation is made, tribals would be able to contest elections. There is no participation of tribals in the appointments pertaining to back log vacancies.

Madam Speaker, children belonging to Scheduled tribes community are not getting admission in Ashram Padhyati Vidyalayas. They are being deprived of scholarship. The percentage of reservation has been brought down from two to one per cent in the public service recruitments.

Madam Speaker, through you, I would request the Government to provide reservation to scheduled tribes of Uttar Pradesh in various bodies, Legislative Assemblies and Lok Sabha Seats by taking the problems of these people seriously so that they can get respect and their rights too.

Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to point out one more problem. Our ten tribes can cast their votes but they don't have any right to contest election. I have come first time in this House as I am hidden behind this pillar in the same way people from our community are being ignored under the grab of facilities. I would like that these people should be provided the benefit of reservation in the the ensuing Panchayat election.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Madam, I would like to place before this House some of the serious issues with regard to the employees and workers who are working abroad, especially in the Gulf countries. Most of these employees and workers were brought there through the recruitment agents in our country. These recruitment agents are working in various parts of the country. I am very sad to say that many of these agents are fake agents. Though by promising better wages, better employment they were taken there, yet their condition is very much sad. It is known to all of us. Many of them have to stay in the labour camps. Even though women were brought there by promising better wages, they are working there as house servants. So, there is no safety, after all, in many cases. I do not blame the Governments there because we have no special legislation to control and monitor these recruitment agents. As a result, these agents are working by getting huge amounts from the people.

Next, it is true that people want to get some employment anywhere. So, they are ready to give money at any cost. But really their fate is very much severe. Here, I would like to point out that the Government is getting Rs.24,000 crore from the Keralites alone from the Gulf countries. I am very much sad to say that the plan fund or the financial assistance that the Government of India gives to Kerala is only half of it. At the same time, what are the facilities available there? Lakhs of people, especially from Kerala, Tamil Nadu in India and other countries, are working in these Gulf countries. So, we have to take some protective measures with regard to the wages that they are getting, safety they are getting as well as the flight convenience. Therefore, I would request that especially with regard to the agents who are registered, there should be a specific law with regard to the registration of these agents and there are to be records not only here but also in those countries. Through the Embassies, we can verify it. So, with these administrative steps, some assistance can be given to them. I think some Ministers should go there and see the position of these people. Of course, Ministers are going, MPs are going, but at the same time, the situation is the same. I would request the Government

to do something. Especially they are assisting you – not the Government of Kerala but the Government of India – through the foreign exchange.

With these words, I place this issue before this House seriously.

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Attingal): I may be permitted to associate myself with the issue raised by Shri P. Karunakaran ji.

MADAM SPEAKER: All right.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Hon'ble Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the government towards an important issue. If agricultural land of farmers is acquired for any industry, they do not get reasonable price for their land.

Madam, at present Coal India Limited is acquiring land of farmers and district Collector has the right to determine the price of land acquired under LA Act, 1894 and CB Act 1957. They determine such rates which are often far below the market rates. Madam, through you, I would like to request to the government that there is a need to amend LA Act and CB Act because they have not been amended over the years. That is why farmers do not get reasonable price of their land. Land belonging to farmers in Chandrapur, Nagpur and Yavatmal area is being acquired by the WCL. Farmers are being provided compensation to the tune of Rs. 20 to 40 thousand rupees per acre where as that land is worth of lakhs of rupees in terms of market prices.

Madam, Coal India Limited and NTPC have acquired land in the same area but have given compensation to the farmers at the rate of Rs. 8 lakh per acre whereas W.C.L. and Coal India Limited give only Rs. 20,000 per acre. I, would like to request the Government through you, that all farmers should get appropriate price of their land. A provision should be made for this purpose and an amendment should be made in the Act. I want that negotiations should also be held with the farmers while acquiring their land but it is not being done. So, there is

acute resentment among the farmers whose lands are being acquired. That is why farmers are launching agitation over there. Therefore, I request the Government that farmers whose lands are being acquired by the Coal companies should be given appropriate price of their lands.

Madam, simultaneously, I would like to request that under R.R. Policy, 2008 there is a provision to give job to one person of the families of those farmers whose lands have been acquired but thousands of such cases are pending with the Coal India Limited and W.C.L. in which one member of the family is to be given job but job has not been given to them so far. I request the Government that justice should be done to all farmers.

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH (Kaiserganj): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a very important issue through you. We all know that India is a country of rivers and the nature of the rivers always keep on changing. A large number of population live along the banks of the rivers in the country, since these rivers are not permanent, therefor most of the population is affected. Consequently, lakhs of people get homeless every year. The Government have not devised any clear-cut policy in this regard so that these affected people are protected.

Madam, I had recently visited three districts, namely, Gonda, Behraich and Basti of my Lok Sabha Constituency to ascertain the condition of the people living along the banks of the rivers. About one thousand villages have been washed away in Tulsipur, Sakhipur and Duttanagar under Tarabganj Tehsil. In the first village, land of 200 dalit families which they had taken on lease, has been washed away. Farming land of 400 families in Sakhipur village has been washed away. Like-wise, it also happened in Duttanagar. There are so many villages in Kaiserganj Tehsil and Basti which have been washed away completely.

Madam, it is very sad that I myself wrote letters to the District Collector, Divisional Commissioner, the Minister of Revenue, Minister of Irrigation and also to the Chief Minister regarding some of the affected people and also met with the Divisional Commissioner as well as the Collector but no arrangement for their rehabilitation has

been made so far. The people are living on the roads. What will be the use of NREGA and what about their education when there is no home and shelter? The situation at present is very grim there. I do not want to blame anybody in this regard but I have observed that when such an issue crops up, the Central Government shirk its responsibility merely by saying that this issue is related to the State Governments therefore they would provide assistance to affected persons. We have already approached the State Government. The Divisional Commissioner and the Collector are their representatives, the SDM is also their representative but there is no protection from anywhere, so I demand that the Government of India should formulate such a policy for the country specially for my Lok-Sabha Constituency for making arrangement for the people living along the banks of the rivers in case their houses and lands are washed away.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Madam Speaker, I got ecstatic when the news flashed that Shri Venkataraman Radhakrishnan had been awarded as a noble laureate in the discipline of Chemistry. Being an Indian, I was proud that he was an Indian-born. But at the same time, I was a little regretted when I found that the noble laureate had not been India produced. The fact is that even in the pre-Independence era our country was able to produce outstanding scientists and researchers in the world. But now we are talking about knowledge society, inclusive society, etc. and prominent educational institutions have been thriving up in every nook and corner of our country. In spite of all, we are not being able to produce the researchers and scientists of the international standard. I think, we need to have an introspection into it. The neighbouring country, China, is miles ahead from us in the Research and Science sector. Even many Third World countries are also marching ahead. Madam, you will be astonished to note that in the first quarter of this 20th Century, India has produced more scientists and researchers than the second half of the 20th Century. It is found that our country has been allotting less than one per cent of our GDP to Research and Science sector.

Madam, now-a-days, Research has become a capital intensive sector. In the emerging internationally competitive research sector, we need to infuse more fund and furthermore, those talented and meritorious students of our country prefer to go to other professions namely IT, IPS, IAS, etc. In the Research and Science sector, emoluments and perks are much less than those sectors. Secondly, since the childhood, a sense should be inculcated in them that Science and Research sector is an excellent sector which need to be persuaded and respected.

Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of this Government that if India wants to emerge as a super power on as a global power in the coming days we need to infuse more and more funds into this sector so that we can produce researchers and scientists of international standard.

DR. TARUN MONDAL (Joynagar): Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to raise this Urgent Matter of Public Importance in this House.

Water is the elixir of life. The recent decision of the Delhi Jal Board to hike the water tariff will deprive lakhs of people in and around this national capital city of water. It is horrible to hear that the Delhi Jal Board is going to raise the water tariff by at least 100 per cent from the beginning of the New Year. What a surprise gift, Madam, to the people of the Delhi city, which is our pride and the capital of the nation!

I appeal to the Union Government to take up the lifesaving issue with the State Government of Delhi run by the Indian National Congress and let them not create a desert at Delhi hiking the price of water.

Already, people under the leadership of Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) have come down to streets protesting this harsh and anti-people decision of the State Government of Delhi. They have put up a massive *dharna* before the Delhi Secretariat for withdrawal of this decision since this morning.

This decision is denial of a civic body or Government to supply water to its own citizens. Everything and

anything of life cannot be measured in the scale of profit and with business motive. Social commitment, the so-called human face of democracy, is getting blurred day by day, and taken over by inhuman economic compulsions as per the dictates of the WTO, World Bank, IMF, ADB etc. So far, India has become a partner of the WTO. Social sectors like water, electricity, education and health are brought into trade and rampant privatisations are going on in these sectors. Nobody knows how, at least, the 65 per cent of population of metropolitan cities, which comprises the poor and low economic class, will survive after this decision.

The Government of India under the UPA should not lessen essential expenditures, which are being designated as subsidies nowadays in basic civil services. Instead of giving grants and exemptions to big business houses, they should bear the responsibility of a civilised Government. It should keep in mind that if the Government cannot bear the burden of extra cost of making water available, how will the people, already sunk under huge price hike of essential commodities, endure the burden from their empty pockets? Privatisation of electricity is already doing havoc on our people. Please do not put further pressure on the already pressurised people. Please do not make the situation 'water, water everywhere, not a drop to drink'.

[Translation]

DR. BHOLA NATH (Nawada): Madam Speaker, I express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak. I represent Nawada Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar. There are two Gram Panchayats, namely, Hathiyama and Kare in Barbigha Legislative Assembly of Nawada Parliamentary Constituency. There are about 15 such villages which are dominated by tribes, most backward people. Even after elapse of 62 years of Independence they do not have any source of drinking water. They have to cover a distance of 3 km. to fetch water. If they do not get water then they are compelled to drink muddy water of the seasonal river, if it exists in the surrounding area.

Madam, I went there. After seeing their condition, I was disturbed. The women and children do not get water for bathe for months together but nobody has helped them. Even a single drop of dew looks like a river for them. Madam, through you, I request the Central Government to think of the pitiable condition of these people. Today they are leading life like a prisoner in their own homes. Their whole life is full of tension. Their children cannot study. They are suffering from diseases. There are 12 such villages with the population of 25 thousand. Madam, I request the Central Government that they are also respected citizens of India and they are like Gods and we do not ignore the Gods of temples. We do not know the God in Masjid. We know only the poor people who live in huts, houses made of mud and bricks and they are our Gods in Parliamentary democracy.

Madam, today their condition is so bad that I cannot say anything. That is why, I request the Central Government to provide pure water to those poor people by installing treatment plants at the distance of 3 km. over there. I am telling them that they are poor people. But nobody has paid attention towards them. The culture, to which you belong, is full of sensitiveness. I would like to submit through you that the Government should take any action in this direction so that being a representative of that area, I also can raise my head with pride.

*SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY (Cooch Behar): Hon. Speaker Madam, I take the floor to draw the attention of the Government of India to a very urgent matter of public importance. My constituency is Cooch Behar in West Bengal, which has a burning issue i.e. the issue of enclaves. In 1947, after the separation of the country based on the Two Nation theory, Rangpur and Dinajpur – the large parts of India were transferred to East Pakistan. At that time Cooch Behar was under the auspices of the Britishers. In 1950, it decided to join the Indian sub-continent. There was much delay about the status of Cooch Behar – whether it will be within Assam or Bengal

* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

but then in 1950 it actually joined West Bengal as district Cooch Behar. Much of the land owned by the king of Cooch Behar then became a part of Rangpur and Dinajpur in East Pakistan. On the other hand, land owned by landlords and rulers of Dinajpur became a part of Cooch Behar. These lands are known as 'Chhits' or enclaves.

In 1947, after the partition, before marking the Radcliffe line between India and Pakistan, lands were identified police station wise after all the papers were scrutinized thoroughly — But the border could not be marked properly, as a result of which 135 villages of the king of Cooch Behar remained in the territory of Dinajpur and 95 villages of the then Rangpur and Dinajpur were made part of Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri of India. At that time, it was not depicted on any map as bifurcation.

Later in 1958, according to Nehru-Noon treaty, these enclaves were taken into consideration and the treaty was signed. In 1974, the then Prime Minister of India Smt. Indira Gandhi signed the Indira-Mujib Treaty to forge close bilateral relations between India and the newly established state of Bangladesh. The issue of exchange of enclaves was mentioned in the agreement. Accordingly two large enclaves of Angorpota and Dahagram were ceded to Bangladesh by our kindhearted Prime Minister and in exchange the Berubari enclave was to be given to India. In 1992, India leased Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh according to the agreement signed between late Prime Minister of India Shri Narsimha Rao and Begum Khaleda Jia of Bangladesh. From that time, the Tin Bigha movement is going on. There is barbed wire fencing at the border of Cooch Behar and Bangladesh but the exchange of enclaves did not take place. As a result, the people of this area do not have right to vote or right to live or education. The law and order situation is also not very well. Thus the problems of the border area should be solved by the Government immediately. The process of exchange of enclaves should be expedited. Trade and business should be given a boost to improve relations between the two countries and among the SAARC countries also. The Government have to come forth with concrete measures to deal with the Indo-Bangladesh border problems.

With these words, I thank you for allowing me to speak and conclude my speech.

13.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI HARSH VARDHAN (Maharajganj, U.P.):
Madam Speaker, I wish to refer to the most important railway organization of the country which is its life line and transports the common man from one place to another and stopping of which arrests movement in the country. The condition of North-Eastern railway is such which is not only causing harassment to thousands and lakhs of commuters daily but on 29th November, Gorakhdham train originating from Gorakhpur whose departure is scheduled at 4.30 p.m. from Gorakhpur and arrival at 6 a.m. in Delhi, left from Gorakhpur at 6.30 p.m. and arrived in Delhi at 10.40 a.m. Due to this reason the Members of Parliament could reach here neither on time nor prepare themselves. The newspapers have been reporting it for the last two days that the hon. Members did not attend Question Hour. But why was it so? There is no other means of transport to arrive here from Gorakhpur, not even a flight. I had to leave for Gorakhpur because there was a meeting of Zila Panchayat regarding Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Maharajganj on Sunday. I had to return from there the same day and not only I but hon. Members from Gorakhpur — Yogi Aditya Nathji, Brijbhushan ji, Jagdambika Pal had reservation in that single train which originates from there. We called up the General Manager several times very next day. But the train was stranded there for two hours. The next trains were made to run before scheduled time but that train was held up. At present thousands of passengers of the North-Eastern Railway are facing harassment due to delay in running of trains. The condition there is such that permission for closure of Gorakhpur Nautanwa section for gauge conversion was taken for 3 months, however, that section was blocked for ten months causing lot of inconvenience to the passengers. The blockage caused lot of harassment to passengers travelling to Gorakhpur from Gonda, Shrawasti, Balrampur, Dumariyaganj-Badhni, Siddharth Nagar. The North Eastern railway took ten months time instead of three months for gauge conversion.
...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Harsh Vardhanji, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARSH VARDHAN: I am concluding.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH (Kaiserganj): I want to say. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Why are you on your legs, please sit down. You have made your submission.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: That is why I could not come to the House. Newspapers are reporting it daily that the hon. Members did not attend Question Hour.
...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Alright, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARSH VARDHAN: The controller of movement and the Regional General Manager, there. ...(Interruptions) this matter should be taken into cognizance. ...(Interruptions) Action should be taken against them because their conduct tarnishes the image of Members of Parliament.
...(Interruptions) We have to face ignominy.

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ (Garhwal): Madam Speaker, thank you very much. Through this House I wish to inform that controlled foodgrains are not being regularly made available to APL and BPL families in Uttarakhand which is igniting resentment among people. Besides, ration cards of BPL families are not being issued. The annual income limit of below poverty line families has been fixed at Rs. 10,000 only whereas as per minimum wage rate of Rs.100 per day the annual income limit should be fixed at minimum Rs.36,000/-

Uttarakhand is adjoining China and Nepal border, being a border state, provision of controlled ration should be ensured on a regular basis to APL and BPL families.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fifteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Matters under Rule 377.

- (i) **Need to re-open the closed fertilizer factory in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Sir, fertilizer manufacturing plants were set up by the Union Government in the past in various parts of the country to provide fertilizer to the farmers. Similarly, a fertilizer factory of IFFCO was set up in Gorakhpur by the Union Government. Urea and other chemical fertilizers were easily available to farmers of various states particularly Uttar Pradesh and Bihar from the said fertilizer factory. However, six fertilizer factories of the country including the Gorakhpur factory have been closed during the last fifteen years. Consequently, there is a serious crisis owing to unavailability of DAP and urea before the farmers of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. There is also heavy decline in production owing to the closure of these fertilizer factories. Therefore, in view of the interest of the farmers the Gorakhpur fertilizer factory should be reopened immediately.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal – not present.

Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao – not present.

(ii) Need to implement Kandi Master Plan in Murshidabad district of West Bengal to prevent the recurring annual floods in the region

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Bahrapur): Kandi Sub-Division in the district of Murshidabad, West Bengal is recognized as one of the 'rice bowls' in the State where 80 per cent of the population rely upon agriculture for their livelihood. But the vast area of the region is flood prone. The water in the catchment areas of Rivers Mayurakshi and Ajay, which carry the rain water from Jharkhand, flood the region. As the water-bearing capacity of the rivers in this area has been diminishing over the year, huge inundation used to ravage standing crops, dwellings and animal population during flood. The floods in this area are persistent phenomena as till today no tangible step has been taken to contain the fury of the floods. In order to control the floods, some committees were set up, but the recommendations of these committees have not been implemented. Naturally, people are left at the mercy of God.

I would urge upon the Government that Kandi Master Plan should be implemented to save the people of the region from the annual wrath of the floods.

(iii) Need to bring Ayodhya-Faizabad under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission to provide civic amenities

[Translation]

DR. NIRMAL KHATRI (Faizabad): Sir, twin cities of Ayodhya-Faizabad of my Lok Sabha constituency Faizabad (Uttar Pradesh) which hold historical and religious importance have so far been deprived of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) of the Union Government for the overall development of Urban areas.

Ayodhya city is a famous religious city which is thronged by lakhs of devotees every year and Faizabad city is a divisional and district headquarter which also has the pride of being the capital of Awadh in the past.

Civic amenities like sewer, drinking water, slum reform, road construction etc. should be sanctioned for the

twin cities of Ayodhya-Faizabad under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission.

(iv) Need to expedite the construction of Angamaly-Sabari railway line in Kerala

[English]

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki): The proposed Angamaly-Sabari railway line in Kerala has not gather comfortable momentum towards its progress, even though it was proposed 19 years back. Millions of pilgrims will be benefited with the completion of this line. The land acquisition for the proposed line has not completed till date, even though the land had been earmarked along ago. Practically, the progress and development of the earmarked area are standstill because the respective owners are put in a state of uncertainty.

It will be a great benefit for the people if the line is connected with the Thiruvananthapuram line so that it may turn out as an alternate route between Thiruvananthapuram and Angamaly. It is necessary to take the immediate steps for the acquisition of land to accomplish a long cherished dream.

In my district Idukki, the land acquisition process is not in progress. I am requesting to expedite the process.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kamal Kishor — not present.

Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli

(v) Need to extend financial benefit to second girl child also in a family under Indira Gandhi Scholarships Scheme

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI (Rajahmundry): In an effort to set right the country's skewed gender ratio, Government of India took several measures and announced many schemes. Such programmes have, however, barely begun to address the problem. Now, of course, slowly and steadily, the female sex ratio is increasing. Shrimati Indira Gandhi, who, despite being a single child, achieved greatness and played a vital role in shaping the world. To perpetuate Indiraji's memory and make her a source of inspiration for our girls, all female students at the college/

university level, who are single girl child, are being extended financial benefits under 'Indira Gandhi Scholarships'. Now, there is a technical problem. The Scheme stipulates that the incentives meant for single girl child will be stopped, the moment the second girl arrives in the family. The hapless parents are perplexed. It will be better to double and even triple the incentive to parents when the next girl arrives in the family. The parents of the second girl child must be more vigorously lauded.

Through this august House, I urge upon the Government, to take up the matter seriously and frame certain guidelines and rules to provide incentives for second girl child so that the female ratio will lead within a span of short time and will be impetus to uplift the status of women.

(vi) Need to divert the proposed route of Bharuch-Dahej railway line to facilitate smooth traffic in Bharuch city, Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the proposal to convert, the closed metre gauge between Bharuch railway station and Dahej into broad gauge in my parliamentary constituency Bharuch has been sanctioned. However, this railway line is being constructed with the help of private companies. Only goods train, chemical tank train will pass through this route. This railway line is being constructed in the interest of the industries while it is being laid in the middle of Bharuch city having large population pressure. There are road jams. The construction of railway crossing would aggravate the problem. The railway line is being constructed at a place having large number of schools, hospitals, government offices and housing societies. The railway route would cause great inconvenience to people. The entire city of Bharuch and the nearby villagers have registered their protest against this work. They have even started movements and people are distressed. It would be in public interest if this railway line is diverted via Chauvaz village where goods platform is proposed for loading and unloading, to Dahej and it will also reduce the distance from Bharuch to Dahej by ten kilometers.

Through the House, it is requested that it would be in public interest if the railway line is diverted via Chavaz village from Bharuch railway station to Dahej instead of laying the proposed route of Bharuch Dahej in midst of Bharuch city.

(vii) Need to construct railway line from Ghanauli to Paonta Sahib in order to give impetus to industrial development in Himachal Pradesh

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP (Shimla): Sir, through you I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Railways that Himachal Pradesh is a hilly and border state. Only 36 kilometre railway line has been laid in the state since independence. This way development and expansion of railways has been grossly ignored. This has led to great resentment among people. An industrial corridor from Nalagarh to Paonta Sahib has been set up in Himachal Pradesh which gives employment to lakhs of workers. Major industries have been set up there but in the absence of a railway link charges for transportation of raw material to industries and transportation of finished goods to the market increases and as a result these of there is always immense pressure on road. Paonta Sahib is a religious place and it is thronged by lakhs of devotees. So, it is requested that a railway line from Ghanauli in Punjab upto Dehradun in Uttarakhand via Nalagarh-Baddi-Surajpur (H.M.T.)-Kala Amb and Paonta Sahib should be constructed to facilitate development of Himachal Pradesh.

[English]

(viii) Need for speedy completion of the developmental works under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission in Guwahati, Assam

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Guwahati): Under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), huge sums of money have been sanctioned for Guwahati City for development of basic amenities like drinking water, roads, slums, houses, etc. Unfortunately, the Urban Local Body, that is, the Guwahati Municipal Corporation has been dissolved just eight months before the due date. However, by that time, JNNURM funds were released. Presently, the State Government is operating

these schemes with other Government bodies. JNNURM earnestly projects time bound projects to ease pressure on the Guwahati City. Progress of the work seems to be not up to the mark. I urge for speedy completion of JNNURM Schemes for Guwahati to achieve the goal of the Mission.

- (ix) **Need to accord permission to construct road near Ahmedabad-Udaipur via Himmat Nagar railway level crossing in the vicinity of village Wantada in Sabarkantha Constituency of Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN (Sabarkantha): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways towards the problems faced by the villagers of Wantada owing to Ahmedabad-Udaipur via-Himmat Nagar railway line in the vicinity of village Wantada of Himmat Nagar in my parliamentary constituency Sabarkantha of Gujarat. As there is a railway level crossing, the state PWD has constructed the entire road and only 600 metre stretch is remaining. The land belongs to the railways and it is essential to take permission. Due to absence of a road, there is water logging during rainy season and it becomes extremely difficult to take patients to hospital in emergency.

So, on behalf of all the backward villagers who have been deprived of their rights even after 62 years of independence, it is requested that immediate permission should be given by the Railways for construction of road.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Premdas Katheria – not present; Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar – not present.

Shri Arjun Roy:

- (x) **Need to expedite the construction of railway line from Muzaffarpur to Sitamarhi in Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN ROY (Sitamarhi): The construction of 63 kilometre railway line from Muzaffarpur to Sitamarhi in Bihar began in the year 1997-98. The construction of the said line has not been completed even during the last 12 years. According to sources the construction from 0 to 12

kilometres and 40 kilometre to 63 kilometre will be completed during this year whereas the pace of construction from 12 km. to 40 km. stretch is very slow.

The Government is requested to complete the construction of 63 kilometre line from Muzaffarpur to Sitamarhi in a single go instead of carrying it out in various phases. The pace of construction work of this railway line is pretty slow and it is going on for the last 12 years owing to various phases of construction resulting in extreme difficulties to the local people. So the construction of the said railway line should be expedited so that the said backward area of Bihar could be connected with other parts of the country. Besides, it could also provide direct train service to people to travel to and for Nepal.

- (xi) **Need to Include Orissa Under Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme to Overcome Power Shortage in the State**

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): I would like to bring to the notice of the House the issue about power crisis in Orissa. There is rapid industrialization, and massive rural electrification and erratic monsoon has created scarcity of power in Orissa. Orissa is the first State to undertake power sector reforms and the State should not be penalized for the same as APDRP (Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme) of 11th Plan is not applicable to the private distribution companies.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government that the entire 1320 MW power which will be generated from the proposed expansion unit of Talcher Power Station of NTPC should be allocated to the Orissa State and include Orissa under restructured APDRP Scheme.

- (xii) **Need to Construct Barrage on River Yamuna to Redress Problem of Drinking Water in Delhi**

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (North East Delhi): Sir, if an arrangement could be put in place to conserve

the water flow in Delhi during floods then there would be no shortage of water in Delhi throughout the year. A former planner of Delhi Development Authority had given a plan in this regard longtime back and as per this plan Yamuna's bed was to be deepened and strengthened. Yamuna is approximately 50 km. long from Palla to Okhla in Delhi. However, water flows only in 21 km. The remaining Yamuna is dry. Under this plan barrage along both the sides of Yamuna was proposed to be constructed and strengthened upto a fixed breath. This barrage could be used as a reservoir and Delhi could get water throughout the year. Work was commissioned under this scheme in the year 1993 however, this scheme was discontinued thereafter.

Another scheme was proposed in the year 1997 which was also given approval in principle. Under this scheme a reservoir was proposed to be constructed 10 km. to the north in the beginning of Wazirabad barrage and a new barrage was also proposed to be constructed there. Experts also believe that if new barrages are constructed even in Okhla then Yamuna's water could be conserved.

The Union Government is requested to deliberate upon the implementation of the above said action plan to redress the problem of drinking water in Delhi and give them a final shape at the earliest.

14.34 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Item No.13. Hon. Minister Shri Veerappa Moily.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): Sir I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in any parliamentary democracy, the process of elections will have to be free, fair and equitable.

We have passed the Representation of People Act, 1950 and also another Act of 1951 to provide for free, fair and equitable elections. There has been some steady deterioration of the standards, practices, and also the pronouncements of the political class, which fights elections. It is a common knowledge that the muscle power, the money power, the religious power and also the caste power, over and above that, the corrupt practices have crept into the system and they are deployed to get success in the elections.

Over the years, these flaws have entered into the fabric of the body politics. The negative influence which have been created because of all these factors have really affected the electoral environment and there is a need for corrective measures. This particular amendment Bill factors five elements. There are as many as 22 recommendations, which are pending, out of which five have come. Sir, 17 recommendations are still pending with the Standing Committee. This was referred to in 2004. We would like to see that it comes back as early as possible and the Government would not hesitate to introduce those recommendations.

Our country has the largest parliamentary democracy in the world. We have as many as 80 crore electorates and out of it, 20 to 25 crore do not come and vote for various reasons – may be because of disillusionment of the system, maybe because of the non-accessibility. There are many factors which do not make them attractive to come to the booths and really vote.

The five issues which are referred to in this Bill are; a. the simplification of procedure for disqualification of a person found guilty of corrupt practices; b. appointment of an appellate authority within the district against the orders of the Electoral Officers; c. increase in security deposit of the candidates; d. inclusion in Section 123(7) of the RP Act, 1951 of all officials appointed in connection with the conduct of elections; and e. restriction of publication and dissemination of exit polls. Insofar as the (a) is concerned

with regard to the corruption practices, in 1998 we passed a Bill which consequently resulted in the Act about the disqualification of a person found guilty of corrupt practices. I would briefly say this so that if there is any clarification, I would give it later. What happens is, election petitions are put before the High Court, after sometime, appeals may be filed, they may go before the Supreme Court. It is also mandated that they should finish it within six months. Invariably, they do not do it. We need to find an instrument by which they can be expedited, which we will deal with by bringing in a separate amendment in future.

Even after the High Court or the finality on the election petition, again it is delayed sometime by six months, or one year, or one and a half years because of the circuitous route. Of course, I am not trying to bring in an amendment to cut short that route but we need to expedite that. That is why, we put, in this Bill, that the case of every person guilty of corrupt practice goes to the President of India under section 80(a)(1) of the said Act; and it comes to the Lok Sabha or the Vidhan Sabha as the case may be; and thereafter, the President refers it under section (8)(a)(3) to the Election Commission where the judicial hearing is again given to the affected party and it takes a lot of time. We want to shorten the time so that immediately after the finality is arrived, it should not take more than three months. This is the restriction which we have, which is not provided in the present Act.

The next point is with regard to the appointment of appellate authority in districts against the orders of Electoral Registration Officer. Now, the power lies with the Chief Electoral Officer at the State level; and we are decentralizing this power, giving it to the District Magistrate or the Additional District Magistrate as the case may be. He can decide. Of course, the appeal lies with the Chief Electoral Officer. But this will definitely make improvements.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (Sreerampur): This is the second appeal.

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Yes. The second appeal. The ultimate authority is the Chief Electoral Officer. This is what is done. That is the finality. This is one thing that we are introducing here.

One more thing is about the increase in security deposit of the candidates. For the Lok Sabha candidates, it is increased from Rs.10,000 to Rs.25,000. The Standing Committee recommended for Rs.20,000, but the Cabinet increased it to Rs.25,000. Accordingly, for the State Assemblies, it is from Rs.5,000 to Rs.10,000. Of course, for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates, it will be half of it. This is what is proposed to be done in the case of security deposits.

Another amendment is with regard to amendment of section 123 (7) of Representation of the People Act, 1951. You may kindly recall that by the 1998 Act, we have given the powers to the Election Commission to deploy the services of PSUs or nationalized banks. At the same time, we have not empowered the Election Commission to punish those officials. A case arose when action was sought to be taken by the Election Commission to punish that officer, having been deployed by the Election Commission and having committed certain irregularity, but at that time, it was challenged and the Commission was told that it does not have the power to punish. That is why, we have come to fill up that kind of a vacuum. So, we have come forward with this kind of an amendment.

The last one is to restrict the publication and dissemination of the exit polls that are conducted during the elections to the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies. This has been agitating everyone; all over the world, except the US, the exit polls have been banned. Now, opinion polls can be held, earlier to the poll. But the exit poll is now sought to be banned. These are the five amendments.

I can reassure the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not now. You can raise your opinion later. Now, the Minister may address the Chair.

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Opinion poll is given earlier to the actual polls. But once the polling commences, we cannot have the exit survey or exit poll. It cannot be done now before the polling process is concluded. Now, the polls are conducted in many phases, sometimes, in seven phases. The exit poll will have negative influence.

[Shri M. Veerappa Moily]

This is understood not only in our country, but also all over the world.

This is not quite exhaustive. I do not say that I am very happy with this kind of an amendment. We need to bring about comprehensive amendment of the electoral law. We now have things like surrogate advertisements and many other things. These are the matters which are agitating the minds of the hon. Members. I know it. We need to bring about a comprehensive one.

I would like to hold a national consultation on a comprehensive electoral reform, sometimes after the Session. Then we may debate on that. For the present, we have come forward with this. The Election Commission had held a meeting of all the political parties before proposing these 22 amendments which include these five amendments. All the political parties had agreed on that and that is how this has come from the agreed formula of all the political parties. I seek the permission of the House to pass this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (Godda): Thank you, Sir, I am here to put forward my views on behalf of Bhartiya Janata Party on Representation of the people (Amendment) Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nishikant, you are supposed to speak from your own seat otherwise, you have to take the permission of the Chair. Now you can speak from here but for the information of all the hon. Members, Members should speak from their own seats. You may continue now.

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: This amendment which was moved is important for the country. It came in 1950-51 and since 1952 elections are regularly taking place. After 57 years, in 2009 hon'ble Supreme Court and high Court have passed some orders. Now a days print media has become very effective, the newspapers have reached every nook and corner. Earlier there were no telephone and internet facilities. Elections are taking place in Jharkhand and I am getting SMS's even today. Then, the population was around 30-35 crores and the voters must have been around 20-25 crore. As per your calculation presently there are 80 crore or more voters. Population at present is more than 100 crore. Since, there has been such a tremendous change in population in the country, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill will have to be comprehensive. We are talking about making amendments in the company Act, 1956 which has 400 sections in it. We are also talking about changing the Direct Tax Code.

Similarly, we will be amending Representation of the people 1950-51. It has got 200 sections which means that this much amendments have been carried out and the same number of amendments are still required. After going through these five points it seems that the outcome is not what was expected. What we thought would be incorporated were not to be found in the Bill.

Sir, I would like to elaborate on it point wise. Just now the hon'ble Minister himself has stated that the Election Commission had suggested 22 amendments in 2004 which were agreed upon by all the political parties. The suggestions came in the year 2004, five and a half years back and now after a lapse of five and a half years we have come with these five amendments which are insignificant. The amendments suggested by the election Commission are very important. Mr. Harin Pathak is sitting here next to me who is a member of Parliament for the last 20-25 years. He must be having thorough practical knowledge and so do the other people sitting in the House. The amendments suggested by the Election Commission are not enough. The first point of suggestion was the criminals contesting the elections should submit an affidavit and the first point submitted by the Commission was

[English]

"The Commission is of the view that to protect the right to information of the electoral, as per the spirit of the judgement dated 13.3.03, the Supreme Court referred to above, the punishment here should be made more stringent by providing for imprisonment of a minimum term of two years and doing away with the alternative clause for fine."

[Translation]

Their first point was why the person who are to get imprisonment for more than two years, need not fight the elections and how to debar them. You are silent on this issue and are not saying anything about it.

Sir, their second point was 'need to increase the Security deposit of candidates' and you have included this point. The rationale behind the same was that some candidates contesting the elections are non-serious in nature. There are so many dummy candidates and some candidates contest only for extracting money and to create problems for other candidates. Everyone here will agree to the fact that in this way several non-serious candidates, independent candidates and many small political parties are born during the election. I would like to mention Mr. Babulal Marandi, an hon'ble Member of House who is not present here. Elections in Jharkhand were going on. During its first phase on 25th I was participating in a TV debate with him. He said that he won the election because his candidate made his driver to contest the election and the driver got 18000 votes. He himself is accepting that the driver was a dummy candidate from their side.

The question is whether your motto of preventing the non-serious candidate by increasing the security deposit will fulfill by this?

The third point is criminalisation of politics. See, what we are doing? The criminals are contesting the elections and they are well known criminals and the person who is in jail can't cast his vote. You have taken the voting right of persons who are in jail but he can contest the elections. So, this amendment does not say anything about the third point of Election Commission i.e. criminalisation of politics. We have not done anything in

this matter and this is the recommendation of Election Commission given in 2004.

The fourth point is 'Restriction on the number of seats from which one may contest. Now, what happens is that a person contests from two or three constituencies. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister that the restriction has been put to spend Rs. 15 lakh or Rs. 10 lakh, is on the candidate or on constituency and if it is on candidate and he is contesting from three constituencies, will you be taking into account the total of the expenditure spent on all three constituencies? And if the calculation is done as per the constituency then you should clarify it otherwise the candidate vacates the seat and it leads to re-election. Recently there was re-election in Ferozabad. Who will incur this expenditure? Who is responsible for this? Ultimately the expenditure will be borne by the country. All political parties are responsible for this.

Fifth point is Exit and opinion polls. I will come to it later because you have included it.

Sixth point is Prohibition of surrogate advertisements in print media. According to the Election Commission recommendation ruling political party will give advertisements six months prior to completion of his term i.e. you can't advertise in any manner. But during the recent election in Haryana. What happened? There were advertisements stating Number one Haryana'. Who is responsible for this? What powers have you given to the Election Commission in this regard? What are the considerations of the Government in this matter? And it is not that this happened only for Haryana. Sometime back it was 'Shining India' slogan going on and Congress Party also did the same during this elections. Why are we silent on the wastage of Government exchequer that the Election Commission is highlighting since 2004.

The seventh point is - Negative or neutral voting. You told that people did not turn up for casting votes. It may be due to people being against the candidates or parties or intimidation from some quarter. If you make provision for negative and neutral voting, the people will have an option to cast their votes either in favour or against someone, to hold someone as good or bad or chose to pronounce their own neutrality. You are not including those recommendation in your amendments. The eighth point is

[Shri Nishikant Dubey]

[English]

Appointment of Appellate Authority in Districts against orders of Electoral Registration Officers.

[Translation]

It is good. I hail from Bhagalpur. The Congress Party had given ticket to the Vice-Chancellor of Bhagalpur University while even his name was not there in the electoral roll. It is very good that you have created Appellate Authority. Now, he can approach the District Office and get his name enrolled, but who are being enrolled? What will be the basis on which they will be enrolled? The name of the people will be enrolled on the basis of ration card or PAN number. I belong to the border area that connects Sahibganj, Pakur, Araria-Kishanganj, Assam. Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty is sitting beside one. (she knows that) we are taking on Bangladeshi infiltrators. Bangladeshi infiltrators sneak into India and manage to get their ration cards. They have now PAN cards. An extremist of Taliban was apprehended at Lucknow, he possesses all these documents. You are telling that it is an afterward process, but what will be the basis for inclusion of a name? And then he will fight an election. There is a major case belonging to your party. Mr. M.K. Subba Saheb hailed from Nepal. He had been the Member of the House for two-three times. That case was ultimately decided in the Supreme Court. One wonders what action was taken against him till date? So, our role does not end by merely forming Appellate Authority and assigning the work to electoral Officer, DM and ADM. It is an amendment, will this amendment correct everything? It is a matter for consideration and decision of the Government. You are saying-

[English]

Compulsory maintenance of accounts by political parties and audit thereof agencies specified by the Election Commission.

[Translation]

It is a very important point. Recently in an election in Maharashtra the Chief Minister of Maharashtra spent eleven

thousand rupees. We have to submit the accounts within three or four days. If we do not submit the accounts within three or four days we will be debarred. If the matter of 11 thousand rupees is correct, whether the sitting members of the House, are agree that the observers deployed there or candidates, they can say that they will put up only a single podium. For national level leader, the reality is that if a leader like Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh visits some parliamentary constituency then, it may cost more than just eleven thousand rupees. His total expenditure is 11 thousand rupees. What are we doing in this respect? We are talking about the country not about a political party. If we discuss about the country, then it should be our responsibility to drive our country in the proper direction.

The tenth point is about the Government sponsored advertisements, it should be complied with. What is happening these days, the atmosphere has changed since 2004 to 2009. Whether you have asked the candidates ever how local newspaper, print media are flecking money from them by pressing them. News are coming as advertisements-whether it is on electronic media or the print media. Whether the money is being included, can you bifurcate whether it is a news-item or an advertisement. Whether money is being paid by some candidate or we have tried to control electronic media or print media in this way. We should talk about meting out justice here like 'Panch Parmeshwar', we should not give up faith as if the exercise will not be worth it. It is not that print media, the electronic media will get annoyed so we need not go by our conscience. There is pressure on us and on our candidates and the whole responsibility lies on the Parliament and being Member of Parliament, it is our responsibility, it is responsibility of the whole country and all the political parties. We should collectively think about it. In the same way

[English]

Political advertisements on television and cable network

[Translation]

There are same things. Just as print media is creating pressure, in the same way it is also creating pressure. You

are talking about banning the exit poll, we will talk about it later. I want to explain to you that print media and television channels are showing whether a candidate will win or lose, are voters not being affected by it. Candidates are fighting elections and some other persons, by bribing the media, are showing that they are in election fray. What can you do about that? You have done a good job by banning the exit poll, but whether the flow of news items ends by banning the exit poll? The Government should think about it and the recommendations suggested by the Election Commission, are serious in nature. The twelfth point is

[English]

Composition of Election Commission and constitutional protection of all Members of the Commission and independent Secretariat of the Commission.

[Translation]

It must be done. In absence of this our credibility gets eroded in some form or the other. Political parties imposed serious charges on Chief Election Commissioner recently, what were causes? Therefore the Selection process should be independent, both position and opposition should be juxtaposed to each other. If you do not do so, it will be a case like that of Nawin Chawlaji. The Government should think about – the procedure for the EC's impeachment, appointment, funding of EC. This is what Election Commission's own documents say. Election Commission has said that - and all the political parties agreed with it. Amendments are silent about it....?

[English]

Expenses of Election Commission to be treated as charged.

[Translation]

They are asking for consolidated fund. They are demanding that just as there are separate funds of Comptroller and Auditor General, UPSC and Supreme Court, in the same way there should be fund for that also. What is the problem in it? When we are ready to accept it

as an independent body and it also functions like an independent body, what is the problem in accepting it? Why did you not bring it into the amendment?

[English]

Ban on transfer of Election Officers on the eve of elections,

[Translation]

it happens always. When each of the political parties feel that only three months are left for the election, they begin to post DMs, SPs, SDMs, BDOs, SHOs accordingly as it may suit their convenience. What powers have you given to the Election Commissions in this regard.

15.00 hrs.

Sir, suppose we lodge complaint during the election process and it is proved that he is involved in the corrupt practices, then the Government asks the State Government to send the panel of three persons to look into the matter, then the transfer is effected. What can the Election Commission do in this regard? When the State, the Chief Secretary and D.G.P. have the right to send the panel, then what can we and the Government do in this regard? What kind of reform has been mentioned in this amendment?

Sir, 15th point is:-

[English]

"All officials appointed in connection with conduct of elections to be included in clause (7) of section 123".

[Translation]

Just now, he said that it has been sent to the Election Commission and he has included it. Now what will happen, when we complaint that the booth has been looted, they say that first they would look into what has been written in the Presiding Officer's diary. Whether the person who loots the booth will allow the Presiding Officer to write report in his diary that he has looted the booth? Whether the person being powerful at a particular place

[Shri Nishikant Dubey]

will allow the Presiding officer to write report in his diary that he has looted the booth? Whether the person being powerful at a particular place will allow the Presiding officer to write the report? I myself have experienced it. The charges were levelled against me that I and my wife hit the person with the butt of the revolver. The booth was looted, my polling agent's hand got fractured. When we took out the diary of the Presiding officer, it was written in it that no booth was looted. What kind of amendment is the Government bringing? Why are we not serious about what the Election Commission has said?

Sir, after that Part-II is there. The first point of Part-II is Anti-Defection Law. Shri Rajiv Gandhi brought the Anti-Defection Law. He had such a big mandate and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government carried out amendments in this regard. Whether anti-defection law has not become a mockery? Whether all political parties are not culprit in this regard? What happened recently in Haryana? Whether there is any need to carry out amendments in this regard? The Government falls down in Goa. What kind of anti-defection law is in force? If our majority get reduced to minority in Karnatka, who is responsible for it? I always speak rising above the political line. I want that whatever discussion takes places in Lok Sabha should be above the political line. Usually what happens that we tell a person to resign from the seat of MLA and ask him to contest election? In the Parliament, when the efforts were being made to save the Government, the MPs from our side defected to that side and the MPs from that side defected to our side. What were we doing in that regard? We were happy, because our Government was being saved. If today MPs does not ask the questions, we get disturbed. The entire Parliament get worried, but when MP defects from here to there and gives his vote and save the Government, then what's the use of disqualifying him as MP? Whether the dignity of Parliament and country can be saved by this? Whether amendment should not be carried out in this regard, whether anti-defection law should not be given a fresh look?

Sir, now we are facing problem in Jharkhand. What is happening there, the cases of disqualification are lying

pending with the speaker for last five years. One person was Minister in our Government and in Shri Madhu Koda's Government also. The Speaker has been delaying the matter. Five MLAs from our party have started sitting separately. We requested him to disqualify them. You do not talk of disqualifying them. Some amendment should be made in the anti-defection law, it should be give some teeth. The issue is that as to why the bill is silent on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM (Mumbai North): Sir, hon'ble Member is not speaking on the amendment proposed by the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: All right, now I will speak on the amendment. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I will take only ten minutes and conclude my speech.

Sir, Dr. M. Veerappa Moily Saheb, was the Chairman of Administrative Reforms Commission. He has come from there. He has given 14-15 reports. I would like to ask him whether he does not feel that the entire process of the Public Representative Law should be changed. He is a Minister, fortunately he has come from the Administrative Reforms Commission. He may tell whether whatever I am saying is wrong? He is saying that the name will be added and removed. Here, the ration cards are being issued in the name of Mahatma Gandhi. The NREGA card is being issued in the name of hon'ble Rahul ji. The PAN card was issued in the name of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji. Whom would you hold responsible in this regard? Appellate Authority will take action only when somebody would say that my name should be added or removed. Why should the person whose name is added will go to Appellate Authority? I talked about infiltrators coming from Bangladesh. This is a part of amendment. Therefore, I am coming to it, that the amendment has been suggested for the Appellate Authority. I am talking of amendment only.

Sir, the Exit poll has been mentioned here. In 1998-99, the Election Commission said that the exit polls should be banned. The people went to the Supreme Court and pleaded that the Article 19 (c) and Article 324 of the

constitution has been violated. We remain silent for 10 years and what the exit poll is doing, I am not biased towards any media. Last time, it was said in Punjab that Akali-BJP alliance would be badly defeated. At that time also Akali Dal got 48 seats. Today, Akali-BJP alliance is in power there. Even today Akali Dal is having 48 seats, nothing happened. At that time that very exit poll said that Akali Dal was losing the election as it had got only 48 seats. Today, the same exit poll is saying that Akali Dal has won the election by winning 48 seats. It is banned in UK, Canada, Germany, France and many other countries and it is said that since it is a one-day practice, elections are held one day only, therefore, all this should be done after the elections.

15.06 hrs.

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*)

Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh Saheb is present here. Elections for 288 Vidhan Sabha seats in Maharashtra are held in a single day. In our State, elections for 81 Vidhan Sabha seats are held in five phases. It is said that this is done to prevent corrupt practices. Para-military forces are not sufficient in the country, while the State falls in naxalite belt, therefore elections will be held in five phases. Elections in my constituency were held in the first phase, there is one Vidhan Sabha seat called Purraiyahat, where all 313 booths were declared very sensitive and what I can understand by very sensitive is that para military forces will be deployed at all the booths. Who will deploy para-military forces? The SP, the DM, the BDO and CO posted there are deploying para-military forces and Home Guard Jawans were posted in all the booths. On which authority they have fixed responsibility in this regard? If elections are held in five phases, then what's the use of banning exit poll, the people are conducting the exit poll? They are internally sending the messages that the exist poll survey shows that we would be winning 18 seats out of 25 seats. Somebody is saying that the party is winning 20 seats. The SMS campaign, should be treated as effective mode of conducting exit poll. The Government banned electronic media, print media, but what is being done in regard to the SMS campaign being practices

these days? In the print media, it is published as to who will win, who will lose, who is in race, who is out of race, what action the Government is taking in this regard? Exit poll is only symbolic. Many things are linked with it, it has to be seen.

The Government talked of increasing security deposit in the bill. I say that the dummy candidates are planted: 2-2, 4-4 dummy candidates contest elections for vehicles, horse and carts. Whether anybody has been punished till date? Whether candidates will get discouraged merely by increasing the security deposit in this Bill? Whether the independent candidates, persons from small parties will not contest the elections? The question is what will happen by mere increase in the security amount. Anybody can pay Rs. 25,000, 10,000, everybody can pay it. The candidates spend money in crores, some distribute liquor, some distribute guns. Has anybody been punished so far? Whether it has been mentioned in the amendment that if somebody is found involved in such practices, his candidature will be automatically cancelled?

After that, the Government is saying that the process should be expedited, the cases should be settled in three months. Before this, the time to settle cases was six months, but whether any dispute of corrupt practices had every been solved in six months? Whether it will be solved in three months by doing it on papers? Whether the people will not appeal in lower court, High court? Had the tribunal been set up on the lines of CAT and the Electricity tribunal, and the Tribunal been authorized that if the case is not settled in the tribunal, the person will be able to challenge the decision taken by the Tribunal in those two three months, in Supreme court only, then the intention behind it would have been understood. Whether the Government is contemplating to carry out such amendments?

The similar case is of Mizoram. 38 seats were reserved in Mizoram, the Government has increased it to 39. This is also one amendment which he has not mentioned that 38 scheduled tribe seats have been increased to 39. Nobody has any problem in this regard, but till today Panchayat elections could not be held on this

[Shri Nishikant Dubey]

issue of scheduled tribes, no delimitation has been carried out till date, because the seats reserved for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are decreasing and if this can be done in Mizoram, then why the states like Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, and some States of north-east have been deprived of this thing? If the Government had all the powers and the Delimitation Authority was nothing, if the Government was able to increase the scheduled tribe seats from 38 to 39 by making a single amendment, then what wrong the people of Jharkhand have committed? The point is that if we take up the issue, we should discuss the interest of country. Regarding this amendment, I would like to say that it is like a drop in the ocean. Much cry, little wool. Moily Saheb has come from the Administrative Reforms Commission, he is aware of all the recommendations of the Election Commission, he is aware of all practices, he has also been the Chief Minister of Karnataka State. Now, he is the Law Minister of the country. I understand that the way companies Act is changing, the Direct Tax code is changing, the situation is also changing, the country is also changing, the person who earlier used to travel by bicycle, now travels by air, similarly we are not able to check the use of money. Use of money and liquor cause significant impact. The helicopter is being sued on a very large scale. Electronic and Print Media are acting arbitrarily. Therefore, I suggest that besides these 22 amendments, a Comprehensive Peoples Representative Act should be enacted by holding meeting with all political parties. It should be done as soon as possible, it should not be like the recommendations of 2004 which are being implemented in the year 2009. By doing so, the responsibility assigned to us and the Lok Sabha by the country will be fulfilled.

With these words, I conclude the speech.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Madam Chairman, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak on the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill. I extend compliments to my colleague who spoke earlier to me. He has expressed everyone's view point very well. The hon. Minister before placing these amendments did express his compulsions that his hands

were tied because he had not received certain recommendations from the Standing Committee. However, most humbly I would tell the hon. Minister, as pointed out by my learned friend who spoke earlier to me, that there is a dire need to bring comprehensive amendments in the Representation of People Bill and all related electoral procedures. The hon. Minister should not wait for the recommendations of the Standing Committee, he should rather exercise his influence to evolve a consensus with all parties on introducing comprehensive reforms in the Act instead of making cosmetic changes.

I welcome those four or five recommendations made by him. I fully hope that the remaining 20-22 amendments would also be deliberated upon. However, it needs to be seen how we can incorporate these recommendations in our electoral procedure in order to check those corrupt practices. Secondly, I would like to make one or two comments on the role of Election Commission at some places. Firstly, the system being evolved relating to election expenditure is pretty serious. The people contesting elections would be of the opinion as to what they would do in the next elections? Given the present scenario, how would they contest elections in future? Let alone people coming from modest backgrounds. A poor person cannot afford to contest elections of Sarpanch, let alone that of the Member of Parliament. Those contesting elections are worried about their future after 5-10 years? Leave aside the winning candidates who either become M.L.A.s or Members of Parliament. They can sail through the period of five years with the help of their friends or associates. But what about losing candidates, what they will do? How do they struggle during 6-8 months period of elections? One thing is sure that we have to comply with the norms and follow the line of code of conduct during elections, be it expenditure limit or moral code. And it is generally seen that the candidates who strictly abide by these norms and stipulations are neither recognized by the voter nor the media. Mostly, the candidate who flouts this line emerges victorious and is considered a leader. There is no restraint on candidates contesting elections these days. And if we contest elections in compliance with all norms, there is no guarantee that we will have a recognition. Perhaps our expenditure limit is Rs. 25 or 30 lakh. But it has become a

farce. We take oath to follow all rules and regulations and we try to comply with the rules. I do not think that any candidate contesting elections would like to incur huge expenditure of his own volition, however, such compelling circumstances and situations have emerged. As stated by Nishikant ji, there is a lot of external pressure. I do not know about other constituencies, but I can tell you about my experience and that of my friends that days before the elections we receive persons from media offering us packages from Rs. 7 to 25 lakhs etc. I am not leveling any allegation. I am merely stating a fact. If I don't fall a prey in their hands, my other colleague would. If he doesn't, his friend would fall in that trap. Today, you or I may resist this temptation but perhaps the next generation would not be able to resist even this temptation.

Reference was made to exit poll. It is a very petty issue which does not have a lasting influence on the mind of the voters. However, the daily news reported by the newspapers influence the voters to a great extent. I would relate a small incident. On sixth or seventh day of my election campaign, I got half an hour from my campaign to have lunch at one of my friends' place where my eyes fell on the newspaper kept before me. On left side at the bottom of the newspaper there was a column reporting - Sandeep Dikshit in trouble and another column on that very page reported - Congress leading in East Delhi. I could not understand it. On one side I was reported to be trailing and the other side reported that I was heading towards a landslide victory. There should be some check on such reporting. We should also not get chance to belittle the media. It is a responsibility of either side. Neither the candidates manipulating vote bank through media nor the candidates treating elections as business should be allowed to do so. We may not have the moral strength to follow the right path. If the Election Commission empowers us sufficiently there would hardly be any leader or a politician who would not like to follow that right path.

As far as discontinuation of aid after six months or a year is concerned I support this proposal to quite an extent. In an era of influential media advertorials of not only the candidates but those of the Government are also published in newspapers. Many of my colleagues and

friends cannot understand if it is an advertorial or an article written by a journalist. However, it is pretty effective.

I belong to the ruling party in Delhi. I belong to the ruling at the Centre. I wonder if the Bhartiya Janata Party would be able to match the Government's resources in media in Delhi?

The situation varies in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and in every other state. Every State Government uses its influence. How far the opposition can counter it or could some other people who are unable to establish that sort of rapport, be able to counter it? These things will have to be looked into seriously. We leave behind some people right from the beginning though the framers of our constitution had told us and it has been our duty also that the person who is weak should be allowed to start the race from a little ahead. However, we tend to leave behind the weak person in the race. We talk about positive discrimination, but start negative discrimination right from the elections.

I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that he should definitely bring the proposed 20-22 small amendments, but when comprehensive electoral reform is discussed, its practical side should be taken into view. Can we really visualize the face of a poor man? Place an industrialist in front of him and see whether we can set such a platform on which a poor person living in a slum cluster can fight election against a rich person. If we can enact such a law, then we will be able to bring change in real terms. This country has the capability, the political leaders of this country are competent enough to create such circumstances. The leaders of this very country have brought some changes amidst the adverse circumstances of casteism. But when we will show will, I doubt whether that will exists or not. We saw that the private sector faced many problems for 25-30 years. The private sector had got a will, it influenced the Government and our economic administration got metamorphosed after 1992. It was metamorphosed in spite of all vested interests, because there was a political will for bringing about change. Why no political will is seen in carrying out reforms in respect of our own cause? After every election, every political

[Shri Sandeep Dikshit]

party, particularly, that party which is unable to get the desired results, talks about reforms. But if it comes to power after five years, those reforms are not carried out beyond some statements.

I sometimes doubt the Election Commission. Hon'ble Minister, I got surprised on one thing. I am thinking of citing an example. Perhaps some people are present here. We were prohibited to use drums during the election. All of you might be aware of it, but advertisement is allowed on TV. If the money is paid to the millionaire, the Election Commission has no problem, but if the poor drumbeater gets money, the Election Commission treats it as misuse of funds. From where this thought has originated? It is all right, that the walls get defaced on account of sticking of posters, but at least it is printed by a person of local publication unit and whether democracy is strengthened in case my enlarged picture figure is stuck on board costing Rs. 25 lakh, what kind of thinking is this? I do not understand what kind of Election Commission is this. Which kind of economic school these people hail from? I am not leveling allegations against any single person. I am drawing your attention towards a particular mode of thought. When all these ideologies will prevail, the MPs will come here only after CII meeting and no MP will come here through elections. What kind of circumstances are they creating? We will have to see that the rising economic power may not paralyse the political power? It has also to be taken into account whether the 'People's will' will not be able to survive before the economic will. It is our duty to protect this. Protecting us does not mean protection of our rights only. There is a need to protect the right of the people who elect us.

Today, the electoral roll is discussed. I talked about the campaign. I gave one example in this regard. I would like to talk about electoral roll. He said that voters are not found, voters are available. Hon'ble Minister, I would like to narrate a small story. During my last term as an MP, I went on a parliamentary tour to Sweden. As soon as I entered Sweden, an officer placed my thumb on a machine. After that, whichever place I visited in that country, whether it was a Hotel, Plane ticket counter, or a shop, I just had to

place my thumb. Once my thumb impression was made bio-metric, it reached the entire country. I did not have to follow any other procedure. Can we not bring that kind of system, the bio-metric system in our country? Today, when we say that only 47 to 50 percent polling takes place in our country, it is not because the people are indifferent. It is so because on that given day, somebody may have to go somewhere due to an urgent work. Somebody is unable to go to polling booth on that very day. It is also our duty to raise percentage of polling from 47 to 60 or 70 per cent. Can we not simplify the system. ...*(Interruptions)*. He said it rightly that even cards are not prepared. But the procedure of making cards is also strange. Every time one has to follow the procedure afresh. If one depends on bio-metric for something, there is no need to prepare something afresh.

I would also like to say one more thing. Today, an hon'ble Member from Jharkhand said that elections are held in 5 or 6 phases. All right, six rounds can take place due to administrative circumstances, but if anybody looks deeply into it, he will infer that voting should take place on one day only, because the public sentiment of people at that very point should be reflected in the election results. In a way, election in many phases is an insult to people's decision. I understand that it may be the administrative need, but it is my viewpoint. If paramilitary forces are required, the Government should deploy them. The Government can use other things also, but circumstances change in 5-6 days. Elections to 15 seats were held in that very state and a different situation emerges in the remaining 15 seats. I would like to cite a small example. I do not want to go into the details of what transpired in Delhi during elections after the 26/11 attack in Mumbai, however, there were two rounds of elections in Delhi before the Mumbai incident and two following the incident. Wouldn't 26/11 situation have affected the voter's mindset? How it is possible that the result of the elections before the emergence of that situation would be different and the result of the elections to the remaining seats would be same as the result of elections held earlier. This will have to be changed. Election Commission will have to respect

certain fundamental things. Administrative requirements are not as important as those fundamental points such as ensuring democracy in Elections, people's will and the expression of this will on one single day and free and fair elections.

[English]

Those are the fundamentals on which we cannot have any compromise.

[Translation]

There is another proposal to set up tribunal for election cases. This is praiseworthy. Generally candidates avoid filing a petition in court even if their rival is rigging elections thinking that who would pursue the case for 4-5 years in the tribunal. Today, the Election Commission has earned praise everywhere and I commend it for several milestones it has achieved," however, I cannot remember a single case in which any sitting Member of Parliament would have been disqualified for corrupt practices. Whether not a single Member would have been involved in corrupt practices during the last 14 or 15 elections? It is surprising that we have not been able to catch hold of a single person and yet we believe that we are adequately equipped to address the problem relating to elections. I have witnessed the electoral procedure being reduced to shreds almost everyday. We continue to file petitions, send fax messages call upon electoral officers, urge DM and SDM and no one comes to our rescue. We have to measure to tackle this problem. Many of us sit quietly after getting disappointed. I am not blaming any particular Government but at several places State Governments are found to be very domineering and the Opposition candidate becomes helpless. It is extremely necessary to bring in reforms. Only the officers fear the Election Commission not the candidates. Only a candidate having moral strength and discretion can exercise self restraint and restrain oneself from committing electoral malpractices and one who knows that he can win elections by flouting rules and regulations does not bother to respect them because nothing succeeds like success.

I welcome five-six suggestions made here. I also

welcome the points raised by my learned friend, so I will not repeat them. I do not want to take much time of the House; however, I would not mince words to add that ever since the Minister of law who has also been the Chairman of Administrative Reforms Commission, assumed charge, he is being referred to as a Minister who means business. You would not find a single party or a Member in the House opposing or not extending support to reforms, however, I urge upon the Minister to introduce comprehensive reforms. Many people wonder if we could look upto list system. At least a procedure should be put in place. Once I went to Germany, there I was told that there was a Green party which could not win any seat on its own, however, there were 10 to 12 per cent electorate in every constituency who caste their vote in favour of that party for raising environmental issues and since they had list system, ten percent Members of that ideology got elected in the House where they could speak their mind. Can we also elect people of this ideology? In regard to independence of candidates contesting from different constituencies I believe that at times they distort people's will. I do not mean that independent of candidates should be checked but there should be some system to monitor their activities and what after all they are doing.

[English]

I think they will distort people's will.

[Translation]

These days some candidates become successful by wining 20-23 per-cent vote. Those who manage to succeed are most welcome because they made efforts and garnered support from 22-23 per cent people. However, their election as Member is purely circumstantial and not because they were a better choice or they performed well or they had big following due to their party's ideology. In reality, there were so many candidates from their area and the votes got divided and the candidate obtaining 20-22 per cent vote got maximum number of votes and got elected. Ironically, several national level parties make such calculations thinking they would benefit from such a division of votes among three candidates and become successful instead of focusing on getting 50 per cent or more votes. We also fail in our duty.

[Shri Sandeep Dikshit]

Madam Chairman, I will make one more submission before concluding. The hon. Minister has made five amendments through this Bill and I hope he will also work upon the recommendations likely to be given by the Standing Committee. In view of the sentiments expressed by my earlier speaker and the points raised by me to the best of my limited ability, I would reiterate that there is dire need of reforms in the People's Representation Act. This need is on account of our responsibility towards people who have elected us. And those who are annoyed and resentful of the political system, we need to generate hope in them. There is need to give them an assurance that there would be level playing field for everyone who want to contest elections. And that they can face any situation with faith and their ideology, money and power would be subservient.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Today you have won more appreciation from Opposition than the ruling party.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2009. The Members who spoke before me have given many suggestions on this bill. As it is known to everybody that India is the world's biggest democracy. It has a population of around 125 crore. While presenting this Amendment Bill, the hon'ble Minister emphasized that there are 80 crore voters in the country who exercise their franchise. Out of it 20-25 crore people are deprived from exercising their franchise or show no interest in casting their votes. This is unfortunate for a democratic country. I would like to suggest that a legal provision should be made to make polling mandatory to check the people who remain averse from voting. Therefore, all the Government facilities provided to the people who do not vote, should be repealed. Then only the situation would improve. Whenever Vidhan Sabha or Lok Sabha elections take place in our country, at some places only 80 percent polling take place and at the rest of places only 40-45 percent polling take place on an average. After polling,

when we hear from the Akashwani broadcast that 25-30 percent polling took place at such and such place, the situation seems really unfortunate for the Indian democracy. When we claim that our country is the biggest democracy of the world, we will have to give a thought over it. We should treat polling day as the national festival. We treat it as a national festival, therefore we also cast vote, but we will have to think about those who do not cast vote.

While presenting the bill, the hon'ble Minister also said that since 2004, this is being discussed in the Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievances. Fortunately, last time also I was the Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee related to this Department and this time also I am the Member of the same committee. The Committee held many discussions on almost all point of the bill and had given many suggestions, but this Amendment Bill has been presented on only five subjects. As the hon'ble Minister said there are still 17 more points, which are quite important points, and he has presented the amendment bill on only five points.

Sir, I would like that if amendments, views and suggestions are put forth on the 22 points, then only the electoral process in the Indian democracy will be strengthened. Then we would feel pride on India being called the biggest democracy. He has moved amendments on five points. He talked about ineligible and corrupt candidates. Unfortunately, till today we have not been able to take a permanent decision in this regard. This was discussed in the standing committee also, all the hon'ble Members had given different suggestions and views. Just now, hon'ble Members have said many things in detail. Lucknow has been discussed, Bihar has been cited as an example, there are many misconceptions on which we have not given a constant thought as to how to find a permanent check so that such corrupt people may not be made candidates in the elections. Till now, we have not been able to find a permanent solution of this problem. It is very essential to do this, because our House is the biggest temple of democracy. This is a matter of great concern as to how people of clean image may get elected, a decision will have to be taken in this regard.

He said that he has appointed the DM as an officer at local level. Nowadays, generally, most of the hon'ble District Magistrate as District Election Officers somehow remain under the pressure of the state Governments, I have no hesitation in saying this, because I have gone through all these difficulties then only I am able to participate in the discussion being held here. Their decision always go in favour of the Government, therefore, it becomes very difficult to hold impartial elections. I remember that the election result of my constituency came by 6-7 o'clock, reports came in from all the quarters, but I was declared a winner at 10 p.m. This happened due to their biased attitude. When I myself called and connected the phone to Delhi and told the local observer to talk to the people there and when the Election commissioner hear rebuked them, then only I was granted the certificate. I won the elections with a difference of 60,000 votes. It was not like that I won by only 400-500 votes. They were having ill-intentions against me. I know that observers come from other state, but they should ensure that irregularity or delay should not take place anywhere. Our elections should be impartial, all parties want this.

As far as the increase of security deposit is concerned, there will be no decrease in number of candidates. There are so many such people who have nothing to eat in their houses, but they stand in the election fray. If you talk to them during election, they will say that they are winning election by lakhs of votes. Even an independent candidate says he is going to win by a margin of lakhs of votes. Nothing changes with the increase of security deposit. They have increased the amount of security deposit from 10,000 to 25,000, whereas the committee has recommended Rs. 20,000 and for the reserved categories they have fixed half of this amount. This is okay, but we have to seriously consider further in this regard.

If the independent candidate died or was missing during election then the election was postponed, all right, now some restrictions have been imposed in this regard but we have to consider this issue seriously, because a number of independent candidates stand in the election

fray and there are so many small parties due to which two EVMs have to be sent for voting at one booth. In these circumstances when the voters go for voting, they are confused as to which buttons they should press on which machines. Pathakji is telling that there were two EVMs at his booth. They should convert two machines into one. If the machine is small, they should make it bigger. They have to make this arrangement. Our voters are not much literate as of now. This morning during question hour we have discussed adult education. Apart from it, he has talked about amendment in section 123. As far as the broadcasting telecast of exit polls is concerned, it has been discussed in detail. When exit poll is telecast, it is not hundred percent correct or unbiased. It has always failed. It is based on gossiping of politicians or the public discussion among the villagers and the common people while sitting on tea or betel shops and then concrete evidence is given in detail and exit poll treats it as correct guess. Such exit polls are telecast by conducting survey among merely 50,000 people out of 80 crore people. That is why it is not correct. That is the reason they have stopped amendment. This is a very good thing. Secondly, the exit poll cannot be debarred from the people.

Media is the pillar of democracy. So it should be empowered in a way and the people should also have a right to information. However, there is a different way to go about it. Since exit polls influence our elections to a great extent, we will have to ponder over it seriously. Secondly, exit polls spread all kinds of rumour. Exit poll influences public opinion and elections. Whereas as per the order of the Election Commission, campaign should be stopped 48 hours before elections. Since General Assembly elections across the country or legislative Assembly elections in a state are conducted in various phases, like wise in Jharkhand, too, it takes place in various phases. The exit poll after first round would automatically affect the next round of elections. So, I welcome the amendment made in regard to Exit Poll and strongly support all the views and suggestions made by him. I reiterate that the 22 point recommendations being deliberated upon by the Standing committee are worthwhile for electoral reforms and should be incorporated and only then we can deliver free and impartial elections in our democracy. I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH alias LALAN SINGH (Munger): Madam Chairman, we are discussing the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill. Nishikantji has drawn attention to all the points in great detail. All the points raised by him in regard to electoral reforms are valid. However, from several statements made by the present hon. Minister of law which were reported in the newspapers and the radical measures suggested by him, it does not appear that the amendments brought by him could reform the election procedure or ensure fairness in elections. He is doing patchwork in small pieces. While introducing the Bill he said that our country is the biggest democracy of the world. Despite being the biggest democracy have we been able to ensure fair elections? Elections have not been fair. Election Commission has been given full autonomy. The Election Commission made 22 recommendations. These 22 recommendations were also referred to by Shri Nishikantji. Where is the fairness of Election Commission? All those institutions which have been given autonomy have become power crazy. They are using this autonomy to serve their interest. We witnessed it at several places during this election. I have experienced it myself. I would like to cite an example. Elections were held in my parliamentary constituency. Leader of opposition hon. Advaniji is sitting here, he knows it. First phase of elections were held in Bihar. The then Chief Election Commissioner after elections received reports from presiding officers, returning officers and observers and ordered for repolling in the constituencies where it was due and got retired. The first phase of elections were over after his retirement and the next Chief Election Commission over assumed over charge and he started reviewing the first phase of elections. I wonder with which authority he conducted the review? If they enjoy autonomy it is for playing an impartial role. It is not for playing a partial role. Today, if there is a need to bring amendment in the Representation of the People Act, there is a need to reign in all the autonomous organisations so that they fulfil their duties honestly. What is the use of bringing reforms in a piece meal manner? The limit of election expenditure has been fixed at Rs. 25 lakh. Is it not a farce. Which candidate is spending Rs. 25 lakh in elections? I feel there is no candidate who can honestly

claim that he won elections by spending Rs. 25 lakh. Agarwal Saheb is raising hand, if his expenditure is taken into account, it is an exceptional case. Why, he is cracking a joke? It can only be check if relaxation is given to the candidates to contest elections on Government expenditure. If corruption is to be weeded out from election procedure, then first amendment should be brought to ban expenditure by the candidates, it should be incurred by the Government and every facility should be provided. People should be given relaxations to vote. Model code of conduct should be implemented. What is its result? Everyone is doing what he feels like. Some one is lodging an F.I.R., or going to police station on violation of model code of conduct. Model code of conduct was enforced by the Election Commission but it has been reduced to a farce. They blame the diminishing voting percentage that has been to 30-40 per cent. Issuing of photo identity card was proposed. But how many states have issued 100 per cent photo ID cards? It should not have been enforced till 100 per cent Id cards were made. I have experienced problems in my constituency. Poor voter, goes to the booth with his ration card or BPL card and is dispatched back by the presiding officer and asked to come back with photo ID card. From where will he produce a photo card? The ration card issued to him is a valid document. Election commission gave a direction to have photo ration card. But what about states not having photo ration cards? So, this way the voting percentage is bound to diminish. The poor man will keep sitting on booth, making arguments but he will not be allowed to vote.

Sir, Nishikantji referred to advertisement. I would like to cite here the example of an independent candidate from my constituency. During election campaign in my parliamentary constituency, his advertisements covered two pages of newspaper and the electronic media covered his march in which he was seen marching with lakhs of people. This footage was shown throughout election campaign. Our Chief Minister remarked that he appeared to be a very dynamic person who was leaving others behind. However, the candidate got only 7000 votes. He was an independent candidate whom I do not wish to name and should not do it even otherwise. But what was the source of expenditure? Such a big system operated

through advertisement. Advertisement has been banned. This is alright. I am not opposed to the amendments brought by him, I am in support of it. But this is not sufficient. If you want to hold free and fair elections in the country, then repeal all the laws and call an all-party meeting, take suggestions from the Election Commission because all the political parties contest the elections. Call all of them together, call their leaders together and then contemplate on this issue. After repealing the old Act, a new RPA should be prepared and implemented in the country so that impartial elections may be held in the country. What has happened to the Election Commission today? The responsibility of maintaining law and order, administrative rights of the state where elections are to be held are passed on to the Election Commission. Why the Election Commission got this right? Why the CM, ADGs got it? What are you talking about, where they got this right from? You must control autonomous bodies. Only the ruling parties do not contest elections, but all the parties contest it. The opinion of the Opposition should also be kept in view while making appointments in the Election Commission. Today, you are in power, tomorrow we can also come to power and day after tomorrow some other party may also come to power. When the CVC is appointed, the advice of the Opposition is also taken. Therefore, law in regard to appointments in the Election Commission should also be amended. You should maintain such a credibility so that the Election Commission and the RPA could get free and fair elections held in the country. India is the biggest democratic country in the world. If free and fair elections are held here, then the reflection that comes in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies is an actual reflection of the people of this country. You should formulate such legislation.

With these words, I support this amendment bill.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: All people should keep allocated time in mind. Shri Kalyan Banerjee.

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (Sreerampur): Madam Chairman, before I begin to speak on the Bill, I would like to make a request. I would request that the Parliament

Library be instructed to keep the new bare Acts. Whenever I asked for bare Acts, I was always given the old bare Acts. The new bare Acts do not cost much. At the most they cost about Rs.20. So, please ask the Library to keep the new bare Acts.

I now come to the Bill under discussion. I heard the hon. Law Minister's speech wherein he talked about a national debate on election law reforms etc. I would like to say something in this regard. Our Constitution had created an independent Constitutional body to conduct elections in the country. About 59 years have passed after the commencement of the Constitution but there has been a failure on the part of all the Governments that came to power at the Centre in creating adequate infrastructure for that constitutional body of Election Commission of India.

Three or four people have been appointed as Election Commissioners and a few officers have been appointed to assist them. This is our Election Commission under the Constitution which is holding impartial, fair and equitable elections. Who is this Election Commission dependent on? It is dependent on the party which is in power in different States. It is dependent on the officers who are working under different State Governments ruled by different parties. Where is that infrastructure that is really interested in holding independent elections? One has to depend upon Chidambaramji to see whether he would send the paramilitary forces or not. If he is in a good mood he would say, "Yes, I am sending the forces."

If he is not in a good mood, he would say, I do not have the forces. If he is having a friendly Chief Minister in some State, he may send or may not send the forces. If he is having the enemy Chief Minister, what he would do, I do not know. This is the expression which is being used by him, the friendly Chief Minister. If I have to use that expression, then, he is having an inimical Chief Minister in some State.

Now, the State would decide as to whether to keep the armed forces in the police lines or not. That is depending upon the District Magistrate or SP. I can understand a State where there is a change of power after five or ten years. We are coming from a State where for 30 or 35 years the

[Shri Kalyan Banerjee]

power is with a party; already officers are in its pocket. Therefore, where are independent elections? Where are those officers? You are depending upon the officers who have been entrusted the job by the Chief Minister, who says, 'he is our man, and hence, appoint him as Chief Electoral Officer'. It is really frustrating. In the name of fair elections, it is really frustrating. If you go to any State like us, appoint an independent person to find out whether a fair election is conducted or not. If they enjoy the blessings of the Chief Ministers, he will be appointed as the Chief Electoral Officers, District Magistrates, Superintendents of Police of those States. These are the Chief Electoral Officers, District Magistrates, Superintendents of Police who would create annoyance to the ruling party. Therefore, first create the independent Judiciary. You have to create an independent Judiciary with infrastructure.

Now, I take up the clauses one by one in the amendment Bill. You are creating a second Appellate Body. I appreciate that. Although it is an appeal and second appeal, you have not used this expression under Section 2 of the new amendment Act. But the hon. Law Minister — I do not know whether you are aware of the fact or not — till now, in our country, people are really losing confidence on the Government because their names are not registered under the electoral rolls. It has become so clumsy that one has to go from one pillar to other; he has to catch hold of an influential person, only in that case, a poor man's name would be registered in the electoral rolls. The people who are appointed to undertake door to door survey, that is also depending on those who are in the ruling party. There are no guidelines in this regard. Party cadres are being appointed for the purpose of undertaking door to door survey. Why not Government officers are appointed? Why an officer who belongs to a trade union or union or having blessing of a ruling party or any other political party would be given the charge for holding the elections? When there is an objection that you are appointing the Presiding Officer who are the members of a union or association having affiliation to a ruling party or any political party, they are being appointed for the election needs. Ultimately, when

the Presiding Officer is appointed, he is indirectly a man of the political party. Kindly look into that if you want really an independent elections in our country.

In another clause, there is a mention of District Magistrate or Additional District Magistrate or Executive Magistrate. Registration Officer is appointed in the categories of the Sub-Divisional Officer. How his Appellate Authority can be Executive Magistrate? He is holding a rank below him. How can he be appointed as an Appellate Authority? I think, it has to be deleted as far as Executive Magistrate is concerned. Kindly apply your mind in this regard.

Next party is about the Appellate Forum. I have been making a request when I speak on every Bill. Whenever there is an adjudication by a quasi-judicial authority, kindly fix up the time. Kindly make it mandatory. Can you make it mandatory if an appeal is preferred, it has to be disposed of within a certain time?

16.00 hrs.

If an adjudication proceeding is there, it has to be disposed of within a certain time and make it mandatory. Otherwise, it does not have any significant meaning there.

I am coming to this straight now — you have increased the security deposit for independent candidates. Although many persons will ask as to why independent persons should be there. I am having a contrary view on that. With great respect, why are we worried about the field of choice? Let many persons come into the field of choice. People will decide it. Even a politician, who remains in a party, sometimes may speak against the party and ultimately, he is really suspended from the political party itself. That gentleman may contest as an independent and you are asking for a tremendous amount. Why should there be any discrimination between a person who comes from a political party and another who does not belong to any political party? Why are you trying to restrict the field of choice? Let it be open; let it be extended. If you really want to do this, the Election Commission should adopt a stringent policy, but not by enhancing the deposit. If I have money, I can give him, whether it is Rs.25,000 or Rs.50,000. It is immaterial and insignificant. But if I do not have money, if

I am an independent, if my Party has suspended me, and if I am really a popular man in politics, I will really not be in a position to contest the election because of money. Why should there be any restriction? Kindly consider this.

Now, I come to this very serious part, and the hon. Minister may kindly clarify this. The simple meaning of English as I understand is this. The interpretation of a law goes by the simple meaning of English. I am really worried and the Minister may kindly clarify this.

He is amending section 123 (7). Let me read it. The original clause says:

"Obtaining or procuring or abetting or attempting to obtain or procure, by a candidate or his agent or by any other person, with the consent of a candidate, or his election agent, any assistance, for the furtherance of the prospects of that candidate's election from any person in the service of the Government."

That restriction was there — any assistance from any person in the service of Government. Now, what have you brought in? Kindly see this and give the clarification. The proposed amendment says: for the words 'from any person in the service of the Government', the words 'from any person whether or not in the service of the Government'.

Am I debarred from taking financial assistance from my Party? By this clause, you have restricted any assistance from any person, including Government employee. What is the meaning of this? Do you mean that I am debarred to take any assistance from my political party? Am I debarred to take any assistance from any of my friends? Am I debarred from taking any assistance — by whatever means from any other person? You may kindly clarify. If this remains, my reading is that I am debarred to take any type of assistance even from my Party, except the nomination which will be given by my Party. Please clarify this. This will have a tremendous effect.

Let us see the amendment to section 126 of the principal Act.

It is with regard to the opinion poll or exit poll. Freedom of Press does not give them licence to elect a

person for whom they may have their sympathy. You have brought an amendment to this and I really give you ...thank you for this.

Right from the days of Emergency, except the Congress, the entire country fought for the freedom of the Press in our country. This freedom of the Press has been recognised by the Supreme Court. This freedom of the Press has not come because of some journalist or some media establishment but by reason of the long struggle of the people of this country, which ultimately has been upheld by the Supreme Court. Today, this freedom of the Press is really being abused, misused. The way it is having an impact on the election, it is really being abused. So, I would say that the Government should ban not only exit poll but even the opinion poll. They cannot decide who will be the representatives of the country either at the Centre or in States. People will decide it. These people have surrendered themselves to some major political alignments. A major part of the Press has surrendered themselves either to the industrialists or to some ruling party. They cannot decide as to who should come as the people's representatives in our country. You should restrict it, make it more stringent. I would suggest you to stop the opinion poll and the exit poll. Let people decide it. The result of the exit poll or opinion poll should be declared only after the entire election is over in the country. For example if in West Bengal elections are held in five phases and the decision of such poll of one phase is declared before other four phases are over. If the Election Commission thinks four months are required to conduct election in our country, for four months nothing should be published about the exit poll or the opinion poll.

With these words, I thank the hon. Chairperson for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

*SHRI A. SAMPATH (Attingal): We are discussing the Bill to amend the Representation of the people Act, 2009 and the Members who spoke before me have made very valid points which I do not want to repeat. But I want to bring to your notice some important points which may need to be emphasized again.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam

[Shri A. Sampath]

Madam, the Hon. Minister who presented the Bill is a very erudite and matured political leader who has keen knowledge about the democratic process in our country. But my humble request is that some of the points he presented here need some explanations.

I feel, that this is the opportune moment to discuss at length the modalities of bringing in changes in our electoral system. Often, we discuss only a few points, and we bring in piece meal amendments or legislation. My request is that we need a comprehensive legislation with regard to our whole electoral process.

I have, already, given in writing the necessity of an amendment. One point, which is mentioned in the Bill, Chapter III, para 5, that contains the instruction the Minister has given for increasing the amount of security to be deposited by the contesting candidates in an election. I not only oppose the move to increase the security amount, but I am of the opinion that the existing amount should be further reduced. The security amount for both the general candidates and the SC/ST candidates should be reduced to half of what it is today.

In Chapter III, Para 6, Sub Section (ii)h, says and I am quoting with your permission "the class of persons in the service of a local authority, university, government company or institution or concern or under-taking appointed or deputed by the Election Commission in connection with the conducting the elections". If this is enacted, we are snatching away the rights of those people who are employees or labourers in the above mentioned bodies, to contest or take part in the election process.

Many Members have spoken of the malpractices that are taking place in our electoral process. When the first general elections were taking place, the total number of voters in our country was less than eighteen crores, now it has increased up to eighty crores.

But unfortunately, today, the Lok Sabha has become a millionaires Sabha. The voice of crores of deprived and poor voters are being silenced by money power. Money

power, I mean it Madam. The economic power swallows the political will. We have to change this trend immediately. I am of the belief, that legislation is a work that we need to perform with utmost care and sensitivity. We must remember, that a constitution amendment was carried out in this House, to nullify a court order that nullified an election result which involved a former Prime Minister.

We are denying the right to vote, for many in our country. I come from the state of Kerala, from where over 30 lakhs of people are working in other countries. Those 30 lakhs of Malayalees are contributing Rs. 24,000 crore to our economy annually. Yet, these 30 lakh of Malayalees do not have voting rights. All Non-Resident Indians should be given voting rights. We should bring in the required legislation to ensure, the voting rights of all Non-Resident Indians. Another point Madam, is that those who are in prison, can contest in elections, but even non convicted prisoners who are in jails do not have voting rights. There needs to be an amendment to rectify this anomaly.

Madam, even our existing laws, says that any election related petition, if it is filed in a court, has to be heard and disposed off within six months. But we know, a verdict come against a Member of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, when the term of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha was over. Many of the court decisions are infructuous. We are upsetting the true verdict of the people. We have to avoid, the time delay in all cases concerning the election process.

Another point, Madam, what about the Women Reservation Bill? We have been hearing about it for long?

I would request the Minister that since he is bringing in an amendment in Peoples Representation Act, he should also bring in the Women Reservation Bill.

Let, the people and the world know who are opposing and who are supporting the Women Reservation Bill. Our Election Commission has been empowered by the Constitution to function with impartiality, transparency and honesty. This should be made apparent to the people of this country. But often there have been allegations that the Election Commission is acting as per the directives of the ruling party. The Election Commission should ensure that they do not become a subservient organization.

Another point Madam, earlier we had heard about sponsored candidates. But now those who were sponsoring candidates are now contesting the elections directly and they are now becoming part of the cabinet as well. This is not a healthy trend to the largest multi party democracy.

The media is called the fourth estate in our country. But today, the media is being manipulated. There are sponsored columns, and television programmes, that are being planted by certain candidates. It is now known that some media men had demanded money from candidates for favouring them in election.

The Fifteenth Lok Sabha election was the most expensive elections our country has witnessed till date. here were allegations that even foreign currency flooded to this country to help some parties during the last elections. Corporate houses are donating funds to several political parties. They get tax exemption for such donations they make.

Madam, in our country, when we Members of Parliament recommend some genuine cases to get monetary help from the Prime Minister Relief Fund we are told of the paucity of funds. But, when the corporate houses, throw money to buy candidates they get tax exemption. This is an unhealthy practice that upsets the very concept of democracy. That is why, I again repeat, it is an opportune moment to bring in comprehensive changes in our electoral system. Today, if any state is afflicted by a natural disaster, often they are denied financial grant or aids because some election or by election has been declared. The Minister himself said that many of our citizens do not exercise their franchise. Our people should not lose their faith in the electoral process. Each vote should be made accountable. Representational vote system where each candidate can get a rating given by the voters can be introduced as it has been successfully introduced in some other countries.

[English]

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGOVAN (Chennai North): Madam, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill.

While welcoming the provisions of the Bill I would like to specifically talk about one case regarding registration of names in the voters list. I welcome the provision of increasing the amount of deposit to Rs. 25,000 because it will ensure that non-serious candidates will not contest elections. But with regard to the amendment to the electors registration rules I would like to quote a specific incident which happened in my State of Tamil Nadu. In India we have laws preventing people from contesting elections; we do have laws even for taking the life of a person; but we do not have any law to take away the right of a person to vote. There is no rule to prevent a person from voting. But there are instances where we can find that during earlier elections most of the people could not vote. I welcome this amendment which is intended to fix a period of three months to dispose of all cases relating to registration and deletion of election registration rules. I wish to quote a case here. I do not intend to charge any political party or any officer or any Government. But citing of this case will throw light into what is happening in my State.

In Tamil Nadu, the DMK Government was elected to power in 2006. Before that, the previous Government brought in a legislation called the Anti-Conversion Act. The Anti-Conversion Act prevents a person from converting from one religion to another religion due to whatever reasons. Subsequently, there was heavy opposition to that Act, and then, during the Assembly elections in 2006, most of the names of Muslims or the names found in the polling stations situated in the Muslim areas were deleted from the voters list. Many of the Muslim names were deleted from the voters list without any reason, without adopting any procedure and without following the rules concerning deletion of names. That was the case. When a person, who had voted during Parliament elections in 2004, went to the polling station in 2006, and saw that his name has been deleted.

So, while welcoming the amendment proposed by the hon. Minister that the cases should be disposed of within three months, I would also request the hon. Minister to introduce a penalty clause for officers who are not following the rules relating to deletion of names.

[Shri T.K.S. Elangovan]

Regarding addition of names, it is said that a person 'normally residing' in a particular place can register his name as a voter in that area. But the term 'normally residing' has no specific meaning and it is interpreted in the way the officers of the Registration Office wish and most of the names are not registered. This is one point which the hon. Minister should consider while giving a specific meaning. This will help the voter in registering his name in the voters list.

Then, I say that there should be a penalty clause for officers in the Electoral Registration Office who are not following the rules while deleting the names of the voters without the knowledge of the voters themselves.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak): Madam, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this particular Bill. The Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 2009 seeks to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 as well as the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

While moving the Bill, the hon. Minister for Law and Justice, Shri Veerappa Moily, has admitted that these five amendments that are being sought are not enough to solve the problem that we are now facing due to various problems. He has enumerated muscle power, money power, religion, etc.

Madam, he has also admitted that 22 proposals have been submitted by the Election Commission of India to the Government and still, these proposals are being discussed in the Parliamentary Standing Committee and whenever they will come to the Government, they will certainly bring forth a comprehensive Bill.

I entirely agree with him because these small amendments that he has brought forward to the House, which are being discussed in the House now, are not enough. These amendments will not solve the problems that we are facing at present in the election processes and in the law.

Many hon. Members have already stated as to how the present election laws are not enough to face the emerging situations. I would only like to add that he has

already stated that he will bring comprehensive amendments. The sooner he brings it to the House the better it will be for all of us as well as to the country. A greater threat to free and fair elections in the country comes from the use of money power, muscle power, rigging, booth capturing, criminalisation of politics and other malpractices. We all jointly face these problems.

The hon. Minister was the Chief Minister of Karnataka and he was also the Chairman of the Administrative Reforms Commission. He does certainly quite well know how important the proposals that have been submitted by the Election Commission. These proposals should be considered immediately and should be brought before the House.

Parliamentary Standing Committees are the creation of this House and certainly the hon. Minister of Law and Justice can use his good offices so that these proposals are quickly examined and sent to the Government.

I have a point to mention here. Earlier, there was a PIL especially with regard to the "exit polls" and the "opinion polls." There was a PIL in the Supreme Court. The then Government, the UPA Government, has favoured the "exit polls" as well as the "opinion polls" and argued for it in the court.

Not only that, they have produced a seven-page affidavit before the Supreme Court favouring the exit poll as well as opinion poll. Also, the then Minister of Law and Justice, Bhardwaj ji, has also given an affidavit in favour of the exit poll and opinion poll. I must confess that I am not a lawyer. But I would like to have an answer from the hon. Minister as to why there is sudden change of mind of the Government? They have vehemently supported the exit poll and the opinion poll in the Supreme Court although the Supreme Court was not in favour oppose to this opinion poll and exit poll and infact the court gave judgement in favour of it. But the Government at the Centre supported it. Now the Government have changed their mind. There may be a case, again, that particular amendment to the election law may come before the hon. Apex Court for adjudication. I would like to know whether the Government in power today at the Centre are prepared

for this, if there will be any adverse judgement in the court. It is because, some constitutional experts as well as many luminaries hailing from the legal fraternity said that banning the exit poll is a violation of the Fundamental Right, that is of Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution. It is the violation of the Fundamental Right as per their opinion. So, I would like to have a clear answer whether this will tantamount to a violation of the Fundamental Right that has been enshrined in the Constitution.

Madam, I would not like to prolong my speech. But, I think, a change of Minister of Law and Justice at the Centre does not mean a change of policy. It is because, it is a continuous process. The Government, whosoever comes to power, is a continuous process. So, I would like to have a clear answer on this particular aspect.

With these words, I thank you, Madam.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad East): Madam Chairman, though many hon'ble Members have expressed their views on the basic issue of democracy in this country, i.e. on this bill.

[English]

Moilyji, as I am suffering from severe cold and I have a very bad throat today most of the things have been said-but I then thought that I should share my views on it.

[Translation]

Without taking much time, I would try to keep my views in brief.

[English]

Do not try to take it in a different way. After 12 days, I will complete 20 years in this House. This is my seventh consecutive term from Ahmedabad city. Before that, I was for 19 year, since 1975, in corporation as an elected representative.

[Translation]

I have 35 years experience as a public represen-

tative. Take out my 18 years tenure in corporation. I have witnessed those elections when ballot papers were used. I will not go in detail in this regard.

[English]

It is because, in your opening remarks, you have stated that we need a comprehensive Bill and you admitted it.

[Translation]

I would not like to repeat what Nishikantji, Sandeepji and other hon'ble Members have already said. I understand that if free and fair equitable elections are to be held in this country, then the present election process followed by us is not appropriate. I feel that Rajiv Ranjan Lalanji had raised this issue and Nishikant Dubeyji and other Members had also reiterated their views. Jai Prakashji had tried to raise his hand to contend that he had spent Rs. 25 lakh in elections to win it.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (North East Delhi): I did not agree with the view that elections can be contested without money. I agreed that I too spent money.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: If everybody honestly contemplates, they will observe that the Lok Sabha elections cannot be fought with a meagre sum of Rs. 25 lakh at present. If we say that we have done so, it will be a lie. If we violate the spirit of the Constitution before getting elected to the House, then what is the way, because truth is before us, all of us know it. In today's circumstances, a minimum of Rs. 25 lakh are required for fighting the election of corporation or local bodies.

Madam Chairman, my first suggestion would be that if we want to check the use of money power alongwith the muscle power, then the Government should bear all the expenses incurred on elections. After that, we should keep full vigil that nobody should spend more than the stipulated funds by any manipulation or other means. This has been the suggestion of the Appellate Authority as well. It is a very good suggestion. His suggestion in regard to an Appellate Authority is very good. Alongwith it, we will have to further provide more teeth to the Election

[Shri Harin Pathak]

Commission. The Election Commission should keep comprehensive vigil to ensure that the candidate may not exceed the stipulated expenditure in any way. This should be undertaken in a completely free and fair way. On the basis of my experience, I would like to say that leaving aside Appellate Authority, these five suggestions can be implemented by notification also. Before the next election, a comprehensive bill should be brought, so that the common man of this country could participate in the election process. I would like to tell you some of my experiences, this might be the experience of all. When we go to register our name, we fill Form No.-6. We have to fill form NO.-6 to include our name. The Election Commission, too, should have some responsibilities. After filling the form, I voted for the Corporation elections, Assembly elections, last Lok Sabha elections, but I did not change my residence. I reside at the same address, but suddenly my name got disappeared from the voter list, though I have to fill form no.-7 to get my name deleted. In this way, names of thousands of honest voters get struck off from the electoral roll. One of our Ministers has been elected to this House, probably Joshiji, he had lost the Assembly elections to Shrinathji by one vote. The Governments change. This time he got elected to Lok Sabha. One of my friends lost the election from Baroda by 18 votes in the year 1999. Our Government, the Government of the country, Shri Atalji's Government lost the confidence vote by one vote in this House and elections were forced on the country. We won the elections later. I do not want to talk about politics.

My second suggestion is that, as it has been said that still our people are not so educated. They are not so educated that they would go to register their names. If anybody's name is struck off, the electoral roll responsibility in this regard should be fixed. I have seen that people come crying on the polling day and say that Harin Bhai, 'I want to vote for the Congress' he says that he had voted for the Congress in 2004, he had cast his vote in 2004, he resides at the same place, but now his name is not in the voter list. Then, who is responsible for this? Why he is deprived of voting rights?

[English]

Shri Moilyji, you must seriously think about this. I am proud to be in the Indian democracy despite some of the loopholes, our election process is fair and free.

[Translation]

Alongwith it, the third suggestion is in regard to the appointments of all the Election Commissioners. I do not want to take the name of anybody. Suppose, an opposition which is represented by 250-300 MPs complain about any person and after that the Chief Election Commission also remarks that this person should not be appointed to this post.

I would like to tell you very humbly that if that view point had been accepted, I do not understand that in that case I would have been here or you would have been this side. Even then you would have been here and got the same number of seats as you have today.

Destiny and commitment makes difference. What difference does it make if we replace some person? Then we can claim that we want free and fair elections. You will agree with me that it makes no difference if we do not retain any individual.

[English]

Yes, you can do that. You can appoint anyone but not during the election process. I agree with you.

[Translation]

My second suggestion is that appointment to election commission should be made after consulting the opposition. I feel it would not make any difference. The people of our country are very wise. Today if we are sitting here, I would not say that it is all due to E.V.M. You were able, so you are sitting there. It may be that we could not protect our view point before the people in the right perspective, so we are sitting here.

But at the same time, I would like to say something about E.V.M. also. My colleague has been perhaps elected from Kheda, EVMs got stuck there. It had 850 votes.

Machines got stuck in Dinsha Patels constituency. He was leading by 250 votes. The situation continued for the whole night. Technicians were called from Bangalore to open those machines. Machines were opened and he was declared elected. I have no objection in this regard. But, EVMs cause much damage.

[English]

The most important thing that I would like to emphasise Mr. Law Minister is this,

[Translation]

that it is not free and fair. We come to know which colonies and villages did not vote in my favour.

[English]

I can know it very well because the counting is according to the booth.

[Translation]

I got to know which colony did not vote in my favour. Earlier till 1999 when we contested elections, all the ballots were used to be collected and mixed in one box and then the counting used to start. We were not able to know as to how many votes we got from which area and booth. Today, I have all the figures and so do you.

[English]

If you ask, you will get the booth-wise counting figures.

[Translation]

The total votes received by you, the Congress and the BJP. I even know the name of the village from where I got only 12 votes. What would be my attitude? I give my own example so that nobody could feel otherwise. I provided maximum grant to that village. I am disclosing this aspect before you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Do not try to divert the issue.

[Translation]

I would like to say that due to this, elections are not free and fair. You should provide a parallel choice with EVMs, so that if a person, if so desires, can cast vote through/ballot paper because our country is democratic and it should be beyond any suspicions. It is the foundation of democracy.

You have banned the exit polls, it is a good move. We are aware of the reality of the exit polls as to how they receive the opinion of 5-25 people and how they manage it. Just now our colleague who has spoken before me has suggested to discontinue the opinion poll 15 days prior to elections.

Till date no opinion or exit poll has proved to be correct. Opinion and exit poll should be banned prior to 15 days. I support this idea. Media is the fourth pillar of the country. I am grateful to it, but excess of everything is bad. I was smiling after thinking about the incident of 1999 when my procession was about to begin and I was watching it on TV. Somebody called me on telephone and told me that it is being talked about that I was losing. They highlighted all my drawbacks during counting and project that I was losing whereas I was leading 80,000 votes, but they did not go in details. According to them Pathak Ji did not work, so the people have shown him the door. In this way my rally was marching ahead. No guess can be made until the one round is completed in the case of voting by machine or booth voting. If I am trailing by 15000 votes in any assembly segment and leading by 18000 votes in the rest six segments, then actually I am leading by 3000 votes, but they will tell that I am trailing by 15000 votes. It also needs to be rectified.

[English]

In the end, I would conclude by saying that you please incorporate these five important points in the Bill when you come with a comprehensive Bill next time.

[Translation]

Firstly, the election expenditure should be borne by the Government and there should be a strict monitoring

[Shri Harin Pathak]

about it so that the rich people are not able to manipulate the election process. All are aware of the flaws in the system. One of my colleagues was sitting by me. He uses all the tricks. New and old members know how to mislead the Election Commission in the name of others. It is my suggestion that there should be another meeting of the Election commission with all the parties. There should be a discussion on the recommendation to be made by the Standing Committee. Some new points should be added to these 22-23 points as suggested by the Election Commission.

Sir, due to paucity of time and to avoid repetition, I will not say much. While emphasizing only on five-points I would request the Government that if it wants to conduct free and fair elections in the country in future, then it should bring a comprehensive bill in this regard. Nishikant Ji has rightly said in the beginning, 'Khoda pahad nikli chuhiya,' which is a well known saying in Hindi. There is nothing in it.

[English]

If you have not brought this amendment today, the sky would not have fallen.

[Translation]

it makes no difference. Bring a comprehensive bill. I think that my all colleagues would agree with me because everyone has suggested to bring a comprehensive bill fixing responsibility of each and everyone involved therein. The Election commission should remain in its limit. Sometimes it appears that we are in Pakistan, is it model code of conduct? I would like to quote an example of the ongoing elections. When I was contesting the election in 2004, Sandeep Ji had mentioned about the rules that were effective at that time. While agreeing with Sandeep Ji, I would like to advocate this view point on the basis of my own experience that the election process does not get affected by banning election banners and posters. There are many way outs for it. We are asked that we cannot put voting boards on our relatives' houses, but can hire corporation boards.

[English]

I have to pay Rs. 40,000 for per day. I am allowed to put my hoarding asking for vote, by hiring a hoarding of Corporation, and my sister will not be allowed to put a hoarding in her own bungalow. I spoke to him after my election was over.

[Translation]

I spoke to them and in second phase they removed the same.

I mean to say that we should study the ground reality and bring a comprehensive bill in the next session after six months. I think that democracy in the country is quite strong and it is the only country in the world where the power is transferred without any bloodshed. That is why we can easily digest the result of the elections whatever it may be. If we work with political will power, then we can strengthen the democracy in the country and with the same will power free and fair elections will be held in the country.

With these words I support the five points raised by the hon'ble Minister through this bill.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Thrissur): Madam Chairperson, I stand to support the Bill moved by the hon. Law Minister. As is said by a very hon. Member, this Bill is brought before this House with a very limited purpose. There is a near unanimity in the House that all these five Clauses which are in the form of amendments to the Representation of the People Act, all these five points are being agreed to by all the hon. Members. Many learned Members were speaking about the future Bill including Shri Harin Pathak, the Bill which is going to come or the Bill which the House is expecting to come.

But the fact remains that why, in which context, these amendments are being brought in the form of this Amendment Bill. Shri Harin Pathak said heavens are not going to fall. The heavens may not fall; but we will be failing in our duty, as Members of Parliament, if we do not

accept this Bill because we cannot be ruled by executive orders whether it is the Election Commission or anybody else. The Election Commission has taken certain decisions, rightly so, and we all agree that the exit poll should be banned. If we agree that we are being governed by law and we want everything to be given a legal support and legal backing, then it is the duty of the Parliament to see that we are amending this Representation of the People Act and this exit poll which is being banned by the Election Commission is given a legal support and a legal framework. It is only appropriate.

Some friends said, in their interest to bring in more provisions, that there is nothing in this Bill. Hon. Minister of Law and Justice, Shri Moily himself said that he is not very happy in bringing this Bill in a partial form. His unhappiness is not only his own unhappiness but it is the unhappiness of the whole House.

Madam, we should remember that there are some very good recommendations in the form of electoral reforms' reports which are lying before this House, before this nation. We all remember the previous recommendations made by various Commissions in this regard. The Goswami Committee report is before the House, before the nation. We could not implement that. Whom are we blaming here? When Shri Advaniji was the Home Minister in 1998 a Commission was appointed. The hon. Prime Minister of the country Dr. Manmohan Singh was also a Member of that Committee. That was Indrajit Gupta Committee. The Indrajit Gupta Committee brought out certain very good recommendations. The main recommendations were about the expenditure on the elections. That is very exhaustive, much more than what is being discussed in this House. They had several rounds of meetings, not only meetings with public but meetings with various organizations, meetings with media etc. An exhaustive report was brought out about the expenditure.

A suggestion was there that State funding is the ideal thing. The beauty of Indian democracy is that this is a multi-party democracy and maximum freedom is there in this country which we cannot see in many parts of the world. I was very much amused when my young friend

from the Left Party was speaking about the democratic freedom. I am happy that India is the only country where the Communist Parties can have this freedom. In the countries where the Communist Parties are ruling, they cannot have this freedom. The ultimate freedom where people can exercise their opinions freely and fairly and can participate in the elections is here. The basic thing is whether the political parties are rising up to the occasion.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): In South Africa, they have the African National Congress which has the Communist Party's support.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: By name only. It is not what I meant.

Probably in the year 1947 or 1950, the national party, the Congress Party could have decided to have a single party system. You go to China and many other countries, there is only one party. There is no second party, no second flag. But we decided that we should have a multi-party system. That is the great tradition of our nationalist movement and that is the tradition of the Congress Party. So, we have a multi-party system. That is the beauty of the Indian democracy. We want freedom.

In that context, I would like to put certain questions before the hon. Minister. It is not that I am opposing the Bill. There are a few things which are not very important, like security deposit being increased and various other things. There also, I heard a Leftist view that it should be reduced as a candidate cannot deposit Rs. 5,000 as security. Even there also, if anybody is arguing, I am not against that, but the question here is whether exit polls should be banned.

16.57 hrs.

[SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA *in the Chair*]

In India, we never envisaged a situation where we would have elections in three or four stages. In a country of the size of India, what is the total number of electorates and what is the total number of geographical divisions? We wished that this country, with all its diversities, would have gone to election in one single day, but unfortunately, it is

[Shri P.C. Chacko]

not practical. In the year 1950 when the original Representation of the People Act was introduced, at that point of time, we all thought that India would have a single-day election. In other countries, it is only one-day election, whether it is South Africa, England, America or any other country where democratic elections are taking place. We also wish that it could have happened. But for certain reasons, mainly because of the security aspect, we cannot have election in one single day. So, elections are held in a phased manner, staggering in three, four or five stages.

Sir, I come from a State which is practically very peaceful so far as general law and order situation is concerned. But even in the recent elections in that State, only because the Election Commission had used its discretion and deployed the Central Forces, there could be free and fair elections. My young friend, Shri Sampath said that more reforms should be brought in, but if a Government does not believe in democracy and uses the Government machinery to belittle the voters even from registration of the voters up till the polling day, how can there be free and fair election? If the Government machinery is being misused, who can ensure a free and fair election? Central forces were deployed in certain constituencies and we have seen the result. Hitherto, it was believed that it was a citadel of the Left Parties, but there, the Congress candidate won with a thumping majority. How did it happen? So, free and fair elections were not allowed in certain areas. From West Bengal, from Kerala and from many other parts of the country, we hear such reports. This shows that certain parties, which are speaking in high tones, really do not believe in democracy. So, a party should also have a basic belief in democracy. That is another aspect.

We have to see whether the exit polls have really affected the outcome of an election, whether the exit polls have really affected the turnout in elections or results in the elections. Hon. Minister, I believe that so far no scientific study has been made into this aspect. Now, we are all opposing that.

About Panchayat elections, my friend Shri Nishikant Dubey has explained how in Punjab the exit poll has gone

wrong. He was very beautifully putting the whole story of how his party won and how exit polls went wrong. I should say that his is a selective memory. Let me refer to another exit poll held during the 'India Shining' days. Shri Harin Pathak may be remembering. He knows what had happened. After exit poll, the BJP thought that their leader was going to be sworn in as the Prime Minister. They even decided the auspicious *muhurat* also for their Prime Minister to take oath on the basis of the exit poll. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit. Do not disturb him.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Exit poll may be misleading. Some parties feel convenient to believe that also.

17.00 hrs.

But here is a situation where there are different stages of election. Otherwise, my personal opinion is not against this kind of exit-polls as exit-polls or opinion-polls are the beauty of the Indian democracy. Why should we grudge about it?

What is the punishment awarded in case of violation of the provisions? If there is a violation of the exit-poll provision, then a journalist can be sent to jail for two years. Is it not too much? Somebody said that freedom of Press was something Congress is against, and it was mentioned by many Members. Where is the fervour or the slogan to fight for the freedom of Press now? We did not see in the expression of many Members whether the punishment is proportionate or not. I can understand if a fine is awarded to them, but in this case, if there is a violation of the prohibition of publication of results, then a journalist can be sent to jail for two years. Is such a harsh punishment necessary? But the fact remains that we want free and fair polls, and nothing should affect the outcome of the elections.

Even though, a study has not been made and clear results are not available with us, yet, at the same time, we have to see this as there are phased-polls held on different dates. You know very well that in J&K people were casting their votes braving the violence of the extremists, and they were going and exercising their franchise under the shadow of guns. This had happened because of their great belief

In democracy. Therefore, we have to protect our people there. Naturally, the law and order situation demands that we can have only phased polls, and in many places in this election also naxalites gave the call that the people should boycott the elections. But there was record percentage of polling in the naxalite-affected areas where they were standing outside the polling booths with guns. Therefore, our people braved these challenges and voted. This is the greatness of the Indian democracy. Hence, we need to have it.

The ideal thing is to have one-day polling, but phased polling is there. In this kind of a situation, exit-poll is being banned from the start of the polling time till half-an-hour after the polling is over. We need to have — as rightly mentioned by all the hon. Members — a comprehensive electoral reforms. The Goswami Commission Report; the Indrajit Gupta Committee Report; the 22 recommendations of the Standing Committee; and the suggestions of the Election Commission are before this Government. The hon. Law Minister is a very able person. He had brought revolutionary changes in this sphere as the Chairman of the Administrative Reforms Committee, and the consensus of this House is to have electoral reforms.

I remember that I was also present in this House when we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of our Republic. We had a sitting for the whole night, and then we had passed a resolution. The resolution was that the most important thing before our country is to go for electoral reforms. I am sure that after this discussion the hon. Minister will agree that this House is all for comprehensive electoral reforms. It should have various aspects like election expenditure; State funding; Governmental machinery misuse; etc. This country is definitely expecting this kind of a comprehensive legislation from this Parliament. Therefore, I fully agree with all the Members who supported this suggestion that we should have a comprehensive legislation. At the same time, money power and muscle power, etc. — which distort our verdict in the election — should be handled in a proper manner. There have to be remedial measures. We can discuss this today in a wider context, but at the same time, we need to have a comprehensive legislation in this context.

The issue of NRIs was also raised here. Nearly 35 lakh people from my small State alone are working outside the country. They are contributing to the foreign exchange reserves of this country. They are working hard in the Gulf countries and in various other countries, and by sending money, they are contributing to the foreign exchange reserves of this country. The thing is that the people who under compulsion are working outside do not have the voting rights. There are many countries in the world which are having dual citizenship rights. We have been promising this to our brethren who are working outside for the last many years, but we are still not seriously thinking of doing that. This is one issue which in this context probably deserves our attention.

The issue concerning the Women's Reservation Bill has been under discussion for a long time. The Chairperson of the UPA has promised this and it is our commitment — it is the Congress Party's commitment. Here, it was said that on the Women's Reservation Bill, the Government was not very sincere. That was one criticism that I heard. In that context, I would like to say that more than 50 per cent of this country's population consists of women. Their representation is a very dear subject to the UPA and the Congress Party. I think we owe to this country and we owe to this Parliament that we bring forth a comprehensive legislation which we can discuss in detail.

In the limited context, the 'exit poll' is to be banned. That is the main feature or aspect, as far as this Amendment is concerned. In that context, I would request the hon. Minister that he may give us an explanation which will satisfy us that disproportionate punishment is not given to the journalists. Whoever is doing it, whether it is the print media or the electronic media, they are all strong pillars of democracy. Their omissions or commissions cannot be punished in a disproportionate manner. The Standing Committee which made these recommendations had its sittings at various places. Before them also, different sections of our society have placed their opinions, and that report is available to us. The fact is that we are taking only certain aspects of that. Very detailed conclusions are there in the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

[Shri P.C. Chacko]

Whenever we appoint a committee and the committee produces a good report, that remains in the files and we do not take it seriously. We have the reports of the Goswami Committee, Indrajit Gupta Committee, the Standing Committee on Electoral Reforms, and various other reports before this Parliament. It is our duty to go into those reports and bring forth a detailed and comprehensive legislation on this subject.

I support this Bill. I also emphasize that even though this Bill is limited, even though it contains very minimum amendments, it is the duty of this Parliament to see that certain decisions which the Election Commission has taken and which we have accepted in good spirit are implemented in the coming years, in the coming elections. Merely by executive orders, it has been done so far. It should have a legal backing. We are passing this legislation to give a legal backing to the decisions which were already taken by the Election Commission, which we are all supporting.

With these words, supporting the Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 2009, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, we feel proud that India is the largest democracy in the world comprising of its one sixth population. India is not only the largest democracy of the world but it is also the place of origin of first republic of the world. Vaishali, Licchavi was a republic. When Lord Buddha came here 2500 years ago he gave the sermon- "Bhajjman Satt Aprarihaniya Dhamma". "Seven virtues of virgins that do not lead to decline". The society that would abide by seven duties will not meet its decline, it will progress. Among those seven duties he said that the people here sit together and assemble, take decision, implement it and not only this, they make rule and issue orders in accordance to it. "Democracy is the rule of law". We have not learnt the definition of democracy from Abraham Lincoln. Our forefathers gave birth to Democracy here. So poet laureate Dinkar once said:-

"Vaishali Jan ka Pratipalak

Ganka Yadi Vidhata

Jise Khojta desh aaj

Us prajatantra ki mata"

Ruko pathik, ek kshana, mitti ko shish nawao,
rajsidhiyon ki samadhiyon par phool chadhate jao".

We have not borrowed democracy and Republic from the world, they were created by our forefathers. However, the connotation of Democracy in the common parlance now-a-days is right to vote, when there would be fair elections, then there would be fair and strong republic and democracy. Like a 'Swarn kalash' which is made from pure gold, pure republic, democracy would come out from pure elections. However, today cash, caste and crime these three lac have a lot of influence on elections. That is why the hon. Members have repeatedly emphasized it. Although this Bill seeks to raise to 4-5 smaller issues. All the hon. Members are of the view that a comprehensive Bill should be brought.

Hon'ble Minister, the recommendations of Administrative Reforms made by the hon. Minister are being implemented. I would like to ask him a series of questions first, what will happen to electoral Reforms Commission, when its recommendations would be received and when the Comprehensive Bill would be introduced which would seek to put a check on money power, muscle power, cash, caste, crime polluting the elections and ensure fair and peaceful elections in order to strengthen our Republic. Although, we have the pride of being the largest democracy the credit of holding elections for 80 crore voters goes to the Election Commission. The entire world wonders at our election process. Thus, there is a need to bring a comprehensive bill. We cannot wait to see when the Electoral Reforms Commission would meet to prepare its set of recommendations?

Secondly, I would like to know the justification behind spending thousands of crore rupees on conducting elections as we are in the third phase of the transition from casting our vote in ballot box to putting our seal on the ballot paper to pressing button on the electronic voting machine. The price of an e.v.m. was quoted one tenth and

in a bid to buy it at a competitive price we ended up at buying it five, eight times its price and spent thousands crore rupees. C.B.I. was ready to conduct an inquiry. Whether it is in the cognizance of the hon. Minister as to who withheld the C.B.L. inquiry and why it was withheld? It was stated that Election Commission was above inquiry.

Thirdly, I would like to know that while we are following the system of research in elections from casting our vote in the ballot box to pressing a button. Earlier it took 3 days to do the counting, now it takes 2-3 hrs, in counting. Their leader earlier raised doubts on the electronic voting machine. I wonder why he is silent over it now. I am not familiar with the functioning of the machine, however, people did raise doubts on it.

Whether the Government or the Election Commission has any proposal to hold elections in only Rs. 200 crore which would also be fair? There is no question of a single bogus voting. Why no research is being carried out therein. Why that proposal is pending in the Election Commission? Whether it is in the cognizance of the Government that there would be a rubber stamp and all the candidates' names would appear on a single plate, there would be rubber stamp of every candidate which would be put against their names and put in the box. The backside of the ballot would bear the name of the voter or his thumb impression. Not even a single vote would be bogus and expenditure would also be very little. There has been a research in our country and there has been a proposal but who would buy so cheap when it is a trade involving thousands and crores of rupees. The price of a machine costing Rs. two thousand can be written as Rs. 16,000 in supply. Why the Election Commission would get an inquiry conducted if the matter goes in C.B.I.

Now the situation is that the obvious needs no evidence. The poor man resides in villages. His name does not appear in the voter's list. They do not have identity cards. Even if they have, it is full of errors. Either the card would bear husband's name carrying photographs of his wife or the card would bear wife's name with the photo of her son. The poor man is furious. He is told that he does not have a vote. Why a booth agent is not

appointed there? There is some error either in the name of the poor man or his name is cut. Thereafter it is said only 14 options for identification have been made. The poor man whose identity card has either not been made or whose photograph has been clicked but I-card has not been made is deprived of casting his vote. One who has migrated from outside does not have a photo or an identity card. There are 14 options: gun's license, passport, driver license etc. Where from a poor man doing labour work would mobilize these proof. He is deprived of voting. Measures will have to be taken to avoid such commissions in identity card. Because if his I-card is not proper, he is chased out by the policeman.

The irregularities committed by the ruling party are bifurcation of booths in the most sensitive and sensitive area. They deploy home guards on booths in the area of their supporters and para military force on rest of the booths which are called most sensitive booths. They deploy their own S.P. for the booths in the area of their supporters. There are large-scale irregularities in most sensitive and sensitive booths. The poor men are listed on some other booths meant for them but they are made to go to some other booth meant for upper class people. They are not allowed to go to that booth, as the armed police personnel remain deployed on the way. The poor men are deprived of the right to cast their vote.

The poor people in villages have to face these problems while casting their votes. Gross irregularities are committed in selecting most sensitive, sensitive areas. In the end, if the margin of votes is narrow during counting, the result is shifted in one's favour. During that time the Chief Minister remains on telephone line and influences the result. Therefore, it is necessary to check the influence of ruling party for conducting free and fair election. There should be full protection, otherwise the officials get transferred just before elections, posting of favourite officers like inspectors, Collectors and Magistrates is made. All these irregularities are committed affecting everyone.

Recently, the elections of the local bodies have been held. Who does not know that the cost of each voter is Rs. 5-7 thousand. They give money to the voters to cast

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

the votes in their favour. The sanctity of democracy is being crushed openly. It is a game of money power. Those who are millionaires will get the tickets and win the elections by distributing money among the voters. There is a common saying in my area- "saaen ke naam Janaee chhee he, he karace chhee". It means a married woman does not take her husband's name even though she knows his name in order to give him respect. Everybody knows that the votes are being purchased. Give the tickets to those who are millionaires and they will win the elections by distributing the money. Where we are taking the democracy. It was "the dream of Mahatma Gandhi that everybody should have the right to vote. How much labour was put in making the Constitution, but where it has become the game of money, muscle power and the caste equation, what will be the future of democracy in India?

There is a trend in media. Shri Prabhask Joshi is now no more. He had raised the question regarding the future of India and media. Spaces of newspapers are sold. Just now, the hon'ble Member was saying that one can buy so much space in newspapers with Rs. one lac and get anything like abuses, good and bad articles etc. published therein. The people in villages read the newspaper and talk about something published in it. They do not know that these are the sponsored articles. They only say that the newspaper is covering such an article. Late Prabhask Joshi had strongly criticized it. What about it? You have banned exit poll and it should be banned definitely. Is the exit poll not a stupidity? Does the exit poll not influence the elections? You have banned it, it is okay, but you should also take note of all these irregularities. Now the question is as to when the comprehensive bill will be brought and the electoral reforms be made? Where are the reports of Shri D.M. Tarkunte Committee Dinesh Goswami Committee and Indrajit Gupta Committee? The Election Commission has made 22 recommendations among which only 5 recommendations have been taken, but where have the rest 17 recommendations been left and what is mentioned in them? He is constrained to say that the same are lying pending in Standing Committee. Will the Parliament stop its functioning if the same is lying

pending in the Standing Committee? Will the Government stop its functioning? It is not like that, it is necessary for free and fair elections. We all come here by facing all those who are involved in it and the common man who casts his vote. Therefore, it is important for the country as well as the world that India is the oldest and the first republic democratic country. Our ancestors have laid the foundation of the democracy by sacrificing their lives. In such circumstances, if elections are fair and democracy remains healthy, then all these irregularities being committed will be removed. If this does not happen, wrong persons will be elected by unfair means. Will it be a good thing? I would like to tell a thing that Bhishma Pitamah was lying on the bed of arrows. When his blood polluted by the obligation of Duryodhan shed from his body, he began preaching Draupadi. Hearing this, Draupadi laughed and told him that when she was being dishonoured openly in the court, where were his preaches. He replied that it was all due to the obligations of Duryodhan and he was bound by the oath to protect Hastinapur. Therefore I remained silent during the whole episode. ...*(Interruptions)* If the great man like Bhishma Pitamah got diverted due to the obligation of Duryodhan, then, will we expect fair decision and justice from those who get elected by unfair means? It was the policy of Mahabharat. ...*(Interruptions)* With this I expect that the Government should bring a comprehensive bill. Efforts should be made to strengthen the democracy i.e. the rule of the people. If the poor people are in a position to cast their votes fairly, the game of money, caste and crime will be removed.

Mr. Chairman Sir, with these words, I conclude and thank you very much.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you.

I rise to support this Amendment Bill. While doing so, I have to make some points. The hon. Minister, in his speech already told that he was not happy with the limited reforms of the electoral process.

Out of 22 recommendations made by the Election Commission, only five have been taken up. So, he is not happy, and he is in favour of comprehensive reforms in the electoral process. This is the opinion of the House in general. We are all unanimous in this.

The Minister also in this House, in the course of his reply, shall inform us the exact time frame by when the comprehensive legislation for electoral reforms will be placed here.

He is very correct and we are proud of the fact that our country is the largest democracy in the world. We are having 80 crore of electorate; and we, as a country, have more than 15 lakhs of people's representatives in total. Right from the local level Panchyats, municipalities to the top House of the people, this is the largest democracy. It is already said that out of 20 crore electorates a majority do not come to the polling stations for casting their votes. I would like to refer the speech made by my friend, Shri Chacko. He has referred the communist countries and has said that the communist countries have no democracy as they have one-party system. I would like to say that if you say that the communist party is running the Government abroad, they are gradually coming to the multi-party system. Even China is coming to the multi-party system. Even the erstwhile Soviet Union and GDR.... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb him.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Please read the Chinese literature. Please go to China and know them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: The erstwhile GDR practise the multi-party system....(Interruptions) You can come to me. I will tell you which are the political parties, even which are the other political parties functioning with the communist party in China. There is one combination led by the communist party. This is correct. My point is whether there is one party system or multi-party system in the communist countries they enjoy more than 50 per cent confidence of the voters. So far as our country is concerned, we are practising multi-party system but are not enjoying

50 per cent confidence of the voters. If I may say, even the Government of the day did not enjoy the confidence of more than 50 per cent of the electorates.... (Interruptions)

So far as West Bengal is concerned, we are proud of that...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him speak. Please do not disturb him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I am not talking about the number but about the situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will be getting only three minutes more. Please make your point.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: We are proud to come from West Bengal as nearly 80 per cent polling is registered there. Can you give any instance of other States? In how many States the polling is more than 80 per cent? This is the situation.

My point is that the system of proportional representation should be introduced. Otherwise, the majority opinion cannot be honoured. This sort of reform is very much required. In this House a number of Members have referred to different Commissions. I would also like to refer one Commission Chaired by Shri Indrajit Gupta. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Panda, address the Chair.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Even some centres registered hundred per cent polling....(Interruptions) Whatever may be, the percentage is this....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. We are going on to the next business.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I now come to the Report of the Commission Chaired by Shri Indrajit Gupta and our hon. Prime Minister was the Member of that Commission. That Commission has referred to a number of points with regard to the financial discipline in the electoral system. I think the Minister will come out with the necessary amendments so that this recommendation can be carried out.

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

I would like to mention another problem with regard to the election system.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down now. You will be allowed to continue next time.

17.30 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Inter-linking of rivers

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, it is 5.30 p.m. and we shall take up Half-an-Hour Discussion and Dr. K.S. Rao to raise a discussion on points arising out of the answer given by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources on 08.07.2009 to Starred Question No.61 regarding "Inter-linking of Rivers".

DR. K.S. RAO (Eluru): When the question on the inter-linking of rivers had come up, the hon. Minister had responded to it on 08.07.09 in a positive manner. But when I requested him that there must be a discussion substantially on this issue and requested him for an Half-an-Hour Discussion, he agreed to it. I am very happy and thankful to him for the same.

Sir, today water is a very important issue. One of the reasons why our leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has provided Rs.41000 crore for NREGA is to provide work for the people living in the rural areas and who get work only seasonally, namely, for three months or four months and then they suffer even for living for the rest of the period. This is because people of those areas are farm labourers and even the farmers, they have got the skills for generations only in raising agricultural products and not in other professions unlike developed countries. So, it has become inevitable to spend that much money for their minimum living and not that they would become affluent. My opinion in this regard is that the best way of providing employment in rural areas is to provide water and water is available in

plenty. But only thing is that it is not tapped and the water is going to the sea from many of the major rivers. Madam, I am very happy that you are here today. Krishna Godavari basin is one of the rice bowls of the country. We are supplying rice to the entire country and also fish to half of the country only because of availability of water. Bihar, West Bengal, North-East, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and several other States are being supplied with fish because of water. I would give an example here regarding the position of river. The surplus water of river Krishna that used to go to the sea was 2513 TMC which can cultivate 2.50 crore acres of land. Since Andhra Pradesh was the first State to construct dams across the rivers starting from Nagarjuna Sagar and even other major dams, we are cultivating major land. When Deve Gowdaji was the Prime Minister, he took the initiative of sending special funds from the Government of India to Karnataka by which they constructed dams like Almatti and Narayanpur on the upstream of the river. Thereby, 2500 TMC water that used to go as waste to the sea, came down to 65 TMC of water. It has further come down to only 2 TMC of water. In the year 2002-03, only 2 TMC of water has gone from the entire Krishna river to the sea. In that year 13 lakh acres of farm land in Krishna delta where the crop has grown has become dry because of lack of water. The entire delta which was being cultivated for the last 135 years is in chaos. The entire farming community lost their mind and could not understand as to what was in store for them in future. The other river which is flowing in the State of Andhra Pradesh is Godavari. Even today, 3,000 TMC of water of Godavari is going to the sea which otherwise by utilisation, a minimum farm area of three crore acre could have been cultivated. That means we are not utilising the water that is going to the sea. To have proper utilisation, what was proposed? It was not proposed today. In 1865 the concept of inter-linking of rivers was proposed by Mr. Arthur Cotton. Subsequently, Shri K.L. Rao, the then Minister of Irrigation had requested the Parliament for inter-linking of the rivers. I do not say that the Government should overnight connect Ganges to Krishna, or Brahmaputra to Godavari, but a humble beginning in this direction can be made. After the regional rivers, be it in the North or be it in the South, are connected with a very meagre cost we

can generate wealth of lakhs of thousands of crores of rupees, not just one crore.

The other day I was listening to Shri Ananth Kumar Hegde requesting the Central Government for compensation worth Rs. 14,000 crore because of damage caused by floods last month in the State of Karnataka. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has asked for a sum of Rs. 11,500 crore for damages caused due to floods this year. The Government of India may not be able to provide that much of money, but the damage is there. It is not only crop failure, there are losses to human lives and also cattle. There is also damage to the existing infrastructure and all these damages are only because of excess water. On one side there is flood and on the other side there is drought. Even in a drought situation, the people, particularly the poor people look to the Government for support and the Government once again has to provide thousands of crores of rupees as relief for the drought affected people. Why is this unnecessary expenditure? If the Government can tame the rivers; connect the two rivers and divert water which is in excess in a particular river, which is going waste, then we can avoid both flood and drought. There will not be a fight between State Governments in asking the Central Government to give relief for these calamities of flood. One State asking for Rs. 14,000 crore as relief, the other State asking for Rs. 11,500 crore relief and the Central Government can provide only something like Rs. 500 crore or Rs. 1,000 crore. It is not possible to provide for the entire amount. It is not practically feasible. Instead, if the same money which is being spent on providing relief to the drought and flood affected people every year, if at one time this money is invested for inter-linking the rivers, then the benefits accruing out of it would be enormous. For example, the Polavaram project is being taken up in the State of Andhra Pradesh. It is one of the best projects in the country. With about an investment of Rs. 20,000 crore, it will generate wealth worth Rs. 10,000 crore every year. Even a big industrialist cannot generate this much wealth. People are not aware of the benefits of some of the irrigation projects. When suddenly it is proposed that inter-linking of rivers will cost Rs. 5,70,000 crore, everyone gets puzzled

and start asking questions about wherefrom this money will come and consequently the project is shelved. But it is not that.

I am very happy that even as a Leader of the Opposition, our Leader Smt. Sonia Gandhi supported that proposition in the year 2002. We have to think for the welfare of the people, particularly of people living in the rural areas. It is not only the farmers who will benefit out of this. When there will be enough crop, the labour will benefit. They will not need to migrate to other towns. They can live comfortably in the village itself. The Government would not be needed to provide them with employment. He will get employment on his own. Demand will go up. His wages will go up. This project involves the linking of Godavari and Krishna rivers. By linking these two rivers, the benefit would be that 80 TMC of water will get transferred to the Krishna river. I may inform this House that in the year 2002 when water did not flow down-stream in Krishna, the farmers of the State lost crop worth Rs. 13 lakhs.

Today, by diverting that 80 TMC of water from Godavari to Krishna, one crop cultivated in 30 lakh acres is saved. That means, in a year, it will come to thousands of crores of rupees. The amount of benefits has been already assessed by the engineers and not by me. By interlinking of rivers in this country, the following benefits will be there.

Navigation upto a length of 15,000 kilometres can be done by waterways. Today, the biggest drain of foreign exchange in this country is due to oil import. Why is it due to oil import? It is because of the expenditure of transport mainly. A lot of it can be avoided if waterways are made. We will be saving a lot of foreign exchange, a lot of expenditure and will be providing employment to several people.

As regards power, by constructing dams due to interlinking of rivers, 34,000 megawatts of power can be generated which once again are not being used. It is not of a cumulative nature. If today's water goes to the sea, you cannot produce power next year. It cannot be cumulative. Thus, every year, we are losing 34,000 megawatts of power which is worth thousands of crores of rupees.

[Dr. K.S. Rao]

By linking of rivers, ground water source will come up. Today, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is giving free power to farmers due to which we are spending Rs. 6000 crores. Similarly, if other State Governments were to do it, how many thousands of crores of rupees will have to be spent for taking out water from underground? In the last couple of years, when underground water was being used, the water level had gone down from 100 feet to 500 feet and as a result, the power consumption has gone up. By interlinking of rivers, the water table will come up. When the water table comes up, we can save 40,000 megawatts of power. We do not need to generate it. The country is suffering now due to want of power. We can save that 40,000 megawatts. It is deemed as if we have started a new project for that 40,000 megawatts.

Similarly, regarding employment, everyone of us is aware that 65 per cent of the people are living in villages. Most of the people who are unable to find work will find work by interlinking of rivers.

I have been highlighting in this Parliament since almost 20 years that today's importance is skill development. Unless our people are skilled, wealth cannot be generated. I gave statistics about it. If the skills of the people of this country were to be developed, we can generate 12 lakh crores worth of extra wealth in this country. Statistics reveal that the revenue earned is 12 per cent. That means, the revenue to the Government will also go up by several crores of rupees every year.

I want to impress all my colleagues in the Parliament above party lines. We do not need to get perturbed on it. At a time, when there was no globalisation, it was a difficult proposition to get Rs. 5 lakh crores as a loan. Today, Rs. 5 lakh crores is nothing. We can get even Rs. 50 lakh crores as soft loan from outside. We can create an asset in this country. Why do we call America as a developed country? It is because of the roads, buildings and infrastructure. So, we call it a rich country. We can create the same assets in our country also. Why is China on par today when it was much less than India 15 years back?

When I went to China as a member of the delegation of the AICC in 1991, I did not find even a car on the roads of China. There were only bicycles. I feel insulted when I read in the newspapers that China today is going to be a super power. I gave a report as a member of the AICC delegation to China that China is going to be a super power in the 21st century. Today, everybody agrees with it.

India has got much better resources. If any other developed country is to come up, it is only because of the generative ideas of that countrymen who are living there. If the same talents and intelligence were put to use in our country, even we can excel every country including America within no time. We need motivation and will power. We have to think in a proper way and take up some of these projects, like inter-linking of rivers. We need not strain and break our head to increase the GDP to six or seven per cent. If you take up the inter-linking of rivers, then the growth rate will reach thirteen per cent.

Mr. Chairman, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak. Though there are a lot of points to speak in favour of inter-linking of rivers, I want to make only one point in this context. My humble request to the Prime Minister and Madam Sonia Gandhi is to take up this project of Polavaram, which is also inter-linking of river, as a national project. It satisfies all the parameters and norms of the Government of India. Thank you very much.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I would like to thank Dr. K.S. Rao for raising this issue in this House by giving a notice for Half-An-Hour Discussion. I do not know whether Dr. K.S. Rao is in any way related to Dr. K.L. Rao. I do not know whether all Raos are related to each other or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mahtab, make it very short because there are other hon. Members who want to speak.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: It is relating to inter-linking of rivers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mahtab, you do not try to inter-link the Members. Please be short because other hon. Members also want to ask questions.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Inter-linking of rivers is a long-pending issue in our country. I am just inter-linking Dr. K.S.

Rao with Dr. K.L. Rao who was the Minister of Water Resources under three Prime Ministers. He was the Minister of Water Resources and an eminent engineer of not only this country but also of this world. He served as a colleague of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, as a colleague of Lal Bahadur Shastri and was also Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation under Mrs. Indira Gandhi. It was his idea to inter-link the rivers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister is supposed to reply. Please conclude within two minutes. So, you ask only questions. No speech is allowed.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I would come straight to the questions. I have no objection nor do our State has any objection, which we have repeatedly put forth in this House earlier regarding the Polavaram project. But we do have objection in case it is constructed without taking consent of the neighbouring States, like Orissa, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. Once inter-linking of rivers is agreed upon, on a riparian river, consent of all the States involved should be taken. It is not only linking Godavari and Krishna. It is not only linking Krishna with another river which flows in Andhra Pradesh. It also affects the areas of Orissa. Large tracts of tribal areas are getting submerged. The case is pending before the Supreme Court. Yet, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is going ahead with that project. I think all the photographs are being placed before the apex court for consideration. This is a utopian idea. It is a bare and naked truth. Connecting the Peninsular rivers with Himalayan rivers is a utopian idea. All Peninsular rivers are rain-fed. Unless you connect them with Himalayan rivers, which are perennial rivers, there is no possibility of bringing water to the Peninsula rivers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please conclude. I told you to ask only questions. The rule does not permit speech. We cannot go beyond the rules. That is why I told you to ask only questions.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I am asking questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please sit down.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: In the other House, in the month of July this year, the hon. Minister had answered that there

are 16 peninsular rivers for which the development components are before the Government for consideration. There are 14 Himalayan Rivers' development components which are for consideration. Out of these, except one, that is the Ken-Betwa Link, which has been provided, the DPR has been completed, all others, I think around 12 river links, have only feasibility report including the Pollavaram Project. How long will this Government take to have the feasibility report of the project? You should take into consideration the project report. Then only can we proceed.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Minister agrees, I will ask a few Members to put questions.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Actually, the only question is that rules do not permit but since the matter being important, as a special case, I am permitting only six Members.

Shri Shailendra Kumar. Just ask the question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dr. K.S. Rao has raised a question about inter-linking of rivers in the country during the half-an-Hour Discussion and I am grateful to you that you allowed me to speak. In this subject discussions have been held many times in the House. It is true that we have now held a discussion on flood and drought. For example, during the N.D.A. Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Come to the point now.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I am asking the same. The benefit of interlinking the rivers is that it will maintain the level of ground-water which is registering a decline.

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

The then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had got an agreement done between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri K. S. Rao has mentioned it. Now come to the point.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I would like to know as to what progress has been made about the Ken and Betwa rivers for which an agreement had been entered into between the governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Guwahati): I am grateful to you, Sir, for allowing me to put the question. My point is that this House agrees to my view that river linking is very much essential and very much necessary for the country. So, I want to put the questions to the hon. Minister. This project started in 1980. It has been taken ahead by the NDA Government headed by Shri Vajpayee. Anyway, I do not want to politicize all these things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to your question.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: My questions are these. First, what is the step taken by the Government on the report of the Task Force submitted by the then Chairman Shri Suresh Prabhu regarding inter-river linking? Two, the Central Government is making a positive move by removing stagnancy of 30 years to start the river linking again. Three, what step the Government is taking to mitigate the problem in this endeavour of river linking?... *(Interruptions)* It is most important. It is evident from the hon. Minister's statement that the Central Government is going to assess the feasibility of the river linking project. I would like to know whether there is any time-bound project. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)... **

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: I have one last question to put.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Next, Shri K.C. Venugopal.

*(Interruptions)... **

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: My last question is this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not allowed you. You have mentioned your points. You have asked three questions. No more question is permitted.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (Alappuzha): Respected Chairman, thank you for giving me a chance.

I would like to raise some very serious apprehensions regarding the Pampa-Achankoil-Vypar linkage. ...*(Interruptions)* The Kerala Legislative Assembly has unanimously taken a decision to withdraw the Pampa-Achankoil-Vypar Linkage itself. Because of that, Kerala has not enough water for drinking purpose itself. We, therefore, demand that the Pampa-Achankoil-Vypar project itself should be withdrawn. ...*(Interruptions)* The feasibility study itself has been done without the knowledge of the Kerala Government. That is the main problem. We never accept that. The entire Kerala Assembly has and all the political parties have already taken a unanimous decision and they are all against this project. This is a project which would badly affect the Kuttanad wet lands. Therefore, I demand that the Pampa-Achankoil-Vypar linkage should be withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. You made your point. Now, Shri Anto Antony. You ask the question. Otherwise, I am going to the next Member.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (Pathanamathitta): Respected Chairman, the unscientific inter-linking of rivers will be disastrous to the nation because it will seriously affect the livelihood of millions of farmers settled on the river banks. For instance, in Kerala, the Pampa-Achankoil-Vypar river

linkage will make Kuttanad, the granary of Kerala, arid. There are one lakh fishermen and five lakh inhabitants seriously affected by the inter-linking programme. Hence I strongly renounce interlinking of inter-State rivers, namely, Achankoil, Vypar ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Mavelikkara): Sir, we all associate with him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good; all are associating with him.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will be very short in asking a question. Does the Ministry or the Government lay importance to having interlinking of rivers? If so, when the detailed feasibility report is already available with the Government of India and also signed by the concerned State, particularly for Ken-Betwa and Parvati-Kali Sindh, for both these links, the consensus has been arrived at, what progress have they made in getting these projects implemented? It is because, at least six years have passed and no progress has been made. I would like to know whether they have given importance to these projects.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Theni): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. In Andhra Pradesh, 3000 TMC of water is going waste, and in Kerala, 2500 TMC of water is going waste.

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Attingal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, not even a single drop of water from Kerala is going waste....
(Interruptions)

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: So, Sir, through you, I would request the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now hon. Minister.

Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the hon. Minister's statement.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

The hon. Minister.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank Dr. K.S. Rao for initiating this discussion today and also all the other hon. Members who participated in this brief discussion. I am sure their viewpoints, which to quite an extent are known to us already, would certainly benefit the Government in pursuing this matter.

Let me at the very outset make it very clear that the National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA in 2004 indicated that it will make a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking of rivers starting from the South-bound rivers, and the assessment will be done in a fully consultative manner.

The task force had been set up earlier. We have considered all the matters, the six points, which were before the task force. We have given due consideration to every recommendation and we value the good work put in by our former colleague Mr. Prabhu in this regard. I would only like to just allay the fears of the hon. Members like my illustrious predecessor Mr. Arjun Sethi that when there were only two projects that the task force had talked of, we have put five projects in the priority list, which only shows that this Government does want to pursue this matter in the right earnest. But one thing we must all appreciate is that it is a matter which is of a long gestation period. We just cannot plan and then see the execution of any linkage taking place within a very short span of time.

As I have just said, the desire of this Government is, as was also expressed by various State Governments at the various meetings held in this regard, that it has got to be a win-win situation for all the States. I would also take that liberty to express that viewpoint here; that is more of my personal one; I have been talking to lot many friends; we hear the expression of pious intentions about the interlinking of rivers.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

18.00 hrs.

When it comes to the specifics, Sir, we have had a little glimpse of that here right now. But nevertheless, as I said, we would work for a win-win situation because there is no denying the fact that there are certain areas, there are certain basins which are surplus and where the water goes waste; there are certain areas which are deficit and, therefore, there is the need as a nation for us to see that they also have enough water, which, of course, is a very scarce natural resource. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to put one question. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I can assure you that I will try to answer your question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I am not allowing you to put your question. Nothing will go on record. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, please take your seat for just a minute.

Now, it is six o' clock. I extend the time of the House till the reply of the hon. Minister is over. I hope, the House will agree with me.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, the time of the House is extended till the reply of the hon. Minister is completed.

Now, I would request the hon. Minister to continue his reply.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Because of the paucity of time, I would straightaway like to come to various points raised by hon. Members. One point, which is very important, relates to Ken Betwa.

Sir, as I said, there are five projects out of the 14 ones which we had taken up in the peninsular component. Those five projects have been selected as the priority ones. Ken Betwa is a project in which the Government of Madhya Pradesh very recently suggested an alternative proposal for a component of the project during August 2009. I am not referring to the entire history of the correspondence between the concerned State Governments. This was in August 2009. The Government has suggested an alternative proposal for a component of the project. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent some comments during November, 2009. These suggestions are being examined. This link project would entail a cost of Rs.7,615 crore at the 2008 prices. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Earlier they have signed that agreement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Yes. I am sure that you know as much as I do and maybe even more than I do. Here, the responsibility primarily lies with the State Governments. I am sure that the House would agree with me that this Government should not do anything which is not acceptable to the State Governments. Therefore, the responsibility squarely falls on the State Governments to come up with a mutually agreed DPR. Here, maybe some amendments would be required and thereafter the work begin. So, all through this period, whether it is preparation of the Feasibility Report; whether it is assisting the State Governments in the preparation of DPRs, this Government is doing its utmost. You could find objection to that but we do feel it important to keep spending some money on that part also to enable the capacity building as also to enable the State Governments to prepare those Reports which are then considered whether they are feasible and viable, and then are cleared from Techno Economic point of view as also from the ecological and environment point of view. The environment impact assessment, the Environment management plan, and all those things have to be gone through. After all those clearances have been obtained; thereafter only further work begins.

All that I can say is that in the Government, since it has taken up this project work relating to inter-linking of the

*Not recorded.

rivers, we are keen to see that the work on some of these projects begin early because as the time elapses, there are cost over-runs which we would certainly want to avoid.

Sir, Polavaram is a very contentious issue. All that I would like to say again is that we have to go by the principle that I have just stated, which guides this Government. Keeping that in mind, I would only like to remind the hon. Member, Shri B. Mahtab that in fact it was all the concerned State Governments including the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, which had agreed on 2nd of April, 1980 as a part of the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal Award for the project and also of the embankments.

Now, that was the concern expressed by Orissa and then the part of Madhya Pradesh, which is now Chhattisgarh, that no flooding should take place in their area. For that, there was a decision that embankments were proposed to prevent submergence. That is the concern. Meanwhile, the Government of Andhra Pradesh on its own had taken up the Polavaram Project. Perhaps, for the time being, they are wanting to use 80 TMC only for transferring water to the deficient Krishna basin, which would not in anyway affect the national perspective plan otherwise.

Sir, there is a proposal by the Government of Andhra Pradesh with the Government of India for declaring that project as a national project. Here again, before I go a step further, I would like to reiterate that the project stood cleared already, long back. Now, since it fulfilled all the guidelines, which are there for declaring a project to be a national project, there is no reason why the Government of India can deny them that.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Why has our right been curtailed?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: That matter would again be discussed between the States. The present proposition is only that. That is not the point at the moment. You have your right; when the matter has been raised by you in a particular court, the orders of the court would be binding on both the States. Till then, is it in the national

interest that you put the project to a stop, and therefore, waste all the investment that has been incurred thereon?

Therefore, Sir, we have considered that point; and after finding that the proposal is within the parameters of the guidelines for declaring a project to be a national project, a Cabinet note has been prepared and sent for Inter-Ministerial consultation. After that, whatever necessary step needs to be taken, will be taken.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Before that would there be any forum for consultation?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I would again welcome that. I would be too happy to, in fact, have all the Chief Ministers again together for any discussion on that matter. But I want to allay all the fears, which my hon. friends from Orissa and Chhattisgarh may have. This declaration — when it takes place as a national project — would not affect their existing rights in any way.

Sir, our hon. friends from Kerala in unison rose against one of the projects, namely, Pamba-Achankoil Vypar link. A Resolution was passed, I agree, by the Kerala Assembly way back in August, 2003 against this link. Obviously, as I have said, if one such State does not agree, and as the things stand today, we cannot force it on anyone. We have constraint of resources still have picked up this scheme.

As some hon. Members want and my senior colleague, Mrs. Chakravarty, in fact, asked: "What are you doing? Why are you taking so much time? There is the Report of the Task Force. How much time are you going to take?" It was done after a very elaborate exercise, spread over decades. Way back in 1980, the Government at that time, framed the National Perspective Plan. Then, the NWDA was set up in 1982. Since then, it is the interest and desire of this Government to take these matters forward. But somewhere or the other, we found some impediments, which might be, of course, reasonable ones from their viewpoint. There were some objections raised by some State Government, which somehow stymied the project for the time being. Therefore, this is one of the 14 projects for which a lot of work was carried out.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

Somehow now, because of the stand taken by the Kerala Assembly about this Pamba-Achankoil-Vypar link, which would have created an additional 0.91 hectare of irrigation potential as Dr. Rao said, since there is an objection to that particular link, for the time being, this is not one of those five priority links.

Presently, I would like to confine, for the purpose of today's discussion, to these five and also I would be giving a little more information that has been sought for. Here, I would endeavour to read....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Which are those five projects?

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Are they Peninsular projects?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: All those five are Peninsular projects. ...(*Interruptions*) Let me make that point also very clear. Presently, a fear was expressed by Shri B. Mahtab that it is a utopian idea, as he said, to link the Himalayan rivers with the Peninsular ones. Nothing of that sort is being done at the moment. It involves a huge cost. We have divided the entire exercise into two components. First is the Himalayan component and second is the Peninsular component. These two components, as such, going by the present figures, would entail an expenditure of over Rs.4.4 lakh crore. Sir, no such kind of money is available as such with us. When a project is finally taken up, every State wants the Government of India to declare such big projects to be national projects, which means, the Government of India will have to share 90 per cent of the cost irrespective of the fact as to what is the financial position of a particular State. The Government of India will have to bear this cost.

These are five projects at the moment, namely Kodavari (Polavaram)- Krishna (Vijayawada) Link, Parbati-Kalisindhi -Chambal link.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: It was done by the earlier Government.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I give you the credit for doing good work. I said Mr. Prabhu did a remarkable

work when, for reasons best known to some of you, he was taken off the Council of Ministers. But he was given a good job to do and he did do a good job for us.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, please address the Chair. Please stop cross-talk.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi are the other two ones where the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat have come together. I congratulate both the States. They have expressed their desire to go in for a Memorandum of Understanding. They have agreed to the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding though that has to be formally signed between the two States but because of the immediacy, because of the urgency of the work, we have started the DPR preparation for those two projects. Both the Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat have agreed for these two links, namely, Damanganga-Pinjal Link and Par-Tapi-Narmada Link. I hope that the DPR, Detailed Project Report, would be prepared by the end of next year and we do look forward to good news.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Krishna-Kuzhithurai river from Andhra Pradesh to Tamil Nadu is a vital link.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I will supply the entire information about the 14 links and also the details to the hon. Members about the inter-basin water transfer link scheme of Peninsular component. There are two in the Himalayan component. Since it has some international implications also, my senior colleague, the Minister of External Affairs is here — the House would agree that because those are sensitive matters, we have to take the neighbouring countries on board. Therefore, not much purpose would be served in pursuing those matters. Therefore, we should concentrate our energies firstly on these five ones and we can achieve result in these five ones which will be at a cost of Rs. 33,000 crore. It would take about nine to 10 years still. I am trying to be practical when I say it. Preliminary work is going on. Even if we step up the work, it would still take that much time. Sir, you have to plan for the future when you talk of the inter-linking of rivers.

Regarding inter-linking of rivers, I want to allay all fears that our hon. Members may have in this House or

anyone outside also. Various stipulations are the *sine qua non* for taking up a project, that is, the clearances from the environmental angle and clearances from the rehabilitation and resettlement angle. I have seen in some of the projects that R&R and also the environmental angle account for about one-third of the total cost. So, it is not at the cost of one thing that another project would be set up. It is for the larger interests of the country that the inter-linking scheme is there.

All that I would again like to say is that this Government would want to take all the State Governments on board.

We want this to go forward. But then the ball would always be in the court of the State Governments. In certain cases some of the hon. Chief Ministers, in one case the hon. Chief Minister of Rajasthan has just written to me, that they are sorting out certain matters; very expeditiously they are wanting to pursue. That is the way we would like to go forward in this matter.

As and when a proposal matures, the DPR is there, all other clearances are obtained, investment clearance is obtained, that 10 per cent of the project cost is provided for in the respective State Government budgets, this Government is always willing to take it up. Let me once again say that this Government will not force any link on any State Government.

I am happy Mr. Rao did not refer to those points. He is always wanting a regulatory body to be set up for this. I would say, no such body is required because as the law stands today, as the provisions of the Constitution stand today and all that action that has been taken under various enactments, there is enough scope; there is a good, solid mechanism to take care of all the works. All that progress that has been made, initially it is difficult; as you move forward the work might progress at a good pace. Initially the pre-feasibility study reports, then the feasibility study reports, after getting the States together to sign a memorandum of understanding for the DPR, preparation of the DPR – all these things take up a lot of time. After that the work can begin. We can only hope that we will move forward in this.

I am sorry, may be Didi may get annoyed with me. It may take time for me to read and answer to each point. I will try to talk to her later and try to answer all those questions which she has raised.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 3rd December, 2009 at 11 a.m.

18.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 3, 2009/ Agrahayana 12, 1931 (Saka).

ANNEXURE-I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Babar Gajanan D.	196
2.	Shri Bhagat Sudarshan	189
3.	Shri Deo, Kalikesh Narayan Singh	194
4.	Shri Dhotre Sanjay	181
5.	Shri Gaddigoudar, P.C.	192
6.	Shri Gandhi, Varun	196
7.	Shri Gowda Chandre D.B.	199
8.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	191
9.	Shri Joshi, Prahlad	183
10.	Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena	191
11.	Shri Kumar, Shailendra	195
12.	Shri Laguri Yashbant	189
13.	Dr. Mahant, Charan Das	186
14.	Shri Owaisi Asaduddin	198
15.	Shri Patel Deoraj Singh	190
16.	Shri Patil A.T. Nana	200
17.	Shri Pradhan Amarnath	197
18.	Shri Pradhan Nityananda	187
19.	Shri Raghavan M.K.	181
20.	Shri Rashid, J.M. Aaron	186
21.	Shri Ray, Bishnu Pada	194
22.	Shri Reddy M. Sreenivasulu	184

1	2	3
23.	Shri Sharma, Madan Lal	185
24.	Shri Siddeshwara, G.M.	200
25.	Shri Singh Mohan	188
26.	Shri Singh Rajnath	195
27.	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	187
28.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan Alias Lalan Singh	183
29.	Shri Suresh Kodikkunnil	182
30.	Shri Thakor Jagdish	182
31.	Shri Thomas P.T.	193
32.	Shri Verma Sajjan	188
33.	Shri Wankhede Subhash Bapurao	185

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Meghe, Datta	2063, 2179
2.	Shrimati Shantha, J.	2042
3.	Shri Adhalrao, Patil Shivaji	2076, 2168, 2169, 2211, 2232
4.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao	2076, 2168, 2169, 2211, 2232
5.	Shri Agarwal, Jai Prakash	2102, 2177, 2216, 2231
6.	Shri Agrawal, Rajendra	2055, 2254
7.	Shri Ahir Hansraj G.	2036, 2146, 2201, 2226, 2231
8.	Shri Ajmal Badruddin	2122, 2253

1	2	3	2	3
9.	Shri Anuragi, Ghanshyam	2089	31.	Shri R. Dharuvanarayana 2187
10.	Shri Awale Jaywantrao	2110	32.	Shri Dhotre, Sanjay 2128
11.	Shri Babar Gajanan D.	2169, 2211, 2232, 2243	33.	Shri Dubey, Nishikant 2069
12.	Shri Bajwa Partap Singh	2083	34.	Shri Dudhgaonkar, Nagorao 2124, 2193, 2208
13.	Dr. Ballram	2067	35.	Shri Gaddigoudar, P.C. 2155
14.	Shri Baske, Pulin Bihari	2076, 2165	36.	Shri Galkwad, Eknath Mahadeo 2064, 2076, 2087
15.	Shri Bavalia Kunvarjibhai Mohanbhai	2134	37.	Shrimati Gandhi Maneka 2074, 2168, 2184, 2219, 2236
16.	Shri Bhagat Sudarshan	2160, 2256	38.	Shri Gandhi, Varun 2141, 2205, 2228, 2240
17.	Shri Biju P.K.	2084	39.	Shri Ganeshamurthi, A. 2128
18.	Shrimati Botcha, Jhansi Lakshmi	2058	40.	Shri Gopal, L. Raja 2044
19.	Shri Chauhan Sanjay Singh	2059, 2073, 2154	41.	Shri Gouda, Shivarama 2123
20.	Shri Chauhan Pratapsinh P.	2099, 2163	42.	Shri Gowda, Chandre D.B. 2255
21.	Shri Chavan, Harishchandra	2043, 2183	43.	Haque, Sk. Saidul 2082
22.	Shrimati Choudhry Shruti	2059, 2073, 2154	44.	Shri Hussain, Syed Shahnawaz 2116, 2190
23.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	2072, 2210	45.	Shri Jaiswal, Gorakh Prasad 2132, 2256
24.	Shri Chowdhury, Bansa Gopal	2114	46.	Shrimati Jat, Poonam Veljibhai 2080, 2163
25.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	2075, 2078, 2087, 2168	47.	Shrimati Jayaprada 2131, 2259
26.	Shrimati Dasmunsi, Deepa	2051	48.	Shri Jindal, Naveen 2144, 2200, 2261
27.	Shrimati Davidson, J. Helen	2088	49.	Dr. Joshi, Mahesh 2248
28.	Shri Deo, Kalikesh Narayan Singh	2117, 2191	50.	Shri Joshi, Pralhad 2083, 2142, 2175
29.	Shri Deora Millind	2033, 2076, 2150	51.	Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba' 2039, 2189
30.	Shri Dhanapalan K.P.	2092	52.	Shri Kashyap Virender 2090
			53.	Shri Kaswan, Ram Singh 2038
			54.	Shri Khalre Chandrakant 2126

1	2	3
55.	Dr. Kirodi, Lal Meena	2143, 2208
56.	Shri Kumar, P.	2091
57.	Shri Kumar, Shailendra	2168, 2261
58.	Shri Laguri, Yashbant	2160
59.	Shri Sukhdev Singh	2054
60.	Shri Lingam P.	2078
61.	Shri Madam, Vikrambhai Arajanbhai	2046, 2145, 2212
62.	Shrimati Mahajan, Sumitra	2065, 2066, 2173, 2214
63.	Dr. Mahant, Charan Das	2171
64.	Shri Mahtab, B.	2120
65.	Shri Majhi, Pradeep	2106, 2182, 2218, 2235, 2246
66.	Shri Masram, Basori Singh	2100
67.	Shri Meghwal, Bharat Ram	2212
68.	Dr. Meinya, Thokchom	2075, 2168, 2186, 2222, 2260
69.	Shri Mishra, Mahabal	2111
70.	Shri Munda Arjun	2081, 2164
71.	Shri P. Balram	2172
72.	Dr. Naik, Sanjeev Ganesh	2127
73.	Shri Namdhari, Inder Singh	2057, 2156, 2219, 2262
74.	Shri Naranbhai, Kachhadia	2099
75.	Shri Nirupam, Sanjay	2071, 2095
76.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	2152, 2208, 2230, 2242

1	2	3
77.	Shri P.R. Natarajan	2115
78.	Shri Panda, Bijayant	2104, 2179
79.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	2086, 2170
80.	Shri Pandey, Ravindra Kumar	2129, 2195, 2259
81.	Dr. Pandey, Vinay Kumar	2152, 2245
82.	Shri Pangi, Jayaram	2099, 2121
83.	Shri Paranjpe, Anand Prakash	2208, 2249
84.	Shri Patel, Deoraj Singh	2161, 2258
85.	Shri Patel, Jayshreeben	2047, 2208
86.	Shri Pathak, Harin	2080
87.	Shri Patil, A.T. Nana	2151, 2209, 2231
88.	Shri Patil, Bhaskarrao Bapurao	2064, 2076, 2087
89.	Shrimati Patil, Bhavana Gawali	2107, 2132, 2204
90.	Shri Patil, Rao Saheb Danve	2127, 2208
91.	Shri Prabhakar, Ponnam	2053, 2149, 2204, 2227, 2241
92.	Shri Pradhan, Amarnath	2136
93.	Shri Pradhan, Nityananda	2104
94.	Shri Premchand (Guddu)	2065, 2166
95.	Shri Punia, P.L.	2070, 2216
96.	Shri Raghavan, M.K.	2157, 2206
97.	Shri Ram, Purnamasi	2094
98.	Dr. Ram Shankar	2203
99.	Shri Ramkishun	2119
100.	Dr. Rane, Nilesh Narayan	2247
101.	Shri Rao, Sambasiva Rayapati	2112, 2172, 2186, 2220, 2237

1	2	3
102.	Shri Rashid, J.M. Aaron	2148, 2203
103.	Shri Rathod, Ramesh	2048, 2147, 2202, 2245
104.	Shri Rathwa, Ramsinh	2210
105.	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	2062, 2083, 2180, 2212, 2257
106.	Shri Ray, Arjun	2133
107.	Shri Ray, Bishnu Pada	2192
108.	Shri Ray, Rudramadhab	2085
109.	Shri Reddy, Gutha Sukhender	2125
110.	Shri Reddy, M. Sreenivasulu	2158, 2223
111.	Shri Reddy, Anantha Venkata Rami	2049, 2100, 2181
112.	Shri Roy, Nripendra Nath	2045
113.	Shri S. Alagiri	2097, 2116
114.	Shri S. Semmalai	2115
115.	Shri S. Pakkhirappa	2035, 2251
116.	Shri S.R. Jeyadurai	2056
117.	Shri S.S. Ramasubbu	2034, 2135, 2196, 2224, 2239
118.	Shri Sardinha, Francisco Cosme	2113
119.	Shri Saroj, Sushila	2076, 2168, 2169, 2211, 2232
120.	Shri Saroj, Tufani	2224, 2250
121.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	2064, 2188, 2215, 2221, 2238
122.	Shrimati Scindia, Yashodhara Raje	2105

1	2	3
123.	Shri Shanavas M.I.	2093, 2174
124.	Shri Shetti, Raju	2118
125.	Shri Basavaraj, G.S.	2071, 2176, 2215, 2234, 2245
126.	Shri Anto Antony	2103, 2178, 2217
127.	Shri Siddeshwara, G.M.	2153, 2214
128.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	2128, 2194
129.	Shri Singh, Ganesh	2050, 2098, 2168
130.	Shri Singh, Jagadanand	2096, 2175
131.	Shrimati Singh, Meena	2108, 2168, 2175
132.	Shri Singh, Pashupati Nath	2052
133.	Shri Singh, Radha Mohan	2061, 2088, 2168, 2185
134.	Shri Singh, Rakesh	2050, 2167, 2208
135.	Shri Singh, Sushil Kumar	2094
136.	Shri Singh, Uday	2179
137.	Shri Singh, Lal Chaudhary	2100, 2241
138.	Shri Sinha, Yashwant	2068
139.	Shri Sugavanam, E.G.	2037, 2137, 2197, 2225, 2245
140.	Shrimati Sule Supriya	2077, 2096, 2176, 2208, 2215
141.	Shri Suresh Kodikkunnil	2138, 2207
142.	Shri Swamy, N. Cheluvraya	2041, 2140, 2199, 2229
143.	Shrimati Swaraj Sushma	2116, 2130, 2179, 2252
144.	Shri Tarai, Bibhu Prasad	2075, 2087, 2168

2	3
145. Shri Tewari, Manish	2101
146. Shri Thakur, Anurag Singh	2090
147. Shri Thamaraiselvan R.	2090
148. Dr. Thambidurai M.	2109
149. Shri Thomas P.T.	2162
150. Shri Tirkey, Manohar	2045
151. Shri Tiwari, Bhisma Shanker Alias Kushal	2100

2	3
152. Shri Vasava, Mansukh Bhai D.	2097
153. Shri Viswanathan P.	2040, 2139, 2198, 2245
154. Shri Wakchaure, Bhausahab Rajaram	2060, 2172, 2213, 2233, 2244
155. Shri Wankhede Subhash Bapurao	2159
156. Shri Yaskhi Madhu Goud	2064, 2076, 2087

*ANNEXURE-II**Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions*

Prime Minister	:	
Atomic Energy	:	
Coal	:	186, 189, 190
Culture	:	
Earth Sciences	:	
Environment and Forests	:	187, 188, 191, 192, 196
External Affairs	:	184
Human Resource Development	:	181, 185, 194, 195, 199, 200
Overseas Indian Affairs	:	197, 198
Parliamentary Affairs	:	
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	:	
Planning	:	183
Science and Technology	:	
Space	:	193
Statistics and Programme Implementation	:	
Water Resources	:	182.

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Prime Minister	:	
Atomic Energy	:	2093, 2147, 2154, 2155, 2173, 2188, 2218, 2249, 2250
Coal	:	2059, 2063, 2086, 2114, 2161, 2170, 2191, 2252

Culture	:	2053, 2055, 2064, 2102, 2105, 2118, 2123, 2128, 2133, 2139, 2167, 2174, 2189, 2199, 2203, 2207, 2224, 2235, 2247
Earth Sciences	:	2120, 2206, 2225
Environment and Forests	:	2035, 2043, 2044, 2046, 2050, 2056, 2060, 2078, 2089, 2095, 2099, 2103, 2108, 2115, 2117, 2119, 2121, 2125, 2126, 2131, 2148, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2157, 2159, 2164, 2166, 2169, 2171, 2179, 2182, 2202, 2211, 2217, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2229, 2232, 2233, 2236, 2241, 2246
External Affairs	:	2034, 2052, 2054, 2058, 2061, 2066, 2068, 2077, 2083, 2101, 2107, 2124, 2136, 2144, 2163, 2177, 2204, 2205, 2222, 2228, 2245, 2257, 2258, 2261, 2262
Human Resource Development	:	2036, 2037, 2040, 2045, 2047, 2048, 2051, 2073, 2082, 2088, 2091, 2092, 2098, 2109, 2110, 2112, 2116, 2122, 2129, 2134, 2135, 2137, 2141, 2142, 2145, 2146, 2149, 2158, 2162, 2175, 2181, 2183, 2184, 2187, 2190, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2197, 2200, 2201, 2208, 2209, 2227, 2230, 2231, 2234, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2242, 2248, 2251, 2253, 2255, 2256, 2259
Overseas Indian Affairs	:	2038, 2041, 2049, 2130, 2215
Parliamentary Affairs	:	
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	:	2033, 2069, 2097, 2160, 2168, 2176, 2213, 2254, 2260
Planning	:	2039, 2065, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2075, 2076, 2079, 2085, 2087, 2104, 2106, 2153, 2156, 2223, 2244

Science and Technology	:	2042, 2067, 2113, 2140, 2165, 2185
Space	:	2084, 2196, 2198
Statistics and Programme Implementation	:	2081, 2216
Water Resources	:	2057, 2062, 2074, 2080, 2090, 2094, 2096, 2100, 2111, 2127, 2132, 2138, 2143, 2172, 2178, 2180, 2186, 2195, 2210, 2212, 2214, 2226, 2243

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