

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

[Fifteenth Series, Vol. III, Second Session, 2009/1931 (Saka)]

No. 16, Thursday, July 23, 2009/Sravana 1, 1931 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question No. 281	3—5
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 282 to 300	6—37
Unstarred Question Nos. 2620 to 2843	37—301
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	302—309
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	
(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 98th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on action taken by the government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in the 83rd Report of the functioning of Commission of Railway Safety	
Shri Praful Patel	309—310
(ii) Certain alleged discrepancies in the Budget documents	
Shri P. Chidambaram	417—420
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need to check unrestricted sale of thinner and correction fluid used in typing work being consumed by children as a toxic substance	
Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana	310
(ii) Need to conduct an inquiry into the heavy blast incidents that took place in M/s Rajasthan Explosives Chemical Limited and Ideal Explosives Pvt. Ltd., district Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh	
Shri Pradeep Majhi	311
(iii) Need to expedite the inter-linking of Ken and Betwa rivers in Madhya Pradesh	
Shri Jitendra Singh Bundela	311—312

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(iv) Need to clear the proposals for Indira Awas Yojana and release funds to help self-employment in Jalgaon, Maharashtra	
Shri Haribhau Jawale	312
(v) Need to provide drinking water in Sheikhpura district of Bihar	
Dr. Bhola Singh	312—313
(vi) Need to expedite Damodar Rail Project and re-open Angwali Colliery in Giridih Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand	
Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey	313
(vii) Need to implement drinking water projects in Sujangarh & Ratangarh regions of Churu Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan	
Shri Ram Singh Kaswan	313—314
(viii) Need to give approval to the development schemes for naxal-hit districts of Jharkhand and devise effective strategy to combat naxalism in the State	
Shri Inder Singh Namdhari	314
SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS	
Re: Reported withdrawal/downgrading of security of Leaders of political parties	315—321
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 2009-2010	322—420
Ministry of Women and Child Development	322—384
Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan	323—334
Dr. Girija Vyas	334—345
Shrimati Sushila Saroj	345—350
Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia	350—351
Shrimati Meena Singh	351—353
Dr. Ratna De	353—355
Shrimati J. Helen Davidson	355—358
Shrimati Susmita Bauri	358—360
Shri Rudramadhab Ray	360—362
Shri Bhausaheb Rajaram Wakchaure	362—366
Shri O.S. Manian	366—371
Dr. N. Sivaprasad	372—373
Shri Prabodh Panda	373—374
Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan	374—376

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	376—379
Shrimati J. Shantha	379—381
Rajkumari Ratna Singh	381—382
Dr. Prabha Kishor Taviad	383—388
Dr. Kruparani Killi	388—389
Shrimati Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi	389—392
Shrimati Priya Dutt	392—393
Shrimati Kamla Devi Patle	393—395
Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal	395—398
Shrimati Jayshreeben Patel	398—403
Shri Kaushalendra Kumar	403—404
Shri Virendra Kumar	404—406
Shrimati Usha Verma	406—407
Shrimati Krishna Tirath	408—417
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	
4th Report	382
APPROPRIATION (NO.3) BILL, 2009	
Motion to Consider	435—437
Clauses 2 to 4 and 1	435—437
Motion to pass	437
ANNEXURE I	
Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	445
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	446—450
ANNEXURE II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	451—452
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	451—452

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 23, 2009/Sharada 1, 1931 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Question Hour. Q. No. 281-Shri Asaduddin Owaisi.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Q. No. 281. ...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Madam Speaker, I want to say that ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Your subject will be taken up during zero hour. Let the Question hour take place.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I will allow you in zero hour.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the Question hour run.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I will definitely call you in Zero hour.

...(Interruptions)

11.01 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Dhananjay Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 11.30 a.m.

11.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

11.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Thirty Minutes past Eleven of the clock.

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Madam Speaker, I want to bring it into your notice that today the UPA Government wants to withdraw the security of all the prominent leaders of the country including the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. In this regard in all the news papers, electronic media. ...(Interruptions) You please be silent. ...(Interruptions) Not only this, UPA Government and Congress Party are withdrawing security of many prominent leaders and some of them are also present in this House. ...(Interruptions) The Minister of Home Affairs of this country while sending a letter particularly to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh three months ago, expressed his apprehension about the threat of terrorist attacks of her and, thus, suggested by saying that she should enhance her security cover. But today instead of enhancing her security cover. ...(Interruptions) Now a conspiracy to withdraw her security is being hatched by the UPA Government. I, therefore, demand that the Minister of Home Affairs should come to the House and assure by stating that her security is not being withdrawn, only then we will be ready to cooperate with you. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Take your seat. Leader of the House is speaking, therefore, take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam Speaker, most respectfully I would like to submit that I checked up the position from the Home Minister as the hon. Members agitated yesterday and this morning also and you had to adjourn the House till 11.30 a.m. The Home Minister has assured me and informed me that no Report of the Review Committee has yet reached him. This exercise is being done periodically. But that does not mean that the Government

has taken the decision. The Government will take the decision taking into account all considerations, including the concerns of the hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: The reply of leader of the House has come, so let the Question hour continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: His reply has come, so, take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Take your seat. The reply of leader of the House has come. Reply from Government side has come, so take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.32 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. No. 281-Shri Asaduddin Owaisi.

Reduction in Prices of Crude Oil

*281. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of crude oil have dropped recently in the global market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the petroleum companies have made their losses good in the wake of reduced crude oil prices in the international market;

(d) whether the Government proposes to reduce the prices of petroleum products in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the domestic market from the effect of fluctuating prices of crude oil in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

International prices of crude oil and petroleum products have remained highly volatile in the recent past. The Crude oil prices have been steadily increasing since

March, 2009 and the average Indian Basket during July, 2009 is \$63.27 per barrel (up to 15th July, 2009). The month-wise average price of Indian Basket of Crude Oil since January, 2009 is given below:

	(\$ per barrel)
January, 2009	43.99
February, 2009	43.22
March, 2009	46.02
April, 2009	50.14
May, 2009	58.00
June, 2009	69.12
July, 2009 (upto 15.07.2009)	63.27

The total under-recoveries of the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on the sale of Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG, during the financial year 2008-09 and in the 1st Quarter of 2009-10 (April-June, 2009) are given below:—

		(Rs. crore)
	2008-09	2009-10 (April-June, 2009) (Provisional)
Petrol	5,181	1,030
Diesel	52,286	(469)
PDS Kerosene	28,225	3,249
Domestic LPG	17,600	1,626
Total	1,03,292	5,436

As passing on the entire impact of the steep increase in the oil prices to the consumers would result in a sharp increase in the domestic prices the Government has taken measures to ensure that the burden of international oil prices is shared by all the stakeholders, namely, the Government, the Upstream Oil Companies, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and the consumers, in the following manner:

- Government, through issue of Oil Bonds
- Public Sector Upstream Oil Companies, through price discounts to OMCs.
- OMCs to bear a portion of the under-recoveries, and
- Consumers, through minimal price increases.

During 2008-09, to compensate the OMCs for their under-recoveries incurred on the sale of Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG, Government issued Oil Bonds of Rs. 71,292 crore to the OMCs while the Upstream Oil PSUs, viz. ONGC, OIL and GAIL contributed Rs. 32,000 crore in price discounts on crude oil and petroleum products. In addition, ONGC and OIL also contributed Rs. 943 crore through price discounts towards the import losses of OMCs.

Government is closely monitoring the international oil price situation and will take appropriate pricing decisions to protect the interest of the common man, particularly the vulnerable sections of society.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Madam Speaker, there is a high level of relationship between the international crude prices and our GDP. ...*(Interruptions)* The energy sector has significantly higher share of 13.23 per cent in WPI. ...*(Interruptions)* This figure rises with every 10 per cent rise in the product in every sector. ...*(Interruptions)* The inflation as measured by WPI goes up to 1.4 per cent high. ...*(Interruptions)* Even in spite of global recession and low consumption of oil, the crude prices are still rising. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Madam Speaker, there is a high level of relationship between the international crude prices and our GDP. ...*(Interruptions)* The energy sector has significantly higher share of 13.23 per cent in WPI. ...*(Interruptions)* This figure rises with every 10 per cent rise in the product in every sector. ...*(Interruptions)* The inflation as measured by WPI goes up to 1.4 per cent high. ...*(Interruptions)* Even in spite of global recession and low consumption of oil, the crude prices are still rising. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam Speaker, the name of Murli Manohar Joshi has also been published in that report. His security is also being downgraded or withdrawn. You might be aware that Dr. Joshi had gone to Kashmir on 'Ekta Yatra'. He has always been raising his voice against terrorism. The reason for providing him security is that he has launched a war and campaign against terrorism. But I want to tell the leader of the House that the names of those who have found mention in the report also include Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi whose security is being stated to be downgraded. The man who can dare to say that he will hoist the tricolour flag at Lal Chowk before the entire terrorists. ...*(Interruptions)*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Civil Aviation Projects

*282. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major Civil Aviation projects sanctioned by the Government during the last three years for development of infrastructure at various airports in the country;

(b) the progress of work under these projects as on date;

(c) whether the work on these projects is going on as per schedule;

(d) if not, the details of the projects where the progress of work is tardy and behind the schedule; and

(e) the steps being taken to expedite work under these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has entered into an Operation, Management & Development Agreement (OMDA) with the M/s Delhi International Airport Private Limited (DIAL) and Mumbai International Airport Private Limited (MIAL) for modernisation and development of Delhi and Mumbai airports respectively. DIAL & MIAL have undertaken all the Mandatory Capital Projects at the airports as per schedule stipulated in the OMDA .

AAI have undertaken development projects at various airports as under:

- (i) The projects completed during the last three years are: Amritsar-expansion & modification of terminal building, extension of runway, apron technical block cum control tower, cargo complex and operational wall; Dehradun-construction of runway & control tower cum technical block; Kangra-extension of runway, construction of apron, taxiway, terminal building, car park, operational wall, drainage, etc; Jaipur-construction of new international terminal complex; Jodhpur-extension of apron and allied works; Kargil-construction of new airport; Khajuraho-extension of runway, construction of new apron & taxiway; Kullu-construction of new terminal building and

pavement works; Lucknow-resurfacing of taxi-track & extension of apron, isolation bay & runway and extension of runway, Pathankot-development of civil enclave including residential quarters; Srinagar-expansion & modification of terminal building complex; Udaipur-construction of new terminal building complex, extension of apron, link taxiway & runway; Varanasi-extension & strengthening of existing runway and provision of shoulders; Bhubaneswar-extension of runway and expansion of apron, construction of additional taxiway; Gaya-construction of new terminal building & allied structure; Cooch Behar-construction of new terminal building; Raipur-strengthening and expansion of apron; Agartala-expansion of terminal complex, apron and construction of new technical building cum control tower; Dibrugarh-construction of new terminal building including land acquisition; Dimapur-resurfacing of runway; Guwahati-extension of runway & construction of new apron with link taxiway; Imphal-resurfacing of runway, construction of isolation bay, extension of apron & link taxiway; Lilabari-construction of new terminal building; Silchar-extension of runway, acquisition of land & construction of boundary wall; Ahmedabad-construction of new departure block for domestic terminal building, isolation bay and parallel taxi track, new arrival block, construction of new apron; Aurangabad-construction of new apron, new terminal building; Bhuj-construction of new civil air terminal; Gondia-construction of new passenger lounge, control tower, fire station, boundary wall; Indore-construction of isolation bay and taxiway; Surat-development work; Nagpur-expansion and modification of terminal building for international operations; Porbandar-construction of new terminal building and associated works; Agatti-construction of terminal building, fire station and control tower; Calicut-resurfacing of runway and allied works, expansion and modification of integrated terminal building including electrical packages; Coimbatore-extension of runway; Madurai-strengthening and extension of runway; Mangalore-construction of apron; Mysore-pavement work; Puduchery-construction of runway; Tirupati-resurfacing and strengthening of runway, taxi track, apron, isolation bay etc.; Trichy-construction of new apron, taxi track and new terminal building; Vizag-construction of new integrated terminal building.

- (ii) The projects where the works are in progress: Chandigarh-construction of new integrated terminal building; Dehradun-construction of new terminal building and allied works; Jaipur-construction of new apron and taxiway; Jaisalmer-construction of new civil enclave; Khajuraho-construction of new integrated terminal building; Lucknow construction of new international terminal building, new apron & taxiway; Srinagar-expansion of apron phase-II; Udaipur-construction of control tower and technical block; Varanasi-extension and strengthening of apron and runway, construction of new integrated terminal building including aerobridge; Ludhiana-strengthening/re-surfacing of runway & apron/taxiway; Bhubaneswar-construction of new integrated passenger terminal building; Port Blair-expansion of apron and additional taxiway; Ranchi-expansion of apron and construction of isolation bay, new integrated passenger terminal building, resurfacing of runway; Raipur-construction of new expandable modular integrated terminal building; Kolkata-construction of passenger terminal building, extension of secondary runway, etc.; Agartala-strengthening of existing runway; Barapani (Shilong)-construction of new terminal building & expansion of runway; Bagdogra-extension of apron; Dimapur-expansion of apron & construction of link taxiway; Guwahati-construction of isolation aircraft parking stand; Imphal-construction of new apron; Pakyong-construction of new airport; Ahmedabad-construction of new international terminal building Phase-I & II; Aurangabad-extension of runway; Bhopal-construction of new expandable modular terminal building, new apron, extension of runway; Goa-new international terminal, car park, extension of apron and allied works; Gondia-construction of parallel taxiway, NIATAM and two nos. of additional hangars; Indore-construction of new terminal building; Pune-extension and modification of terminal building; Agatti-construction of terminal building, fire station and control tower; Coimbatore-expansion and modification of terminal building, construction of part parallel taxiway and expansion of apron; Cuddapah-construction of runway, taxiway and apron; Chennai-construction of domestic terminal and extension of existing international terminal

and extension of secondary runway; Madurai-construction of terminal building and allied works; Mangalore-construction of new terminal building; Mysore-development of building work; Rajamundry-construction of new terminal building including car park; Trivandrum-construction of new international terminal building and apron; Vijaywada-extension of runway.

In addition to above, AAI have also undertaken major CNS projects at various airports.

(c) and (d) Development work at most of the airports including Delhi and Mumbai are as per schedule.

(e) An OMDA Implementation Oversight Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, to coordinate and monitor the development works at Delhi and Mumbai. Besides, AAI have also set up an independent department, Project Monitoring and Quality Assurance Department, to ensure regular monitoring and quality assurance of the development work which has been undertaken by AAI.

Passenger Attraction Measures in Railways

*283. SHRI BAL KUMAR PATEL:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS to be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have chalked out any strategy to attract passengers and deal with the challenges posed by the budget airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether rail hostesses have been provided in coaches in trains in certain sectors on the lines of flights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Railways and Airlines are not strictly comparable as they serve largely different passenger market segments. Indian Railways are lifeline of the nation; carrying 18 million passengers per day including 10 million suburban passengers. Every day Railways run 10385 trains, including 8248 suburban/passenger trains. Railways are more energy efficient and environment-friendly.

Some of the steps taken by Railways to meet the ever-growing passenger transportation demands are - introduction of additional trains including non-stop Duronto trains; enhancing carrying capacity of more popular trains; enlarging facilities for sale of both reserved and unreserved tickets, including proliferation of e-ticketing system.

(c) and (d) At present there is no concept of rail hostesses on Indian Railways.

[English]

Issues Concerning Air India Employees

*284. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain employees, particularly pilots of Air India have sought pre-mature retirement in the wake of the prevailing crisis in the company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Air India proposes to allow its staff to work for other airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to address the concerns of the employees of the national carrier in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Air India employees who desire taking up employment during the period of leave sanctioned under the "Voluntary Scheme for Availing Leave", with other airlines and allied services are required to take prior permission from the company before taking up such employment.

(e) The anticipated concerns and apprehension of the employees have been addressed while framing the "Voluntary Scheme for availing leave."

Disposal of Treated Dye Effluent

*285. SHRI C. SIVASAMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the system being followed at present by the Textiles Units in the country for disposal of hazardous treated dye effluent;

(b) whether complaints/representations have been received from various quarters regarding unsafe disposal of harmful treated dye effluent by different textiles units in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken/measures suggested by the Government for safe disposal of treated dye effluent;

(e) whether the Government proposes to implement the Marine Discharge Project to find a permanent solution for safe disposal of the harmful treated dye effluent; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) The system being followed at present by the Textiles Units in the country for disposal of hazardous treated dye effluent;

The individual textiles units have generally established and commissioned in house Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) while in certain cases a group of individual units have joined together and established/commissioned Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) for disposal of hazardous treated dye effluent. The Textiles units have installed Primary Treatment Plant followed by Secondary Treatment. The system followed by textile industries for treating the effluent includes Physico-chemical and biological treatment system. In recent times, industries are coming forward for recycling the treated effluents back in the process by adopting Tertiary Treatment such as, pressure sand filtration & activated carbon filtration, Nano filtration, Reverse-Osmosis, etc.

The effluent of textiles units is discharged into drains/ rivers after treatment as per the standard prescribed by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs). Some textiles units recycle effluent back into the process and the remaining treated effluent is utilized for other gainful purposes like plantation, quenching of coal ash and spray upon roads to achieve zero discharge status.

(b) and (c) Whether complaints/representations have been received from various quarters regarding unsafe disposal of harmful treated dye effluent by different textiles units in the country. If so, the details thereof;

No, Madam.

(d) The steps taken/measures suggested by the Government for safe disposal of treated dye effluent;

The activities relating to Environmental Laws and Regulations in all Industry including Textile Industries are being looked after by Ministry of Environment & Forests. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is the Advisory Body to the Ministry of Environment & Forest in respect of pollution control measures in India. CPCB along with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) are enforcing the legislations relating to prevention and control of environmental pollution. The standards for treatment of effluents have been notified and these standards are implemented through the Pollution Control Boards.

The Ministry of Textiles encourages establishment & commissioning of the Effluent Treatment Plant under schemes such as Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) and Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP).

Under SITP the textiles parks with all infrastructural facilities including state-of the-art Effluent Treatment Plants are encouraged. The scheme provides for 40% subsidy on the project cost subject to the maximum of Rs. 40 crore. Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) launched by Government of India, Ministry of Textiles on 1st April, 1999, envisages boosting investment in high-tech Processing Units, by providing 5% interest reimbursement on TUFS loans. The scheme has been extended for 11th five year plan. The Ministry of Textiles have modified the TUF Scheme which emphasizes greater thrust to environment protection by way of giving 10% additional capital subsidy benefits over and above 5% Interest reimbursement for specified Modern new Processing machinery as well as various pollution control equipments as under:-

- (i) PLC (Pneumatic Logic Control) based oil/gas fired boiler (Steam/Thermic fluid) with automatic control on combustion efficiency.
- (ii) Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) upto secondary and/or tertiary treatment facilities.
- (iii) Reverse Osmosis, Nano Filtration, Multiple effect/stage Evaporators/Mechanical Evaporators.

Ministry of Environment and Forests also has a scheme for assistance up-to 25% of total cost for setting up of common effluent treatment plants, for Small Scale Industries.

(e) and (f) Whether the Government proposes to implement the Marine Discharge Project to find a permanent solution for safe disposal of the harmful treated dye effluent; and if so, the details thereof?

There is no such proposal in the Ministry of Textiles.

Quality Assurance Scheme for Food Processing Units

*286. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes launched under the Quality Assurance Scheme for the food processing industries;

(b) whether any action has been taken to ensure implementation of standard practices in food processing units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

(b) and (c) The standard practices in the food processing units of various products, such as Fruits & Vegetables, Meat & Meat Products, Milk Products, Edible Oils & other Food Products are monitored as per the relevant clauses of Fruit Products Order (FPO) 1955,

Milk and Milk Products Order (MMPO) 1992, Meat Food Products Order (MFPO) 1973, Solvent Extracted Oil, De oiled Meal, and Edible Flour (Control) Order (SEO) 1967 and Vegetable Oil Products (Control) Order (VOP) 1947, Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act 1954. The said orders are implemented by Food Safety & Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

[Translation]

Railway Projects

*287. SHRI ARJUN MUNDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with various State Governments including Jharkhand for Railway Projects in the States during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details and status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Railways have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with some State Governments for development of Rail infrastructure. A MOU was signed in February, 2002 between Ministry of Railways and State Government of Jharkhand for cost sharing of six Railway projects. These projects are at various stages of progress.

However, during last three years, only one MOU for Railway projects was signed for construction of Dallirajhara-Jagdalpur (235 km.) new line in Chhattisgarh at a cost of Rs. 968.86 crore. The MOU was signed on 11.12.2007 amongst Ministry of Railways, State Government of Chhattisgarh, Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC). Work of first phase from Dallirajhara to Rowghat have been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL).

[English]

Import of Fertilizers

*288. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

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

(a) whether fertilizers are being imported to meet the domestic demand;

(b) if so, the quantum and value of various fertilizers imported during each of the last three years and the current year, fertilizer wise;

(c) the names of countries from whom fertilizers are being imported; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the import of fertilizers and boost the production of fertilizers in the country?

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

(a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer under statutory price control and it is imported for direct agriculture use

on Government account through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) to bridge the gap between assessed demand and indigenous production. Government is also importing approximately 19 LMT urea from Oman India Fertilizer Company (OMIFCO) under Long Term Urea Off Take Agreement (UOTA) between GOI & OMIFCO. The year wise import of urea on Government account during the last three years and during the current financial year (upto 30.06.2009) along with weighted average C&F price in US \$ is given below:-

Year	Imports from OMIFCO		Imports through STEs	
	Qty. In lakh MT	Wt. Avg. C&F price in US\$ per MT	Qty. In lakh MT	Wt. Avg. C&F price in US\$ per MT
2006-07	18.37	168.66	28.82	248.85
2007-08	18.91	180.10	50.37	344.00
2008-09	19.06	232.79	37.61	528.03
2009-10 (till 30.06.2009)	5.12	180.64	3.14	276.46

STEs have already contracted for nearly 12 lakh tonnes of urea for Kharif 2009. Out of which, 3.14 LMT has already arrived upto June 09 and the balance quantity is expected to reach during July 09 and August 09.

Fertilizers other than Urea are imported under Open General Licence (OGL). Importers import these fertilizers as per their commercial judgment. However, Government is paying subsidy on these fertilizers under Concession Scheme. The details of P&K fertilizers imported during last three years and in the current year (up to 30.06.09) and average C&F prices are as under:-

Year	Imported DAP*		MOP	
	Qty. In lakh MT	Avg. C&F price in US\$ per MT	Qty. In lakh MT	Avg. C&F price in US\$ per MT
2006-07	28.41	329.00	34.48	210.41
2007-08	29.78	498.00	44.31	252.00
2008-09	66.31	1096.58	43.46	613.36
2009-10 upto 30.06.09	21.78	375.74	5.88	615.05

*DAP includes MAP/TSP

(c) The countries from where all grades of fertilizers have been imported during the last three year are Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Canada, Chile,

CIS, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Qatar, Romania, Russia, S. Arabia, S. Africa, Spain, Turkey, Tunisia, Thailand and UAE.

(d) Government is always encouraging production of urea in the country to achieve self-sufficiency. The Government has announced a new policy on 4th September 2008 to attract the new investments. The policy is based on Import Parity Price (IPP) benchmark with suitable floor & ceiling prices aiming to revamp, expansion, revival of existing urea units and setting up of Greenfield projects. The policy aims to completely bridge the gap between consumption and domestic production of urea in next five years subject to confirmed and adequate availability of gas at reasonable prices. The country is almost fully dependent on imports to meet the requirements of phosphatic & potassic fertilizers. Government has taken initiatives to encourage indigenous production in P&K sector by allowing import parity price to the indigenous manufacturers of DAP/MAP/TSP. Government has also reduced the custom duty on phosphoric acid from 5% to 2% to enable indigenous manufacturers of P&K fertilizers to acquire this imports input at reasonable price. Government is also encouraging private sector and public sector companies to explore the possibilities for joint ventures abroad to ensure uninterrupted supply of fertilizer inputs to P&K sector.

[*Translation*]

Capacity Expansion of Refineries

*289. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing capacity of refineries in the Public Sector;

(b) whether the Public Sector Oil Companies have prepared any action plan to increase refining capacity of their refineries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the augmentation of refining capacity of public sector oil undertakings has helped increase in export earnings; and

(e) if so, the details of export of petro-products during the last three years and the current year and the additional revenue generated in the process?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) The existing installed capacity of Public Sector Refineries is 105.47 MMTPA.

(b) and (c) At the end of XIth Five Year Plan, the total installed refining capacity of Public Sector Refineries is planned to increase to 151.46 MMTPA, including three grassroots refineries. The details of the expansion of refining capacity in Public Sector is as under:

Sl.No.	Refinery	MMTPA*
1.	Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Haldia	1.50
2.	Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Panipat	3.00
3.	Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Paradip	15.00
4.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai	2.40
5.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (Joint Venture with Mittal Investments Ltd), Bathinda	9.00
6.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bina	6.00
7.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Kochi	2.00
8.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, Chennai	1.70
9.	Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited, Mangalore	5.31
10.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Tatipaka	0.08
TOTAL		45.99

*Million Metric Tonne Per Annum

(d) and (e) Public Sector oil companies mainly cater to the domestic market. Excess petroleum products, after meeting the domestic demand, are exported by the Public

Sector oil companies. Refining capacity in Public Sector and export of petroleum products during last three financial years and first quarter of 2009-10 is as under:

Year	Refining capacity (MMTPA)	Export quantity (MMT)	Financial worth (Approx.) (Rs. Crore)
2006-07	99.5	12.8	28721
2007-08	105.47	12.9	31185
2008-09	105.47	11.6	33425
2009-10 (April-June, 2009)*	105.47	2.7	6187

*Provisional

[English]

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act

*290. SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the experience gained so far in terms of the implementation of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006 after the appointment of the Regulator;

(b) whether the Regulator has adequately been empowered to carry out its mandate in terms of the Act;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

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

(e) whether there is any lacunae in the PNGRB Act which has been brought to the notice of the Government by various industrial bodies and consumer groups; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to remove that lacunae?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (f) Under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act 2006, Government has set up PNGRB on 01.10.2007 to regulate refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products & natural gas, excluding production of crude

oil & natural gas, so as to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products & natural gas and to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products & natural gas in all parts of the country and to promote competitive markets and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Central Government has brought into force the provisions of the PNGRB Act, 2006, except Section 16, with effect from 1st October 2007. Section 16 of the Act has not been notified, as the existing text of the same does not reflect the intent of the statute. However, no industrial body or consumer group has represented to the Government on this issue, as per available records.

The PNGRB is empowered to work as per the provisions of the PNGRB Act, 2006, except Section 16. Section 61 (1) of the PNGRB Act, 2006, empowers the PNGRB to make regulations consistent with the Act and the rules made thereunder to carry out the provisions of the Act.

PNGRB has notified 18 regulations, primarily pertaining to the natural gas sector. PNGRB has completed first round of bidding for six geographical areas, namely, Kota, Sonipat, Mathura, Kakinada, Meerut and Dewas in respect of city or local natural gas distribution networks and has finalized selection of entities. The second round of bidding for seven geographical areas, namely, Allahabad, Chandigarh, Ghaziabad, Jhansi, Rajahmundry, Shadoli and Yanam, is

underway. Further, PNGRB has commenced the task of tariff fixation for natural gas pipelines and city or local natural gas distribution networks under the provisions of the relevant Regulations. The process of authorization and declaration of existing natural gas pipelines as common and contract carrier pipelines has also been started. PNGRB is laying down standards, including safety norms, for the sector starting with City Gas Distribution.

Subsidy on Ammonium Sulphate and Sulphur

*291. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subsidy on ammonium sulphate and sulphur is likely to be extended even after this kharif season;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the manner in which the interests of the farmers will be protected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Since Ammonium Sulphate mainly produced by Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd (FACT) and Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd (GSFC) is selling below the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) fixed at Rs. 10350 per MT, they have decided to opt out of the Concession Price Scheme w.e.f. 1st April 2009 and 1st May 2009 respectively. Subsidy on Sulphur nutrient is available in the form of different grades of complex fertilizers.

(c) Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Bio-Metric Smart Cards Scheme

*292. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
DR. SANJAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to introduce a scheme to provide kerosene to Below Poverty Line (BPL) people through bio-metric smart cards in some States;

(b) if so, whether the consent of all the State Governments has been taken to start the proposed scheme;

(c) whether some States have opposed this scheme;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the States in which the scheme is proposed to be launched in the first phase and the time schedule fixed in this regard; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be implemented in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers and to check leakage in supply of PDS kerosene and Domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), this Ministry has taken in principle decision to issue bio-metric Smart Cards to all users of PDS kerosene and Domestic LPG customers beginning with some large cities. State Governments/Union Territories have been requested to join hand with the Central Government for successful implementation of this scheme throughout the country. As of date, none of the States have opposed the Smart Card Scheme for giving smart cards to all users of PDS kerosene and LPG consumers.

(e) and (f) The pilot project on Smart Card has initially been proposed to be launched in Pune in Maharashtra, Bangluru in Karnataka and Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh. Modalities for launch of the scheme are being worked out by the Oil Marketing Companies. Depending upon the success of the pilot project, the scheme will be extended out to other parts of the country.

[*English*]

Accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings

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

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of accidents at unmanned railway crossings;

(b) if so, the number of accidents which took place on unmanned railway crossings during each of the last three years, zone-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Zone-wise and year-wise number of unmanned level crossing accidents occurred during the last three years is given below:

Railway	No. of Accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Central	-	-	-
Eastern	1	1	1
Northern	15	10	3
North Eastern	5	8	11
Northeast Frontier	2	-	1
Southern	11	6	5
South Central	5	4	4
South Eastern	-	5	1
Western	9	5	9
East Central	-	4	3
East Coast	3	4	5
North Central	3	1	2
North Western	10	4	11
South East Central	3	2	3
South Western	4	8	1
West Central	1	3	2
Total	72	65	62

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

- (i) Manning of unmanned level crossings in phased manner.
- (ii) Public awareness programmes and publicity campaigns undertaken regularly through various electronic and print media to educate the road users for observing safe practices while negotiating unmanned level crossings. State Governments have also been requested to undertake similar campaigns.
- (iii) Ensuring all time availability of basic infrastructure at level crossings which include levelled road surface at the crossings, proper

road signs at the approaches including 'STOP' boards to warn the road users, speed breakers/ rumble strips on the approach roads, whistle boards for the train drivers to whistle while approaching the level crossings and approach roads with proper gradient for safe movement of the road vehicle users negotiating the level crossings.

- (iv) Joint ambush checks with involvement of civil authorities to check the erring road users.
- (v) Delegation of powers to Zonal Railways for sanctioning 'Limited Use Subways', based on feasibility and local conditions, costing upto Rs. 50 lakhs in each case.

Multi Sectoral Development Plan

*294. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL:

SHRI KADIR RANA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals have been received under the Multi Sectoral Development Plan for the welfare of the minorities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Proposals have been received from 73 Minority Concentration Districts under the Multi Sectoral Development Programme (MsDP). The plans of 59 districts have been approved. Rs. 388.66 crore have been released for 44 districts to the States/Union Territory concerned for implementation of various proposals approved for these districts. Further details of the plans approved and the funds released by the Central Government to the State Governments/U.T. Administrations under MsDP are available on the website of Ministry of Minority Affairs i.e.: www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

[Translation]

Setting up of Community Kitchens

*295. SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have launched a scheme to set up community kitchens for lower income groups;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the number of community kitchens set up in the country so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Community kitchen scheme has been evolved to enable people from lower income groups who can not afford individual connections to use LPG. Under this scheme, OMCs provide LPG cylinders and burners at a place identified in consultation with the local community head/ Panchayat. Training is also provided to users on both operating practices as well as safety aspects. Users have to pay a nominal charge for the usage of community kitchen facility. At present, the scheme has been implemented only by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) who have set up 2050 community kitchens in the Country. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

*State-wise details of Community Kitchens
in the Country as on 1.7.2009*

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Number of community kitchens
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	56
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	2
4.	Bihar	60
5.	Chhattisgarh	14
6.	Delhi	11
7.	Goa	0
8.	Gujarat	52
9.	Haryana	18
10.	Himachal Pradesh	24
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	60
12.	Jharkhand	76
13.	Karnataka	50
14.	Kerala	8
15.	Madhya Pradesh	182
16.	Maharashtra	343

1	2	3
17.	Manipur	0
18.	Meghalaya	0
19.	Mizoram	0
20.	Nagaland	0
21.	Orissa	35
22.	Punjab	44
23.	Rajasthan	124
24.	Sikkim	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	46
26.	Tripura	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	819
28.	Uttarakhand	6
29.	West Bengal	17
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0
31.	Chandigarh	3
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
33.	Daman & Diu	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0
35.	Puducherry	0
Total		2050

[English]

Central Railway Projects

*296. DR. K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Central Railway Projects which are running behind schedule and the reasons for delay in their execution;

(b) the measures taken to complete these projects;

(c) the details of the cost over-run and the revised estimates sanctioned for these projects;

(d) whether the Railways propose to formulate a specific mechanism to ensure timely completion of Railway Projects in a cost effective manner; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Miraj-Pandharpur of Miraj-Latur gauge conversion project is running behind schedule which was targeted for conversion by March, 2009. There has been delay in land acquisition by State Government and failure of contractors. Ongoing projects are being processed as per availability of resources.

(b) Of late, the availability of funds for the projects has improved due to increase in budgetary support, funds, funds through internal generation, additionally for National Projects, State Government sharing and funds for RVNL projects. Adequate provisions have been made for Miraj-Latur gauge conversion project during 2009-10. The field units have been empowered and suitable measures have been taken to bring in efficiency in contract management.

(c) Ongoing railway projects undergo cost escalation on account of various reasons like change in the standard of construction & technology, scope of work, inflation, etc. In the absence of assured availability of matching funds at the time of taking up of a project, cost overrun is not feasible to be evaluated. Miraj-Latur Gauge conversion project was included in Budget 1993-94 at a cost of Rs. 225 crore. Now, anticipated cost is Rs. 823.07 crore.

(d) and (e) The projects are proposed to be monitored closely for timely completion. There is a huge shelf of projects with limited availability of resources. Mechanism is being evolved for funding of these projects.

Welfare of Weavers and Craftsmen Community

*297. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evaluated the progress of schemes being run for the welfare of weavers and craftsmen;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the number of weavers and craftsmen covered under the ongoing developmental and welfare schemes, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any study to ascertain the level of indebtedness prevailing in weavers and craftsmen community; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action plan chalked out by the Government to improve this situation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Schemes implemented during the X Plan for the welfare of Handloom weavers were got evaluated through Independent Agencies and based on their recommendations; the schemes of the XI Plan have been formulated with suitable modifications. Like-wise schemes implemented for the welfare of craftsmen were also evaluated in the Handicrafts Sector and have been under implementation as per the recommendations.

(c) Number of weavers and craftsmen covered, State-wise, under various schemes of the handloom and handicrafts sector is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) No such study has been conducted to ascertain the level of indebtedness prevailing in weavers and craftsmen community as no such instance has been brought to the knowledge of the Government of India.

Statement

Weavers and craftsmen covered under various schemes of handloom and handicrafts sector during 2008-09

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Weavers Covered	Craftsmen Covered
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	292559	48987
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	500
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	20710	5197
4.	Assam	578671	243383
5.	Bihar	35250	13001
6.	Chandigarh	—	750
7.	Chhattisgarh	25823	3319
8.	Delhi	2175	6809
9.	Goa	—	1147

1	2	3	4
10.	Gujarat	24438	35431
11.	Haryana	27477	5751
12.	Himachal Pradesh	30715	4369
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	3826	17397
14.	Jharkhand	29230	8170
15.	Karnataka	184859	21937
16.	Kerala	97861	19018
17.	Madhya Pradesh	53752	12597
18.	Maharashtra	38177	8957
19.	Manipur	1,08213	84301
20.	Meghalaya	39888	15291
21.	Mizoram	11487	1822
22.	Nagaland	108127	7095
23.	Orissa	181178	16756
24.	Puducherry	-	1000
25.	Punjab	750	17759
26.	Rajasthan	22236	19598
27.	Sikkim	1948	1764
28.	Tamil Nadu	785999	38617
29.	Tripura	46858	26804
30.	Uttar Pradesh	525045	285226
31.	Uttarakhand	26567	9652
32.	West Bengal	296422	127727
Total		3600241	1109934

[Translation]

Functioning of Private Airlines

*298. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the guidelines laid down for operation of private airlines in the country;

(b) whether complaints have been received against

some of the private airlines for not complaining with the guidelines issued by the Government from time to time;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken against these airlines;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The details of guidelines for operation of Scheduled/Regional Scheduled Air Transport Services by Private Airlines are contained in Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) Section 3 Series C Part II and Part VIII respectively. The guidelines for operation of Scheduled Air Transport (Cargo) Services by private airlines/operators are contained in CAR Section 3 Series C, Part IV, available on the website of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

(b) to (e) Certain cases of non-compliance of the guidelines have been observed/noticed, for which the concerned Airlines were issued Show Cause Notices and action was taken on case to case basis. The cases of violations and action taken against the airlines are as below:

- (i) A show cause Notice has been issued against M/s. IndiGo Airlines for Non-submission of action taken on the safety Audit Report. Since the Airline immediately submitted the action taken report on Safety Audit, the matter was closed.
- (ii) A show Cause Notice was issued against M/s. Paramount Airways for indicating different timings on their websites from the approved one. A warning was issued and compliance ensured.
- (iii) M/s. MDLR Airlines was issued a Show Cause Notice for operating flights to Kolkata from Delhi/Chandigarh i.e. from metro of one region to metro of another region which is not permissible for scheduled regional operator. The unauthorized operations were stopped and airline was also issued warning with endorsement on their Permit Compliance has been ensured.
- (iv) M/s. Jagson Airlines was issued Show Cause Notice for operating helicopters without the valid permit, Operations were stopped and thereafter, Airline was issued warning with endorsement on their Permit. Compliance has been ensured.

[English]

Essential Drugs under Price Control

*299. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of essential drugs which are under the price control;

(b) whether the Government proposes to bring more essential drugs under price control.

(c) if so, the details of essential drugs that are being included under price control.

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

(e) whether the Government is formulating any regulation to take action against the pharmaceutical companies which are charging exorbitant prices on their drugs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) There are 74 bulk drugs mentioned in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1995 (DPCO, 1995) and formulations containing these drugs under price control. The list of 74 bulk drugs is enclosed as Statement.

(b) to (d) The Supreme Court in its interim order dated 10.3.2003 in SLP (C) No. 3668/2003 directed the Government, inter alia, to "consider and formulate appropriate criteria for ensuring essential and life saving drugs not to fall out of price control and further directed to review drugs which are essential and life saving in nature till 2nd May, 2003". As per the directions of the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare reviewed the National Essential Drugs List 1996 and brought out the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 (NLEM 2003). Keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court it has been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the NLEM 2003 (subject to certain conditions and exemptions) in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drug (Price Control) Order, 1995. The draft National Pharmaceutical Policy

was submitted to the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007. It was decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). The GOM had held four meetings but did not finalise its recommendations to the Cabinet.

(e) and (f) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995, the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these Scheduled drugs are controlled. NPPA/Government fixes or revises prices of Scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO 1995. No one can sell any Scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA/Government. Whenever cases relating to companies charging prices more than the prices fixed by the NPPA are noticed, demand notices are sent by the NPPA to the concerned companies asking them to deposit with the Government the overcharged amount in terms of paragraph 13 of the DPCO, 1995. Since its inception demand notices for recovery of amounts totaling Rs. 2023.40 crore have been issued by the NPPA. Of this, Rs. 1901.69 crore is sub-judice in various Courts of law including the Supreme Court. Of the total demand, NPPA has recovered Rs. 172.62 crore till 30.06.09 and have referred cases involving recoveries totaling Rs. 137.03 crore to the Collectors for being recovered as arrears of land revenue. Of the total amount of Rs. 172.62 crore recovered till 30.06.09, Rs. 100.12 crore was recovered before 2007-08, Rs. 4.51 crore in 2007-08, Rs. 51.41 crore in 2008-09 and Rs. 16.58 crore in 2009-10 (till 30.06.09).

In respect of drugs not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 i.e. non-Scheduled drugs, manufacturers are free to fix the prices by themselves without seeking approval of Government/NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed depending on various factors like the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of excipients, cost of R&D, cost of utilities/packing material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc. As a part of price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by the individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-scheduled formulations. Wherever increase in prices beyond 10% per annum (20% before 1.4.07) is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, if justified, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995. This is an ongoing process.

Statement

List of Price Controlled Drugs (DPCO 1995)

1. Sulphamethoxazole
2. Penicillins
3. Tetracycline
4. Rifampicin
5. Streptomycin
6. Ranitidine
7. Vitamin C
8. Betamethasone
9. Metronidazole
10. Chloroquine
11. Insulin
12. Erythromycin
13. Vitamin A
14. Oxytetracycline
15. Prednisolone
16. Cephalosporin
17. Methylphenylhydrazine
18. Aspirin
19. Trimethoprim
20. Cloxacillin
21. Sulphadiazine
22. Salbutamol
23. Famotidine
24. Ibuprofen
25. Metamizol (Analgin)
26. Doxycycline
27. Ciprofloxacin
28. Cefotaxime

29. Dexamethasone
30. Ephedrine
31. Vitamin B1 (Thiamine)
32. Carbamazepine
33. Vitamin B2 (Riboflavin)
34. Theophylline
35. Levodopa
36. Tolnaftate
37. Vitamin E
38. Nalidixic Acid
39. Griseofulvin
40. Gentamicin
41. Dextropropoxyphene
42. Halogenated Hydroxyquinoline
43. Pentazocine
44. Captopril
45. Naproxen
46. Pyrental
47. Sulphadoxine
48. Norfloxacin
49. Cefadroxyl
50. Panthoates & Panthenols
51. Furazolidone
52. Pyrithioxine
53. Sulphadiazine
54. Framycetin
55. Verapamil
56. Amikacin Sulphate*
57. Glipizide

58. Spironolactone
59. Pentoxifylline
60. Amodiaquin
61. Sulphamoxole
62. Frusemide
63. Pheniramine Maleate
64. Chloroxylonols
65. Becampicillin
66. Lincomycin
67. Chlorpropamide
68. Mebhydroline
69. Chlorpromazine
70. Methendienone
71. Phenyl Butazone
72. Lynestrinol
73. Salazosulphapyrine
74. Diosmine
75. Trimipramine
76. Mefenamic Acid*

*deleted vide so 626 (E) dated 2.9.97

Import of Cotton Textiles

*300. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of cheap cotton fabrics and garments imported from various countries during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Government proposes to check the import of cotton textiles to revive domestic textiles units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) There is no separate classification for cheap and inferior cotton textiles under the Harmonized System of Classification. However, details of cotton yarn & fabrics; readymade garments (woven & knitted); and

made-ups textiles articles imported from various countries during the last financial year [April–February' 2008-09

(provisional)] and the preceding three years are as follows:

(US\$ Million)

Item	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (Provisional) Apr./Feb.
Cotton yarn & fabrics	279.13	318.33	319.01	233.79
Readymade Garments (Woven & Knitted)	56.83	73.74	112.96	123.54
Madeup Textiles Articles	61.98	71.25	98.75	140.67
Total	397.94	463.32	530.72	498.00

Source: Monthly Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities and Countries).

(b) and (c) Under the provisions of World Trade Organization, a member country cannot put restrictions on import of any particular item from another country. The import tariffs in India provide for application of ad-valorem duty or specific duty, on whichever is higher basis, in respect of the majority of cotton fabrics and garments, which protects the domestic industry from cheap imports.

[*Translation*]

Survey Work in Saraswati River Basin

2620. DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any project for approval from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation for a fresh survey of the probable basin of Saraswati River which has disappeared;

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to give its approval to the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise. However, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited has taken up Project Saraswati under Corporate Social responsibility programme with the objective of establishing ground water potential along with paleo-Saraswati channels.

[*English*]

Chikkajajur Railway Station

2621. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal for upgradation of Chikkajajur Railway Station; construction of Foot Over Bridge, Shelter for passengers, and raising of Platform at Track No. 4;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No proposal regarding upgradation of Chikkajajur Railway Station has been received from the State Government of Karantaka in the recent past. A work was sanctioned for raising/extension of platform No.2/3 for accommodating 24 coaches which is planned for completion by 31.12.2009. There is, however, no proposal at present for provision of foot-over-bridge, shelter and raising of platform at Track No. 4 at this station.

Date of Birth in Voter Identity Card

2622. SHRI MUKESH BAHIRAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government proposes to insert the date of birth in voter Identity Card; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Election Commission of India has intimated that it has *vide* its letter dated the 29th May, 2007 and 24th September, 2007 has issued instruction/clarifications regarding new format of Elector's Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) which incorporates date of birth of the elector. For those who cannot produce authentic document in support of their date of birth, only year of birth is to be reflected by calculating the age declared by the elector. The above instructions did not have retrospective effect and the EPIC already issued before the issuance of the above instructions are valid.

Subsidy on Fertilizers

2623. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the subsidy provided on raw materials imported for the manufacturing of fertilizers during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the subsidy given to fertilizer units during the said period, State-wise and Company-wise;

(c) whether the Government has to pay more than Rs. 6000 crore outstanding amount of subsidy to various

fertilizers units in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the outstanding amount is likely to be paid to fertilizers units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Subsidy/Concession provided by the Government of India is on the sale of finished fertilizers such as Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Mono-Ammonium Phosphate (MAP), Tripal Super Phosphate (TSP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), 12 grades of NPK complex fertilizers, Single Super Phosphate (SSP) and Ammonium Sulphate. Subsidy/Concession is not provided on raw materials and other inputs imported for manufacturing of fertilizers in the country.

(b) The statements showing the subsidy given to the fertilizer units during the last three years and the current year State-wise and Company-wise are enclosed.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The pending bills are being processed and Department of Fertilizers is making the payment to manufacturers/importers as per the funds made available by the Government.

Statement

Details of subsidy/concession given to fertilizer manufacturers/importers

Details of State-wise & Company wise subsidy Paid During 2006-07 to Till Date on Indigenous Urea

(Rs. in crore)					
State	Unit	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (till 16/07/09)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	Nagarjuna Fertilizers-I	224.57	212.02	352.8	47.78
Andhra Pradesh	Nagarjuna Fert-II (Expn)	600.85	790.63	879.12	402.05
Assam	BVFCL II	20.71	32.95	33.38	5.07
Assam	BVFCL III	76.28	72.57	42.83	9.62
Goa	Zuari Industries Ltd, Goa	786.03	748.69	1066.19	422.35
Gujarat	GSFC, Baroda	98.21	79.38	121.37	52.15

1	2	3	4	5	6
Gujarat	KRIBHCO, Hazira	186.37	490.1	1050.35	309.75
Gujarat	IFFCO, Kalol	401.91	506.43	1483.21	390.18
Gujarat	GNFC, Bharuch	325.71	775.73	664.13	400.9
Haryana	NFL, Panipat	424.83	879.58	873	326.97
Karnataka	MCFL, Mangalore	640.67	758.17	988.59	293.12
Maharashtra	RCF, Thal	1193	1618.37	2217.27	518.99
Madhya Pradesh	NFL, Vijaipur-II (Expn)	391.18	306.46	508.52	129.35
Madhya Pradesh	NFL, Vijaipur	121.23	151.11	384.97	84.4
Punjab	NFL, Nangal	473.13	836.72	839.58	345.93
Punjab	NFL, Bhatinda	439.34	839.61	892.72	385.81
Rajasthan	Chambal Fert., Gadepan-I	234.81	392.98	561.28	134.61
Rajasthan	Chambal Fert, Gadepan-II	527.02	994.67	842.34	185.08
Rajasthan	Sriram Fertilizers, Kota	402.4	684.1	649.46	239.85
Tamil Nadu	MFL, Madras	1008.89	899.39	1045.66	256.06
Tamil Nadu	SPIC, Tuticorin	1112.27	369.82	19.87	0
Uttar Pradesh	IFFCO, Aonla-I	181.43	519.61	721.41	252.51
Uttar Pradesh	IFFCO, Aonla-II (Expn)	214.51	546.98	764.19	221.26
Uttar Pradesh	IGFCC, Jagdishpur	208.31	298.37	598.3	250.67
Uttar Pradesh	IFFCO, Phulpur-I	754.97	551.22	604.96	183.43
Uttar Pradesh	IFFCO, Phulpur-II (Expn)	1078.78	1253.73	702.84	470.06
Uttar Pradesh	Duncans Industries Ltd.	0	0.39	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	Tata Chem. Ltd. Babrula	313.65	458.57	817.62	184.47
Uttar Pradesh	KSFL	209.31	382.02	1188.8	126.05
Total		12650.37	16450.37	20914.76	6628.46

Details of Subsidy Paid During 2006-07 to Till Date on Indigenous DAP& Complexes—Company-wise

(Rs. in crore)

Company Name Indigenous DAP/Complex		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 upto 15/7/2009
1.	Coromandel Fertilizers Ltd.	626.74	876.53	7176.89	780.95
2.	Deepak Fertilizers & Petrochemicals Corp.	17.60	19.10	119.66	11.60
3.	Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.	404.80	359.06	1215.92	151.45
4.	Godavari Fertilizers & Chemical Ltd.	705.60	1107.07	175.80	0.00
5.	Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Co. Ltd.	99.17	148.41	699.98	15.84
6.	Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemical Ltd.	696.66	1176.35	3347.48	298.10
7.	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	156.95	153.82	564.09	105.63
8.	Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)	1287.01	2785.79	10007.45	1261.14
9.	IFFCO (GFCL)	1.83	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Indo Gulf	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Mangalore Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd.	148.34	242.73	692.85	120.90
12.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	87.06	30.24	1.02	0.00
13.	Oswal Chemical and Fertilizer Ltd.	0.00	136.26	7.33	0.00
14.	Paradeep Phosphate Ltd.	794.05	1165.48	2961.93	459.03
15.	Rashtriya Chemcial & Fertilizers Ltd.	197.18	285.56	740.93	164.55
16.	Southern Petrochemical Industries Corp. Ltd.	203.82	146.21	50.88	1.28
17.	ZIL Industries Ltd.	481.35	741.27	1840.07	290.70
18.	Tata Chemicals Ltd. (HLL)	460.71	726.17	2311.85	158.34
	Total	6369.10	10100.05	31914.13	3819.51
	Total Payment to SSP	264.75	228.49	1040.73	505.00
	Exp. Pre-Oct., 2000	7.26	0.11	0.00	
	Exp. On Special Freight	7.05	5.15	2.24	
	Gross Total	6648.16	10333.80	32957.10	4324.51

*Details of Subsidy paid during 2007-08 and 2008-09
on Indigenous DAP and Complexes—State-wise*

(Rs. in crore)

State	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands		3.79
Andhra Pradesh	1503.65	5700.42
Arunachal Pradesh	0.13	0.23
Assam	10.30	31.91
Bihar	282.86	1391.98
Chhattisgarh	180.10	860.38
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.85	4.39
Daman and Diu		0.27
Delhi	0.13	
Goa	8.22	34.02
Gujarat	706.30	2886.09
Haryana	161.46	280.86
Himachal Pradesh	21.12	107.23
Jammu and Kashmir	18.08	48.91

1	2	3
Jharkhand	90.51	37.54
Karnataka	881.40	3644.83
Kerala	95.54	497.56
Madhya Pradesh	438.08	1132.50
Maharashtra	1321.02	4288.66
Manipur		
Meghalaya	1.17	3.07
Mizoram	0.17	0.58
Nagaland	0.09	
Orissa	289.43	1483.13
Puducherry	20.68	41.00
Punjab	180.03	440.61
Rajasthan	171.06	553.26
Tamil Nadu	368.70	1014.00
Uttar Pradesh	1296.68	3603.53
Uttaranchal	48.01	211.21
West Bengal	817.56	3343.01

Details of subsidy paid during 2006-07 to till date on Imported P&K Fertilizers—Company-wise

(Rs. in crore)

Company Name	Years			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (Upto 20.07.2009)
1	2	3	4	5
CFCL	75.120	32.700	754.341	146.160
CEL	97.680	66.540	665.984	301.680
DEEPAK	49.870	31.000	106.487	125.050
FACT	0.020	16.220	36.654	14.220
GNVFC	160.210	156.430	107.793	2.840
IPL	1607.457	4667.470	12643.959	5310.950
MFL	0.270	0.000	4.238	0.000
MMTC	1.781	0.000	0.000	0.000

1	2	3	4	5
NFCL	9.880	0.000	0.000	0.000
PPL	107.360	99.060	302.362	170.870
RCF	110.450	320.860	1016.781	740.280
SF&C	304.900	143.870	1.819	0.000
SPIC	1.890	0.000	0.000	0.000
TCL	215.100	160.900	1006.465	351.470
TFCL	0.380	2.830	64.215	94.870
ZIL	167.110	162.790	1519.251	635.910
GFCL	13.251	8.400	0.219	0.000
GSFC	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000
IFFCO	414.600	366.070	10863.068	1377.330
MIPL	245.930	287.100	3407.020	318.250
KRIBHCO	51.460	23.710	0.000	0.000
INDO GULF	2.860	0.000	0.695	0.000
DIL	0.640	0.000	0.022	0.000
MCFL	11.520	53.970	96.127	83.990
RIL	0.210	0.080	0.000	0.000
Total	3649.950	6600.000	32597.500	9673.870

Details of Subsidy paid during 2007-08 and 2008-09 to till Date on Imported P&K Fertilizers—State-wise

State	2007-08	2008-09	1	2	3
1	2	3			
Andaman and Nicobar Islands		0.49	Goa	0.65	1.80
Andhra Pradesh	534.62	5248.21	Gujarat	293.20	2668.26
Arunachal Pradesh			Haryana	511.28	3197.61
Assam	30.90	339.14	Himachal Pradesh	4.08	14.17
Bihar	260.87	1762.66	Jammu and Kashmir	27.18	217.09
Chhattisgarh	62.59	581.42	Jharkhand	15.17	156.75
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.03		Karnataka	407.18	2908.79
Delhi			Kerala	98.84	402.49
			Madhya Pradesh	538.94	3668.64

1	2	3
Maharashtra	430.82	3747.51
Manipur	0.69	4.24
Meghalaya	0.36	1.27
Mizoram	0.04	0.75
Orissa	78.14	392.96
Puducherry	12.94	38.55
Punjab	672.61	3901.41

1	2	3
Rajasthan	421.80	2569.64
Tamil Nadu	562.25	2833.72
Tripura	2.43	19.07
Uttar Pradesh	803.72	6373.30
Uttaranchal	6.47	120.68
West Bengal	245.66	1724.80

Details of Subsidy paid during 2006-07 to till Date on Imported UREA

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No	Name of importer	2006-07 (in crores)	2007-08 (in crores)	2008-09 (in crores)	2009-10 upto 22.7.2009 (in crores)	Grand Total
1.	M/s. IPL	1449.03	2400.16	4255.11	540.41	8644.71
2.	M/s. MMTC	1365.10	3314.09	3282.62	29.53	7991.34
3.	OMAN IFFCO	874.64	909.87	1914.68	461.13	4160.32
4.	STC	0	0.00	1609.94	0	1609.94
	MISC Payments	1382.29	3311.02	1909.03	193.87	6796.21
	Total of Subsidy	5071.06	9935.14	12971.4	1224.94	29202.52
	Recoveries Made From Handling Agents @ PIP	2119.89	3375.09	2664.66	349.52	8509.16

Development Schemes for Minorities

2624. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether regular monitoring of the implementation of various developmental schemes for the minorities is being undertaken by the Government;

(b) if so, the manner in which monitoring is being done;

(c) the salient features of the monitoring reports of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken to plug the loopholes as highlighted in those reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d) Under the scheme of research study, monitoring and evaluation of development schemes, impact studies on implementation of the schemes of the Ministry and schemes of organisations under its aegis, are carried out. Review of progress of implementation of ongoing scheme is done through periodic review

meetings and through Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Minority Affairs and National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation for its schemes. Some schemes, viz. Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities and Multisectoral Development Programme have provision of a review mechanism at the district, state and central levels. Monitoring of implementation of Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities is done by the Ministry of Minority Affairs every quarter, and by the Committee of Secretaries and by the Cabinet every half year. Regular monitoring, inter alia, covers physical and financial progress, timelines and consideration of problems faced by implementors. Corrective action, including schematic modification, is taken, as and when necessary, based on the feedback obtained from regular review and monitoring.

Price of Betamethasone

2625. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of a bulk drug "betamethasone" was reduced by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the formulators utilizing this drug in their scheduled formulations has reduced the prices of their drugs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the action taken by the NPPA in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The price of different forms of the scheduled bulk drug Betamethasone was reduced on 12.06.2009 by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) based on the cost price study of the bulk drug. The details of the earlier price and the revised price is enclosed as Statement.

(c) to (e) The prices of derivative formulations of Betamethasone are being worked out in accordance with the provision of Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1995 for notification so as to pass on the benefit of the reduced price of bulk drug Betamethasone to consumers.

Statement

Name of the Drug	Unit	Price (Rs.)	Date of Notification	Price (Rs.)	Date of Notification	percentage Change	
Betamethasone Alcohol Micronised	Gm	181	20.03.2008	167	12.06.2009	-7.73	Decrease
Betamethasone 17 Valerate	Gm	171	20.03.2008	160	12.06.2009	-6.43	Decrease
Betamethasone Disodium Phosphate	Gm	145	20.03.2008	133	12.06.2009	-8.28	Decrease
Betamethasone Dipropionate	Gm	106	07.11.2006	90	12.06.2009	-15.09	Decrease

Pan-Indian Luxury Train

2626. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of the Railways to start Pan-Indian Luxury train with private sector participation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the destinations selected to be covered through this train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) On Indian

Railways, luxury tourists trains are managed by Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. and other State Tourism Corporations. These trains may have Pan-India itinerary as well as private participation. The destinations are selected by the operators.

Gauge Conversion Projects

2627. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the works on Gauge Conversion Projects, included in the Railway Budget (2008-09) has started;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay, if any; and

(c) the status of the Gauge Conversion Project in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Preliminary works of final location Survey, preparation of plan, estimate, etc have been taken up in respect of gauge conversion projects included in the Budget 2008-09. There is no delay in this regard. The status of these gauge conversion projects is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Status
1.	Ahmedabad-Himatnagar-Udaipur	Final location survey, preparation of plan & estimate taken up.
2.	Jaipur-Sikar-Churu & Sikar-Loharu	Detailed estimate under process of sanction.
3.	Madurai-Bodinayakanur	Part estimate for preliminary expenses and major bridges sanctioned.
4.	Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola	Final location survey, preparation of plans and estimate taken up. Part estimate for Ratlam-Indore-Mhow under process.
5.	Suratpura-Hanumangarh-Sriganganagar	Final location survey completed. Detailed estimate sanctioned.
6.	Bhuj-Naliya with extension to Vayor	Final location survey, preparation of plans and estimate taken up.

Guidelines for PIL

2628. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has framed any guidelines for entertaining Public Interest Litigations;

(b) if so, the types of petitions which can be entertained in the apex court under the guidelines;

(c) whether the Government has been consulted in the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) As per the information

furnished by the Registry of the Supreme Court, the guidelines for entertaining Public Interest Litigations (PIL) have been laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in judicial pronouncements. Administratively, the Registry has generally defined matters of public interest to include (i) bonded labour matters, (ii) matters of neglected children, (iii) exploitation of casual labourers and non-payment of wages to them (except in individual cases), (iv) matters of harassment or torture of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and economically Backward Classes, either by co-villagers or by police, (v) matters relating to environmental pollution, disturbance of ecological balance, drugs, food adulteration, maintenance of heritage and culture, antiques, forests and wild life, (vi) petitions from riot victims and (vii) other matters of public importance.

(c) and (d) Entertaining of any litigation, including a PIL, being a matter entirely within the domain of the judiciary, it is not incumbent on the Hon'ble Supreme Court to consult the Government while framing any such guidelines.

[Translation]

Women Government Advocates

2629. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Government advocates in the country, State-wise and the number of women advocates among them;

(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to appoint sufficient number of women as Government advocates?

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

Concession for Senior Citizens

2630. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of concession being provided in the rail journey to the senior citizens of the country;

(b) whether the Railways will consider providing 50 percent concession in rail fare to the senior citizens and to allow an attendant to travel with the people over the age of 70 years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Senior citizens of minimum 60 years of age are granted concession in Mail/Express fares of all classes and fares of Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi group of trains. The element of concession is 30% for men and 50% for women.

(b) No such proposal is presently under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Ship-Breaking of Foreign Dead Ships

2631. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreign dead ships have been brought to the Indian ports for ship-breaking for the last few years;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken note of security and other hazards involved in this activity;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to frame rules for such activities so as to safeguard the national security and other aspects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Based on the information received in the Ministry of Steel, it is stated that during the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, the number of foreign dead ships brought to the Indian ports for ship-breaking were 12, 6 and 6 respectively whereas the total number of ships permitted for beaching were 142, 140 and 267 respectively.

(b) to (e) As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of 17-02-2006, a Central Technical Committee (CTC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests was set up to regulate various activities of ship breaking industries. The CTC gave its recommendations touching all aspects of ship breaking. The recommendations are operative by virtue of the Supreme Court Order dated 6-9-2007. Pursuant to the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a series of measures have been taken for attenuating the hazards of ship breaking and for improving the working conditions at ship-breaking yards. Consequently, detailed protocols and procedures have been put in place for scrutinizing ships arriving for breaking and for handling and disposing of hazardous materials and wastes. The provisions of existing rules take adequate care of the hazards of ship breaking including the need for safeguarding national security. Further, as and when any shortcomings are noticed, remedial steps are taken.

*[Translation]***Rail Stoppages**

2632. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Garib Rath train number 2993-2994 runs between Bandra and Jaipur does not halt at Mehsana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to provide a stoppage of this train at Mehsana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Provision of stoppage of 2993/2994 Bandra (T)-Jaipur Garib Rath Express at Mehsana station has not been found commercially justified.

*[English]***Railway Zones/Divisions**

2633. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways has been divided into various Zones/Divisions on functional or any other basis, if so, the names and States covered under each of the Zones/Divisions;

(b) the funds provided by the Railways to each of the Zones/Divisions for undertaking various projects, schemes, works and for providing various amenities to the passengers during last three years;

(c) whether any uniformity is maintained by the Railway in earmarking the funds to each of the Zones/Divisions for undertaking various projects;

(d) if so, the parameters/guidelines fixed in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. The Indian Railways is presently divided into 16 zones and 68 Divisions on functional basis. The States covered by these zones and divisions are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Zone & Headquarter	Name of the Division	States covered
1	2	3	4
1.	Central Railway/Mumbai	Mumbai Pune Solapur Bhusaval Nagpur	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra & Karnataka Maharashtra Maharashtra & Karnataka Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra
2.	Eastern Railway/Kolkata	Sealdah Howrah Asansol Malda	West Bengal, Bihar & Jharkhand West Bengal West Bengal & Jharkhand West Bengal, Bihar & Jharkhand
3.	East Central Railway/Hajipur	Sonpur Samastipur Danapur Mughalsarai Dhanbad	Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh Bihar Bihar & Uttar Pradesh Bihar, Jharkhand & Uttar Pradesh Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh
4.	East Coast Railway/Bhubaneswar	Khurda Road Sambalpur Waltair	Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh & Orissa Andhra Pradesh & Orissa Chhattisgarh & Orissa Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh & Orissa

1	2	3	4
5.	Northern Railway/Delhi	Ambala Delhi Firozpur Lucknow Moradabad	Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh Delhi, Haryana, Punjab & Uttar Pradesh Punjab, J&K & Himachal Pradesh Uttar Pradesh Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal
6.	North Central Railway/Allahabad	Allahabad Jhansi Agra	Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan & Haryana Uttar Pradesh Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan & Haryana
7.	North Eastern Railways/Gorakhpur	Izzat Nagar Lucknow Varanasi	Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh & Bihar Uttarakhand & Uttar Pradesh Uttar Pradesh Uttar Pradesh & Bihar
8.	Northeast Frontier Railway/Guwahati	Katihar Alipurduar Rangiya Lumding Tinsukia	Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Tripura, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram West Bengal & Bihar West Bengal & Assam Assam & Arunachal Pradesh Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram & Manipur Assam & Nagaland
9.	North Western Railway/Jaipur	Ajmer Jodhpur Bikaner Jaipur	Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab & Gujarat Rajasthan & Gujarat Rajasthan, Haryana & Punjab Rajasthan & Haryana
10.	Southern Railway/Chennai	Chennai Salem Palakkad Thiruvananthapuram Madurai Tiruchchirappalli	Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala & Karnataka Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh Tamil Nadu Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Karnataka Kerala & Tamil Nadu Tamil Nadu & Puducherry
11.	South Central Railway/Secunderabad	Secunderabad Hyderabad Nanded Vijayawada Guntur Guntakal	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Maharashtra Andhra Pradesh, & Maharashtra Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra Andhra Pradesh Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka

1	2	3	4
12.	South Eastern Railway/Kolkata	Adra Ranchi Chakradharpur Kharagpur	West Bengal, Jharkhand & Orissa West Bengal & Jharkhand Jharkhand & Orissa West Bengal, Jharkhand & Orissa.
13.	South East Central Railway/Bilaspur	Bilaspur Raipur Nagpur	Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra Orissa, Chhattisgarh & Madhya Pradesh Chhattisgarh Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra & Orissa
14.	South Western Railway/Hubli	Banglore Mysore Hubli	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra & Goa Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka Karnataka & Andhra Pradesh Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra & Goa
15.	Western Railway/ Mumbai	Mumbai Vadodara Ratlam Ahmedabad Rajkot Bhavnagar	Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan Maharashtra & Gujarat Gujarat Gujarat, Rajasthan & Madhya Pradesh Gujarat
16.	West Central Railway/Jabalpur	Jabalpur Bhopal Kota	Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh & Rajasthan Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh Madhya Pradesh Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh & Rajasthan

(b) The fund provided to zonal Railways during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 in Budget and Revised

Estimates to various projects/works under different planheads is given below:

Plan Outlay for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09

(Rs. in crore)

	BE 2006-07	RE 2006-07	BE 2007-08	RE 2007-08	BE 2008-09	RE 2008-09
	1	2	3	4	5	6
New Lines (Construction)	1500.20	2525.12	1570.20	2681.21	1700.70	2963.01
Restoration of Dismantled Lines	10.00	10.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	25.00
Gauge Conversion	1450.88	2045.71	2714.31	3011.85	2744.10	3013.41

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Doubling	1056.80	1178.31	2002.00	1744.80	2524.00	1802.78
Traffic Facilities-Yard Remodelling & Others	616.60	597.60	804.50	917.34	988.50	1131.24
Computerisation	273.00	272.28	325.00	281.87	360.00	227.13
Railway Research	61.00	40.04	60.00	21.74	62.00	37.72
Rolling Stock	7100.14	6898.35	9218.50	8698.06	11545.00	11364.84
Leased Assets- Payment of Capital Component	1720.12	1720.12	1677.00	1649.85	1810.00	1764.80
Road Safety Works- Level Crossings	275.00	275.00	500.00	499.93	600.00	600.00
Road Safety Works- Road Over/Under Bridges	435.86	435.86	550.69	550.69	700.00	699.16
Track Renewals	3721.00	4206.52	4360.00	4400.31	4700.00	4718.87
Bridge Works	594.48	517.07	602.60	665.40	606.00	492.77
Signalling and Telecommunication Works	1528.50	1354.68	1607.90	1557.29	1530.40	1432.69
Electrification Projects	227.50	224.54	302.00	455.41	628.00	780.38
Other Electrical Works	215.50	236.03	233.80	277.54	341.50	427.35
Machinery & Plant	255.50	241.41	300.00	287.09	445.20	340.78
Workshops Including Production Units	444.00	422.54	649.00	608.13	1762.00	1118.11
Staff Quarters	115.50	115.50	160.50	189.90	220.50	200.44
Amenities for Staff	140.00	145.40	206.00	215.20	223.10	278.96
Passengers Amenities	353.20	401.10	493.30	633.76	852.50	731.46
Inv. in Govt. Comm. Und.-Public Und.	1750.00	2028.00	2690.00	1473.40	3235.00	2718.66
Other Specified Works	249.50	268.56	319.70	338.47	335.50	278.46
Inventories (Net)	350.00	423.10	550.00	501.62	800.00	695.89
Metropolitan Transport Projects	308.00	259.87	723.00	486.32	651.00	663.14
Credits or recoveries	1277.28	1195.82	1650.00	1559.06	1895.00	1734.07
Total	23475.00	25646.89	31000.00	30618.12	37500.00	36772.98

(c) and (d) Provision of outlays to zonal Railways in the Annual Plan under different planheads for undertaking various projects/works is as per yearly requirement of funds of the zone based on operational, maintenance, developmental, customer and staff requirements.

(e) Does not arise.

Closure of Small Scale Pharma Units and Vaccine Units

2634. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the investment value-wise that is required for infrastructure, machinery changes etc. that a small scale pharmaceutical company set up before 2001 would have to spend for upgradation to Schedule M;

(b) whether the Government has not made any budgetary provisions for funds since 2001 leading to closure of small scale pharma units and vaccine units;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(a) to (d) As per available information, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has a scheme for Technology Upgradation of Micro and Small Enterprises namely "Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) for approved 48 Sub-Sectors, including Pharmaceuticals Sub-Sector. Under this scheme, 15% capital subsidy is provided up to a loan of Rs. 1.0 crore. Year-wise fund released under CLCSS for 48 various Sub-Sector, including Pharmaceuticals Sub-Sector is as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Funds Released (Rs. in crore)
1.	2000-2001	5.0
2.	2001-2002	0.1945
3.	2002-2003	3.45
4.	2003-2004	3.00
5.	2004-2005	5.41
6.	2005-2006	25.88
7.	2006-2007	73.637
8.	2007-2008	76.4
9.	2008-2009	108.888

Upto March, 2009, 126 Units have benefited under CLCSS and Rs. 554.37 lakh subsidy released to Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Micro and Small Enterprises.

Pharma Zones at Airports

2635. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Pharma Zones at various airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details, alongwith its purpose thereof;

(c) the names of airports which are identified for setting up of the same; and

(d) the time by which the above Zones are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is no such proposal at present under consideration.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Pending Cases of Road Accidents

2636. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether the disposal of motor accident claims cases take five to ten years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such cases pending, as on date, State-wise;

(d) the manner in which the pendency of such cases affect road safety rules; and

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

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

*[English]***Model Railway Stations in Uttar Pradesh**

2637. SHRIMATI USHA VERMA:
SHRI KADIR RANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal for modernisation of Railway Stations in Uttar Pradesh including Hardoi and Muzaffarnagar Junction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the modernisation work of these Railway Stations is likely to be started and completed; and

(d) the amount allocated and released for the purpose so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Minimum Essential Amenities as per norms have already been provided at all railway stations in the State of Uttar Pradesh. There are 1151 railway stations in the State of Uttar Pradesh, out of which 214 stations have already been provided with upgraded passenger amenities under various schemes for modernization/improvement of stations. Hardoi station has been identified for providing upgraded passenger amenities as Model Station and also for modernization during 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively. Muzaffarnagar Jn. station was included in the list of Model stations in May, 2006 for providing upgraded passenger amenities.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 1.08 crore has been allocated and released for modernization work at Hardoi station. Modernization work has commenced at this station and is planned for completion by 31st December, 2009. An amount of Rs. 25 lakhs was allocated for development of Muzaffarnagar Jn. as Model Station. Work of development of Muzaffarnagar Jn. as Model Station is in progress and planned for completion by March, 2010.

Murtizapur-Achalpur Rail Line

2638. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the narrow gauge lines are still on lease even after lapse of 62 years of independence; and

(b) if so, the details of such rail lines alongwith the reasons for not taking the ownership of these lines?

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

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Sleeper Coaches in Corbett Park Express**

2639. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has received representations to provide second class AC sleeper coaches in Corbett Park Link Express train under North-Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto;

(c) whether the Railways propose to increase the number of sleeper coaches in the said train;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to start new trains from Kathgodam and Ramnagar railway stations to Delhi, Mumbai and other stations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. 5013A/5014A Ramnagar-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Corbett Park Link Express runs in conjunction with 5013/5014 Kathgodam-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Ranikhet Express with maximum permissible combined load of 23 coaches. Attachment of additional coaches is not operationally feasible.

(e) and (f) There is no such proposal at present.

*[English]***Vacancies in Railways**

2640. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:
SHRI SAMEER BHUJBAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vacancies in Railways, during the last three years and current year zone-wise;

(b) the action taken to fill up these vacancies;

(c) the status of handicapped persons employed in Railways, zone-wise; and

(d) the time by which the said vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Year-wise and Zone-wise vacancies for the last 3 years are as under:

Zone	Vacancies as on 31.3.07	Vacancies as on 31.3.08	Vacancies as on 31.3.09
Central	12496	11841	11314
Eastern	12799	13955	12864
East Central	14765	16567	17231
East Coast	8210	9626	9797
Northern	16434	17010	19219
North Central	8905	9523	9131
North Eastern	3433	4941	5799
Northeast Frontier	9072	11185	8957
North Western	8560	8474	7301
Southern	7130	7845	7949
South Central	10403	11743	10614
South Eastern	12264	12414	11645
South East Central	9615	8685	9959
South Western	8050	8745	8616
Western	15810	9253	11001
West Central	7643	8189	8416
Total	165589	169996	169813

(b) and (d) In a large organization like the Railways there will be certain vacancies at any point of time. Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. Vacancies arise due to normal retirement, voluntary retirements, deaths, promotions or creation of

posts etc. Vacancies are filled in primarily through open market recruitment, promotions etc.

(c) Status of handicapped persons employed in Railways, zone-wise is as under:

Railway	Number of handicapped persons recruited against vacancies reserved for them (as on 31.10.08)			
	Visually handicapped	Hearing Impaired	Orthopaedically handicapped	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Central	41	49	74	164
Eastern	62	157	181	400

1	2	3	4	5
East Central	32	43	48	123
East coast	64	62	62	188
Northern	25	77	104	206
North Central	1	2	14	17
North Eastern	12	25	18	55
Northeast Frontier	21	21	42	84
North Western	7	7	16	30
Southern	8	5	36	49
South Central	38	108	119	265
South Eastern	17	15	16	48
South East Central	18	11	53	82
South Western	5	15	22	42
Western	89	110	207	406
West Central	10	13	53	76
Total	450	720	1065	2235

Shortage of Rail Racks

2641. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have not sufficient number of rail racks to send the food items from their godowns to each State especially in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to increase the number of rail racks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No Madam. There are enough rakes available with the Railways to carry foodgrains to all needy States including Orissa as per programme given by Food Corporation of India. For the State of Orissa, during the period from April-09 to June-09, FCI gave a programme of 30 rakes, all of which were loaded. Railways are according high priority to allotment of rakes for movement of foodgrains.

*[Translation]***Rail Line from Falaudi to Kandla Port**

2642. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted for laying a railway line from Falaudi to Kandla Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith budget allocation for laying the said railway line;

(c) the expenditure incurred on laying of the said rail line alongwith the progress made so far in this regard;

(d) the estimated length of the said railway line alongwith the number of cities proposed to be connected with the said route; and

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

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Setting up of Airport at Nasik

2643. SHRI SAMEER BHUJBAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to set up an airport at Nasik,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, there is an operational airport at Ozhar, at about 20 kms. from Nasik. Kingfisher Airlines operates flights to Mumbai.

(c) Does not arise.

Less Resources for Smaller Companies

2644. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smaller oil companies find it tough to raise resources;

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

(c) the steps being taken to provide them easy loans from the PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Amongst Oil PSUs only Biecco Lawrie Limited has reported that the company faces difficulty in raising resources for expanding its business operations due to negative net worth.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Subsidy to food Processing Industries

2645. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of subsidy provided to the food processing industries, State-wise especially Andhra Pradesh during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the Food Processing Industries functioning in backward areas in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries. The financial assistance provided to the various units under the scheme in the country in respect of all States/UTs in the country, including Andhra Pradesh during the last three years i.e. 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is Rs. 12481.128 lakhs, Rs. 10725.200 lakhs and Rs. 9765.767 lakhs respectively. The financial assistance provided to the State of Andhra Pradesh for the above-said period is Rs. 966.353 lakhs, Rs. 947.49 lakhs and Rs. 908.999 lakhs respectively. The details of the food processing industries functioning in the country including that in backward areas in Andhra Pradesh are not centrally maintained.

Commando Battalions in Railway

2646. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present strength of the Commando Battalions in railways is not enough to meet the threat of Naxalites and terrorists;

(b) if so whether there is a need to recruit the more commandos in railways;

(c) if so, the total requirement of such personnel and the time by which these personnel will be recruited;

(d) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on their recruitment; and

(e) the extent to which the security will be augmented in Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) There is no Commando Battalion in Railways at present. The commandos are not recruited directly in railways. Some of the existing RPF/RPSF personnel are being imparted

commando training with various organizations like NSG, CRPF, Punjab Police, Assam Rifles etc.

(e) The deployment of trained personnel will definitely improve the security scenario.

[Translation]

Flights for Ujjain and Khajuraho

2647. SHRI PREMCHAND GUDDU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce National Aviation Company of India Limited flights for Ujjain and Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these flights are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Air India is operating three flights/week on Delhi-Varanasi-Khajuraho and return route and has no plans as yet to introduce any new flights or increase the frequency of current flights unless there is a surge in the market demand.

[English]

Electronic Voting Machines

2648. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI P. LINGAM:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were rigged in the recent Lok Sabha polls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some developed countries have reverted to ballot paper after manipulation of EVMs was detected;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The

Election Commission of India has intimated that after declaration of the results of the Lok Sabha 2009, the leaders of some of the opposition parties (DMDK, PMK etc.) have been alleging that EVMs have been tampered with. Further, DMDK has filed PIL in Hon'ble High Court of Madras, to ban use of EVMs in future elections. Further also, a complaint letter dated the 10th June, 2009 from Shri K. Balu, Advocate, Legal Wing of PMK has been received in the Election Commission.

(c) There is no such formal information available with Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice and the Election Commission of India.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Election Commission has intimated the following information in respect of the working of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs):—

- (i) The EVMs have not been introduced all of a sudden. These have been tested initially and gradually introduced all over the country.
- (ii) The EVMs have been tested by an Expert Committee consisting of experts from IIT appointed by the Government.
- (iii) The EVMs have been certified as tamper proof reliable device by Expert Committee and various preventive to precautionary steps have been preserved by the Commission for the operation, maintenance and storage of the EVMs.
- (iv) There have been some minor mechanical and human errors while handling them during elections which have been attended promptly by replacing the EVMs or repairing them.
- (v) The EVM mentioned in the complaint is being checked by the manufacturers to detect the actual defect in it and reason for the same will be ascertained (like manufacturing defect etc.)
- (vi) Many Courts including Hon'ble Supreme Court have time and again appreciated the efficiency of EVM in many court cases. Attention, in this regard, is invited to the judgment of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in WP No. 3346, 3633, 4417, 4454, 4466, 4945, 5077, 6038 and 6039 of 2001 dated 10.4.2001, AIADMK and others Vs. Chief Election Commissioner and others where the Hon'ble Court dismissed the writ

challenging the introduction of EVMs. The petitioner's challenged this ruling of the Madras High Court before the Supreme Court in C.C. 2824 and 2825/2001 which was dismissed by the Hon'ble Apex Court in its decision dated 23.4.2001 and the decision of the Madras High Court was upheld. Separately, the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in E.P. No. 4 of 2001-T.A. Ahamed Kabeeer Vs A.A.Azeez and others and Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in E.P. No. 29 of 1999- Michael D. Fernandes Vs. C.K. Jaffar Sharif and others have upheld the EVM as a safe and secure device for conduct of elections.

- (vii) The Election Commission has also given the opportunity to the persons who alleged that EVM could be manipulated/tampered with. However, no one could prove it yet.

Lok Adalats

2649. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO:

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

(a) The number of Lok Adalats organized by the Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed of in these Lok Adalats;

(c) the amount sanctioned and released by the Government during the last three years, for the purpose;

(d) whether Government proposes to set up more Lok Adalats in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) As per data furnished by NALSA, a statement showing number of Lok Adalats organized and number of cases disposed of in these Lok Adalats during the last three calendar years i.e. 2006, 2007, and 2008, State-wise is enclosed.

(c) The amount sanctioned and released as grants in-aid for legal aid during the Financial Years 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-09 is as under:-

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Amount released
1.	2006-07	Rs. 10,00,00,000/-
2.	2007-08	Rs. 17,50,00,000/-
3.	2008-09	Rs. 18,82,69,495/-

(d) The State Legal Services Authorities, District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committee are empowered to conduct Lok Adalats for settlement of more and more cases outside the court.

(e) and (f) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Statement

Number of Lok Adalats organised and number of cases disposed of in these Lok Adalats in the last three years; viz. 2006, 2007 and 2008 State-wise

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Lok Adalats held in the last three years	No. of cases settled in Lok Adalats in the last three years
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40413	289205
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	152	1081
3.	Assam	1049	61348
4.	Bihar	6687	300827
5.	Chhattisgarh	3537	50172
6.	Goa	184	1066
7.	Gujarat	33664	2354289
8.	Haryana	8214	487764
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1158	9070
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1001	48245
11.	Jharkhand	5706	47795
12.	Karnataka	12698	161386
13.	Kerala	4579	65645
14.	Madhya Pradesh	12276	614205

1	2	3	4
15.	Maharashtra	8956	164863
16.	Manipur	Nil	0
17.	Meghalaya	10	24591
18.	Mizoram	653	370
19.	Nagaland	Nil	0
20.	Orissa	2226	493508
21.	Punjab	6202	550756
22.	Rajasthan	16153	125859
23.	Sikkim	318	863
24.	Tamil Nadu	11633	126431
25.	Tripura	97	3725
26.	Uttar Pradesh	12745	1459000
27.	Uttarakhand	372	48462
28.	West Bengal	9136	60832
29.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	51	91
30.	UT Chandigarh	1363	15671
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil	0
32.	Daman and Diu	Nil	0
33.	Delhi	4661	248451
34.	Lakshadweep	15	0
35.	U.T. Puducherry	272	3096

Purchase of Shares by Co-Operative Societies

2650. SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a plan by which cooperative societies of the employees could be allowed to purchase the shares of public sector undertakings which run in loss; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) At present, there is

no plan/proposal by which cooperative associations of the employees could be allowed to purchase the shares of public sector undertakings which run in losses.

[Translation]

Workers in the Food Processing Industries

2651. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers employed in food processing industries in the country at present;

(b) the number of workers out of these working in unorganized sector; and

(c) the overall growth rate of this industry during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) As per the data available with the Ministry, a total of about 43.18 lakh workers were employed in the food processing industries sector in the year 2005-06. Of these, around 32.24 lakhs were employed in the unregistered sector.

(c) the data for the growth rate of the food processing industries during the current year 2009-10 is not available. However, the average growth rate of the food processing industries during the Tenth Plan period (upto 2006-07) was @14.06% at current prices and @7.20% at 1999-2000 prices.

Business Tie-up Between Foreign and Indian Firms

2652. SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Chartered Accountant Institute (ICAI) has requested to end the business tie-up between the foreign auditing firms and the domestic firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN

KHURSHEED): (a) No such proposal has been received in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Monitoring Committee for Vanishing Companies

2653. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a co-ordination and Monitoring Committee has been constituted to investigate the cases related to fly by night companies and their sponsors and to monitor the progress of action taken thereon;

(b) if so, the number of such companies in the country including Maharashtra and their sponsors against whom action has been initiated so far; and

(c) the status of investigation against those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) A Coordination and Monitoring Committee (CMC), co-chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Chairman, SEBI has been set up to look into issues relating to companies that had come out with public issue and vanished and to monitor the progress of action taken against such vanishing companies and their promoters. Specific criteria have been adopted by CMC for identification of such vanishing companies.

(b) and (c) Out of the companies that came out with the IPOs during 1992-2005, a total 238 companies were identified as vanishing companies. With the continuous efforts of the Ministry/CMC, 117 companies have been traced back, resulting in the number of vanishing companies being reduced to 121.12 companies were identified as vanishing companies in Maharashtra out of all the companies that came out with IPOs for the period 1992-2005.

Prosecutions have been filed in 110 cases for violations of various provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. The cases are pending before different courts for decision. FIRs have been filed in 112 cases under the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Investigation by respective State Police Authorities is at various stages in all these cases.

[*English*]

Yashvanthpura-Mangalore Express Train

2654. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Yashvanthpura- Mangalore Express train No. 6515/6516 (Daily) via Arasikere included in the railway budget for the year 2005-06 has not been introduced so far;

(b) if so, the reason for delay; and

(c) the time by which the train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. 6515/6516 Yashvanthpura-Mangalore Express (via Arasikere) could not be introduced so far due to Ghat section constraints due to safety consideration. The date of introduction of the train will be finalized thereafter.

[*Translation*]

Maladministration of Emporiums

2655. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of maladministration of Government run emporiums and corruption prevalent in organizing fairs for the promotion of Handloom and Handicrafts has come to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years; and

(b) if so, whether the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government against erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Madam. No Reports of maladministration of Government run emporiums and corruption prevalent in organizing fairs for the promotion of Handloom and Handicrafts has come to the notice of the Government during the last three years.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Barwadih-Chirimini Railway Line

2656. SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to construct rail line from Barwadih upto Chirimini and Katni;

(b) if so, the whether there is any inordinate delay in laying this rail line;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the work on said rail line is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Survey for Barwadih-Chirimini new line has been completed recently. South East Central Railway has been directed to update the cost.

[Translation]

State Funding of Elections

2657. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Commission has been/is being set up regarding State funding of elections by the Government;

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

(c) the number of meetings held by the said Commission;

(d) whether the Commission has submitted its report;

(e) if so, the main recommendations made by the Commission and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(f) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (f) Pursuant to a decision taken at the meeting of the leaders of various political parties held on the 22nd May, 1998, under the Chairmanship of the then Home Minister, the Government of India constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Indrajit Gupta, Member of Parliament. Initially the Committee consisted of seven Members (all Members of Parliament) including the Chairman. Subsequently, the Committee was expanded by the inclusion of one more

Member of Parliament, namely, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, on the 6th August, 1998. Further, the services of Shri S.K. Mendiratta, a former Director (Law) and Principal Secretary to the Election commission, were provided to assist the Committee as its Secretary.

The composition of the Committee is as under:

1. Shri Indrajit Gupta, Chairman
2. Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Member
3. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Member
4. Shri V.K. Malhotra, Member
5. Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar, Member
6. Shri R. Muthiah, Member
7. Shri Digvijay Singh, Member and
8. Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, Member

The terms of reference of the Committee are as under:

"The Committee will:—

- (a) examine the pattern of State funding in other countries where it is in vogue and suggest concrete proposals for providing State funding to candidates set up by recognised political parties; and
- (b) examine, in detail, the following related proposals and make suitable recommendations:
 - (i) maintenance of accounts by political parties and audit thereof;
 - (ii) ban on donations by companies to political parties;
 - (iii) inclusion of expenses of political parties in the election expenses of candidates for the purposes of ceiling on election expenses; and
 - (iv) empowering of the Election Commission of India to fix ceiling on election expenses before every general election."

The Committee after its constitution held a total of eight formal meetings. The Committee has submitted its report in December, 1998.

The Committee had recommended, *inter alia*, creation of an 'election fund' of Rs. 1200 crores with contribution of Rs. 600 crores from the Central Government and remaining Rs. 600 crores by way of contribution from all the State Governments including some other recommendations. The Committee, therefore, did not recommend that the Central Government should bear full funds in this regard and no such proposal is, therefore, under consideration of the Government. The Government had, however, invited the comments / views of the State Governments on the recommendations of the Committee and the majority view of the State Governments was that due to financial constraint the State Government will not be able to contribute their share and, therefore, the whole amount should be contributed by the Central Government itself.

In addition to the above, the main recommendation of the Committee which has been considered by the Government and it had sought the recommendations of the Election Commission of India on suggestions made by the Committee. The Election Commission made several recommendations after consulting national and state political parties for providing facilities at state cost to recognized political parties and candidates set up by them, in kind, for example, e.g. [(a) Recognised National/ State Parties:] accommodation for headquarters; 3,000 telephone calls for a National Party headquarters and 1,000 calls for a State party headquarters per month over and above the free calls, if any, permitted to any subscriber; one computer with internet connection; adequate air time (already being granted) on Government controlled electronic media; [(b) Candidates of recognized political parties:] 300 litres of Petrol or 450 litres of Diesel for each candidate for every assembly segment, subject, however, to a maximum of 1500 litres of petrol or 2,250 litres of diesel for a Parliamentary Constituency; specified quantity of paper for printing of voter slips, etc. in accordance with the number of electors in the Constituency; postage @ one communication (not weighting more than 10 grams) per elector in the Constituency; etc.; one set of loudspeaker with microphone for every Assembly segment, subject to maximum of 10 sets for a Parliamentary Constituency; instead of installing land-line telephone, provision for a Mobile Pre-Paid Card to every candidate for Rs. 1500/- (i.e. Rs. 100/- per day) for every Assembly segment, subject to maximum of Rs. 7,500/- for a Parliamentary Constituency; candidates camps at each polling station (beyond a distance of 200 metres) with two chairs and a table; refreshments and food packets for counting

agents inside the counting hall (for independent candidates also); etc. As regards allocation of time to parties on private cable television network and electronic media, the matter is under consideration of the Government in consultation with the Election Commission to evolve some viable practical formula.

In respect of the items mentioned at (a) above, the Election Commission recommended that the same may be provided to political parties by the Government, while the materials/facilities mentioned at (b) above, those may be furnished to the candidates directly by the District Election Officers concerned. The Commission also recommended that the expenditure on account of funding on the above items under (b) should be suitably deductible from the expenditure ceiling of a candidate. The Legislative Department accordingly sought the approval of the Cabinet on these recommendations of the Election Commission as well on the recommendation of the Indrajit Gupta Committee regarding setting up of a corpus of election fund of Rs. 1200 crores with states contribution of Rs. 600 crores annually to the Fund. The States have been unwilling on the measure(s). Extracts of Chapter-IX of the report of the Committee on State Funding of Elections are given in the enclosed statement.

Further, the process of reform of electoral laws is, however, a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties. Since it is a long drawn process, it is not possible to indicate any time frame.

Statement

CHAPTER-IX

CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

1. Before concluding, the Committee cannot help expressing its considered view that its recommendations being limited in nature and confined to only one of the aspects of the electoral reforms may bring about only some cosmetic changes in the electoral sphere. What is needed, however, is an immediate overhauling of the electoral process whereby elections are freed from evil influence of all vitiating factors, particularly, criminalisation of politics. It goes without saying that money power and muscle power go together to vitiate the electoral process and it is their combined effect which is sully the purity

of electoral contests and effecting free and fair elections. Meaningful electoral reforms in other spheres of electoral activity are also urgently needed if the present recommendations of the Committee are to serve the intended useful purpose.

Summary of recommendations:

2. For facility of easy reference and quick comprehension, the recommendations of the Committee are summarised as follows:

1. State funding of elections is fully justified—constitutionally, legally and also in the larger public interest. [Chapter II, para 6.14]
2. State funding should be confined only to the parties recognised as National or State parties by the Election Commission of India, and to the candidates set up by such parties. [Chapter II, para 8.3]
3. Given the budgetary constraints and the present financial stringency, only part of the financial burden of political parties may be shifted to the State, for the time being. Gradually, more and more of their expenses burden can be progressively shifted to the State so that ultimately all their legitimate expenses become a charge on the State. [Chapter II, para 9.2]
4. Any State funding should be in kind, and not in cash. [Chapter II, para 10.2]
5. To begin with, the recognised National and State parties and their candidates may be granted the following facilities, at State cost:-
 - (i) Every recognised National party may be allotted rent-free accommodation in the National Capital at Delhi, with one rent-free telephone. [Chapter III, paras 2.1 & 2.2]
 - (ii) Similar facility of rent-free accommodation and rent-free telephone may be given to each recognised State party in the State in which its headquarters is situate. [Chapter-III, para 2.3]
 - (iii) At the time of every general election to the House of the People or to a State Legislative Assembly, the recognised National and State parties may be granted sufficient free air time

on State owned Doordarshan and All India Radio for their election propaganda over the electronic media. [Chapter III, paras 3.1 & 3.2]

- (iv) Other private channels, including Cable Operators, may also be required to like-wise make sufficient free air time available for use by the recognised National and State parties, during general election. [Chapter III, para 3.3]
- (v) Each candidate of a recognised political party may be provided with—
 - (a) a specified quantity of petrol or diesel for vehicles used for his election campaign;
 - (b) a specified quantity of paper for printing his election literature and the unofficial identity slips for distribution to voters;
 - (c) postal stamps of a specified amount;
 - (d) five copies of electoral roll of his constituency;
 - (e) one set of loudspeakers (i.e., one microphone and two loudspeakers) for every assembly constituency, or for every assembly segment of a parliamentary constituency, subject to a maximum of six such sets for the entire parliamentary constituency;
 - (f) one deposit-free telephone with a specified number of free calls for his main campaign office in every assembly constituency/segment (subject to a maximum of six such telephones for the entire parliamentary constituency);
 - (g) some minimum arrangement for his camps outside each Polling Station, on the day of poll;
 - (h) refreshments and food packets for his counting agents inside the counting hall, on the day of counting. [Chapter III, para 4.2]
- (vi) The quantities of petrol, diesel, paper and postal stamps to be given to candidates may be worked out by the Election Commission on realistic basis for different States, and for different constituencies within the same State, having regard to territorial extent of constituencies, size of electorate, geographical features of the areas, means of communication available, etc. [Chapter III, para 4.3]

(vii) The facilities recommended above for the candidates would be available to the candidates of recognised State parties only in the State or States in which they are recognised as such State parties, and not in other States. The candidates of recognised National parties would, however, be eligible for the said facilities in all States, wherever they are so set up. [Chapter III, para 5]

6. In order to curb the mounting election expenses of parties and candidates and ostentatious show of money power by them, reasonable restrictions may be placed by law on all or any of the following matters:

- (i) wall writings,
- (ii) display of cut-outs, hoardings, banners;
- (iii) hoisting of flags (except at party offices, public meetings and other specified places);
- (iv) use of more than a specified number of vehicles for election campaigns and for processions;
- (v) announcements or publicity by more than a specified number of moving vehicles;
- (vi) holding of public meetings beyond the specified hours;
- (vii) display of posters at places, other than those specified by the district/electoral authorities. [Chapter IV, para 2.2]

7.1 Political parties should compulsorily submit their annual accounts regularly to the Income Tax authorities, showing all details of their receipts and expenditure. [Chapter IV, para 1(a)]

7.2 No State funding should be provided to any party or its candidates if the party has failed to submit its annual return for the previous assessment year under the Income Tax Act. [Chapter IV, para 1(a)]

7.3 Political parties should also file a complete account of their election expenditure at every

general election to the Election Commission of India. Such account should show the receipts and expenditure, both on the general party propaganda and on individual candidates. [Chapter IV, para 1(c)]

7.4 To bring transparency in party accounts, all donations received by political parties above the amount of Rs. 10,000/- (ten thousand) should be accepted only by means of cheques/drafts and the names of such donors should be fully disclosed in their accounts. [Chapter IV, para 1(d)]

7.5 These accounts may be audited by such Chartered Accountants as may be selected by the political parties themselves, which may, however, be further checked by the Income Tax authorities by their own agencies, wherever considered necessary by them. [Chapter IV, para 1(b)]

8.1 Ban on donations by Government companies for political purposes should continue. [Chapter V, para 7.2]

8.2 The question whether there should be any ban on donations by other companies and corporate bodies for political purposes may be decided by Government and Parliament in their collective wisdom. [Chapter V, para 6]

9. The question whether election expenses of political parties and other bodies or associations and individuals should be included or not in the accounts of election expenses of candidates may also be decided by the Government/Parliament in their collective wisdom. However, apparent contradiction between the provisions of section 77(1), Explanation (1), Representation of the People Act, 1951 and section 171 H, IPC, needs to be resolved. [Chapter VI, para 10]

10. Periodic revision of election expenses may continue to be done by the Central Government, in consultation with the Election Commission of India, as at present. [Chapter VII, para 4]

11. A separate Election Fund may be created for meeting the expenses on State funding of

elections. To begin with, the Central Government may contribute Rs. 600 crores annually, at the rate of Rs. 10/- per elector for the total electorate of about 60 crores in the country, towards the corpus of the fund. The State Governments, all taken together, may also contribute proportionately a matching amount of Rs. 600 crores annually, in accordance with the present financial arrangement between the Centre and States whereby all capital expenses on election items are shared by them on 50:50 basis. [Chapter VIII, para 2 & 3].

(Indrajit Gupta)
Chairman

(Somnath Chatterjee)

(Dr. Manmohan Singh)

(Madhukar Sarpotdar)

(Vijay Kumar Malhotra)

(R. Muthiah)

(Digvijay Singh)

(Ram Gopal Yadav)

New Delhi,
Dated 30th December, 1998

Availability Of Fertilizers

2658. SHRI KAMAL KISHOR "COMMANDO": Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are not getting the sufficient quantity of fertilizers from the Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO) before the time of sowing season;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure the timely availability of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO) has made adequate supplies of fertilizers to the States during the year 2009-10 (1.4.2009 to 13.7.2009) as under:

(lakh metric tonne)	
Fertilizer Grade	Quantity supplied by IFFCO
Urea	14.50
NP/NPK	4.86
DAP	13.53

It has resulted in increase of sales of IFFCO fertilizers by 22.6% during the above mentioned period in compared to the corresponding period of 2008-09.

(c) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. The requirement of urea is met through indigenous production and gap between demand assessment and indigenous production is met through imports. All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/ de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. The requirement, availability and sales of Urea, DAP, MOP & Complex (NPK) fertilizers during current Kharif, 2009 (April to July, 09 upto 21.7.09) is also enclosed as statement.

The steps taken for smooth distribution and increasing the production of fertilizers are as under:

- (i) The movement of fertilizers will be monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS);
- (ii) The subsidy on fertilizer is being paid only when it reaches the district;
- (iii) Department of Fertilizers has notified uniform freight subsidy scheme to transport fertilizers upto block level.

(iv) The gap between requirement and indigenous availability of Urea is met through imports; and

(v) New pricing policy for attracting investment in urea sector has been announced on 4th

September, 2008. Further, fertilizer sector has been given highest priority in allocation of gas, for debottlenecking, expansion and revival projects in the country.

Statement

Kharif 2009

UREA										<000' MTs>		
21.7.09	APRIL 2009			MAY 2009			JUNE 2009			JULY 2009		
States	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability upto 21.7.09	Sales as on 21.7.09
Andhra Pradesh	35.00	148.26	28.73	65.00	215.35	58.00	200.00	290.64	141.15	340.00	239.59	88.71
Karnataka	40.00	68.59	44.83	60.00	81.61	51.05	130.00	135.91	112.27	170.00	116.47	58.29
Kerala	10.50	13.63	8.69	10.25	13.16	9.48	20.00	21.16	16.92	25.00	14.33	4.91
Tamil Nadu	55.00	65.74	53.78	60.00	62.06	53.46	80.00	79.93	72.36	80.00	43.46	22.25
Gujarat	65.50	117.14	78.63	59.00	131.77	61.17	140.00	226.11	166.54	262.00	167.31	89.20
Madhya Pradesh	26.00	75.17	15.85	71.50	123.77	36.98	136.50	185.49	103.72	208.00	165.50	29.90
Chhattisgarh	97.00	79.37	39.30	97.00	88.26	25.26	144.50	125.96	84.56	97.00	81.46	12.70
Maharashtra	225.04	160.62	113.03	212.08	276.06	207.73	202.94	304.84	272.58	195.77	169.82	108.26
Rajasthan	34.00	84.87	35.34	55.00	107.38	38.95	90.00	148.94	87.10	145.00	102.42	19.04
Haryana	50.00	77.17	33.84	100.00	156.85	84.03	210.00	220.74	153.88	240.00	178.83	78.99
Punjab	100.00	161.03	90.95	300.00	258.72	177.58	250.00	305.23	237.98	310.00	224.17	66.86
Himachal Pradesh	5.00	3.09	0.03	10.00	8.97	5.21	15.00	12.37	7.57	5.00	8.64	1.45
Jammu and Kashmir	13.61	13.81	9.16	25.72	13.31	7.61	14.26	16.93	10.12	7.96	13.89	5.05
Uttar Pradesh	200.00	382.95	127.21	500.00	644.17	298.09	700.00	719.47	331.57	700.00	610.66	173.04
Uttarakhand	2.50	10.03	5.53	23.00	21.70	15.70	30.00	37.79	22.95	30.00	23.79	9.04
Bihar	75.00	94.01	33.67	75.00	158.63	75.09	150.00	184.59	94.17	190.00	174.11	43.00
Jharkhand	3.00	5.53	2.67	5.00	13.22	4.66	30.00	26.63	12.76	35.00	19.05	8.06
Orissa	10.00	26.69	6.02	20.00	46.87	9.10	40.00	58.49	20.83	100.00	70.85	26.47
West Bengal	30.10	81.48	33.57	42.40	103.07	53.25	81.20	110.45	53.87	93.40	109.29	37.26
Assam	10.80	22.83	20.06	15.60	23.46	21.25	25.20	28.41	25.66	25.20	21.99	13.41
All India	1095.101	1697.39	785.96	1816.59	2555.55	1303.61	2706.51	3250.62	2038.96	3259.33	2555.64	895.88

Kharif 2009

DAP <000' MTs>												
21.7.09	APRIL 2009			MAY 2009			JUNE 2009			JULY 2009		
States	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability upto 21.7.09	Sales as on 21.7.09
Andhra Pradesh	25.00	35.55	19.79	60.00	126.15	84.50	80.00	193.74	107.46	150.00	199.86	68.00
Karnataka	30.00	61.83	60.92	75.00	144.07	135.73	123.30	164.33	127.68	85.00	110.53	73.53
Kerala	2.00	1.50	1.38	2.00	2.18	2.18	4.50	10.27	9.77	4.50	1.00	0.23
Tamil Nadu	22.00	29.32	26.76	23.00	34.03	26.18	30.00	55.05	53.17	35.00	17.80	13.90
Gujarat	33.80	58.47	52.47	97.80	161.31	70.87	100.00	201.07	111.33	77.80	106.46	85.90
Madhya Pradesh	31.50	67.15	44.78	139.50	147.06	64.26	112.50	212.57	144.16	58.50	124.01	88.61
Chhattisgarh	27.00	26.17	23.33	27.00	45.44	33.19	40.50	55.37	43.63	27.00	42.22	21.86
Maharashtra	30.23	268.86	251.92	124.86	326.65	311.81	126.85	149.93	146.05	114.95	55.50	13.72
Rajasthan	13.00	21.32	12.87	18.00	59.97	53.81	60.00	78.66	72.49	100.00	59.97	37.06
Haryana	10.00	24.36	14.78	40.00	106.28	98.72	85.00	87.75	74.42	65.00	52.33	22.99
Punjab	60.00	28.50	28.13	30.00	96.81	88.03	75.00	73.78	58.58	35.00	59.79	23.32
Jammu and Kashmir	6.79	0.00	0.00	14.37	10.53	10.52	9.26	7.91	7.51	3.96	0.40	0.03
Uttar Pradesh	50.00	57.17	36.75	50.00	205.56	149.28	100.00	245.33	163.97	100.00	214.73	88.93
Uttarakhand	2.00	3.07	3.05	2.00	4.64	4.63	2.20	7.88	5.06	2.50	8.10	4.18
Bihar	15.00	15.24	3.01	25.00	39.22	23.69	50.00	24.94	16.85	55.00	41.24	22.48
Jharkhand	2.50	1.39	1.39	5.00	7.02	4.41	20.00	16.42	11.33	20.00	15.71	6.67
Orissa	2.00	7.34	7.33	5.00	10.37	4.74	24.00	58.17	33.93	48.00	43.08	19.66
West Bengal	11.90	22.94	19.49	15.50	36.73	31.20	32.90	53.47	34.22	82.20	63.11	22.35
Assam	1.35	0.00	0.00	1.95	0.00	0.00	3.15	4.45	4.37	3.15	2.94	0.00
All India	378.03	730.20	608.70	759.10	1565.01	1198.27	1084.70	1707.18	1231.42	1067.56	1218.83	613.42

Kharif 2009

MOP												
<000' MTs>												
21.7.09	APRIL 2009			MAY 2009			JUNE 2009			JULY 2009		
States	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability upto 21.7.09	Sales as on 21.7.09
Andhra Pradesh	20.00	28.33	6.43	20.00	34.31	14.08	35.00	66.76	51.13	60.00	33.71	12.86
Karnataka	30.00	37.74	26.91	27.00	37.82	31.98	51.00	76.23	70.27	54.00	17.14	9.90
Kerala	9.80	8.67	7.21	11.20	12.85	11.20	15.70	26.57	21.18	18.70	19.25	8.61
Tamil Nadu	45.00	28.09	18.80	30.00	34.01	21.75	53.00	51.36	34.14	54.00	32.40	15.44
Gujarat	13.10	27.34	20.99	14.50	22.87	18.11	20.70	25.49	23.17	21.30	2.32	2.49
Madhya Pradesh	3.50	28.24	1.56	30.10	26.67	6.23	20.30	28.19	17.45	4.90	10.74	5.75
Chhattisgarh	12.00	11.20	5.08	13.80	18.61	9.97	18.00	16.52	10.23	17.00	11.52	9.95
Maharashtra	28.70	74.81	49.63	25.06	73.02	56.37	58.14	63.62	57.86	44.62	28.96	5.39
Rajasthan	1.30	11.11	5.18	0.80	8.53	3.70	1.70	5.73	2.48	3.50	3.25	0.46
Haryana	5.00	18.91	9.95	5.00	8.96	3.32	5.00	5.64	5.64	3.00	0.00	0.00
Punjab	8.00	18.99	3.90	8.00	17.17	7.63	10.00	12.19	9.57	10.00	2.62	1.93
Jammu and Kashmir	2.93	0.00	0.00	2.86	0.27	0.27	2.30	0.00	0.00	1.05	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	15.00	43.42	10.88	15.00	39.26	5.75	20.00	33.51	26.63	30.00	9.41	1.69
Uttarakhand	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.50	0.02	0.02	1.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
Bihar	5.00	30.47	5.19	10.00	38.97	15.49	20.00	26.19	17.27	30.00	9.04	6.18
Jharkhand	0.00	2.96	0.38	0.50	2.84	0.34	1.50	5.08	3.55	1.50	1.53	1.25
Orissa	2.50	21.57	2.73	12.50	23.85	7.12	24.50	25.69	16.31	37.50	18.28	12.08
West Bengal	12.32	25.06	10.04	14.10	47.90	30.22	17.80	35.33	25.91	36.74	10.16	8.81
Assam	5.04	13.77	3.28	7.28	22.71	12.33	11.76	10.38	3.95	11.76	8.16	3.20
All India	220.67	431.66	188.81	249.81	472.08	257.27	390.43	518.64	399.19	442.62	218.48	105.97

Kharif 2009

COMPLEX <000' MTs>												
21.7.09	APRIL 2009			MAY 2009			JUNE 2009			JULY 2009		
States	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability upto 21.7.09	Sales as on 21.7.09
Andhra Pradesh	120.00	122.45	66.63	100.00	179.96	117.49	150.00	201.26	152.28	290.00	143.25	28.65
Karnataka	50.00	86.24	76.55	76.90	107.45	93.65	109.50	94.51	84.20	124.00	46.79	19.39
Kerala	12.50	22.49	16.06	14.75	20.21	15.79	23.25	29.95	27.58	23.25	18.32	10.16
Tamil Nadu	28.50	41.89	36.53	34.50	56.56	52.84	26.50	50.19	44.72	26.50	29.77	17.08
Gujarat	20.50	52.82	28.97	38.80	67.91	47.23	38.50	35.73	16.95	41.70	33.87	7.12
Madhya Pradesh	11.85	20.12	7.30	54.35	30.79	22.76	84.55	13.13	6.01	36.25	15.42	4.21
Chhattisgarh	10.30	10.50	7.82	26.50	18.13	13.19	32.90	17.33	14.65	20.30	11.57	1.41
Maharashtra	80.75	96.89	78.90	105.94	102.48	80.87	141.42	121.91	103.46	357.60	81.32	33.29
Rajasthan	3.40	2.51	1.92	9.00	3.36	2.77	11.85	4.81	4.13	28.70	2.54	0.29
Haryana	1.00	3.44	2.67	6.00	1.76	0.93	5.00	1.65	1.21	5.00	0.81	0.38
Punjab	6.00	5.26	2.56	5.50	3.20	1.20	5.50	2.32	0.37	3.00	2.20	0.25
Himachal Pradesh	2.60	0.00	0.00	2.55	2.66	2.58	2.60	0.08	0.07	0.05	2.67	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	50.00	50.39	27.59	50.00	55.36	38.54	50.00	42.29	24.69	75.00	26.76	6.73
Uttarakhand	2.00	0.05	0.00	10.00	4.61	4.39	10.00	0.22	0.16	2.50	0.05	0.00
Bihar	15.00	15.71	10.10	25.00	33.82	25.43	42.50	26.63	18.93	45.00	20.48	4.87
Jharkhand	1.00	3.29	3.28	3.00	8.43	8.18	4.50	4.39	4.37	8.00	2.45	0.00
Orissa	6.70	14.16	3.55	17.60	33.33	17.13	35.30	49.59	22.39	65.70	52.01	17.17
West Bengal	21.05	76.47	65.33	22.60	56.00	47.40	32.00	46.23	41.43	101.00	41.53	8.65
Assam	0.50	2.57	0.00	0.72	0.00	0.00	1.16	0.00	0.00	1.16	2.32	0.00
All India	445.58	627.44	439.30	606.01	788.42	594.72	812.28	745.67	571.06	1254.71	534.10	159.64

*[English]***Expansion of Railway Line in Rajasthan**

2659. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects for which survey has been carried out for expansion of railway lines in

Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) the findings of the survey; and

(c) the time by which the construction work is likely to be started on these projects including the links connecting to Jodhpur, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The details of surveys completed during the last three year

period 2006-07 to 2008-09 in the State of Rajasthan are given as under;

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Status of Survey	Abstract Cost (Rs. in crore)	Action taken on survey report
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Loharu-Sikar-Churu-Ringus-Jaipur Gauge Conversion (320k m)	Survey completed	602.00	Project sanctioned for execution. Estimate prepared.
2.	Udaipur City-Himmatnagar-Ahmedabad Gauge Conversion	Survey completed	743.00	Project sanctioned for execution. Estimate prepared.
3.	Suratpura-Hannumangarh-Sriganganagar Gauge Conversion (241 km)	Survey completed	403.00	Project sanctioned for execution. Estimate sanctioned.
4.	Phulera-Merta Road Doubling (153 km)	Survey completed	283.00	Doubling not considered for the present.
5.	Bari Sadari-Nimach New Line (50 km)	Survey completed	130.00	Proposal not considered in view of unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.
6.	Laharu-Bhiwani New Line (64 km)	Survey completed	100.00	Proposal not considered in view of unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.
7.	Ajmer-Kota New Line (145 km)	Survey completed	587.00	Proposal not considered in view of unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.
8.	Rail Link to Tonk-Devli New Line (62 km)	Survey completed	210.00	Proposal not considered in view of unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.
9.	Pushkar-Merta Road New Line (59 km)	Survey completed	234.00	Report under examination
10.	Bilara-Bar New Line (52 km)	Survey completed	139.00	Proposal not considered in view of unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Phalodi-Nagaur New Line (147 km)	Survey completed	214.00	Report under examination
12.	Anupgarh—Kolayat via Khajuwala New Line (200km)	Survey completed	441.00	Proposal not considered in view of unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.
13.	Anupgarh-Khajuwala- Jaisalmer-Ramgarh New Line (485km)	Survey completed	914.00	Proposal not considered in view of unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.
14.	Mavli-Marwar Gauge Conversion (183km)	Survey completed	810.00	Report under examination
15.	Alwar-Digawara Doubling (27km)	Survey completed	86.00	Report under examination
16.	Jhunjhunu- Pilani New Line (20km)	Survey completed	55.01	Under examination
17.	Ratlam-Banswara- Dungarpur New Line (177km)	Survey completed	1183.97	Could not be considered in view of unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.
18.	Dholpur-Sirmuttra Gauge Conversion with extension upto Gangapur City new line (144km)	Survey completed	462.59	Under examination.
19.	Gwalior-Shivpur Kalan gauge conversion & extension upto Kota New Line (284km)	Survey completed	1006.83	Under examination.
20.	Ujjain-Jhalawar-Ramganjmandi new line (190 kms)	Survey completed	860.00	Proposal not considered in view of unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.
21.	Mawali-Bari Sadri new line (82kms)	Survey completed	132.53	Report under examination.
22.	Bhiwadi to Delhi-Ahmedabad new line (27 kms)	Survey completed	153.73	Report under examination.

The work on sanctioned projects will start after completing the preliminary activities of Final Location Survey, plan and estimate and finalizing the contracts. None of the sanctioned projects at Sl. No. 1, 2 and 3 above falls near Jodhpur.

[*Translation*]

'Reservation of SC/ST in PSUs'

2660. SHRI YASBANT LAGURI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether several public sector undertakings (PSUs) are not complying with the reservation quota for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) The action taken by the Government against erring PSUs and steps taken for ensuring implementation of reservation quota in PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per Public Enterprises Survey, the overall representation of SCs and STs in 206 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) as on 1.1.2008 was 18.83% and 8.38% respectively.

(c) The implementation of policy on reservation for SCs and STs is monitored by the administrative Ministry/ Department concerned with the respective CPSEs.

[*English*]

New Train Services From Gujarat

2661. SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any proposal to start new trains and long distance trains from Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Following new trains have been announced in Railway Budget 2009-2010 serving Gujarat:

1. Gandhidham-Howrah Express (weekly)
2. Veraval-Mumbai Link service (daily)

3. Mumbai-Ahmedabad AC (non-stop) Express (tri-weekly)

4. Hapa-Tirunelveli Express (bi-weekly)

5. Puri-Surat Express (weekly)

6. Mumbai-Jodhpur Express (weekly)

7. Mumbai-Bikaner Express (bi-weekly)

8. Mumbai-Nizamuddin Yuva Express (weekly)

Railway Crossings in Pudukkottai

2662. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to construct flyovers at karuveppilan and Thiruvappur railway level crossings in Pudukkottai District of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(c) The Karuveppilan level crossing No. 372, Km. 452/9-453/0 between Vellanur and Pudukkottai stations in Madurai Division is having traffic density of 61,950 TVUs and Tiruvappur level crossing No. 376, Km. 455/8-9 between Vellanur and Pudukkottai stations of the same division is having traffic density of 36460 TVUs. Both these locations do not qualify for replacement by Road over bridges (Fly overs) on cost sharing basis as the traffic density is less than 1 lakh TVUs which is the minimum required for replacement as ROB. State Government has also not sponsored proposals for construction of over bridges on deposit terms at these locations.

[*Translation*]

Doubling of Rail Lines

2663. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have cleared a number of proposals regarding doubling of Railway lines in the

country including Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds provided and spent on execution of these projects during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) 55 doubling works have been included in various Budgets during the last three years i.e. 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 covering a distance of 2727 Km. Out of these, 8 doubling works are fully/partly in Uttar Pradesh covering a distance of 350 Km.

(c) Expenditure amounting to approx. Rs. 1186 cr has been incurred on these doubling works during last three years.

[English]

Facilities at Thiruvananthapuram Airport

2664. SHRI A. SAMPATH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities proposed to be provided at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport other than the construction of new terminal;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce re-fuelling facility at this airport to capitalize on the international flights passing through Thiruvananthapuram;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of private airlines which have sought permission to operate from Thiruvananthapuram;

(e) whether the permission has been granted to any private airlines; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Additional eight parking bays, three aerobridges, baggage handling system, escalators and bridge over Chackai Canal for better connectivity with city are being provided at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport.

(b) and (c) Re-fuelling facility is already existing in the Thiruvananthapuram Airport.

(d) to (f) At present, amongst private scheduled domestic airlines, Jet Airways is operating daily schedule international air service on Thiruvananthapuram-Muscat-Thiruvananthapuram sector.

Railway Workshop

2665. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to renovate the Carriage and Wagon Repairing Workshop, New Bongaigaon with adequate security set up;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the said workshop is likely to be renovated?

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

(c) Renovation of workshop assets, machinery and plant is continuing process.

Statement

Workshop infrastructure is being renovated/modernized continuously in a need based manner. The following works are in progress for the renovation of New Bongaigaon workshop:

Description of work	Cost (Rs. in crores)
1	2
(i) Modernisation of workshop.	17.87
(ii) Reinforced concrete cement boundary wall.	2.15
(iii) Proposed extension of BRS to 18.3 m.	0.47
(iv) Conversion of Metre Gauge wagon yard into Broad Gauge by connecting feeding Broad Gauge line to wagon repair shop.	0.36

1	2
(v) Conversion of Metre Gauge shunting necks into Broad Gauge connecting Broad Gauge line from AC Periodical overhauling shop, Train Lighting shop & Wagon Paint Shop.	0.42
(vi) Conversion of Metre Gauge track into Broad Gauge by linking of wagon paint shop	0.39
(vii) Conversion of Metre Gauge track into Broad Gauge inside the shed at carriage body shop & train lighting shop.	0.40
(viii) Revival/conversion/linking of Broad Gauge tracks and renovation of floor & drainage system of carriage painting shop.	0.41
(ix) (a) Provision of high mast tower in Carriage & Wagon workshop (b) Improvement of illumination inside the Carriage & Wagon workshop.	0.40

Apart from the above works the following works have been approved during the current year 2009-10

Description of work	Cost (Rs. in crores)
(i) Conversion/laying of broad gauge track (4.85 Km) in Carriage & Wagon Workshop.	3.96
(ii) Augmentation of working facilities in wheel turning shop.	3.62
(iii) Extension of wagon repair shop 1st & 2nd bays.	3.52
(iv) Extension of wagon paint shop.	3.62

The following works are in progress to upgrade the security set up by renovation of workshop's boundary wall and illumination through high mast tower light.

- (i) Construction of Reinforced Concrete Cement boundary wall (2.5 km) for New Bongaigaon Workshop at the cost of 2.15 crore.
- (ii) Provision of high mast tower light 4 nos, to improve illumination inside workshop at the cost of Rs. 40 Lakhs.

Kingfisher Aircraft Incident

2666. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wings of a Kingfisher Aircraft hit the wall at Bagdogra Airport recently;

(b) if so, the details of the incident;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the same; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Kingfisher A-320 aircraft VT- ADR operating flight IT - 3334 on 27.06.2009 while lining up on Runway 18 at the end of runway, hit a wall erected close to Runway at Bagdogra Airport, damaging the right wing of the aircraft.

(c) and (d) During Permanent Board Investigation (PIB) it was observed that the incident occurred due to Pilot not adhering to proper taxiing procedure during take off. The involved pilots was off-rostered from the date of incident and listed for corrective training.

(e) All the pilots operating at the Bagdogra Airport have been advised to exercise extra caution while taking off.

Exploration of new Oilfields by OVL.

2667. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) proposes to go for new oilfields discovery in the countries like Vietnam, Syria, Nigeria and Egypt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the nature and kind of investment planned for these projects abroad;

(d) the details of roadmap if any, outlined for these projects; and

(e) The volume of crude oil exported so far to India from Egypt, whose new oilfield was discovered in April 2007 by OVL in collaboration with IPR Energy Red Sea Inc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) pursues acquisition/Participation Interest (PI) opportunities in Hydrocarbon rich countries including Vietnam, Syria, Nigeria and Egypt. The existing operations are enumerated as under.

Vietnam:

OVL has two exploration blocks (127 & 128) in offshore Vietnam, with an area of 9,246 sq km & 7058 sq km respectively. OVL holds 100% PI in these blocks.

Syria

OVL has drilled three Exploratory wells in Block—24 and one of them Rashid-1 is Oil Discovery well and it plans to drill two more Exploration wells in Block-24 Syria.

Nigeria:

ONGC Mittal Energy Ltd. (OMEL) a joint venture company between OVL and Mittal Investment Sarl holds two offshore exploration blocks viz. OPL-279 & OPL-285.

For OPL 279 the consortium partners are OMEL (45.5%), Total (14.5%) and Emo exploration (40%). OMEL

and Total will be carrying Emo Exploration till the "first oil". For OPL 285 the consortium partners are OMEL (64.33%) Total (25.67%) and Emo Exploration (10%).

Nigeria JDZ Block

OVL acquired 9% stake in Block 2, Nigeria-Sao Tome JDZ through ONGC Narmada Limited (100% subsidiary of OVL registered in Nigeria) in a joint bidding for the block. A' and Hatman which was awarded 10% interest in the block, farmed out 4.5% interest to OVL and 3% to Equator Exploration Limited. OVL agreed to carry the company for 12.5% interest, the resultant stake of OVL in the block is 13.5% (paying share 15%).

Egypt:

Participating Interest in **North Ramadan Block**, Gulf of Suez, Egypt for OVL and IPR is 70% and 30% respectively. It is in first Exploration Extension Phase effective from 8th Feb 09 to 7th August 2010. OVL has plans to drill an Exploration well in this block.

Nemed Block:

The partners in the Block are Shell with 51% PI as operator, OVL with 33% and Petronas with 16% PI. Development options have not been finalised.

Further plans/investments in above countries have not been finalised and will depend on the operations cited above.

(e) OVL has stakes in North Ramadan Block and NEMED Block in Egypt, from where commercial production has not commenced.

Freight Services

2668. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway zones provide adequate freight services to meet the growing demand of freight services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the investment planning chalked out in this regard?

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

Madam. Railway Zones have adequately catered to the demand for freight services. Originating freight loading on Indian Railways has grown from a level of 602.78 MT in 2004-05 to 833.31 MT in 2008-09.

(c) Expansion of network and capacity augmentation is an ongoing process. During 2009-10, construction of 250 Km. of New Line, 1300 Km. of Gauge Conversion and 700 Km. of Doubling has been planned for which outlays amounting to Rs. 4560.70 crore, 2863.75 crore and 2703.35 crore respectively has been provided. Further, an outlay of Rs. 12394.12 crore has been provided for procurement of rolling stock.

Cheaper Air Fare for Students

2669. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether various airlines have announced cheaper air fares for students travelling overseas for higher studies;

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

(c) whether such discounts by private airlines will increase their passenger shares as compared to national carriers on international sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The Government does not regulate airline fares. It is for the airlines themselves to decide fares as per their commercial judgment and competition with the other airlines operating on a particular route and having regard to all relevant factors including their cost of operations, characteristics and level of service, profit if possible and the generally prevalent tariff. However, many airlines do offer discounted fares and higher baggage allowance to students.

Construction of Overbridges at Level Crossings

2670. SHRI MAHESH JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received proposals from various States, especially from Rajasthan for construction of overbridges at level crossings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Railways on the said proposals;

(d) the locations where overbridges are to be constructed at railway level crossings, State-wise; and

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

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

(b) During 2009-10 Works Programme, in all 102 firm proposals were received from State Government out of which only one proposal was from Rajasthan for sanction on cost sharing basis during 2009-10 Works Programme. The details is as under:

State	No. of proposals
Maharashtra	4
Uttar Pradesh	12
Tamil Nadu	3
Jharkhand	1
Madhya Pradesh	4
West Bengal	5
Punjab	11
Karnataka	23
Chhattisgarh	3
Rajasthan	1
Orissa	11
Haryana	7
Andhra Pradesh	9
Gujarat	8
Total	102

(c) All the above proposals received with due undertakings from State Governments, have been sanctioned during Works programme of 2009-10 on cost sharing basis.

(d) 710 works of Road over/under bridges at various locations in the country, have been sanctioned for

construction in lieu of level crossings, on cost sharing basis during previous years. State-wise number of locations is given below:-

State	No. of works
Andhra Pradesh	91
Assam and NE Region	3
Bihar	62
Chhattisgarh	12
Delhi	19
Gujarat	15
Haryana	40
Jharkhand	20
Karnataka	38
Kerala	61
Maharashtra	25
Madhya Pradesh	8
Orissa	9
Puducherry	3
Punjab	32
Rajasthan	22
Tamil Nadu	125
Uttar Pradesh	86
Uttarakhand	1
West Bengal	37
Jammu and Kashmir	1
Total	710

(e) Railways construct bridge proper across tracks and approaches are constructed by State Government concerned, hence completion of works depends upon completion of both the portions. However, Railways make all out efforts to undertake and complete their portion of work before or concurrently with the work of approaches done by State Government/Road Authorities.

Doubling of Rail Line between Villupuram-Dindigul

2671. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been delay in implementing the doubling of Rail line between Villupuram to Dindigul which was sanctioned in the last railway budget;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Railways to expedite the said work; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. Detailed survey is in progress. Part Detailed Estimate for this project has been prepared. Project has been transferred recently to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL), a PSU under the Ministry of Railways for fast track execution.

(d) Target of completion has not yet been fixed.

[Translation]

Production of Crude Oil

2672. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:
SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

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

(a) whether production of crude oil in the country in the first two months of 2009-10 has been lower as compared to corresponding period of last year;

(b) if so, the quantum by which the production has decreased and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the production of the natural gas has increased in the said period as compared to the corresponding period of last year; and

(d) if so, the details of quantum of increase thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The production in the first two months of the year 2009-10 was lower by 0.214 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) compared to corresponding period of last year. The reasons for less production were due to natural decline from the old &

ageing fields, planned shutdown and less than envisaged gain from Improved Oil Recovery (IOR)/Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) schemes.

(c) and (d) The production of natural gas has increased by 677.35 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metre (MMSCM) in the first two months of 2009-10 compared to the corresponding period of last year.

[*English*]

Setting up of Fertilizer Plant at Namrup

2673. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced for setting up of a new grass root level fertilizer plant at Namrup in addition to the existing plants of Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. (BVFCL), Namrup;

(b) if so, the status thereof;

(c) whether any budgetary support has been sanctioned to the said project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (d) The Hon. Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers during his visit to Namrup on 26th June, 2006, declared in a public meeting the intention of the Government to explore the feasibility of setting up of Namrup-IV unit with an annual production capacity of 8–9 lakh tones of urea. The revamp of Namrup Units viz Namrup-I, II & III has been completed on 22nd November, 2005. The Company has been making losses due to low energy efficiency, as the Namrup Units consume energy more than 12.7 Gcal per MT of urea as compared to other gas based units in the country which consume energy less than 6 Gcal per MT of urea. The Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd (BVFCL) is exploring the possibility of further revamp of its Namrup units to achieve production level of 7–8 lakh MT per annum with an improved comparable energy efficiency or the alternative of setting up of Namrup-IV unit based on modern gas based technology. The Company has instituted a study through a process licensor to examine

the current status of Namrup units and recommend the best possible alternative for the Company to sustain its future operations. No final decision has been taken in the matter as the report of the process licensor is yet to be finalized.

[*Translation*]

Opening of CNG Outlets in Madhya Pradesh

2674. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CNG pumps sanctioned along Indore, Dewas, Shajapur, Gwalior National Highway and Indore-Dewas-Asta-Sehore National Highway in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the present status of these CNG pumps; and

(c) the distance at which the Government propose to provide such facility to people at the earliest in view of the heavy traffic on both highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) At present, there are five CNG stations in Indore and one CNG station in Ujjain. There are no other CNG stations operating in Madhya Pradesh. Aavantika Gas Limited (AGL) would be undertaking further expansion of CNG infrastructure in Indore and Ujjain, as also in Gwalior. Further, Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has selected GAIL Gas Ltd. for development of City Gas Distribution network in Geographical Area of Dewas.

Providing of CNG facilities in a particular city/town area depends inter alia upon proximity to trunk natural gas pipelines, availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability.

Inconvenience due to Boarding of Wait Listed Passengers in Trains

2675. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wait listed passengers forcibly enter in reserved sleeper coaches of long distance trains particularly Goa Express train No. 2780 and occupy reserved seats;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to check such practice;

(c) whether the extra side berths have not yet been removed in many trains; and

(d) if so, the time by which those berths will be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Some instances of waitlisted passengers entering the reserved coaches in trains including 2780 Goa Express have come to notice.

(b) The waitlisted passengers are not allowed to board the reserved coaches. If boarded, they are detained at the next stoppage if no vacant accommodation is available on the train. Apart from manning of the coaches, surprise checks are also conducted to check such irregular travel and persons so detected are penalized as per rules.

(c) and (d) The exercise to remove extra side berths in trains is expected to be completed during the year 2009-10.

Anti Drug Cells

2676. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up anti-drug cells to control rise in drugging of rail passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating such centres that are proposed to be set up in Orissa and Jharkand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The registration and investigation of drugging cases are carried out by the Government Railway Police of the respective States. As such, there is no proposal to open anti-drugging cell by the Railways. However, in view of increasing incidents of drugging of passengers, awareness programmes have been started at vulnerable places to create awareness among the passengers not to take any eastable from strangers.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Flights between Raipur and Delhi

2677. SHRI CHANDU LAL SAHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal to increase the number of flights between/ Raipur and Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal for introducing new direct flights to Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai from Raipur; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which these flights are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does Not arise.

(c) and (d) Domestic airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government and depending upon the traffic demand and their own commercial viability.

[English]

Railway Projects in West Bengal

2678. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of new, ongoing/pending projects, doubling of rail lines, laying of new rail lines and ROB/ RUB in West Bengal alongwith target fixed for their completion;

(b) the details of the projects which are likely to be completed during the current financial year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the said work?

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

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims

2679. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

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

(a) whether a decision was taken jointly by the Union and the State Government for the rehabilitation of the people affected by the Bhopal Gas Tragedy;

(b) if so, whether the conditions of the decision are being followed by both the Governments;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from the State Government to construct a gas tragedy memorial in Bhopal;

(e) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(f) whether the Union Government has also received a proposal to detoxify the toxic substances lying in Union Carbide premises in Bhopal; and

(g) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

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

(a) to (c) No such decision was taken that the schemes for the rehabilitation of the people affected by the Bhopal Gas Tragedy in Madhya Pradesh will be implemented jointly by the Union and State Government. However, the Central Government had approved a five year Action Plan for the Medical, Social, Economic and Environmental Rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims with a total outlay of Rs. 163.10 crore which was subsequently increased in stages to an outlay of Rs. 258 crore to be implemented by the State Government. This outlay was to be shared between the Government of India and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in the ratio of 75:25. The Central Government has already released its entire share of Rs. 193.50 crore and the Action Plan has been completed in the year 1999-2000. The State Government has been informed that if further funds were required by them for continuing the rehabilitation programmes, started under the Action Plan, such funds should be provided as a part of the State Plan in consultation with the Planning Commission.

(d) and (e) The State Government of M.P. has informed that the decision to construct a Bhopal Gas Tragedy Memorial was taken by the State Government on 23rd February, 2007. The Planning Commission has approved one time additional central assistance of Rs. 10.00 crore for this purpose, provided during 2006-07 to

the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The State Cabinet Sub-Committee has approved the conceptual plan for construction of Bhopal Gas Tragedy Memorial. The extent of Government of India's responsibility in the matter of construction of memorial is limited to the additional central assistance released to the State Government by Planning Commission. The State Government has moved an application before the Madhya Pradesh High Court, Jabalpur in Writ Petition No. 2802/2004 pending before the High Court seeking permission to start construction of the memorial. The construction will start after receiving the permission of the High Court.

(f) and (g) No such proposal has been received by the Government in this regard. However, the process of disposal of toxic wastes lying at Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) premises is being jointly funded by Government of India and Government of M.P. and monitored by the Hon'ble High Court of M.P. at Jabalpur.

[English]

Sub-Standard Quality of CRMB

2680. SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO
DUDHGAONKAR:
SHRI BALIRAM JADHAV:

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

(a) whether Government has received complaints about Crumb Rubber Modified Bitumen (CRMB) being supplied by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) from its refineries in Mathura, Panipat, Koyoli and Haldia to be of sub-standard quality not conforming to BIS specifications and even without IOCL test report of CRMB;

(b) if so, the Government's response thereto;

(c) precautions IOCL is taking to ensure that quality of CRMB dispatched is as per BIS specifications and test report is given along with every dispatch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) To ensure the quality of CRMB, IOCL is taking due precautions by way of testing CRMB in the IOCL

laboratory as per BIS specifications before release. The test report is given on demand to customers.

Speed Censors in Aircraft

2681. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directorate General of Civil Aviation has asked all Indian Carriers flying A-330s to change the speed censors of their A-330s in the wake of crash of Air France's A-330 over mid-Atlantic; and

(b) if so, the time awarded for compliance and other aspects being looked into to avoid any mishappenings in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Modified sensors already existed on all the Airbus A-330 except two of the Indian scheduled airlines. Instructions were issued to change the sensors on these two aircrafts also, which have been complied with.

[Translation]

Districts Connected with Rail Lines

2682. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have identified the districts in various States which are not connected by rail so far;

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

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Railways for providing rail connectivity to such districts;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time frame by which the work on this proposal is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There is no such policy to provide rail connectivity to each district in the country and data in this regard is not maintained.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Shortage of Aircraft

2683. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has any shortage of aircraft and most of the aircraft are quite old;

(b) if so, the total number of aircraft with the company alongwith age of these aircraft;

(c) whether the airline incurring losses due to shortage of aircraft; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The present fleet of 156 aircraft is adequate to meet its current requirements. Out of 156 aircraft, 51 are of new generation. The age of 69 old aircraft is between 15 to 28 years and the age of the remaining 36 aircraft is between 3 to 15 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Introduction of Rajdhani Train from Siwan Junction

2684. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to introduce Rajdhani Express Train from Siwan junction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to introduce Rajdhani Express train from Siwan Junction, as Rajdhani Express trains normally provide services to connect state capital with the national capital.

Gauge Conversion in Bikaner

2685. SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gauge conversion work in Bikaner Rail division is likely to be completed by January 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said gauge conversion work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The gauge conversion of Suratpura-Sriganganagar was included In Railway Budget 2008-09 and is in initial stages. Further, the gauge conversion of Sadulpur-Ratangarh-Bikaner and Sarupsar-Sriganganagar is being progressed as per availability of resources. The gauge conversion of these sections may take about 4-5 years for completion.

Disruption of Trains

2686. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of trains discontinued due to bad weather during the current year, division-wise;

(b) the total number of trains discontinued and re-started on Delhi-Howrah main route since the year 2007; and

(c) the amount of profit/losses incurred by the Railways due to such discontinuation during the above period?

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

[English]

High Air Fare for Gulf Countries

2687. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the exorbitant fare taken by airlines from the passengers travelling to the Gulf sector; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to maintain parity with other international routes vis-a-vis fares?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As Government does not regulate fares, it is for the airlines to decide fares as per its commercial judgment and compete with the other airlines operating on a particular route having regard to all relevant factors including the cost of operations, levels of service, reasonable profit if possible and the prevalent tariff. However, Air India Express offers reasonably competitive fares on many routes to the Gulf.

[Translation]

Nasik Railway Station

2688. SHRI SONAWANE PRATAP NARAYANRAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received a proposal to develop the Nasik Road Railway station into a terminal station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No proposal has been received for developing Nasik Road station with a terminal station.

[English]

Railway Land

2689. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Haryana had proposed to enter into an agreement with the Northern Railway for afforestation and management of waste lands along rail lines in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the status of the proposal as on date; and

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

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

Madam. State Forest Department, Government of Haryana has proposed to enter into an agreement with Northern Railway in respect of management of Railway land in the State of Haryana for afforestation. However, the agreement could not mature because of the fact that Railway land given earlier to Forest Department, Government of Haryana had been declared as 'Protected Forest' under Indian Forest Act, 1927 by Haryana Government. Due to this declaration, Railways are unable to undertake cutting/pruning of trees, which obstruct signals and thereby affects safe train operations. Railways are also unable to carry out emergency works as well as developmental works due to the declaration of Railway land as 'Protected Forest'.

Suitable modifications to the draft agreement have been suggested by Northern Railway to safeguard against the above. The execution of agreement is subject to the acceptance of suggested changes by the Forest Department, Government of Haryana.

Merger of Konkan Railway

2690. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to merge Konkan Railway with the Indian Railways and extending parity in pay to the employees of Konkan Railways at par with the Indian Railway employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) On recommendation of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) and Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE), Government have decided on 04.12.2008 that Konkan Railway will continue as Central Public Sector Undertaking even after discharge of its liabilities. KRCL has employees drawing pay in Central Dearness Allowance (CDA) as well as in industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA) scales of pay and their pay is fixed/regulated as per existing Government policies for respective scales of pay.

Rail Bridge Over Brahmaputra River

2691. SHRI JOSEPH TOPPO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to build rail bridge over Brahmaputra river to connect the north Assam with southern part of upper Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the bridge is likely to be build up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The construction of Bogibeel Rail cum Road Bridge over river Brahmaputra near Dibrugarh has been taken up. The South Bank line from Moranhat to Dibrugarh (44 Km) has been completed. The bridge is targeted for completion by March, 2014.

Sabarmati Railway Station as Terminal Station

2692. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has proposed to develop Sabarmati Railway Station in Ahmedabad as terminal station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Private Sector Steel Companies

2693. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and other public sector steel plants are facing stiff competition with the private sector steel companies and global steel companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to enable the public sector steel companies to face the competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The steel sector is deregulated in the country and the public sector steel plants, including the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), are facing competition from both private sector steel companies and global steel companies. In order to face this competition, both SAIL and RINL have undertaken ambitious expansion and modernization programmes. SAIL's programme is underway for enhancing its annual hot metal production capacity from the present level of around 14 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 26.2 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), of which 23.46 million tonnes per annum is to be attained in the first phase. Similarly RINL's ongoing programme seeks to enhance its annual liquid steel production capacity from the present level of 3.0 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 6.3 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). Besides capacity enhancement, the growth plans of SAIL and RINL will enhance efficiency by elimination of technological obsolescence, enrich product mix and improve techno-economic parameters like energy efficiency and pollution control.

[*Translation*]

Shifting of Railway Projects from Bihar to West Bengal

2694. DR. BHOLA SINGH:
SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to shift two proposed rail projects from Chhapra and Madhepura in Bihar to West Bengal.; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Muzaffarpur Airport

2695. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for renovation of Muzaffarpur airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to start air services from Muzaffarpur to Patna, Delhi etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Muzaffarpur airport is a non-operational airport belonging to Airports Authority of India (AAI) which has been selected by AAI for taking up the feasibility study through the Consultant M/s. RITES, for its revival to facilitate commercial operations. M/s. RITES in their reports have indicated that there is not much scope/ potential for development of this airport. In addition, no airline operator has shown its commitment interest to operate to from this airport. Therefore, AAI has no plan to develop this airport at present. However, the nearest operational airport from Muzaffarpur is Patna airport which is at a distance of 63 kms. by road.

[*English*]

Revival of Fertilizer Plants

2696. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to float global tenders to revive eight closed fertilizer plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total investment needed for the revival of these plants; and

(d) the terms and conditions being offered to the bidders, including foreign companies which might participate in bidding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) Pursuant to the Government's decision dated 30th October, 2008, necessary steps for revival of Barauni Unit of HFCL is being undertaken by M/s. Urvarak Videsh Ltd. (UVL), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) promoted by two public sector undertakings and a multi-state cooperative society which are under the Administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers. For the revival of the other closed units of Fertilizer

Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL), various options are being examined by an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) constituted for the purpose. As regards floating of global tenders, appropriate decision will be taken by the ECOS as and when the financial and economic model for revival of each unit is finalized. It is not feasible to estimate the total investment needed, at this stage.

Jan Aushadhi Outlets

2697. SHRI BALIRAM JADHAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jan Aushadhi outlets have been opened so far in the country, location-wise;

(b) the parameters of identifying the cities, locations and dealers for setting up of Jan Aushadhi outlets;

(c) whether the Government has set up any annual target for setting up of such outlets;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent black-marketing and pilferage from such outlets?

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

(a) At present, 14 Jan Aushadhi Outlets have been opened in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan, as follows:-

State	District	Nos.
Punjab	Amritsar	1
	Mohali	1
	Bhatinda	1
	Ludhiyana	1
	Jalandhar	1
	Patiala	1
	Faridkot	1
Haryana	Moga	1
	Panchkula	1
	Gurgaon	1
NCT of Delhi	New Delhi (in Shastri Bhawan)	1
Rajasthan	Jaipur	2
	Alwar	1
Total		14

(b) Jan Aushadhi Outlets have been opened by Pharma Central Public Sector undertakings with the co-operation of State Governments in District Hospitals identified by the States. These Outlets are managed by State Government or Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) nominated by State Government.

(c) and (d) The opening of Jan Aushadhi Outlets depends on the facilities that may be offered by the States in District Hospitals etc. Government has plans to open 270 Jan Aushadhi Outlets in 2009-10.

(e) The unbranded generic medicines are sold in Jan Aushadhi Outlets in specially designed packs. The sale price is printed on the strips/labels. Further software has been provided to these Outlets enabling them to account for purchase and sales.

[Translation]

Air Link to Medium-level Cities

2698. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working on a plan to develop new airports in order to provide airlink to the medium-level cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received proposals to develop air facilities in other cities also in addition to capital Raipur in Chhattisgarh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government of India has accorded "in principle" approval for setting up of new Greenfield airport at Navi Mumbai & Sindhudurg in Maharashtra; Mopa in Goa; Kannur in Kerala; Bijapur, Simoga, Hassan and Gulbarga in Karnataka; Pekiyoung in Sikkim; Dabra (Gwalior) in Madhya Pradesh; Durgapur in West Bengal.

(c) and (d) The proposals for setting up of new Greenfield airport at Greater Noida and Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh; Jhajjar in Haryana; Chakan, Shirdi and Solapur in Maharashtra; Ludhiana in Punjab; Palladi in Rajasthan; Ankleshwar in Gujarat; Karaikal in Puducherry; Ramnad in Tamil Nadu have been received by the Government of India, which are at preliminary stage.

*[English]***Patented Medicines for Export**

2699. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to allow its drugs companies to manufacture patented medicines for export to poor countries;

(b) if so, the detail thereof; and

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

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

(a) At present Central Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of this Department do not manufacture patented drugs and there is no proposal under consideration to allow these companies to manufacture patented drugs for export to poor countries. However, the Indian Patent Act contains provisions which allow drug companies to manufacture patented medicines for exports.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.

*[Translation]***Shortage of Trains**

2700. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of daily commuters on Saharsa-Mansi and Saharsa-Patna routes of East Central Railway;

(b) whether the Railways are aware of the inconvenience of daily passengers because of inadequate number of express/shuttle trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of approximate number of daily commuters are as under:

Saharsa-Mansi : 3139

Saharsa-Mansi route to Patna side : 5536

From Patna side to and on
Saharsa-Mansi section : 6160

(b) to (d) At present, seven pairs of Express trains and three pairs of passengers trains are serving Saharsa-Mansi section and two pairs of Express trains are serving Saharsa-Patna section, which are considered adequate to cater to present level of traffic.

*[English]***Mobile Charging Facility in Sleeper Coaches**

2701. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to provide mobile phone charging facility in sleeper coaches in all trains including Saurashtra Mail and Saurashtra Janta Express and others; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Railways have planned to provide mobile phone charging facility in sleeper coaches of every train, including Saurashtra Mail and Saurashtra Janta Express, in a phased manner. So far, out of 27 sleeper coaches of three rakes of Saurashtra Mail, the facility of mobile charging points has been provided in 5 sleeper coaches and similarly out of 26 sleeper coaches of two rakes of Saurashtra Janta Express, only one sleeper coach has been provided with this facility. It is planned to provide mobile charging points in remaining sleeper class coaches of above trains by the end of year 2009-10.

Reservation System at Sahibabad Railway Station

2702. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI PRATAPRAO GANPATRAO JADHAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways are planning to operationalize passenger reservation system at Sahibabad Railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have any plans to construct RuB/RoB near Sahibabad Railway Station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The PRS at Sahibabad Railway Station has been sanctioned. The new station building at Sahibabad, which will house the PRS, is likely to be ready shortly.

(c) and (d) The proposal for construction of road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 156 near Sahibabad Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh, received from the Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA), has been sanctioned on deposit terms basis.

Heritage Railway Station

2703. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have announced Mumbai (CST) as heritage railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to declare Thane railway station as a heritage railway station with the International facilities; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said proposals are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Mumbai CST has been inscribed as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in June, 2004.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Greenfield Airports

2704. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is building some green field airports in the country;

(b) if so, the places identified for the establishment of such airports;

(c) whether any such airports are proposed to be set up in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) 'In-principle' approval for setting up of new greenfield airports at Navi Mumbai & Sindhudurg in Maharashtra; Mopa in Goa; Kannur in Kerala; Bijapur, Simoga, Gulbarga & Hassan in Karnataka; Andal (Durgapur) in West Bengal; Peking in Sikkim & Dabra/Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh (Cargo) have been accorded by the Government of India.

(c) and (d) A proposal for setting up of greenfield airport at Paladi in Rajasthan has been received.

Popularising Kota Doria Sarees

2705. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to promote the weaving, marketing and export of Kota Doria sarees; and

(b) the details of export of Kota Doria sarees during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Government of India has been implementing the following schemes and programmes to promote the weaving, marketing and export of handloom products including Kota Doria Sarees:-

(i) Integrated Handloom Development Scheme

(ii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

(iii) Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme

(iv) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme

(v) Scheme for Supply of Yarn at Mill Gate Price

The State Government of Rajasthan had also sanctioned Rs. 318.21 lakh in 2005-06 for Kota Doria

Cluster for the benefit of Kota Doria weavers. Rajasthan Urban Development Agency (RUDA) is the nodal agency for implementation of the project. The project will be continued till March 2010. The State Government has obtained Geographical Indications (GI) registration for Kota Doria under the Geographical Indications of Goods Act 1999 and obtained "Logo" for Kota Doria.

- (b) Item-wise export data is not maintained.

Upgradation of Agra Airport

2706. PROF. RAMSHANKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that airport facilities are lacking in Agra due to which the foreign and domestic tourists have been facing a lot of difficulties;

- (b) if so, the steps taken to improve the facilities;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal for upgrading the airport at Agra before the Commonwealth games; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Agra airport has been identified as one of the 35 Non-Metro airports for upgradation and modernization. As a part of developmental works, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already completed major works like expansion and modification of terminal building to cater for 500 passengers, and provision of customs and immigration facilities to handle limited international chartered flights.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Renovation of Terminal building has been completed. Expansion of apron to accommodate 2 RJ-70 type of aircraft has been planned.

Increase of Passenger Bogies

2707. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long standing demand of people of Baroda to increase six more passenger bogies in train No. 9113-9114, operating between Vadodara-Vapi-Valsad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. 9113/9114 Vadodara-Bhilad Express is running with a composition of 12 coaches. Attachment of additional coaches is not feasible at present due to operational constraints.

[*Translation*]

National Wakf Development Agency

2708. DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up National Wakf Development Agency in the country; and

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is expected to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Government has approved, in principle, restructuring of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC). Setting up of a National Wakf Development Agency will be a part of this restructuring. The details of the proposal are to be finalized.

[*English*]

Plight of Employees in Garment Industries

2709. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken the cognizance of the pitiable working conditions and low wages of the employees working in the garment industries in the country including Kerala;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the working conditions and the wages of the said employees in the country;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government has not received any reports regarding pitiable working conditions and low wages of the employees of the garment industry of the country including Kerala. The working condition and wages of persons employed in industry, including the garment industry, are regulated under various Acts viz. Factories Act, Minimum wages Act, Payment of Wages, etc. which are enforced by the Central and State Governments.

Cooch Behar and Balurghat Airports

2710. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:
SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central team has visited the non-operational Cooch Behar and Balurghat Airports recently;

(b) if so, the findings of the team in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the said airports are likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The Technical Team of M/s. RITES Ltd., appointed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) inspected Balurghat airport as one of the non-operational airports of AAI to be examined for the viability of revival to facilitate commercial operations. Cooch Behar airport is an operational airport w.e.f. 15th November, 2007. However, no airline operator has shown interest to operate to/from Cooch Behar airport.

(b) and (c) M/s. RITES has submitted its report in December, 2008, wherein it is indicated that there is not much scope/potential for development of Balurghat airport. In addition, no airline operator has shown its commitment/interest to operate to/from this airport. Therefore, AAI has no plan to develop this airport at present.

Callous Behaviour of Airlines

2711. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints from passengers about the callous behaviour of several carriers are on the increase;

(b) if so, the main causes of complaints; and

(c) the steps taken for the satisfactory redressal of the complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Complaints of scheduled domestic airlines have been received from passengers regarding missing/lost baggage, refund of tickets in case of delays/cancellations, denial of facilities like wheel chair, meals/snacks in case of delayed flights, etc.

These complaints have been taken up with the airlines for redressal.

All the airlines have been advised to display on their respective websites various facilities offered to the passengers, both in terms of free and chargeable, in a conspicuous manner so that passengers are aware of these before booking air tickets. Airlines also refund the tickets as per regulations issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

[Translation]

Printing the Names of Medicines in Hindi/English

2712. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to make it mandatory to print the names of medicines in Hindi alongwith English and also their price;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it would also be made mandatory for the drug manufacturing companies to print maximum retail price alongwith the name; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Based on the decision taken in the meeting of Pharmaceutical Advisory Forum held on 11.2.2006, this Department had requested various Pharmaceutical Industry Associations to print the name, price, date of manufacturing and expiry on medicinal labels in Hindi also. No formal notification/order has been issued in this regard.

(c) and (d) In terms of this Department's Order S.O. 946 (E) dated the 26th June, 2006, the drug manufacturing companies are required to print Maximum Retail Price (MRP), inclusive of all taxes on packs of medicine manufactured on or after 2nd October, 2006. However, for imported formulations, MRP inclusive of all taxes was made applicable w.e.f. 1.3.2007.

[English]

Irregularities in Punjab and Haryana High Courts

2713. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has examined the report submitted by the Punjab Vigilance Bureau about the malpractices and irregularities in the functioning of judicial system in the Punjab and Haryana High Courts; and

(b) if so, the findings of the report and the steps being taken to streamline the functioning of the judicial system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No such report has been received in the Department of Justice.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Pending Rail Projects of Jharkhand

2714. SHRI ARJUN MUNDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether five railway projects of Jharkhand are pending for approval for the last many years;

(b) if so, the reasons behind delay; and

(c) the time by which the said projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) As per available records, no such proposal for taking up five new line projects has been received from State Government of Jharkhand.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Use of Jute Bags

2715. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has diluted the policy of compulsory using jute bags for packing of food articles;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Indian Jute Mill Association has requested the Government to come up with comprehensive policy/package for Jute Industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of funds that have been made available during the last three years for promotion of Jute Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government, from time to time, receives suggestions from various stakeholders, including Indian Jute Mills Association for improvement of Jute Industry. The suggestions are acted upon based on the merit of the case. Ministry is implementing a comprehensive Jute Technology Mission which has schemes for promotion and development of Jute Industry as well.

(e) The details of funds made available during the last three years to various organizations that work for Jute Industry are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Agency	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Jute Corporation of India	28.0	30.00	36.60
Jute Technology Mission	—	37.50	58.00
Indian Jute Industry Research Association	—	2.35	1.69
National Jute Manufactures Corporation	712.21	240.62	114.83
Bird Jute Export Limited	0.20	0.35	0.49
Jute manufactures Development Council	36.00	38.00	38.00
Total	776.41	348.82	249.61

Surat Airport

2716. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether development work of Surat Airport has

been completed;

(b) if so, the number of scheduled flights are operated at Surat Airport;

(c) the major cities, directly connected by air with Surat Airport and future planning to increase number of flights and air connectivity from Surat Airport; and

(d) the time by which the terminal building of Surat Airport would become operational for all purposes?

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

(b) Presently, there is only one flight being operated on the Delhi-Surat-Delhi Sector six days a week.

(c) Domestic Airlines Operators are free to operate anywhere in India including Surat airport depending upon commercial viability, traffic potential and available infrastructure at airports and subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

(d) The new Terminal Building has already been commissioned in June, 2008.

[Translation]

Shortage of Coaches

2717. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passengers travelling between Mehsana-Tarenga are facing a lot of difficulties due to shortage of coaches; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Railways to increase the number of coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. At present three pairs of DEMU trains are running between Mehasana-Tarenga Hill, which are adequate to cater to the present level of traffic.

Computerized Ticket Reservation

2718. SHRI KADIR RANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to open a computerized reservation centre at Khatauli railway station in Muzaffarnagar district in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There is a no such proposal at present. However, PRS centre is available at Muzaffarnagar and Meerut Cantonment.

[English]

Rail Line From Barmer to Abu Road

2719. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to construct rail line from Barmer to Abu Road via Sanchor-Ranivada;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the budgetary allocation for the project;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Barmer and Abu Road are already connected by broad gauge railway line via Marwar. No such survey for the new line from Barmer to Abu Road via Raniwara has been taken up.

[Translation]

Food Processing Units in Uttar Pradesh

2720. SHRIMATI USHA VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food processing units functioning in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) the details of the products exported by these units, industry-wise and quantity-wise; and

(c) the details of foreign exchange earned by these units during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The data on number of food processing units functioning in the State & the whole country, details of products exported and foreign exchange earned by these units,

is not centrally maintained by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The Ministry extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant & machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries. However, the financial assistance provided to the various units under the scheme in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years i.e. 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is Rs. 840.948 lakhs, Rs. 1123.425 lakhs and Rs. 875.475 lakhs respectively.

[English]

Voting Percentage

2721. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

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

(a) whether the voting percentage has not increased substantially and in many States of the country the voting percentage is very low in the general elections particularly in the last general election;

(b) if so, the details of the voting percentage in the last general election, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring a comprehensive electoral reforms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The process of reform of electoral laws is a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties. Over the years, the electoral laws of the country have been strengthened by taking new need-based measures and as also by removing the loopholes in the existing laws. Therefore, it is not possible to give details in this regard. The 22 proposals on electoral reforms are presently under examination of Hon'ble Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice. In respect of which the report is awaited.

Statement

Comparative statement Showing Voting Percentages Since The First General Elections to the Lok Sabha

Year	Total Electorate	Total no. of votes polled	Percentage of votes polled
1951-1952	173,212,343	105,950,083	44.87%
1957	193,652,179	120,513,915	45.44%
1962	216,361,569	119,904,284	55.42%
1967	250,207,401	152,724,611	61.04%
1971	274,189,132	151,536,802	55.27%
1977	321,174,327	194,263,915	60.49%
1980	356,205,329	202,752,893	56.92%
1984	379,540,608	241,246,887	63.56%
1989	498,906,129	309,050,495	61.95%
1991	498,363,801	282,700,942	56.73%
1996	592,572,288	343,308,090	57.94%
1998	605,880,192	375,441,739	61.97%
1999	619,536,847	371,679,104	59.99%
2004	671,487,930	389,948,330	58.07%
2009	716,676,081	417,158,644	58.21%

General Election to Lok Sabha, 2009 (State-Wise Voter Turnout)

State/Union Territories	Total No. of Parliamentary Constituencies	Total Votes Polled	Total Electors	Poll Percentage
Andhra Pradesh	42	42046920	57897645	72.62
Arunachal Pradesh	2	500642	735799	68.04
Assam	14	12141171	17470161	69.5
Bihar	40	24232597	54491790	44.47
Goa	2	564255	1020794	55.28
Gujarat	26	17472865	36484290	47.89
Haryana	10	8156553	12087697	67.48
Himachal Pradesh	4	2690290	4606674	58.4
Jammu and Kashmir	6	2607335	6573118	39.67
Karnataka	28	24572713	41526941	59.17
Kerala	20	16034875	21865458	73.33
Madhya Pradesh	29	19484608	38082678	51.16
Maharashtra	48	36991261	72928907	50.72
Manipur	2	1339399	1735979	77.16
Meghalaya	2	822566	1277739	64.38
Mizoram	1	325991	629384	51.8
Nagaland	1	1189601	1321878	89.99
Orissa	21	17761984	27194864	65.31
Punjab	13	11829304	16958378	69.75
Rajasthan	25	17931593	37060003	48.39
Sikkim	1	251751	300584	83.75
Tamil Nadu	39	30390968	41642466	72.98
Tripura	2	1758501	2082265	84.45
Uttar Pradesh	80	55407107	116033151	47.75
West Bengal	42	42730548	52486980	81.41
Chhattisgarh	11	8554843	15472137	55.29
Jharkhand	14	9135818	17875221	51.11
Uttarakhand	5	3140045	5887628	53.33
Andman and Nicobar Islands	1	170103	265110	64.16
Chandigarh	1	343557	524444	65.51
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	110363	154212	71.57
Daman and Diu	1	68024	95382	71.32
NCT of Delhi	7	5753047	11097892	51.84
Lakshadweep	1	39498	45983	85.9
Puducherry	1	607948	762440	79.74

Wine Production

2722. DR. K.S. RAO:

SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of wine production in the country, its import and demand in the domestic market;

(b) the amount of excise and other duties collected each year during the last three years from wine production and sale;

(c) whether wine producers in the country are facing difficulties in getting production licence and to tackle with the excise during structure of every State;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The data on wine production and consumption is not maintained centrally by this Ministry. However, the details of import of wine is as under:

(Quantity in litres)	
Year	Import of Wine
2006-07	1839922
2007-08	3211236
2008-09 (Upto Feb' 09)	2957578

(Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata)

(b) The excise and other duties on wine is a State Subject, hence, the Ministry does not maintain any data on it.

(c) to (e) The issue of production licence and excise duty in wine sector comes under the purview of State Governments.

Crude Oil Production by Rii

2723. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has stopped production of crude oil at KG-D-6 block in the recent past;

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

(c) whether the RIL has sold 4,50,000 barrel of oil to Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL), a refinery near Chennai;

(d) if so, the reasons for offer at a discount of \$5.34 a barrel to internationally traded price;

(e) whether any investigations are held to find out the rationale for sale of oil at a discounted rate to CPCL by RIL; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. It was a planned shutdown for 10 days in the month of May 2009 for installation and hookup of phase-II development facilities to Floating Production, Storage and Off loading Vessel (FPSO)

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) to (f) The price of crude has been bench-marked with Bonny light. The discount of \$ 5.34/ barrel has been worked out on the basis of negotiations between contractor and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., (HPCL), and Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) on considerations of quality of crude oil transportation, costs, delivery time, quantity and other terms provided under production sharing contract. However, the negotiated price is a provisional price.

Shortage of LPG Gas Cylinder

2724. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR:

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

(a) whether there is acute shortage of LPG gas in U.P., Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the supply of LPG cylinder within 24 hours of the booking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country including in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Gujarat and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

(c) OMCs have reported that they have instructed all the distributors to effect the supply of LPG cylinder to the genuine domestic customers within 48 hours of refill booking under normal circumstances.

Agreement for Rail Road System

2725. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have signed agreements with several Asian and European countries for linking their rail road system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the economic benefit likely to be achieved through the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) India has signed the Inter Governmental Agreement on the Trans Asian Railway Network in June 2007 at United Nations Headquarters, New York. The agreement has come into force in June 2009 after eight signatories ratified the agreement. The Southern corridor of Trans Asian Railway network provides rail link via India between Asia and Europe. The link commences from Kunming in China and Bangkok in Thailand and ends in Kapikule in Bulgaria having total length of 11,460 Kilometers, passing among other countries through Myanmar, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

(c) The Trans Asian Railway network will provide viable land route to promote trade relations with the Middle East, Central Asia and South-East Asia & Europe.

It has good potential for container traffic movement between South-East Asia, South Asia and Europe and between Central and South Asia. Due to reduced transit time, the increased trade will bring benefit to the countries of the region.

Impact of Cheaper Airfare on Passenger Traffic in Railways

2726. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the airlines have given Railways a tough competition by reducing their fares drastically;

(b) if so, the extent to which volume of passenger traffic has been affected due to cheaper airfare; and

(c) the strategy chalked out by the Railways to deal with the competitive signal given by the aviation sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Railways and Airlines are not strictly comparable as they serve largely different passenger market segments. Indian Railways are lifeline of the nation; carrying 18 million passengers per day including 10 million suburban passengers. Every day Railways run 10385 trains, including 8248 suburban/passenger trains. Railways are more energy efficient and environment-friendly.

Some of the steps taken by Railways to meet the ever-growing passenger transportation demands are- introduction of additional trains including non-stop Duronto trains; enhancing carrying capacity of more popular trains; enlarging facilities for sale of both reserved and unreserved tickets, including proliferation of e-ticketing system.

[Translation]

Special Courts

2727. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up special courts for speedy disposal of the large number of pending cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Speedy disposal of pending cases is within the domain of Judiciary. However, Government has taken various measures to facilitate speedy disposal of cases in courts;

- (1) Increasing the strength of judges in the High Courts and Supreme Court.
- (2) Introduction of the scheme of 'Fast Track Courts' which has been extended upto 31.3.2010. Fast Track Courts were set-up to expedite disposal of long pending sessions cases and the cases of undertrial prisoners. As per the information received, 25.07 lakh cases have been disposed of by these courts out of 31.01 lakh cases transferred to them.
- (3) Introduction of some legislative measures for improvement in judicial procedure and for expediting disposal of civil and criminal cases in courts. The Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code have been amended and the concept of 'Plea-Bargaining' has been introduced.
- (4) Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration have been encouraged.
- (5) Other measures like grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, setting up of special courts and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals have also been taken.
- (6) Steps have also been taken for modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts. Government is implementing a scheme for computerization of District & Subordinate Courts and for upgradation of the Information and Communication Technology infrastructure of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.
- (7) Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 (Act 4 of 2009) has been enacted, which provides for establishment of nearly 5067 Gram Nyayalayas and will bring justice at the door step of the rural people.

There is no proposal to set up any special courts for disposal of pending cases.

[English]

Mumbai Urban Transport Project

2728. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cost of rail components of Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) and the Central and State cost sharing pattern of the project;

(b) the total cost of rail components of (BUTP-II) project;

(c) the progress made so far in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Total cost of the Rail components of MUTP Phase I and Phase II are Rs. 4175 crore and Rs. 5300 crore respectively to be shared equally by Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra.

The Bombay Urban Transport Project-II (BUTP-II) was renamed as Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) after re-christening of Bombay as Mumbai. MUTP-II has been sanctioned in the Railway Budget 2008-09. The project has been planned for implementation in two parts. The 1st part, MUTP-2A includes, Procurement of new EMUs rakes, DC to AC conversion, Maintenance facilities for EMUs & Stabling lines for EMUs.

The executing agencies viz. Central Railways, Western Railway and Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation (MRVC) have been assigned the sub-projects and work has commenced.

(d) The MUTP-II project is targeted to be completed by 2013-14.

Handloom Weavers

2729. SHRI C. SIVASAMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the textile items which are exclusively reserved for handloom sector;

(b) the present usage pattern of 'single mat' variety of handloom produced at Bhavani in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether any representation has been received from the handloom weavers of Tamil Nadu regarding non-availability of 'single mat' variety of handloom for their end use; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes. Eleven textile articles with some specifications are reserved for exclusive production on handloom under Handloom Reservation Order 2008 vide S.O. 2160 (E) dt. 03.09.2008 vide Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

(b) The Government is aware of present usage pattern of 'Single Mat' variety of handloom produced at Bhavani in Tamil Nadu is for Exports.

(c) No. This office has not received any such representation from handlooms weavers of Tamil Nadu.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of Steel Plants

2730. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of steel plants set up in the country including Jharkand during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the number of new plants those have been made funtional and commenced production during the said period; and

(c) the employment generated by each such plants during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) The details of MoUs signed alongwith the name of companies for setting up of iron and steel plants in mineral rich states Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh during the last three years & current year and the present status of projects, employment generated as per the MoUs state-wise and project-wise are given in the enclosed statement as per the record of information available in the Ministry of Steel, and as per the inputs furnished by the concerned state Governments.

Statement

List of Steel Plant Projects for which MoUs have been signed with the State Government of Orissa

Sl. No	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity in MTPA	Estimated Employment generated				Date of signing of MoU	Present status & progress
				Direct		Indirect			
				State	Outside state	State	Outside state		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	M/s. Welspun Power & Steel Ltd.	Tangi-Choudwar of Cuttack & Darpani of Jaipur district	3.00	6	12	14	1	01.10.2006	Land acquisition is under progress
2.	M/s. Uttam Galva Steels Ltd.	Location is yet to finalized	3.00	10	1	—	—	3.10.2006	Land acquisition is under progress
3.	M/s. Arcellor Mittal India Ltd.	Patna, Keonjhar	12.00 (in two phase	25	2	120	4	21.12.2006	Land has been identified. The DPR has not submitted.
4.	M/s. SSL Energy Ltd.	Nuahata near Banarpal, Angul	3.00	3	3	—	6	21.12.2006	Land acquisition is under progress

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	M/s. MGM Steels Ltd.	Nimdiha, Motagaon, Dehkanal	0.25	87	—	72	—	22.12.2006	Land acquisition is under progress
6.	M/s. Surendra Mining Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Barahamusa, Bonai, Sundergarh	0.25	149	—	14	—	22.12.2006	Commence production of sponge iron
7.	M/s. Crackers India (Alloys) Ltd.	Gobardhanpur, Konjhar	0.25	128	6	21	2	22.12.2006	Commence production of sponge iron
8.	M/s. Brahamani River Pellet Ltd.	Tonto, Nalda in Keonjhar & Duburi in Jaipur	4.0 (Pelletation Plant)	26	19	622	66	15.03.2008	Production not started
9.	M/s. Pradhan Steel & Power (P) Ltd.	Durusia, Athagada, Cuttack	0.50	14	—	3	—	29.01.2008	Production not started
10.	M/s. Tecton Ispat Private Ltd.	Tarkabeda, Dhenkanal	0.25	50	—	—	—	29.01.2008	Production not started
11.	M/s. Atha Mines Private Ltd.	Tarkabeda, Dhenkanal	0.25	—	—	—	—	29.01.2008	Production not started

List of Iron & Steel Plant Projects for which MoUs have been signed with the State Government of Jharkhand

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity in MTPA	Estimated Employment generated	Date of Signing MoU	Present status & progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	M/s. Essel Mining Industries Ltd.	Jagnathpur, W. Singhbhum	Integrated Steel Plant—1.73	—	05.05.06	Production not started
2.	M/s. Sesa Goa Limited	Saraikela-Kharswan	Integrated Steel Plant-0.5	—	07.09.06	Production not started
3.	M/s. Mukund Steel	Barlanga, Hazaribag	Integrated Steel Plant-2.0	—	07.09.06	Production not started
4.	M/s. Feegrade & Company Pvt. Ltd.	Guraa & Rangamati W. Singhbhum	Integrated Steel Plant-03	—	11.09.06	Production not started
5.	M/s. Bonai Industrial Company Limited	Kundubera & Singh Pokharia, W. Singhbhum	Integrated Steel Plant-0.25	—	11.09.06	Production not started

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	M/s. Rungta Mines Limited	Gaisuti, W. Singhbhum	Integrated Steel Plant-4.5 (Additional)	25	11.09.06	Partially commissioned
7.	M/s. Vini Iron & Steel Udyog Limited	Lupungdin, Chandil, Saraikela Kharswan	Integrated Steel Plant—0.6	—	14.09.06	Production not started
8.	M/s. Narsingh Ispat Limited	Khunti, Chandil, Saraikela Kharswan	Integrated steel plant-1.0	—	14.09..06	Production not started
9.	M/s. Core Steel & Power Ltd.	Musabani, Ghatsila, E. Singhbhum	Mini Steel-1.0	—	29.12.06	Production not started
10.	M/s. Ispat Industry Ltd.	Kara, Khunti	Integrated Steel Plant-2.8	—	12.01.07	Production not started
11.	M/s. Ma Chandi Durga Ispat Ltd.	Nala Block Jamtara	Integrated Steel Plant-1.1	—	09.02.07	Production not started
12.	M/s. Jagdamba Fiscal Services Ltd.	Raneshwar, Sikaripara, Dumka	Integrated Steel Plant-1.1	—	09.02.07	Production not started
13.	M/s. Brahmi Impex Ltd.	Ajialpur Balablock, Jamtara	Integrated Steel Plant-1.1	—	09.02.07	Production not started
14.	M/s. Adhunik Corporation Ltd.	Kumrabad, Dumka	Integrated Steel Plant-1.1	—	09.02.07	Production not started
15.	M/s. Traingle Trading Pvt. Ltd.	Saraikela-Kharswan	Steel Plant-0.24	—	14.02.07	Production not started
16.	M/s. Premier Ferro Alloys & Securities Ltd.	Barlanga, Ranchi	Steel Plant-1.0	—	23.02.07	Production not started
17.	M/s. Pushp Steel & Mining (P) Ltd.	Chandil, Saraikela-Kharswan	Steel Plant-0.25	—	24.02.07	Production not started
18.	M/s. Sarthak Industries Ltd.	Raj Kharswan	Steel Plant-2.2	—	26.02.07	Production not started
19.	M/s. Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.	Patratu	Steel Plant-6.0	—	08.11.07	Production not started
20.	M/s. Bhushan Power & Steel Limited	Potka	Integrated Steel Plant-3.0	—	07.09.06	Production not started
21.	M/s. Maa Chhinmastika Sponge Iron Ltd.	Ramgarh	Integrated Steel Plant- 1.0	75	09.07.08	Partially commissioned

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22.	M/s. Maa Chhinmastika Cement and Ispat Pvt. Ltd.	Ramgarh	Integrated Steel Plant-0.128	50	09.07.08	Partially commissioned
23.	M/s. V.M. Salgaocar & Brothers Pvt. Ltd.	Gatishila	Integrated Mini Steel Plant- 0.5	—	11.07.08	Production not started
24.	M/s. Ramgarh Sponge Iron Pvt. Ltd.	Hosir, Hazaribagh	Steel Plant-0.25	75	14.07.08	Partially commissioned
25.	M/s. SKS Ispat and Power Ltd.	Kanchi Bundu, Ranchi	Steel Plant-1.3	—	07.08.08	Production not started
26.	M/s. Jupiter Iron Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Ramgarh	Steel Plant-0.25	—	07.08.08	Production not started
27.	M/s. Essar Steel Jharkhand Limited	West Singhbhum	Intergrated steel plant - 6.0	—	06.07.07	Production not started
28.	M/s. Electro Steel Integrated Ltd.	Babugram, Chandankyari Block, Bokaro	Integrated steel Plant- 3.0	—	01.02.08	Production not started
29.	M/s. Bhushan Steel Limited	Galudih, East Singhbhum	Integrated steel plant- 3.1	—	04.01.08	Production not started
30.	M/s. Corporate Ispat Alloys Ltd.	Saraikela-Kharswan	Integrated steel plant-2.5	—	14.08.08	Production not started

List of Steel Plant Projects for which MoUs have been signed with the State Government of Chhattisgarh

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity in MTPA	Estimated Employment generated	Date of signing of MoU	Present status & progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	M/s. Ind Synergy Limited	Raigarh	Sponge Iron-0.40	303	06.10.2006	Partially commissioned
2.	M/s. Shree Bajranj Power and Ispat Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Sponge Iron-0.60 Blast Furnace-0.231	576	06.10.2006	Production not started
3.	M/s. SKS Ispat Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Sponge Iron-0.33 Mini Blast Furnace-0.5	1250	06.10.2006	Production not started
4.	M/s. Raipur Alloys and Steel Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Sponge Iron-0.50 Steel-0.24	50	06.10.2006	Production not started

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	M/s. Shree Bajrang Metallics and Power Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Pig Iron-0.060	2300	21.10.2006	Production not started
6.	M/s. Rajesh Strips Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Steel Melting Shop-0.30	52	18.05.2007	Production not started
7.	M/s. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Blast Furnace-0.32	3500	18.05.2007	Production not started
8.	M/s. Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd.	Rajnand gaon	Integrated Steel Making Facility-1.2	1250	06.10.2006	Production not started
9.	M/s. Monnet Ispat and Energy Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Naharpalli, Raigarh	Blast Furnace-1.0 Sponge Iron for captive use-0.40	570	04.05.2007	Production not started
10.	M/s. Vandana Ispat Limited	Borai, Durg, Anjora, Rajnand gaon	Integrated Steel Plant-0.83 Steel Melting Shop-0.75	650	04.05.2007	Production not started
11.	M/s. Topworth Steel Pvt. Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Borai, Durg	Blast Furnace-0.50	635	04.05.2007	Production not started
12.	M/s. MSP Steel and Power Limited (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Pig Iron -0.40 Soponge Iron for captive use-0.3	2450	04.05.2007	Production not started
13.	M/s. Salasar Sponge and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Steel Plant-0.10	50	04.05.2007	Production not started
14.	M/s. Prakash Industries Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Champa, Janjgir, Champa	Steel Plant-1.2	800	18.06.2007	Production not started
15.	M/s. Singhal Enterprises (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Sponge Iron-0.2 Steel-0.3	375	23.06.2007	Production not started
16.	M/s. Anjani Steel Private Limited (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Integrated Steel Plant-0.25	2000	02.08.2007	Production not started
17.	M/s. H.E.G. Limited (Expansion Project)	Durg	Sponge Iron-0.35	165	02.08.2007	Production not started

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18.	M/s. Mangal Sponge & Steel Limited (Expansion Project)	Bilaspur	Sponge Iron-0.12	445	02.08.2007	Production not started
19.	M/s. S.K. Sarawagi and Company Pvt. Ltd.	Bilaspur	Sponge Iron-0.21 Steel-0.15	409	02.08.2007	Production not started
20.	M/s. Aarti Sponge and Power Pvt. Ltd.	— —	Sponge Iron-0.105 Steel Melting Shop-0.09	445	08.08.2008	Production not started
21.	M/s. API Ispat and Powertech Pvt. Ltd.	—	Sponge Iron-0.525	1000	08.08.2008	Production not started
22.	M/s. Jai Balaji Industries Ltd.	—	DRI Plant—0.6 Steel Melting Shop-1.0	1500	08.08.2008	Production not started
23.	M/s. Baldev Alloys Pvt.Ltd. (Expansion Project)	—	Sponge Iron-0.54 SMS Plant-0.2	445	08.08.2008	Production not started
24.	M/s. Crest Steel and Power Pvt. Ltd. (Expansion Project)	—	Sponge Iron-0.75 Steel Melting Shop-0.5 EAF-0.32	550	08.08.2008	Production not started
25.	M/s. Godawari Power and Ispat Ltd.	—	DRI-0.6 Steel Billet-0.6	1305	08.08.2008	Production not started
26.	M/s. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)	—	DRI-5.1	1700	08.08.2008	Production not started
27.	M/s. Khetan Sponge and Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. (Expansion Project)	—	Sponge Iron-0.09 Induction Furnace-0.06	350	08.08.2008	Production not started
28.	M/s. Nalwa Steel and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)	-	DRI (coal based)-0.33 Steel Melting Shop- 0.336 DRI (gas based)-2.0	1240	08.08.2208	Production not started
29.	M/s. Jaysawal Necco Industries Ltd.	—	Sponge Iron-0.6 Steel Billet-0.7	4802	08.08.2008	Production not started

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30.	M/s. Nova Iron and Steel Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Bilaspur	Sponge Iron-0.6	1230	08.08.2008	Production not started
31.	M/s. Raipur Power and Steel Ltd.	—	Sponge Iron 0.135 Induction Furnace-0.09	340	08.08.2008	Production not started
32.	M/s. Rashmi Ispat Pvt.Ltd.	—	Sponge Iron-0.315 Steel Melting Shop-0.21	515	08.08.2008	Production not started
33.	M/s. Real Ispat and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)	—	Sponge Iron-0.30	1000	08.08.2008	Production not started
34.	M/s. R.L. Steel and Energy Ltd.	—	Sponge Iron-0.4	345	08.08.2008	Production not started
35.	M/s. Satya Power and Ispat Pvt. Ltd.	—	Sponge Iron-0.24	—	08.08.2008	Production not started
36.	M/s. Shri Shyam Sponge and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)	—	Sponge Iron-0.135	231	08.08.2008	Production not started
37.	M/s. SKS Ispat and Power Ltd.	—	Sponge iron-1.2 Blast furnace -0.27	3100	08.08.2008	Production not started
38.	M/s. Surya Global Steel and Jenpower Ltd.	—	DRI-1.4 Blast furnace with PCM-0.6	12000	08.08.2008	Production not started
39.	M/s. Visa Steel Limited	—	Blast furnace with sinter-1.5 Sponge iron-1.0	588	08.08.2008	Production not started
40.	M/s. NMDC Limited	—	Integrated Steel Plant-3.00	—	03.09.2008	Production not started
41.	M/s. K. Energy Limited	—	Sponge iron-0.21 Induction furnace-0.192	298	12.09.2008	Production not started
42.	M/s. Prakash Industries Limited	—	Blast furnace-1.15 Sponge iron-1.6 Steel Melting shop-2.0	—	12.09.2008	Production not started
43.	M/s. Singhal Steel Pvt. Ltd.	—	Blast furnace-0.3 Sponge iron-0.2 Induction furnace-0.3 EAF-0.3	1200	01.10.2008	Production not started
44.	M/s. MSP Steel and Power Ltd.	—	Sponge iron-0.9 Blast furnace-0.7 Steel melting shop-1.5	—	01.10.2008	Production not started

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
45.	M/s. Mahendra Sponge and Power Pvt. Ltd.	—	Sponge iron-0.27 Steel Billet-0.15	1050	01.10.2008	Production not started
46.	M/s. Hind Energy and Coal Beneficiation (India) Pvt. Ltd.	—	Sponge iron-0.405 Steel melting shop-0.216	550	03.10.2008	Production not started

Inter-City Train Between Guntur and Tirupati

2731. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have conducted a feasibility study for introduction of an Inter-city Express train between Guntur and Tirupati keeping in view the rush of pilgrims to the temple city;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Introduction of an Intercity Express between Guntur and Tirupati has not been found feasible for want of commercial justification and operational constraints.

[*Translation*]

Employment Potential in Textiles Industry

2732. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICRA conducted a study recently to assess the employment potential in the textiles industry

during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said report alongwith the response of the Government thereto; and

(c) the names of countries/regions where Indian Textiles including handloom products are exported both country/region-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) ICRA Management Consulting Services Limited (IMaCS), the consulting arm of Group ICRA, has informed that they have not conducted any study on the employment potential of the textiles industry during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

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

(c) As per the data published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Kolkata, the total textile export was US \$22141.14 million during 2007-08 and US \$ 18519.986 million during April 2008-February 2009 for which data are available. A statement showing the major country-wise/region-wise and year-wise exports of textiles including handloom products is enclosed.

Statement*Region wise Export of Textiles including Handlooms*

(US \$ Million)

Sl.No.	Region	2006-07	2007-08	April 07-Feb. '08	April 08-Feb. '09 [P]
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	East Asia	168.50	178.93	163.20	183.64
2.	ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)	591.38	798.48	697.75	494.97
3.	WANA (West Asia & North Africa)	2240.60	2710.71	2465.62	2763.41

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	North East Asia	1605.54	1865.35	1568.68	1012.34
5.	South Asia	856.21	1664.28	1179.83	1156.99
6.	EU Countries (27)	6513.33	7269.28	6545.20	6478.44
7.	Other WE Countries	558.88	749.20	683.55	485.49
8.	East Europe	16.35	22.67	20.21	23.04
9.	Southern Africa	179.05	188.59	173.90	174.64
10.	West Africa	288.77	421.99	388.47	347.30
11.	Central Africa	12.11	15.14	12.78	12.73
12.	East Africa	220.82	263.29	240.23	250.85
13.	North America	5073.81	5000.43	4516.93	4200.05
14.	Latin America	624.43	792.69	715.26	778.12
15.	CARs Countries	46.27	49.05	46.78	41.12
16.	Other CIS Countries (Commonwealth of Independent States-CIS)	135.06	140.89	129.90	101.35
17.	Unspecified	14.94	10.96	10.21	15.49
		19146.04	22141.14	19558.53	18519.96

Textile Exports-Top Ten Countries during 2006-07 to April 08-Feb. 09

(US \$ Million)

Sl.No.	Country	2006-2007	2007-2008	Country	April 07-Feb.' 08	April 08-Feb.' 09 [P]	%Share
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	USA	4675.60	4622.60	USA	4173.96	3831.99	20.69
2.	UK	1385.10	1663.46	UAE	1240.35	1488.54	8.04
3.	Germany	113.40	1366.39	UK	1494.51	1331.32	7.19
4.	U Arab Emts.	1050.16	1357.47	Germany	1225.06	1248.20	6.74
5.	China P Rp	798.70	1132.55	France	788.47	805.95	4.35
6.	France	839.14	885.32	Italy	772.29	703.74	3.80
7.	Italy	884.93	852.00	Spain	526.59	587.19	3.17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Turkey	430.80	720.87	Netherland	436.35	494.28	2.67
9.	Spain	543.92	616.64	Bangladesh	369.78	467.03	2.52
10.	Pakistan	210.54	578.90	China P Rp	942.67	405.63	2.19
	Total (Top ten)	11923.32	13796.21	Total (Top ten)	11970.04	11363.87	61.36
	Otners	7222.72	8344.93	Others	7588.49	7156.09	38.64
	Total Textiles	19146.04	22141.14	Total Textiles	19558.53	18519.96	100.00

P-Provisional

Source: Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities & Countries) DGCI & S Kolkata

*[English]***Reopening of Airport at Dhubri**

2733. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to reopen the closed Rupsi Airport at Dhubri in Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the progress so far made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has received request to develop Rupsi airport in Assam. However, Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) has requested for a greenfield airport at Kokrajhar, which is at a distance of about 50 kms from Rupsi. The site identified by BTC for greenfield airport at Kokrajhar was not found suitable after the feasibility study conducted by the AAI. The other two sites identified by BTC are yet to be evaluated.

Day Train between Pudukkottai and Chennai

2734. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to operate a day train between Pudukkottai and Chennai; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

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

Pudukkottai and Chennai are already connected with one pair of day train. There is no proposal to start an additional service.

*[Translation]***Allotment of Shops at Railway Stations**

2735. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the procedure prescribed for allotting shops at different railway stations in the country;
- (b) whether the Railways have allotted shops to certain Multi-national Companies (MNCs) for selling their products at various (railway stations in the country;
- (c) if so, the names of those companies alongwith the names of (the products permitted for sale; and
- (d) the reasons for granting permission to these MNCs to sell (their products at the Railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Catering/ Vending stalls and Automatic Vending Machines (AVM) kiosk at stations are allotted through two packet tender or by calling applications.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[English]***Sabari Rail from Angamali**

2736. SHRI A. SAMPATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have accorded sanctions for the works of the proposed 'Sabari Rail' from Angamali;

(b) if so, the stage of the works undertaken;

(c) whether the Railways have received any request for extension of the Sabari Rail to Thiruvananthapuram via Punalur and Nedumangad; and

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

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

(b) Out of 516.42 hectare land required for the project requisition for 470.86 hectare has been submitted to the State Government, out of which 7.12 hectare land has been made available by the State Government. Earthwork and bridgeworks are in progress in first Reach of 5 km from Angamali. Tenders have been processed for construction of Periyar Bridge.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Erumeli-Pattanamthita-Punalur-Thiruvananthapuram new line has been announced in the Budget Speech for the year 2009-10. Erumeli is the proposed station on Angamali-Azutha (Sabarimala) new line. The proposed new line would also pass through Needumangad.

[Translation]

Booking of LPG through SMS

2737. SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:
SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

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

(a) the salient proposals contained in the publication "Oil Vision 2015" brought out by the Government recently

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce booking of LPG cylinders through SMS and install a helpline for registering customer complaints all over the country; and

(c) if so, the time by which the aforesaid scheme will be implemented in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The salient features of the Oil Sector Vision-2015 are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have introduced Short Message Service (SMS) booking in some distributors across the country. Further, this facility is proposed to be introduced in all towns with the population of 5 lakh by the year 2015 in phases beginning with metros.

In order to have a more convenient, easy and effective way to enable the customer to register their complaints for redressal, OMCs viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have started the services of Toll Free Numbers for complaint registration through call centers w.e.f. 2.10.2008. The numbers of the OMCs for LPG are as under:

IOC	18002333555
BPCL	1800222725
HPCL	18002333777

Statement

Oil Sector Vision-2015

The Vision would focus on providing better services to customers which in a way means all the citizens of the country as each individual in some way or the other is a consumer of oil. The Vision with regard to the customers would cover four broad areas i.e. LPG, Kerosene, Auto Fuels and CNG/PNG.

LPG:

- Pace of new LPG connections to be increased substantially. 5.5. crore new connections till 2015 to raise population coverage from 50% to 75%. Total number of LPG customers would reach 16 crore with most of the new connections being released in rural areas as urban areas are largely covered. Focus would be on areas where LPG coverage is low.

Switchover from Kerosene to LPG

- All towns with population > 5 lakh to be have 100% LPG coverage.

- Towns to be covered in phases beginning with the metros.
- Corporate social responsibility fund of oil PSUs to be leveraged along (with the State Governments to provide support to poor households to switch over from kerosene to LPG.
- Oil companies to approach all registered Kerosene customers in these (towns directly and offer LPG connections.

SMS Booking/Toll Free No.

- Introduction of SMS booking in all towns with population > 5 lakh in (phases beginning with metros.
- Common toll free three digit no. Like '139' for customers complaints all over India.

Anti Pilferage

- Introduction of Anti Pilferage device for LPG throughout the country.
- Introduction of better quality pressure regulators.
- Promotion of better LPG gas stoves with STAR rating for fuel efficiency.

Common LPG Kitchen

- Rasoi-Ghar scheme of HPCL wherein common kitchens are set up in villages to be extended to all villages in country with population > 5,000.
- CSR funds to be leveraged for this scheme.

Portability of LPG Connection

- Portability of LPG connections amongst oil PSUs and dealers at will of (customer as for mobile phones.
- For working couples etc. cylinder delivery at desired time with a premium for such delivery.

KEROSENE

Kerosene Distribution

- To ensure that the kerosene reaches the targeted beneficiaries, distribution against biometric smart cards beginning with large urban cities.

- Smart card programme to be implemented by all oil companies in association with the State Governments.

Direct Cash Transfer of Subsidy

- Possibility of direct cash transfer of subsidy on kerosene to beneficiaries a/c to be studied in rural areas and if found feasible to be expanded to other areas.

Packaged Supply of Kerosene

- Feasibility of introducing packaged supply of kerosene in 5 litre (recoverable pack to be studied to prevent diversion of PDS kerosene.

AUTO FUELS

Auto Fuels -Quality & Quantity

- Quality & Quantity -Most important for the customers.
- Technology to be used extensively for ensuring Q&Q.

Auto Fuels -Technology Savvy

- Retail Automation to cover all outlets selling more than 100 KL/month.
- GPS on all fuel and kerosene tankers and utilization of this data to improve quality of service.
- Multi fuel/Electronic dispensers with improved sealing system at all ROs (selling> 100 KL/ month.

Facility for Truck Fleets

- Vehicles servicing stations on all National Highways at every 50 km. (along with rest areas and dhabas.
- Fleet tracking service on all National Highways.

RO Availability

- Survey to be conducted to see possibility of providing Retail (Outlet Kisan Seva Kendra within 15 km. from any citizen.

CNG/PNG:**Some Facts**

- Present coverage in 35 cities
- 8.6 lakh PNG households
- 5 lakh vehicles

VISION: By 2015, 200 cities to be covered.

EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION:

The Exploration and Production companies gave a vision to improve (the oil security of the country through increased production.

- ONGC would endeavour to double its gas production by 2015.
- OIL would double its crude and gas production by 2015.
- OVL would endeavour to double its crude and gas production by 2015.

[English]

**Auto Component Development fund for
Revival of Sick PSEs**

2738. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government is planning to set up an Auto Component Development Fund for revival of sick Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs)

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of sick PSEs likely to benefit from any such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) No Madam. However, the Department had suggested for setting up of an Auto Component Development Fund with a corpus of Rs. 1000 crore for helping modernization of the auto-component industry through a system of Interest Subsidy on loans on purchase of new plant and equipment. It was proposed that the fund would offset the loss incurred

on interest earnings by financial institution by way of reimbursing them for the difference in interest. In the suggested scheme, there was no proposal for renewal of sick PSEs. Further, no funds have been allocated for the purpose in the Budget 2009-10.

(c) Question does not arise.

Autonomy to CPSEs

2739. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give more operational and financial autonomy to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) The grant of operational and functional autonomy to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is an ongoing process. The last delegation of enhanced power to the Boards of Navratna, Miniratna and other profit making CPSEs was done in August, 2005.

Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks

2740. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up integrated textiles parks under the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP) in the country as a part of the modernisation of the National Textile Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith time-frame for the same; and

(c) the other steps taken by the Government to modernize and raise the standards of NTC mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

(c) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has approved the revival plan for NTC at a total cost of Rs. 9102.72 crores, to be generated by sale of surplus land and assets of NTC. In pursuance of the revival plan approved by the Government/BIFR, 24 mills are under revival/modernization by NTC itself. Of these, modernization of 17 mills has been completed. Revival of 16 mills through joint venture partnership has also been approved. One mill has been retained for setting up a Technical Textile Unit.

Criteria for Allocation of Chemical Fertilizers

2741. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the criteria being adopted by the Union Government for allocation of chemical fertilizers to various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. Union Government ensures availability of urea at State level. State Governments are responsible for its distribution within the State. All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply.

The criteria for allocating urea from Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU)/Cooperative/Private indigenous manufacturing units are as follows:

- (i) There are more than two or more sources of supply of fertilizers in the State to ensure the back up supplies in case of failure of one of the sources; and
- (ii) Department of Fertilizers also ensures that supplies from CPSU/Cooperative Sector/Indigenous manufacturers/private unit/Ports are made to the nearest States for minimising the freight subsidy outgo and quickest possible delivery to the destinations.

Allocation of Gas for Domestic and Commercial/Transport use

2742. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the natural gas allocation for domestic and commercial transport use in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of gas allocated for domestic and commercial transport sectors in the country during 2008-09 and the details of supply likely to be increased; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to procure extra gas required after such increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects cater to the need of domestic and commercial transport sector. Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on commercial utilization of gas under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) has allocated 5 million standard cubic metre per day (mmscmd) of natural gas to CGD projects for transport and domestic requirement.

(c) During 2008-09, 950,800 metric tons of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) has been supplied to CGD projects for transport sector.

(d) The Government has adopted multi-pronged strategy to enhance gas production in the country, consisting inter alia of the following:-

- (i) Intensification of domestic E & P activities through NELP Rounds
- (ii) Coal Bed Methane (CBM)
- (iii) Underground Coal Gasification
- (iv) Gas Hydrates
- (v) Gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.

[Translation]

Extraction of Petroleum and Natural Gas

2743. SHRI MAHESH JOSHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the petroleum and natural gas extracted from land, sea, rivers and off-shore or on-shore areas are the property of Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States in the country have claimed that the said natural gas is the property of concerned State;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) Entry 53 in List I, i.e. the Union List under the 7th schedule (Article 246) of The Constitution of India reads as follows: "Regulation and development of oilfields and mineral oil resources; petroleum and petroleum products; other liquids and substances declared by Parliament by law to be dangerously inflammable". Entry 23 in List-II, i.e. the State List under the 7th Schedule (Article 246) of the Constitution reads that "Regulation of mines and mineral development, subject to provision of List-I with respect to regulation and development under the control of the Union". As per Article 297(1) of the Constitution of India, "All lands, minerals and other things of value underlying the ocean within the territorial waters, or the continental shelf, or the exclusive economic zone, of India shall vest in the Union and be held for the purposes of the Union. Therefore, Union Government is the owner of all the hydrocarbon resources in the country.

The development and regulation of oilfields is being carried out as per the provision of Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, 1959. As per the Legislative provisions, royalty on production from onland areas is payable to the concerned State from where the production is obtained and royalty on production from offshore areas is payable to the Central Government.

Some State Governments had represented for sharing of profit petroleum with the Union Government. These representations were discussed and deliberated by the Twelfth Finance Commission of India, which recommended sharing of profit petroleum or production level payments with the Union Government in the ratio of 50:50 for on land areas. The recommendations in this regard have been accepted by the Government of India.

[English]

Expansion of Coimbatore, Madurai and Tiruchi Airports

2744. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of expansion of Coimbatore, Madurai and Tiruchi airports as part of development of non-metro airports;

(b) whether these three airports are likely to be upgraded to the status of international airports;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to revive the airports in Salem and Tuticorin; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Details of works completed, planned and in progress at Tiruchi, Coimbatore and Madurai airports are given below: At Tiruchi Airport strengthening & extension of existing runway from 1864m to 2444m, apron, isolation & allied works, extension of Apron for parking of seven aircrafts and construction of new integrated Terminal Building complex for handling 400 paxs at a time has been completed. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has planned extension of runway to 12500ft for operation of wide bodied aircraft subject to providing additional land by the Government of Tamil Nadu. At Coimbatore Airport, extension of runway by 700m, strengthening of runway, taxiways and construction of isolation bay and expansion of Cargo complex have been completed. Expansion & Modification of existing terminal building is under progress and probable date of completion (PDC) is February 2010. The work relating to construction of parallel taxiway, extension of Apron, strengthening of old Apron at a cost

of Rs. 41.51 crore is going on and the PDC is December, 2009. The AAI has planned construction of new Integrated Terminal Building for handling 2000 passengers, extension of runway to 3811 m in phases for operation subject to providing of additional land by the Government of Tamil Nadu. At Madurai Airport strengthening & extension of runway to 2286m for AB-320 aircrafts, operational, expansion of Apron for five aircrafts, isolation bay with associated facilities and installing/commissioning of Instrument Landing System (ILS) has been completed. The construction work of new Integrated Terminal Building for 500 passengers is under progress and the PDC is December, 2009. AAI have planned extension of runway to 12500ft in phases for wide bodied aircraft and augmentation of basic strip to 300m subject to providing of additional land by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, Coimbatore and Tiruchi airports are custom airports handling limited International flights, while Madurai is only a domestic airport.

(d) and (e) Both Salem and Tuticorin airports are operational.

Demand and Supply of Petroleum Products

2745. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has estimated the demand of petroleum products for Eleventh Five Year Plan excluding the liquid fuel requirement for power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total growth rate of petroleum products during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to intensify exploration, enhancement of hydrocarbon reserves and to boost the growth of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):

(a) and (b) No separate estimation of demand of liquid

fuel power generation has been made. The demand of petroleum products including liquid fuel for power generation, for 11th Five Year Plan was estimated as under:

(Qty. in Million Metric Tonne (MMT))		
	Qty. in Base Case	Qty. in Upper Case
2007-08	116.089	117.555
2008-09	119.098	121.951
2009-10	121.987	127.789
2010-11	126.973	136.593
2011-12	131.767	141.793

The actual domestic consumption of petroleum products during 2007-08 and 2008-09 was 128.94 MMT and 133.40 MMT respectively.

(c) Compounded Annual Rate of Growth (CARG) of consumption of petroleum products during 10th Five Year Plan was 3.8%.

(d) The Government has taken/proposed several steps to intensify exploration, enhancement of hydrocarbon reserves and to boost the growth of petroleum products, which are as follows:

- (i) Carving out more and more areas of exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)/Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy.
- (ii) Quicker development of discovered oil and gas reserves for enabling commencement of production.
- (iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.
- (iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery from existing fields.
- (v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.
- (vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and oil producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.
- (vii) Exploration of gas hydrates, by participating in the Gas Hydrates programme in cooperation with other countries.

- (viii) Extracting gas from deep-seated and/or isolated coal deposit/lignite resources under the Underground Coal Gasification programme.
- (ix) Upgradation of existing refineries and setting up of new refineries.

[Translation]

Opening of Petrol/diesel Pumps

2746. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to open petrol/diesel pumps at Polay city of Shajapur district and at Borasa and Pipalavon cities of Devas district in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) If not, whether being an agricultural dominated area, the farmers are facing a lot of difficulties due to non-availability of petrol and diesel pumps in the above cities; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to open petrol and diesel pumps in the above cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS ((SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation (Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum (Corporation Limited (BPC) have no plan to open new Retail Outlets (RO) at Poloy city of (Shajapur district and at Borasa and Pipalavon cities of Devas district in Madhya Pradesh. (However, IOC has a proposal to develop a Kisan Sewa Kendra (KSK), a low cost rural RO, (at Borasa in Devas district in Madhya Pradesh in the near future. IOC had opened an RO in (Poloy city in the year 2001, which was terminated on 15.02.2007 on the grounds of malpractice by the dealer. The RO is presently inoperative and IOC had proposed to appoint a permanent dealer through advertisement. In Pipalavon city, IOC had advertised 4 times for procurement of land for development of a KSK. However, no positive response was received for the same. To cater the needs of the nearby farmers, IOC has developed a KSK at Barkhedi Fata, only 8 KMs from Pipalavon city. HPC has one RO within 3 KMs from Dewas at Jetpura village and the Corporation has released an advertisement for new RO at Modi village, which is within 2 KMs from Borasa. Currently, there

are more than 50 ROs of OMEs operating in the districts of Shajapur and Dewas in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The demand of the farmers in the agricultural dominated area is currently met fully with the help of existing ROs/KSKs of OMCs. Further, IOC is contemplating to set up 15 new ROs and 30 KSKs in other parts of the Shajapur and Dewas districts of Madhya Pradesh in the near future.

(c) New ROs are set up by OMCs based on the feasibility study of the location. Locations found feasible and economically viable are restored in the State-wise Marketing Plans for setting up of ROs.

Maruti-Suzuki to Roll Out CNG Model

2747. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the largest car manufacturing company in the country Maruti-Suzuki is considering over rolling out CNG model;

(b) if so, the time by which CNG models of the company are likely to be available in the market; and

(c) the details of the CNG models which are likely to be rolled out in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. As per the information furnished by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), M/s. Maruti-Suzuki India is considering rolling out CNG models. The company has recently launched its Alto CNG model on 17th July, 2009.

(c) The future CNG models likely to be rolled out will depend upon the availability of CNG in the country.

[English]

Chief Justice Conference

2748. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of Chief Justice was held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main recommendations/resolution passed in the conference; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) No Conference of Chief Justices was held recently. However, the last Chief Justices' Conference was held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice of India on April 17-18, 2008. Issues discussed and Resolutions passed, in brief, are given in the enclosed Statement I.

(d) Most of the Resolution passed in the Conference concern the High Courts. However, action taken on the Resolutions concerning the Department of Justice is given in the enclosed statement II.

Statement I

Points Discussed and Resolutions Adopted in the Chief Justices Conference Held On April 17-18, 2008

1. Progress on implementation of the resolutions passed in the previous Chief Justices' Conference held on 6th and 7th April, 2007.

The Conference resolved that High Courts will taken necessary steps required at their end for implementation of the resolutions passed in Chief Justices' Conference - 2007, consider desirability of prescribing three years practice at Bar as a qualification for appointment to the post of Civil Judge (Junior Division) and send their views to Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India within eight weeks and wherever necessary, the Chief Justice will take-up the matter at the highest level of State Government for providing adequate funds for implementation of the resolutions.

2. Steps required to be taken to reduce arrears and ensure speedy trial of cases.

The Conference resolved that the High Courts will take immediate steps/make efforts to fill up vacancies of Judicial Officers, set up at least one Family Court in each district, set up additional courts of special judges exclusively for trial of corruption cases and set up additional courts of Subordinate Judges so as to expedite disposal and reduce arrears of cases.

3. Consideration of the following recommendations of the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission in its 4th Report titled "Ethics in Governance."

The Conference resolved that Special Judges appointed under Prevention of Corruption Act shall deal primarily with corruption cases and as far as possible hold trial of such cases on a day-to-day basis.

4. Upgrading and augmenting the infrastructure of Subordinate Courts.

The Conference resolved that the High Courts shall request their respective State Governments to provide funds for upgrading and augmenting the infrastructure of Subordinate Courts by replacing the dilapidated buildings with new buildings, upgrading the existing court complexes and constructing new court complexes and residential quarters for judicial officers.

5. (i) Preparation of budgets of High Courts and Subordinate Courts and (ii) Financial Autonomy to the High Courts.

The Conference resolved that the High Courts will impress upon the State Governments to suitably increase the allocation of funds so as to meet the budgetary demands of the High Courts and Subordinate Courts and that budgets be prepared on a scientific basis and wherever required the Chief Justices of High Courts be delegated full powers to appropriate and re-appropriate within the allocated budget.

6. Progress in setting-up and functioning of Evening/Morning Courts in Subordinate Courts.

The Conference resolved that Evening/Morning Courts be set up, wherever found feasible, and cases involving petty offences be transferred to such Courts.

7. Norms for revising the strength of Judges in High Courts.

The Conference resolved that the strength of Judges in the High Courts be delinked from disposal, and, fixed on the basis of pendency of cases and disposal rate of Additional Judges of the High Courts be taken into consideration while appointing them against permanent posts.

8. Progress made in setting-up of Fast Track Courts of Magistrates and Fast Track Civil Courts.

The Conference resolved that wherever feasible, the High Courts will take steps to set up Courts of Special Metropolitan Magistrates/Special Judicial Magistrates presided by retired Government servants and court servants, possessing a professional degree in Law, for trial of petty offences.

9. Strengthening of A.D.R. system including mediation and conciliation.

The Conference resolved that mediation Centres be set up in the High Court as well as in each district Court, and necessary infrastructure be provided to them utilizing the funds allocated by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) as well as other funds that may be available for the purpose. The mediators be given adequate training in mediation and conciliation. The Conference also resolved that efforts be made to include mediation and conciliation in the curriculum of Law colleges.

10. Strengthening of training of Judicial Officers.

The Conference resolved that the training of Judicial Officers be strengthened.

11. Steps required to be taken to curb the misuse of Public Interest Litigation.

The Conference emphasised on the need to strictly follow the Judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 11th March, 2008 in Criminal Appeal No. 472 of 2008- Divine Retreat Centre Vs. State of Kerala & ors.

12. Progress made in modernization and computerisation of Justice Delivery System.

The Conference resolved that adequate steps be taken for modernization and computerisation of Courts and enhancing the use of various IT tools including video conferencing, internet usage, E-mail based communication, electronic dissemination of information and use of digital signatures, particularly at the level of subordinate courts.

13. Merit to be the determinative criteria for elevation of Judicial Officer to the High Court.

The Conference resolved that adequate consideration be given to merit, while recommending Judicial Officers,

for elevation to the High Courts and only suitable officers be recommended. Recording of Annual Confidential Reports of Judicial Officers be streamlined, wherever necessary.

14. Formation of All India Judicial Service.

The Conference resolved that the High Courts will consider entrusting recruitment upto 25% posts in Higher Judicial Service, required to be filled up by direct recruitment, to a National Commission, on all India basis and send their respective views to Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, within eight weeks.

15. Strengthening of vigilance cells in the High Courts and progress made in setting-up of vigilance cells in each district.

The Conference resolved that wherever required vigilance cells in High Courts be strengthened and vigilance cells headed by a senior District Judge be set up for each region to monitor and watch the activities of the ministerial staff of Subordinate Courts.

16. Strengthening of legal aid mechanism.

The Conference resolved that only competent and motivated lawyers be engaged by legal service authorities.

17. Progress made in setting up of permanent mechanism for implementation of resolutions passed by the Chief Justices' Conferences and decisions taken at the Joint Conferences of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices.

The Conference resolved that Monitoring Committees be set up in accordance with the resolutions passed in the Conferences of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices in 2006 and 2007, if they had not been set up already.

18. Consideration of recommendations of Malimath Committee for increasing the working days of High Courts.

The Conference resolved that High Courts will consider either extending working hours up to five and a half hours or suitably increasing the working days, High Court Judges be requested to work during vacation on voluntary basis and that they will not go for holidaying on working days.

19. Revision of salary, allowances and service conditions of the Supreme Court and High Court Judges in view of the pay revision of Government employees.

This item was discussed but no resolution was passed.

20. Increase in the age of retirement of High Court Judges.

The Conference resolved to reiterate the resolution passed in this matter in its previous Conference.

Statement II

Action Taken Notes on The Resolutions Passed in The Chief Justices Conference 2008 Pertaining to the Department of Justice

Para-4: *Upgrading and augmenting the infrastructure of Subordinate Courts.*

Resolved that

The High Courts shall request their respective State Governments to provide funds for upgrading and augmenting the infrastructure of Subordinate Courts by replacing the dilapidated buildings with new buildings, upgrading the existing court complexes and constructing new court complexes and residential quarters for judicial officers.

Action Taken Note:

The Centrally sponsored scheme for the development of infrastructure facilities of the judiciary is being implemented by the Department of Justice to augment the resources of the State Government. The Scheme covers construction of Court buildings including construction of computer rooms, and residential accommodation for the judges/judicial officers covering High Courts and subordinate Courts.

The expenditure of the Scheme is shared by the central government and state governments on 50:50 basis. The Department of Justice is providing funds to the State on need basis and subject to the availability of funds as per allocations made by Planning Commission. This is an ongoing process.

Para-7: *Norms for revising the strength of Judges in High Courts.*

RESOLVED that

(a) The strength of Judges in the High Courts be delinked from disposal, and, fixed on the basis of pendency of cases.

(b) Disposal rate of additional Judges of the High Courts be taken into consideration while Appointing them against permanent posts.

Action Taken Note:

Both the recommendations of the resolution are under consideration.

Para-9: *Strengthening of A.D.R. system including mediation and conciliation.*

RESOLVED that

(a) Mediation Centres be set-up in the High Court as well as in each District Court, and necessary infrastructure be provided to them utilizing the funds allocated by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) as well as other funds that may be available for the purpose. The Mediators be given adequate training in mediation and conciliation.

(b) Efforts be made to include mediation and conciliation in the curriculum of Law colleges.

Action Taken Note:

Department of Justice proposes to support a pilot project of the Mediation and Conciliation Committee of the Supreme Court under the Plan Scheme "Study of Judicial Reforms" which has been approved for implementation in March, 2009. The Scheme propose to develop a training programme and implement a pilot project for training of advocates and judicial officers for grooming them as mediators for Mediation and Conciliation as a tool of ADR mechanism.

Para-10: *Strengthening of training of Judicial Officers.*

RESOLVED that

The training of Judicial Officers be strengthened.

Action Taken Note:

National Judicial Academy, Bhopal has been requested to send their views on the training of judges and judicial officers and how it is being strengthened.

Para-13: *Progress made in modernization and Computerisation of Justice Delivery System.*

RESOLVED that

Adequate steps be taken for modernization & computerisation of Courts and enhancing the use of various IT tools including video conferencing, internet usage, E-mail based communication, electronic dissemination of information and use of digital signatures, particularly at the level of subordinate courts.

Action Taken Note:

The Central Government has taken up comprehensive computerization of courts in the Country covering all District and Subordinate Courts in the country, up-gradation of IT infrastructure in superior courts and electronically linking the lowest courts to the apex court. The Scheme has been taken up for implementation as a Mission Mode Project. Phase-I of the project is currently under implementation.

National Informatics Centre is the implementing agency of the project. Under the project 13,365 judicial officers have been provided with laptops and 12,599 laser printers have been supplied to the courts. Internet connectivity has been provided at 486 District Courts and 1272 Taluka Court complexes. In addition, internet connections have also been provided at the home offices of 10744 judicial officers. 56,720 judicial officers and Court staff have been trained in the use of ICT tools. ICT hardware has been delivered at 9 High Courts and installation is being carried out. LAN survey of the High Courts is also under process. The application software is being tested at certain pilot locations. Provision of Video Conferencing facility in the courts shall be taken up for implementation in subsequent phases of the project.

Para-15: *Formation of All India Judicial Service.*

RESOLVED that

The High Courts will consider entrusting recruitment upto 25% posts in Higher Judicial Service, required to be filled-up by direct recruitment, to a National Commission, on all India basis and send their respective views to Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, within eight weeks.

Action Taken Note:

The matter regarding formation of All India Judicial Service has been under consideration of the Government. Since it is common to Union and the States, views/comments of the State Governments and the High Courts were called. Some State Governments and High Courts have responded. Most of the High Courts did not favour formation of AIJS as it will dilute the powers of the Higher judiciary.

Further, the above resolution intended that the High Courts would consider entrusting recruitment up-to 25% posts in Higher Judicial Service and send their respective views to Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India. Department of Justice has not been made aware of further developments, if any.

Para-21. *Increase in the age of retirement of High Court Judges.*

RESOLVED that

The Resolutions passed at the previous Chief Justices' Conference resolving that the age of retirement of High Court Judges be raised to 65 years are reiterated.

Action Taken Note:

Matter is under consideration.

Hindustan Cables Limited

2749. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL) situated in West Bengal;

(b) whether the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) were engaged by HCL to conduct study for restructuring the sick company;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any report has been submitted by them;

(e) if so, the salient features thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the other steps being taken by the Government for revival of HCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) Hidustan Cables Ltd. (HCL), referred to BIFR in 2002 was declared sick in March, 2003. BRPSE has on 9.1.2008 recommended Joint Venture Partnership either with Public or Private Enterprises, failing which, a complete disinvestment.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) to (f) Technical Study conducted by IIT, Kharagpur in November, 2004 envisaged capital investment of Rs. 1643 crore for revival of the company. The TCS turn around strategy of August, 2005 brought out detailed implications of adopting one of the three strategies, namely of maintaining of Status Quo, Closure and Revival. These reports were considered by the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) on 11.09.2006 when it was desired that a fresh detailed, comprehensive and holistic study through IIT, Kharagpur be commissioned. The Report, accordingly, received from IIT, Kharagpur was considered by the BRPSE on 9.1.2008. BRPSE recommended Joint Venture Partnership either with Public or Private Enterprises, failing which, a complete disinvestment. Views of Central Public Sector Enterprises, which have synergies with HCL, were called for in June, 2008 and thereafter an advertisement was published in August, 2008 seeking Expression of Interest from interested Public Sector Enterprises. In response to this advertisement, a few proposals received from Central Public Sector Enterprises are under examination for possible JV formation.

[*Translation*]

Airports in Madhya Pradesh

2750. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of airports in Madhya Pradesh alongwith their locations;

(b) whether it is proposed to upgrade some of the airports to the level of international airports;

(c) if so, the names of such airports; and

(d) the action taken on the said proposals so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are eight (8) airports in Madhya Pradesh namely Indore, Bhopal, Khajuraho, Jabalpur, (Satna, Khandwa, Gwalior and Panna, which belong to Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(b) to (d) Presently, AAI is upgrading three (3) airports namely Indore, Bhopal and Khajuraho airports to meet the international standards. Various upgradation works like extension of runway, construction of new expandable modular integrated terminal building and construction of new apron at these airports have been taken up by AAI.

New Railway Line from Barhaj Bazaar to Faizabad

2751. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work for laying new railway line from Barhaj Bazaar to Faizabad via Doharighat in Devaria district of Uttar Pradesh has already been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of budgetary allocation for the project and the time by which the work on the link is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A survey for construction of new line from Barhaj Bazar to Faizabad via Doharighat was completed in 2005-06. As per survey report, the cost of construction of 194 kms long line was assessed as Rs. 782 crore with the rate of return (-)6.06%. The work could not be taken up due to its un-remunerative nature of the project, heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects and constraint of resources.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Rob/Rub in Karnataka

2752. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of each rail overbridge under construction in various parts of Karnataka as on date;

(b) whether the construction work of each bridge is going on as per schedule;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) In all, there are 37 works of ROB/RUBs sanctioned in Karnataka on cost sharing basis. 5 works have already been completed till date.

In one case, Railways portion is complete and approaches are in progress by Government of Karnataka. 07 numbers of works are in progress and 24 numbers are in planning stage.

In addition, 23 more proposals have been included in the Railway Budget of 2009-10.

(b) and (c) No, Madam. The approval of General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) and land acquisition for approaches for these works is pending with Government of Karnataka.

(d) Railways construct bridge proper across tracks and the approaches are constructed by State Government concerned. Hence, completion of works also depends upon completion of approaches. Railways make all out efforts to complete their portion of work before or simultaneously with the work of approaches.

[Translation]

Railway Projects in Uttar Pradesh

2753. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:
SHRIMATI USHA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing/pending Railways Projects alongwith the survey conducted in Uttar Pradesh State;

(b) whether the Railways have made any proposal to open new Railway Division;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith progress made so far;

(d) whether some projects are running behind schedule;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Railways for timely completion of these projects, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The list of ongoing Railway projects in Uttar Pradesh is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Length in Km.
1	2	3
New Lines		
1.	Hathua-Bhatni	79.64
2.	Chhitauni-Tumkuhi	62.50
3.	Etawah-Mainpuri	57.50
4.	Agra-Etawah	114.00
5.	Bhind-Etawah	36.00
6.	Deoband-Roorkee	27.45
Doubling		
7.	Gorakhpur-Sahjanwa	17.70
8.	Sahjanwa-Munderwa	32.19
9.	Munderwa-Bahanan	45.25
10.	Gorakhpur-Baitalpur	34.00
11.	Barabanki-Burhwal	29.00
12.	Bhatni-Baitalpur	28.00
13.	Ghagraghat-Chaukaghat	5.63
14.	Bhatni-Baitalpur	38.11
15.	Mau-Indara	8.00
16.	Tundla-Yamuna Bridge	21.00
17.	Panki-Bhaupur 3rd line	11.38
18.	Saibaba-Anand Vihar 3rd and 4th line	5.75
19.	Balance portion of Utretia-Zafrabad	148.00
20.	Bhabhnan-Mankapur	30.15
21.	Gonda-Mankapur	26.51

1	2	3
Gauge Conversion		
22.	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura & Kasganj-Bareilly-Lalkuan	544.50
23.	Kaptanganj-Thawe-Siwan-Chhapra	233.50
24.	Aurnihar-Jaunpur	59.00
25.	Gorakhpur-Gonda	260.00
26.	Gonda-Bahraich	60.00
27.	Bhojpura-Pilibhit-Tanakpur	101.79
28.	Mathura-Achnera	35.00

The following surveys have been conducted in Uttar Pradesh in recent past:-

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Length in Km.
1.	Lucknow-Varanasi doubling	281.00
2.	Lalganj-Bachrawan new line	39.00
3.	Sambhal-Gajraula new line	43.00
4.	Panki-Mughal Sarai 3rd line	356.00
5.	Khurja-Raya new line	85.00
6.	Aligarh-Kasganj new line	60.00
7.	Meerut-Panipat new line	104.00
8.	Lohta-Janghal doubling	69.00
9.	Aurnihar-Varanasi-Manduadih doubling	39.00
10.	Dohrighat-Indara gauge conversion	35.00
11.	Deoria-Kushinagar new line	40.00
12.	Nepalganj Road-Nepalganj new line	12.00
13.	Lucknow-Pilibhit gauge conversion via Mailani and Sitapur	263.00

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to open new railway division in Uttar Pradesh.

(d) to (f) The works mentioned at items No.5, 7, 10,13,18,20 and 26 in part (a) of the reply are running

behind schedule. There have been delays in some of the works due to failure of contracts, delay in finalization of contracts, delay in tree cutting, abnormally heavy and prolonged rainfall, land acquisition by State Government and steep rise in steel and cement prices. Remedial measures have been taken by way of empowerment of field units, providing funds through internal generation and participation by State Governments. The matter has been taken up with State Governments for land acquisition and forestry clearance including tree cutting.

[English]

Pantry Cars in Long Distance Trains

2754. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to attach pantry cars in all long distance trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Railways endeavors to attach pantry cars in long distance trains subject to operational feasibility, availability of rolling stock and other considerations such as priority of the train, journey time and commercial justification.

[Translation]

Contracts Awarded by Bhel

2755. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV:
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd. (BHEL) has been pulled up by the Government official auditor CAG forwarding contracts to a banned company;

(b) If so, the company contravened its laid down guidelines and ethical practices by placing contracts worth 26.61 crore to a banned firm;

(c) If so, the reasons therefor;

(d) Whether the Union Government has conducted any enquiry in the matter;

(e) If so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) The total number of work orders received by BHEL from foreign companies during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) through its agency, viz. Principal Director of Commercial Audit (PDCA) had in June 2008 made observations as a 'Draft Para' on awarding of contract worth Rs. 26.61 crore by one of the units of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) on a vendor, despite ban on all business dealings with that firm. The circumstances in which the order was placed by the concerned unit of BHEL (have been furnished to the PDCA in November, 2008. The vendor company was banned vide Orders dated 01.03.2006 whereas the order placed on it pertained to the tender dated 19.07.2005 for which the technical bid was opened on 26.09.2005 and the technical recommendation made on 04.02.2006. (all prior to the date on which the said company (was banned). Award of contract against these recommendations on a later date was an administrative decision taken in the best interest of BHEL.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The total number of work orders including supply, spares and services received from overseas market by BHEL from foreign companies during the last three years is as follows:-

Financial Year	Number of work orders received
2006-07	48
2007-08	57
2008-09	74

Khajuraho Airport

2756. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether land has been acquired free of cost from the Madhya Pradesh Government for the development of Khajuraho Airport;

(b) if so, the area of land acquired so far;

(c) the status of development work i.e. extending the runway and other construction work after the acquisition of land; and

(d) the reasons for delay if any and the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The acquired land is 355.66 acres.

(c) and (d) Various development works like extension of runway to 7500 ft. and construction of new apron and taxiway have already been completed in June, 2009. In addition, construction of new Integrated Terminal Building (ITB) has been taken up. The construction of new ITB has been delayed due to below par performance and slow progress of the contractor. Therefore, the contract has been rescinded and fresh tenders are being called and the work is scheduled for completion by September, 2010.

[English]

Oil Exploration at Cochin High

2757. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any drilling/exploration operations are taking place in Cochin High; and

(b) if so, the status of such drilling/exploration projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Government of India has awarded 19 exploration blocks in Kerala-Konkan basin including Cochin High. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) have acquired 41,282 Line Kilometer (LKM) of 2D seismic and 9920 square kilometer of 3D seismic data. On the basis of seismic survey results, six exploratory wells were drilled and proved to be devoid of hydrocarbons. In addition, ONGC had also drilled 3 wells prior to award of these 19 blocks, which proved to be dry.

High Court at Chandigarh

2758. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Haryana is contemplating to set up a separate High Court at Chandigarh, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Government of Haryana had forwarded a copy of the resolution of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha for creation of a separate High Court for Haryana in the existing premises of the Punjab and Haryana High Court at Chandigarh by allocating 40% of the building, ministerial staff and administrative functionaries along with the Judges appointed from the Haryana quota.

The proposal received from the Chief Minister, Haryana was referred to the Chief Justice, Punjab & Haryana High Court for his views. In response thereof, the Chief Justice, Punjab & Haryana High Court stated that in his view, keeping in mind the layout and structure of the building and the pattern of establishment, bifurcation of the existing building, ministerial staff and administrative offices, etc. would not be feasible. He further stated that a separate High Court for the State of Haryana may be formed, if so desired, only after setting up the entire infrastructure for running the High Court at any other place that may be chosen by the State of Haryana.

The Government of Haryana was intimated that the suggestion for bifurcation of existing building and staff was not practicable in view of the existence of the Chandigarh Administration.

Review Committee For Railway Printing Presses

2759. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have constituted a Review Committee for the revival of Railway Printing Presses in the country;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the extent to which these recommendations are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No review Committee for the revival of Railway Printing Presses has been constituted. However, as announced in the Railway Budget 2009-10, few major printing presses like Mumbai (Byculla), Delhi (Sakurbasti), Kolkata (Howrah) and Chennai, shall be taken up for upgradation and modernization. The proposal for the same is under consideration.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Powers to ICAI

2760. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to give more powers to Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to check/scrutinise the accounts of big corporates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any discrepancies have been found by ICAI in the accounts of big corporates in the recent past; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) At present there is no proposal to give more powers to ICAI.

(c) No such report has been received in the Ministry.

(d) Does not arise.

New Rail Line from Silghat to Rangapara Jn. of Assam

2761. SHRI JOSEPH TOPPO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for a new rail line from Silghat via Tezpur to Rangapara Jn. of Assam; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Atrocities against Women

2762. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRIMATI USHA VERMA:

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

(a) the number of women courts set up for the disposal of cases relating to atrocities against women in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to make any strict legislation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No such data is being maintained centrally.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Closure of Spinning Mills

2763. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of spinning mills closed down during each of the last three years, UT/State-wise;

(b) the scheme or the Government for the revival of the spinning mills lying Closed for a very long time;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the pitiable condition of the workers due to the closure of these mills;

(d) if so, the step taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide subsidy for the revival of these mills; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Details of the cotton/man-made fibre spinning mills (Non-SSI) during the last three years are as follows: -

Sl.No.	State	May-06 to April-07	May-07 to April-08	May-08 to April-09	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	0	0	1
2.	Gujarat	2	0	2	4
3.	Haryana	2	2	5	9
4.	Karnataka	1	3	0	4
5.	Kerala	1	1	0	2
6.	Orissa	0	1	0	1
7.	Punjab	1	0	0	1
8.	Tamil Nadu	3	15	6	24
9.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	0	2
Total		12	23	13	48

(b), (e) and (f) Government seeks to foster a policy regime, which facilitates growth and development of Indian industry. It has Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Social Provisions) Act, etc. For restructuring of high costs debts of textiles units, in the organized sector, Ministry of Finance, Banking Division, in September 2003 introduced a Debt Restructuring Package to help textiles units overcome their unsustainable debt burden.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The Government is aware of the pitiable condition of the workers due to the closure of these mills. There is no direct policy formulated by the Government of India to rehabilitate workers rendered unemployed due to closure of textile units. However, the Government of India launched a Textile Workers

Rehabilitation Fund Scheme on on 15.9.1986 to provide interim relief to textile workers rendered unemployed as a consequence of permanent closure of any particular portion or entire textile unit, Assistance under the Scheme is payable to eligible workers only for the purpose of enabling them to settle in another employment. Any worker is eligible provided he/she is engaged in a closed textile unit on the date of its closure continuously for five years or more and earning a wage equivalent of Rs. 2500 per month or less for the mills closed between 6.6.1985 to 1.4.1993 and Rs. 3500 or less thereafter, They should be contributing to the Provident fund maintained by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner of the State concerned. The Government has paid financial assistance amounting Rs. 262.01 crore to 102711 workers of 70 mills till 31.5.2009.

Use of Gas as a Fuel

2764. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of gas as a fuel in the country is very less than that of other countries;

(b) if so, the quantum of gas used as a fuel in India as compared to other countries; and

(c) the targets fixed to increase the average use of gas as a fuel in the country during the next Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) According to BP Statistical Review of World Energy (June 2009), the total consumption of natural gas in India during 2008 was 37.2 Million Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (MTOE), as against the world gas consumption of 2726.1 MTOE. As per the aforesaid report, the percentage of gas consumption in the total consumption of fuel in India for the year 2008 was 8.6% as against 24.1 % in the world.

(c) As per the report of the Working Group on Petroleum and Natural Gas for the XI Plan (2007-2012), the projections of gas availability for last three years of XI Plan are as under:

(in mmscmd)

Supply	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Projected Domestic supply (ONGC/JV/PVT)	115.97	113.09	108.30
Additional anticipated supply	74	84	94
LNG	52.50	70.00	83.12
Total	242.47	267.09	285.42

No targets have been fixed for the next Five Year Plan.

[*English*]

Luxury Tourist Train

2765. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to start more luxury tourist trains in various States including Punjab to promote tourism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. One luxury tourist train each in association with Government of Punjab and Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. has been approved for introduction.

[*Translation*]

Food Processing Industries in Bihar

2766. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of food processing industries conducted in Bihar at present;

(b) whether any study or survey has been conducted to set up more food processing industries in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the scope for setting up of food processing industries in the State and the number of people likely to get employment; and

(e) the details of production of fruits and vegetables and availability of other agricultural products in the State?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The data on functioning food processing industries/units in the country, including that in the State of Bihar is not centrally maintained by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The Ministry extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has not conducted any survey for setting up food processing industries in the State of Bihar. As such there is no data available with this Ministry for assessing the scope and number of people likely to get employment as a result of setting up of such industries.

(e) The details of production of fruits and vegetables and various horticultural products in the State of Bihar during 2007-08 are as under:-

2007-08 (Production in 000 MT)		
Fruits	Vegetables	Other Horticultural products
3252.4	14067.8	14.6

(Source: National Horticulture Board)

[English]

Pune Airport

2767. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of providing commercial airport of international standards near Pune;

(b) whether there have been many requests from all quarters to complete the project at the earliest;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Ministry has asked the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance to allocate funds for the project; and

(e) if so, the total amount involved in the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) A proposal for setting up of new Greenfield airport at Chakan near Pune in Maharashtra to be developed by Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd. has been received from Government of Maharashtra. Work relating to finalizations of site for the airport is in progress after due consultation with various stakeholders.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Jan Sadharan Train

2768. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have laid down any norms for starting Jan-Sadharan Express to connect various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this train is running only in few States at present;

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

(e) whether the Railways have taken any steps for increasing general coaches in various trains plying through the States of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Jan Sadharan trains are normally fully unreserved trains which are introduced taking into account various factors like traffic justification, public demands, availability of resources and operational feasibility.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Due care is taken to provide adequate number of general bogies for passengers travelling by second class in the trains running over Indian Railways irrespective of states. The number of general class coaches has been increased from four to six in the newly introduced trains except special type trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Jan Shatabdi trains.

New Rail Lines in Bihar

2769. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new railway line between Sakadi-Hasanpur and Khagadia-Kusheshar in Bihar has been under construction for the last 12 years and has not been completed so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The new line projects of Sakri-Hasanpur and Khagaria-Kusheshwarasthan are being progressed as per availability of resources. Sakri-Biraul of Sakri-Hasanpur completed. The completion of the lines would depend upon availability of resources.

[English]

Opening of LPG Agencies in Gujarat

2770. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has invited new tenders to open more LPG agencies in all the district of Gujarat State to meet the demand of the public;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new agencies are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Notices inviting applications for

selection for LPG distributors have been issued in 2007-08 by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for establishing new LPG distributors at 63 locations in the State of Gujarat and selection process is in progress as per policy.

Since the commissioning process, post advertisement, involves receipt of application forms, scrutiny of the same, selection of the candidates, field verification of the credentials of the selected candidate, setting up of the infrastructure, procurement of various mandatory licences and approvals, and disposal of complaints/litigation if any, It is not possible to specify exactly when these locations will commissioned.

Weavers of Karnataka

2771. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to provided financial support of Rs. 60,000/- in addition to the existing financial support being provided by the State Government of Karnataka to the weavers under the living cum work shed scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has withdrawn the rebate which was being provided for sale of Handloom products; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken by the Union Government to restore it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme under which financial support of Rs. 25,000/- in the case of weavers Below Poverty Line and in the case of other weavers 75% of the Rs. 25,000/- i.e. Rs. 18,750/- is provided for construction of workshed of 20 Sq. mtrs in the ratio of 70:20:10 between the Central Government/State Government and the beneficiary.

(c) and (d) The Union Government has not withdrawn the rebate scheme for sale of handloom

products. The scheme was launched for a period of 3 years 206-07 to 2008-09, till 31st March, 2009. However, proposal for continuation of the scheme for another period of 3 years i.e. 2009-10 to 2011-12 is under submission for approval.

CNG Filling Stations in Agra

2772. PROF. RAMSHANKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there are inadequate number of CNG filling stations in Agra;

(b) if so, the whether the Government has any proposal for setting up of more CNG filling stations in Agra;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time frame set for operationalising the new CNG filling stations in Agra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) At present, Green Gas Limited (GGL), a Joint Venture of GAIL (India) Ltd. & Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), is operating three CNG stations in Agra. Around 716 tonnes (MT) CNG is being sold per month.

Providing of CNG facilities in a particular city/town area depends, inter alia, upon proximity to trunk natural gas pipelines, availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability.

[Translation]

Bhopal Airport

2773. SHRI PREMCHAND GUDDU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of international airports proposed to be constructed by the Government and the number of cities where the said airports are under construction;

(b) the progress with regard to construction of international airports at Bhopal;

(c) the time by which the work on the airport is likely to be completed and the time by which international flights are likely to be started;

(d) the area of land acquired for expansion of airstrip at Bhopal airport;

(e) whether compensation for land acquisition has been paid; and

(f) if so, the amount paid as compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) 'In-principle' approval for setting up of new greenfield airports at Navi Mumbai & Sindhudurg in Maharashtra; Mopa in Goa; Kannur in Kerala; Bijapur, Simoga, Gulbarga & Hassan in Karnataka; Andal (Durgapur) in West Bengal; Pekiyoungin Sikkim & Dabra/Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh (Cargo) have been accorded by the Government of India.

(b) and (c) Various development works have been taken up at Raja Bhoj Airport, Bhopal by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to meet the international standards like extension of runway (to 2744 meters and strengthening for making it capable for B-7571 B767/ AB-310 type of aircraft with probable date of completion (PDC) by September 2009, construction of new expendable modular integrated terminal building with PDC by March 2010 and construction of new apron along with link taxi tracks with PDC by March 2010.

(d) AAI has acquired additional 387.47 acres of land from Government of Madhya Pradesh for expansion of airstrip and development of other associated infrastructure at this airport.

(e) and (f) The land has been provided free of cost to AAI by Government of Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

Installation of Scanner at Railway Stations

2774. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Security Agencies had suggested to install scanner at all important Railway Stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Railways have provided space for installation of scanner at all important stations;

(d) if so, the names of those Railway Stations where scanners are installed so far; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Railways to provide space for installation of scanner at all important stations?

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

(b) Ministry of Railways have decided to upgrade security system at 195 sensitive/vulnerable stations of the country by way of installation of an Integrated Security System. This system consists of following four broad areas:-

1. Internet Protocol based CCTV System.
2. Access control.
3. Personal and baggage screening system.
4. Explosive detection and disposal system.

Under personal and baggage screening head it has been decided to install X-ray baggage scanners, door frame metal detectors and hand held metal detectors.

(c) to (e) Normally, there is space for installation of scanners at important stations. So far, scanners have been installed at Kolkata, Gede, Delhi Main, (old Delhi) Chattarpati Shivaji Terminus & Chennai Central station.

Prices of Steel

2775. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major steel producers of the country have reduced the consumer sale price of various

products at the request of the Government;

(b) if so, the extent of reduction in the prices alongwith the names of such products;

(c) whether the dividend of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) is likely to come down due to reduction in the sale price; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Steel is a deregulated sector in India where the price of steel products is decided by the producers depending upon factor such as demand-supply position international price, cost of inputs materials etc. Therefore, Government has no direct role in determining the sales price of steel.

(b) There are a wide variety of steel items produced in India and the producers sell their products directly to the customers based on long term and short term contracts, and also through dealers and distributors. Ministry of Steel monitors the trend in market prices of a representative category of steel items in the market, which are compiled by Joint Plant Committee (JPC) based on the market information. The price of these steel items, as in Delhi market for the past one year is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) pays dividend as per the Government guidelines subject to the recommendations of SAIL Board and approval by the shareholders. The dividends of SAIL for the year 2008-09 has not yet been approved by the shareholders of the company in the Annual General Meeting.

Statement

Retail Steel Price Movement in Delhi Market during (June 2008 to July 2009)

(In Rs./Tonne)

Month	HR 2.0mm	CR 0.63mm	TMT 10mm	Wire Rod 8mm	Pig Iron	Pencil Ingot 100mm	Sponge Iron
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
January 2008	35350	38700	37450	35000	24250	30725	20000
February 2008	38100	40575	40200	37500	26000	33000	21200

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
March 2008	44000	48000	43775	43450	31000	40000	28000
April 2008	49000	52000	46000	43600	34500	38300	25700
May 2008	43000	45000	38200	38000	32400	33000	26000
June 2008	50045	51232	47451	45925	32900	39650	29437
July 2008	45327	48145	43335	43738	35397	38168	32212
August 2008	45477	48145	42727	43073	36873	35366	26703
Sept 2008	45327	48700	41934	43664	36000	35300	24200
Oct 2008	44984	47119	40253	41726	34947	29300	20000
Nov 2008	41977	42392	38846	39400	26600	25690	17000
Dec 2008	36498	36039	36565	37858	24500	27551	15500
Jan 2009	34718	38603	35931	37995	23500	28000	14853
February 2009	33847	36209	34538	36795	25000	26300	16500
March 2009	34491	36968	34218	37357	23618	26300	16705
April 2009	34450	35828	34262	33398	22000	26300	15500
May 2009	34349	36328	35403	34587	22500	25900	16500
June 2009	34289	36568	35479	35249	23200	25700	15300
July 2009 (10.07.09)	34489	36968	34009	33674	23000	24000	15500

*monthly prices as on 15th of the corresponding month.

[Translation]

Setting up of Fast Track Courts

2776. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has urged the State Government to set up fast track court for expeditious disposal of the cases pending in lower courts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Eleventh Finance Commission recommended a scheme for creation of 1734 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) in the country for disposal of long pending cases in the Sessions Courts and the cases of undertrial prisoners. The scheme was for a period of

5 years. It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to establish these courts in consultation with the concerned High Courts. The term of scheme ended on 31st March, 2005. The Supreme Court, which is monitoring the functioning of Fast Track Courts through the case of Brij Mohan Lal Vs UOI & Ors observed that the scheme of Fast Track Courts should not be disbanded all of a sudden and in its order dated 31st March, 2005, directed the Union of India to continue the Fast Track Courts. The Government accorded its approval for the continuation of 1562 Fast Track Courts that were operational as on 31.3.2005 for a further period of 5 years i.e. up to 31st March, 2010.

Superfast Train between Jamshedpur and New Delhi

2777. SHRI ARJUN MUNDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to start a superfast train to link Jamshedpur, Dhanbad, Maidininagar and Kodarma of Jharkhand to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) At present, there are a number of superfast trains available from Tatanagar, Koderma and Dhanbad to New Delhi. It has been announced in Railway Budget 2009-10 to increase the frequency of 2443/2444 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express via Tatanagar (Jamshedpur), Bokaro Steel City and Koderma from Bi-weekly to 4 days a week and introduction of Bi-weekly Express train between Farakka and Delhi via Sahibganj. These will provide additional facilities for the Delhi bound passengers of Jharkhand area. However, there is no Railway station in Jharkhand by the name of Maidininagar.

[*English*]

Opening of Food Processing Units in Rural Areas

2778. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal to develop and promote food processing units in rural areas of the country, especially in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of funds provided for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/ Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries. This Scheme is project specific and the data on food processing in rural areas of the country, especially Karnataka is not centrally maintained by the Ministry. However, the financial assistance provided to the various units under the scheme in Karnataka during the last

three years i.e. 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is Rs. 614.290 lakhs, Rs. 529.62 lakhs and Rs. 629.895 lakhs respectively.

Deregistration of Political Parties

2779. DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Election Commission for deregistration of certain political parties who have registered themselves for the sake of their identity only;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Election Commission of India from time to time makes recommendation in respect of the changes in the election laws. On the last occasion, in July, 2004 the Election Commission of India has sent a set of 22 proposals which—*inter alia* includes the proposal relating to the registration and de-registration of the political parties. A Statement containing the details of the proposals of the Election Commission is enclosed.

(c) While the matter was under consideration with the Government the Chairman, Rajya Sabha has referred the entire matter of electoral reforms to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice for examination and report. Presently, the matter relating to the registration and de-registration amongst other proposals is under consideration with the said Committee.

Statement

*Registration and De-Registration of Political Parties—
Strengthening of Existing Provisions.*

(Proposal made in Chief Election Commissioner's letter dated 15th July, 1998 addressed to the Law Minister)

Political parties are registered with the Commission under the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act 1951. The Section, as it stands, suffers from certain looseness by which just about any small group of persons, if they so desire, can be registered as a political party, by making a simple declaration under

Section 29A(5). This has resulted in mushrooming and proliferation of a large number of non-serious parties, which causes a considerable systems load in the management of elections. By way of example, more than 650 parties are presently registered with the Election Commission, out of which only 150 or so contested in the general elections of 1998. The same trend was there in 1996 general elections as well as in 1991 general elections. Since the lay public is not aware as to how easy it is to get a political party registered with the Election Commission, probably, the motivation for the non-serious parties to get registered is to give some sort of a distorted aura of their status and standing in their localities, particularly in rural and mofussil areas. The Commission feels that election is a serious process and this tendency of small groups of individuals, who have no serious interest or desire to contest elections, should not easily be allowed to get the official stamp from the Commission as active political parties.

In addition to there not being sufficient conditions under Section 29A to deny registration to a political party, the Section also suffers from a serious infirmity that once registered, a political party would stay registered in perpetuity, even if, it does not contest any election over decades of its existence. This is because there is no specific provision to de-register a party. Similarly, certain political parties, which have served their purpose and have presently become defunct, which is normal in the functioning of a democracy, also stay on the rolls of the Commission as functioning political parties. It can readily be seen that the state of affairs is not a happy one. The Commission, therefore, suggests that under the existing Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act 1951, another clause may be introduced authorising the Election Commission to issue necessary orders regulating registration and de-registration of political parties.

Food Processing Training Centres

2780. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Food Processing Training Centres functioning in the country at present, State-wise, especially in Gujarat;

(b) the financial assistance provided to each State by the Union Government during each of the last three years and the quantum of funds released to each centre during the above period;

(c) whether timely utilization certificates are being submitted by these training centers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the step taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industry has assisted 501 food processing training centres from 8th Plan onwards upto 2008-09 in the country including 4 in Gujarat. The state-wise details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The state-wise details of funds released during the last 3 years for setting up of food processing training centres is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) to (e) The Ministry is in regular touch with State Nodal Agencies and the applicant organizations in obtaining utilization certificates in time. In addition to expedite submission of the pending utilization certificates several steps are being taken which include review meetings, issue of reminder, field visits etc.

Statement I

State-wise details of Food Processing Training Centres assisted by Ministry of Food Processing Industries during the period 1992-93 to 2008-2009

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	01
2.	Andhra Pradesh	15
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	01
4.	Assam	25
5.	Bihar	30
6.	Delhi	07
7.	Gujarat	04
8.	Haryana	16
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	09
11.	Karnataka	15
12.	Jharkhand	03

1	2	3	1	2	3
13.	Kerala	09	21.	Punjab	04
14.	Maharashtra	26	22.	Rajasthan	08
15.	Madhya Pradesh	43	23.	Tamil Nadu	44
16.	Manipur	04	24.	Tripura	01
17.	Mizoram	07	25.	Uttar Pradesh	111
18.	Meghalaya	01	26.	West Bengal	25
19.	Nagaland	02	27.	Uttarakhand	06
20.	Orissa	73	Total		501

Statement II*State-wise details of financial assistance provided during last 3 years*

(Amount in Rs. lakh)

Name of the State	2006-07 Grant-in-aid sanctioned	2007-08 Grant-in-aid sanctioned	2008-09 Grant-in-aid sanctioned	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	—	13.50	2.47	15.97
Bihar	—	—	2.00	2.00
Haryana	2.00	1.994	1.461	5.455
Himachal Pradesh	—	9.301	—	9.301
Jharkhand	—	1.60	—	1.60
Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	4.00	4.00
Kerala	—	7.00	—	7.00
Karnataka	7.11	7.204	—	14.314
Maharashtra	—	10.00	2.00	12.00
Madhya Pradesh	12.74	21.607	22.00	56.347
Mizoram	—	7.50	—	7.50
Orissa	10.09	2.00	2.00	14.09
Punjab	—	1.624	—	1.624
Rajasthan	9.50	—	—	9.50

1	2	3	4	5
Tamil Nadu	—	3.69	3.00	6.69
Uttarakhand	2.00	—	3.904	5.904
Uttar Pradesh	13.69	22.755	6.08	42.525
West Bengal	5.78	4.00	2.905	12.685
Total	62.91	113.77	51.82	228.50

[Translation]

Ethore-Unawa Railway Station

2781. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ethore-Unawa railway stations between Mehsana-Unjha railway line has been non-functional for several years;

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

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Railways to make the said station functional again?

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

(b) There was no sale of tickets from 2005-06 onwards. Consequently, from 1.7.2008 the stoppage was withdrawn.

(c) Since there was no sale of tickets at the station from 2005-06, no further action is warranted.

Doubling of Meerut to Saharanpur Rail Line

2782. SHRI KADIR RANA:
SHRI JAGDISH SINGH RANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether doubling of rail line from Meerut to Saharanpur has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said work has been pending for several years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam. An updating survey for doubling of Meerut-Saharanpur was completed in 2005-06. As per the said survey, the cost of doubling of this 114 km long section was assessed as Rs. 238 crore with a Rate of Return (ROR) of minus 7.83%. The proposal was not considered viable.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Sharing of Profit through Production of Petroleum

2783. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil producing States such as Rajasthan, Gujarat and Assam have urged the Union Government to share the profit generated from the petroleum produced from States;

(b) if so, the details of the demands of these States alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Finance Commission has recommended to share the said profit;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for discriminating between the areas where the mineral oil and natural gas are produced;

(f) the steps Union Government proposes to take to share the said irrespective of the blocks awarded through nomination, joint venture and New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); and

(g) the time frame within which a final decision in resolving the issue is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (g) Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and Coal Bed Methane Policy (CBM), Government of India receives profit petroleum/production level payments as per the provisions of Production sharing Contracts (PSCs) in addition to royalty normally received on production of natural resources. State Governments, including Gujarat and Assam, had represented for sharing of profit petroleum with the Union Government. These representations were discussed and deliberated by the Twelfth Finance Commission of India, which recommended sharing of profit petroleum or production level payments with Union Government in the ratio of 50:50. The recommendations in this regard have been accepted by the Government of India. This sharing of profit petroleum is not applicable to other regimes including Pre-NELP, Nomination or Discovered field regimes.

Contributory Provident Fund Trust Scam

2784. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Airports Authority Employees Contributory Provident Fund Trust scam has come to the notice of the Government in the recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the officials found guilty so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) A case of irregularities in the investment of funds from Contributory Provident Fund by the Trust has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (e) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had conducted an investigation regarding alleged irregularities in the investments of funds by National Airport Authority Employees Contributory Provident Fund (NAAECPF) Trust. Based on the findings of investigation conducted by the CBI, Airports Authority of India (AAI), after taking views of the Central Vigilance Commission,

has decided to initiate departmental action for the concerned officials of AAI.

Demand and Production of Natural Gas

2785. DR. K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and production of natural gas during each of the last three years and the prospective scenario with the beginning of gas production from Krishna-Godavari basin and other blocks;

(b) the nature of problems faced and issues involved related to investment, production, marketing and pricing of the gas for different sectors of the economy;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate new policy to strengthen the hands of regulator to ensure investor confidence, consistency in policies, commitment to contractual obligation, evolution of mature market, gas pricing strategies and also to create fair and transparent norms for companies working in exploration of hydrocarbons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The estimated demand and production of natural gas in the last three years is as below:-

(in mmscmd)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Demand	130	179.17	196.64
Production	61	62	75

Production from KG D6 has commenced in April 2009. Presently about 30 mmscmd is being produced from KG D6. In the next few months, the production is likely to go up to 80 mmscmd.

(b) The problems and issues related to investment, production, marketing and pricing of the gas for different sectors of the economy are, inter alia, gap between demand and availability of natural gas, competing demand of various sectors/industries, declining production from nominated fields, requirement of upgradation of gas pipeline infrastructure, uncertainty of price of spot RLNG, and contractual issues/litigation among parties.

(c) and (d) The goals of ensuring investor confidence, consistency in policies, commitment to contractual obligation, evolution of mature market, gas pricing strategies and creation of fair & transparent norms for Companies working in exploration of hydrocarbons are met through implementation of the provision of Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed between Government of India and the respective Contractor. Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) supervises and provides necessary technical inputs regarding the same.

Opening of Check-in Centres

2786. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plan to open Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) check-in centre at Gurgaon;

(b) if so, the site selected therefor;

(c) the total cost of construction of check-in centre, funds allocated and time for its completion;

(d) whether the Government plan to open such check-in centres in Mumbai, Kolkata and Orissa also to make the Air travel hassle-free; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and other measures being taken to ease travelling problems in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) There are no such plans with the Government. In order to ease travelling, all the airlines have been advised to display on their respective websites the facilities offered to the passengers. Besides, the number of check-in counters have been increased at some of the major airports to facilitate fast clearances.

Energy Security

2787. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government to enhance energy security in the country;

(b) the details of the exploration made under New Exploration Licensing Policy in different blocks so far;

(c) the volume of oil/gas accrued from the new discoveries; and

(d) the progress made in respect of six projects approved for oil/gas discovery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Several measures have been taken to accelerate hydrocarbon exploration and production activities to meet our maximum requirement from indigenous sources, which include the following:

(i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) Coal Bed Methane (CBM).

(ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.

(iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

(iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/ Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

(v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.

(vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

(vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol etc. Extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP) by evolving suitable production technology.

(b) Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) 2,71,402 Line Kilo Meter (LKM) of 2D Seismic Survey and 1,41,525 sq km. of 3D Seismic Survey have been under taken and 241 wells have been drilled as on 01.04.09. 71 oil/gas discoveries have been made in the NELP regime till June, 2009.

(c) As far as NELP regime is concerned, 643 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) Oil + Oil Equivalent Gas (O+OEG) in place reserve has been accreted as on 01.04.2009 from new discoveries in the NELP blocks.

(d) In the NELP regime, the Management Committees have approved development plans for 6 discoveries in NELP blocks and the commercial production of oil and gas have commenced from these discoveries.

[Translation]

Ongoing Projects for Exploration of Oil

2788. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM
WAKCHAURE:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

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

(a) the details of the ongoing projects for exploration of oil in different parts of the country and the companies engaged in the said work;

(b) the total amount spent by the said companies in survey and exploration work for oil during the last three years and the current year, company-wise;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the

performance of these projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Oil India Limited and Private/Joint Venture companies are carrying out exploration activities in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, besides offshore areas on the east coast and west coast of India.

(b) Total amount spent by the companies on exploration work company-wise for last three years is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas monitors the performance of Oil Public Sector Undertakings in Quarterly Performance Review meetings. In addition, Planning Commission also reviews the performance. Under Production Sharing Contracts (PSC), performance review is as per the provisions of PSC, where Government has rights to review the performance. As per PSC, the Management Committee reviews the performance of each exploration and production project on regular basis.

Statement

Company wise Investment in India

				In Rs. Crores (Provisional)
Company	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
1	2	3	4	5
British Gas	15.70	38.97	57.40	112.08
Reliance	1908.11	2651.85	1215.94	5775.90
ONGC	4743.00	5161.00	7590.00	17494.00
Cairn	1531.11	378.05	298.69	2207.85
Videocon	23.21	71.08	8.06	102.36
Ravva oil	11.61	35.54	4.03	51.18

1	2	3	4	5
Geo Enpro	0.00	92.87	2.19	95.06
Jubliant	36.85	42.35	133.39	212.59
Geo Petrol	0.00	0.00	86.17	86.17
Oil India Ltd.	508.27	505.81	792.19	1806.27
Indian Oil Corp.	125.57	71.19	24.78	221.55
Canoro	9.17	28.02	0.00	37.19
Assam Company Ltd.	6.11	16.50	0.00	22.61
Heramec	0.00	0.63	9.41	10.04
GSPC	104.55	222.94	845.02	1172.51
Hindustan Oil Expl.	6.73	47.03	2.13	55.89
Hardy	356.67	113.87	251.37	721.91
Niko	138.87	196.52	83.69	419.07
Essar Oil	89.94	20.17	7.13	117.24
Tata Petrodyne	0.92	12.07	47.45	60.44
Gail	150.12	610.65	185.68	946.45
Premier Oil	107.40	0.00	0.00	107.40
Focus Energy	23.54	21.75	0.00	45.29
Oao Gazprom	0.00	299.88	81.26	381.14
HPCL	4.09	9.76	34.00	47.86
BPCL	44.50	18.15	36.43	99.08
Prize Petroleum	16.86	16.09	28.01	60.95
Geoglobal Resources	19.76	21.18	18.67	59.61
Eni	28.16	41.81	0.00	69.97
Brikback India Ltd.	15.69	14.50	0.00	30.19
Jaiprakash Asso.	0.00	5.19	0.00	5.19
Shiv Vani	0.00	3.56	0.00	3.56
Naftogaz	0.00	2.53	0.00	2.53
Santos	0.00	0.00	30.52	30.52

1	2	3	4	5
Welspun	0.00	8.85	0.00	8.85
Adani Enterprise	0.00	13.91	0.00	13.91
Petrogas	0.00	0.49	16.92	17.40
Suntera	0.00	1.57	5.48	7.04
Ensearch	0.00	0.00	7.11	7.11
Total	10026.54	10796.32	11903.11	32725.98

*[English]***New Airport in between Tiruppur and Perundurai**

2789. SHRI C. SIVASAMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a new Airport in between Tiruppur and Perundurai in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Airport at Ongole

2790. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an airport at Ongole in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) On the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP), Airports Authority of India (AAI) has carried out a feasibility study for setting up of a greenfield airport at Ongole and submitted its report to GoAP for taking further necessary action.

Exodus of Pilots

2791. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any contract/condition is prescribed for pilots joining public airlines so as to prevent their exodus in the best interest of the serving airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the pilots serving in the public airlines are preferring to join private airlines being lured with lucrative offers;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of pilots left the public airlines during each of the last three years and the current year;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to control/check the exodus of pilots; and

(f) the approximate expenditure borne by the Government for producing a full-fledged commercial pilot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The trainee Pilots in erstwhile Air India were and are still required to execute a bond to serve at least for 5 years from the date of completion of training. They are also required to deposit post dated cheques of Rs. 25 lakhs along with a letter of irrecoverable guarantee and indemnity bond for Rs. 25 lakhs backed by two guarantors. The trainee pilots in erstwhile Indian Airlines likewise, are required to execute an Agreement/ Surety Bond to satisfactorily complete the training and to serve the company at least for 10 years on being absorbed as Second Officer/First Officer. In the event of their leaving the company before 10 years, they are liable to pay Rs. 10 lakhs as damages to the company. The trainee pilots also furnish security deposit of amounts from Rs. 2.75 lakhs to Rs. 7.5 lakhs for a period of 5 years.

(c) and (d) 18 pilots in 2006, 3 pilots in 2007 and 4 pilots in 2008 have resigned from NACIL. In addition, 13 Senior Trainee Pilots/Trainee Pilots have submitted their resignation, which have not been accepted. However, no information is available about joining of Private Airlines by those pilots who have left the company.

(e) Apart from executing the bond and security deposits by the trainee pilots, the following steps have been taken to control the exodus of pilots: (i) Six months notice required for resignation; (ii) Career Progression pattern revised to inject the concept of 'fly more, earn more'; (iii) Memorandum of Settlement with ICPA providing enhanced benefits and flying allowances on the basis of hours flown; (iv) increased command training; (v) Settlement to allow the company to utilize services of superannuated and type rated pilots for a further period of 2 years; (vi) Insurance coverage of Pilots. Air India matches the emoluments paid by established domestic carriers in India, besides higher level of job security and other conditions of service that are much more favourable than those applicable in private airlines. These added incentives are adequate to stem the flow of experienced pilots from the airline.

(f) Air India incurs an approximate expenditure of Rs. 26.00 lakhs on the training of a pilot.

Introduction of Trains between Kandla and Vishakhapatnam

2792. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is long standing request of people of Kutch and Andhra Pradesh to have direct passenger train services to join the major sea-ports viz. Kandla and Vishakhapatnam with each other through rail network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Presently, the railway line between Kandla and Gandhidham is fit only for running of freight trains. However, representations have been received for introduction of a train between Gandhidham and Puri via Vijayawada/Vishakhapatnam, which is presently not feasible.

Blue Print for Development of Airports

2793. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to develop a model blue print for the development of airports by the States in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There are already guidelines for the development of airports.

[Translation]

Introduction of Clone Trains

2794. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce clone trains on the crowded rail routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the routes have been identified for the purpose in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d): The feasibility of running clone trains along with their routes, schedule and composition is under examination.

Revival of Sick Steel Plants

2795. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick steel plants in Public Sector in the country as on date;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps for the revival/restructuring of such steel plants; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard, plant-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) None of the Public Sector steel companies is sick as on date.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

[*English*]

Unfruitful Expenditure by ONGC

2796. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has squandered away huge sums in unfruitful expenditure;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has any instructions issued to ONGC to do away with the unfruitful expenditure;

(d) if so, the result achieved in this regard; and

(e) further steps taken by the Union Government to control the unfruitful expenditure of Public Sector Oil Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Corporate Governance

2797. SHRI P. BALRAM: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to give more power/autonomy to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office to strengthen corporate government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Vepa Kamesam Committee, constituted by the Government, to examine various issues relating to Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) and to suggest statutory, administrative and organizational changes for improving the effectiveness and to ensure efficient discharge of duties by SFIO, has submitted its report and this is under consideration.

Oil Exploration by ONGC

2798. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR:

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has succeeded in exploration of oil from three more basins in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) During the year 2008-09, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has succeeded in exploration of oil in Assam and Assam-Arakan, Cambay, Cauvery and Krishna-Godavari Basins in onland and Krishna-Godavari and Mumbai Offshore Basins in the offshore areas and has made 16 new oil discoveries.

(b) Basin-wise number of new oil discoveries made through wells drilled during 2008-09 are as follows:

Name of Basin	No. of oil discoveries
Cambay Onland	5
KG Onland	2
Cauvery Onland	3
A&AA Onland	1
Mumbai Offshore	2
KG Offshore	3

In addition to the above, oil has also been found by ONGC in six wells of Cambay basin.

Expert Committee for Air India

2799. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI PRASHUPATI NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted an Expert Committee to examine various issues relating to the current financial crisis being faced by domestic airlines and save airlines industry from surging fuel costs and other associated difficulties;

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

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Committee will submit its final report on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary comprising of Finance Secretary; Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation; Secretary, Department of Revenue; Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas; Secretary, Planning Commission; Dr. Deepak Parekh, Chairman, HDFC; Dr. Raghuram, Professor, IIM, Ahmadabad to examine various issues relating to the current financial crisis being faced by domestic airlines. Two meetings of the committee have been held on 14.08.2008 and 18.11.2008 respectively.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, as per the terms of reference, the Committee had to make appropriate short term as well as long term recommendations for the sustained growth and health of aviation industry.

The Committee has made following main recommendations:—package of financial relief should be worked out, re-examination of mechanism used by oil companies for pricing of ATF, re-examination of the issue of custom duty on ATF, import of ATF by airlines, reduction of sales tax on ATF.

[Translation]

2800. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA:
SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:
SHRI PREMCHAND GUDDU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of new, ongoing/pending projects, doubling rail lines and gauge conversion of rail line, survey for laying new rail lines and RoB/RuB in Madhya Pradesh alongwith target fixed for their completion;

(b) the amount allocated and spent thereon till date, project-wise;

(c) whether some of these projects are behind the schedule; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The details of ongoing railway projects, ROB/RUBs alongwith surveys in Madhya Pradesh are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Expenditure upto March, 2009	Outlay during 2009-10	Present status and target, wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chhotaudepur-Dhar, New Line	3.74	20.22	Final Location Survey taken and part estimate up sanctioned.
2.	Dahod-Indore via Sardarpur, Jhabua & Dhar, New Line	42.2	40	Earthwork and bridge work taken up in Dahod-Katwara and Sagar-Indore.
3.	Guna-Etawah, New Line	405.27	50	Guna-Bhind completed and commissioned. The progress of Bhind-Etawah section is 65%.

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Lalitpur-Satna, (Rewa-Singrauli & Mahoba-Khajuraho, New Line	303.67	58.26	Mahoba-Khajuraho completed. In Lalitpur-Mawai Khas, major and minor bridges completed. Overall physical progress is 80% in this section.
5.	Ramganjmandi-Bhopal, New Line	91.45	20	Final location survey completed. Work on Ramganjmandi-Jhalawar taken up. Earthwork, bridge' work in progress.
6.	Chhindwara-Nagpur Gauge Conversion	85.38	50	Final location survey Nagpur Gauge Conversion completed. Land acquisition, earthwork and bridge work taken up.
7.	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi, Gauge Conversion	552.74	70	Gondia-Balaghat completed. Balaghat-Katangi nearing completion.
8.	Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola, Gauge Conversion	0	40	Preliminary work of detailed survey and estimate in process.
9.	Akodia-Shujalpur Patch Doubling	32.71	1.5	Earthwork and bridge are in advance stage.
10.	Bhopal-Bina 3rd line	50	35	Final location survey completed and detailed estimate sanctioned.
11.	Kalapipal-Phanda/Maksi-Bhopal, Doubling	119.99	4.99	Five out of six block sections commissioned. Remaining block section is targeted for completion during 2010-11.
12.	Bina-Kota-Electrification	89.82	78.34	192 Km out of 303 Km energized. The work on balance section targeted for completion by March, 2010.
13.	Ujjain-Indore & Dewas-Maksi Electrification	32.25	20.58	74 Km out of 115 Km energized. The work on balance section targeted for completion by March, 2010.

Guna-Etawah New Line project is running behind schedule due to delay in acquisition of land in wild life sanctuary area and failure of contracts.

As on 31.03.2009, 8 works of ROB/RUB are sanctioned on cost sharing basis in Madhya Pradesh. In addition, 4 proposals have been included in Budget 2009-10. The works are at different stages of planning and execution.

Details of surveys in progress for construction of new rail line in Madhya Pradesh are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Length in Km
1.	Khandwa-Dhar via Khargone, Badwani	190
2.	Lalitpur-Piprai	65
3.	Ratlam-Banswara-Dungarpur	176

*[English]***Expansion of VSP**

2801. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expansion plans of Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP);

(b) whether any time-frame has been fixed for expansion of the above plant; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Government has approved the expansion plans of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant enhancing its liquid steel capacity from 3.0 million tonnes to 6.3 million tonnes per annum.

(b) and (c) The expansion plans are proposed to be completed in two stages. In stage-I a new Blast Furnace, new Steel Melting Shop and a finishing mill along with associated units are to be commissioned by September, 2010. In Stage-II, additional two finishing mills expansion are scheduled to be completed progressively by December, 2011.

Import of Fertilizers

2802. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of fertilizers have slumped in the international market during the year 2008-09 owing to the global recession; and

(b) if so, the impact it had on the import of fertilizers and the foreign exchange saved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The prices of the fertilizers and fertilizer inputs continued to rule high up to September 2008. However, they started showing declining trend from October 2008 onwards. A statement I showing the price trend of the raw materials/finished fertilizers is enclosed.

(b) Gap between total assessed requirements and indigenous production is met through import of fertilizers. While the decline in the price of fertilizers in the international market took place from October 2008, the value of rupee also declined against the US \$ from September 2008. Details are given in the Statement-II. As such, while there was relatively less outgo of foreign exchange, there was only marginal difference on the subsidy outgo due to weakening of rupee against US \$.

Statement I*Price Trend in International Market: 2008-09*

Month	DAP Cfr	MOP Fob	Urea Fob	Phos acid Cfr	Rock Cfr US \$ per MT
April-08	1319.62	515.00	452.50	1985.00	425.00
May-08	1331.87	666.87	628.75	1985.00	433.75
June-08	1286.75	812.17	677.50	1985.00	460.00
July-08	1291.90	725.00	783.00	2200-2310	384.00
August-08	1268.88	857.50	815.00	2200-2310	362.50
September-08	1162.75	933.75	777.13	2200-2310	347.50
October-08	985.10	945.50	436.60	1920.00	347.50
November-08	654.00	917.50	254.38	1700-1920	352.50
December-08	441.00	917.50	246.38	1200-1920	352.50
January-09	372.88	917.50	268.38	760-1200	301.00
February-09	405.25	917.50	302.13	760.00	NM
March-09	414.00	767.50	305.63	650-760	NM
Average 08-09	911.17	824.44	495.62	650-2310	376.63

Note: Published prices.

Statement-II*Details Showing Exchange Rate (Rupee Per US \$)*

Month	Rupee/US \$
April 2008	40.0224
May 2008	42.125
June 2008	42.820
July 2008	42.838
August 2008	42.937
September 2008	45.563
October 2008	48.655
November 2008	48.999
December 2008	48.634
January 2009	48.833
February 2009	49.266
March 2009	51.228

Note: Exchange rates as monthly average of RBI

Tyre Corporation of India Limited

2803. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had approved the strategic sale of Tyre Corporation of India Ltd., in 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the sale process of the company has not yet started;

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

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide any financial restructuring package for the revival of the company; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (f) Yes, Madam. The

financial restructuring package for revival of TCIL and its disinvestment through outright sale after strengthening the balance sheet was approved by the Government on 06.11.2008. The details of the approved financial revival package are as under:—

- (i) Conversion of Government loan amount of Rs. 202.86 crore (as on 31st March, 2008) into equity.
- (ii) Reduction of the equity from 296.31 crore to Rs. 29.63 crore against accumulated losses.
- (iii) Waiver of outstanding interest of Rs. 547.09 crore (as on 31st March, 2008) on the Government loan and freezing of interest thereon beyond 31.03.2008.
- (iv) Waiver of unpaid guarantee fee including penal fee of Rs. 1.82 crore for the period 1999-2000 to 2007-08.

The company is currently under the purview of BIFR. The disinvestment of TCIL can be undertaken once the company is discharged from BIFR. Efforts to bring the Company out of the purview of the BIFR are on.

Railway Crossings at National Highways in Karnataka

2804. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:
SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of railway crossings on national highways in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Railways propose to build under/over bridges on these highways;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There are 15 railway crossings on National Highways in the State of Karnataka.

(b) Yes, Madam. Out of 15 locations ROB/RUBs are already sanctioned for 10 locations.

(c)

Sl. No.	Location	LC No.
1.	Yelahanka-Chikbllapur at Km. 12/100-200	9
2.	Yelahanka-Chikbllapur at Km. 18/800-900	14
3.	Yelahanka-Chikbllapur at Km. 29/500-600	26
4.	Yelahanka-Chikbllapur at Km. 36/200-300	31
5.	Bangarpet-Kolar at Km. 132/200-300	149
6.	Harihar-Hubli at Km. 322/600-700	197
7.	Harihar-Hubli at Km. 334/400-500	207
8.	Harihar-Hubli at Km. 337/100-200	208
9.	Harihar-Hubli at Km. 371/300-400	222
10.	Harihar-Hubli at Km. 389/500-600	234

(d) Efforts are being made to complete these ROB's/RUBs during 2009-10.

[Translation]

Charges from Air Passengers

2805. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the aviation companies are charging original fare tax and other charges along with air traffic congestion cess from the passengers;

(b) if so, the details and justification thereof;

(c) whether aviation companies are expected to pay compensation to their passengers in case of delay/cancellation of flights due to technical or other reasons on the pattern of foreign aviation companies which pay compensation to their passengers in the event of such eventualities; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) At present air fare charged by the private scheduled domestic airlines comprises of basic fare, congestion surcharge, passenger service fee, User Development Fee (UDF) (wherever charged) and transaction fee (if the

ticket is booked through any point of purchase other than the website). Out of the aforesaid charges, only passenger service fee and UDF (wherever charged) is collected by the Airlines on behalf of the Airport operators.

(c) and (d) In case of delays and cancellations, full service airlines provide adequate facilities to the passengers which include provision of food, hotel accommodation, conveyance, cash compensation, etc. Low cost airlines also provide refreshments to passengers in case the flight is delayed more than two hours. Airlines also refund the tickets as per regulations issued by DGCA.

Allotment of LPG Agency

2806. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR:

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

(a) the State-wise details of LPG agencies in the country as on date including Gujarat;

(b) the criteria prescribed by the Government for the allotment of LPG agency;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide this facility in the areas where LPG agencies are not available;

(d) whether Government has prepared any action plan for opening more new LPG agencies in the country during 2009-10; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (c) As on 01.07.2009, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 9382 LPG distributors in the country including 544 in the State of Gujarat. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

OMCs have finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 1340 locations in the country including 41 in the State of Gujarat for setting up of new LPG distributorships, mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations. The advertisements for all the locations have been released and selection for the same is in progress as per policy.

In order to increase rural penetration and to cover remote as well as low potential areas, a new scheme is proposed to be implemented. Details of the scheme will be notified shortly.

(b) Government have given freedom to OMCs to set up LPG distributors in accordance with their commercial assessment and locations are identified by them on the basis of available refill sale potential for sustaining an independent distributor. The criteria and the procedure for selection of LPG distributors are published by OMCs from time to time in various Newspapers at the time of advertisement/selection.

(d) and (e) OMCs are in the process of identifying viable locations for setting up of new LPG distributorship in the country under the Industry Marketing Plan 2008-10 and the same is yet to be finalized.

Statement

State-wise details of LPG Distributors in the Country as on 01.07.2009

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Number of LPG distributors
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	889
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	30
3.	Assam	252

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	313
5.	Chhattisgarh	152
6.	Delhi	313
7.	Goa	53
8.	Gujarat	544
9.	Haryana	281
10.	Himachal Pradesh	121
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	151
12.	Jharkhand	142
13.	Karnataka	486
14.	Kerala	372
15.	Madhya Pradesh	562
16.	Maharashtra	999
17.	Manipur	31
18.	Meghalaya	32
19.	Mizoram	25
20.	Nagaland	27
21.	Orissa	189
22.	Punjab	427
23.	Rajasthan	432
24.	Sikkim	8
25.	Tamil Nadu	657
26.	Tripura	30
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1167
28.	Uttarakhand	168
29.	West Bengal	475
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	4

1	2	3
31.	Chandigarh	28
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
33.	Daman & Diu	2
34.	Lakshadweep	1
35.	Puducherry	18
Total		9382

Availability of Oil and Gas

2807. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of availability and potential of oil and gas exploration in the country;

(b) the total consumption of oil and gas in the country at present;

(c) the percentage of the total requirement of the country being met from the existing oil and gas reserves;

(d) the quantum of oil and gas imported in addition to the domestic production to meet the requirement during each of the last three years till date; and

(e) the details of foreign exchange spent thereon during the above period till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) At present, area under exploration is about 50% of Indian Sedimentary Basins. At the end of XI plan, area under exploration is targeted to cover 80% of total Indian Sedimentary Basins.

(b) The total consumption of crude oil (crude processing by refineries) and Gas during 2008-09 (provisional) was 157.1 Million Metric Tonne (MMT)* and 37.343 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) respectively.

(c) Domestic consumption as percentage of total domestic crude oil processed is about 18%. About 72.6% of the total requirement of gas in the country is being met indigenously.

(d) and (e) Details of crude oil & Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import and foreign exchange spent thereon during the last three years are given as under:

Year	Crude Oil		LNG	
	Quantity (MMT)	Value US\$ (Million)	Quantity (MMT)	Value Rs (in crores)
2008-09 (Provisional)	128.2	75701	6.46	7247.14
2007-08	121.7	67988	6.29	5117.01
2006-07	111.5	48389	5.68	4555.97

Note: Above does not include data of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) (Special Economic Zone) refinery and Hazira LNG Pvt Ltd, as the same are not available.

*RIL (Special Economic Zone) refinery not included.

[English]

Supply of KG Gas to RNRL

2808. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:
SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has raised an alarm over the Bombay High Court ruling asking Reliance Industries to supply 28 million metric standard cubic meters a day of KG gas to Reliance Natural Resources Limited (RNRL);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure that the supply of KG gas to the power and fertilizer industry should not be effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Madam. The Department of Fertilizers on a reference from Fertilizers Association of India has sought re-confirmation from Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to the effect that the recent judgement of Bombay High Court would have no implications on the supply of gas from KG Basin to the

fertilizer industry. The clarification/confirmation in this regard will remove the uncertainty in supply of feedstock to the fertilizer industry. This would also have implications on the fuel oil and naphtha based urea units, which are making large investments to switch feedstock to natural gas as per the declared policy of the Government.

(b) The Department of Fertilizers has contended that the gas in question has been allocated based on Government's authority and rights under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) aimed at regulating gas marketing and allowing their orderly growth. Further, fertilizer sector has been accorded highest priority by Government in allocation of gas to meet its current and future requirements and same needs to be intact.

(c) Both RIL and RNRL have gone on appeal through SLPs to the Supreme Court against the judgment of the Bombay High Court. Government of India has been made an intervener in the SLP filed by RIL. This Ministry has filed an affidavit expressing its stand on the basis of Production Sharing Contract (PSC). Further, the Government has filed a special leave petition to protect its interest.

Ground Handling Operations

2809. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to defer its ban on private commercial airlines to carry out their own ground handling operations, till 31-12-2009;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is thinking of giving compensation to private airlines for the loss of employment of personnel employed on ground handling operations, and also for the investment made by them; and

(d) if so, the action plan for bringing about improvement in these operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Airline Operators had expressed their concern about the new Ground Handling Policy. The matter was examined by the Government and it was decided that the exit of non-entitled entities including domestic airlines will be implemented only after

undertaking a comprehensive review and consultation with all stake holders in a time bound manner.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

Production Under Oil Recovery Schemes.

2810. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have identified some of its major oil and gas fields for augmentation of production under the oil recovery schemes;

(b) if so, the number of oil and gas fields identified in this regard;

(c) the reasons for decline of oil and gas production in these major oil and gas fields;

(d) the scheme chalked out for their revival; and

(e) the investment proposed for these major oil and gas fields during 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has identified 15 of its major oil and gas producing fields for augmentation of Production under the improved/enhanced oil recovery schemes.

(c) Majority of the ONGC's production comes from these 15 major fields which are under production for more than last two to three decades. Decline in production is a natural phenomenon in old and ageing fields.

(d) ONGC is implementing proven new technologies under Improved Oil Recovery (IOR)/Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) projects such as various well techniques like drilling of horizontal and multilateral wells by side-track in old wells, work over, hydro-fracturing, acidisation etc. to augment oil production.

(e) An outlay of Rs. 1056.29 crore has been earmarked for investment in these major oil and gas fields during 2009-10.

Passes/Concession to Various Categories

2811. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for providing concessions/ passes to individuals and organizations by the Railways;

(b) the details of concessions and passes issued to various individuals and organizations by the Railways during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Railways have received any proposal to issue passes to Scheduled Tribe families living the below poverty line once in a year to visit various religious places in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Railways grant concessions to different categories of persons like persons with serious medical affliction, artists, sport persons, war widows, senior citizens, students, etc. These concessions are granted on account of severe medical afflictions/disability, exemplary contributions in various fields, advanced age and for the promotion of education etc.

Railway Passes are issued to Railway employees as per Railway Servants (Pass) Rules, 1986, 1993 edition. Indian Railways also issues complimentary Card passes to various categories of persons such as Freedom Fighters, Gallantry awardees (Defence & Police Personnel), Meritorious Sportspersons, Bharat Ratna awardees etc. as per policy framed in this regard. Complimentary Card Passes and Cheque Passes are also issued under discretionary powers of Railway Ministers as per guidelines framed. However, this data is not centrally maintained.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Impact of Global Economic Slowdown on PSUs

2812. DR. K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of impact of global slowdown on the performance of Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) the state of financial health of the Central and State Public Sector Undertakings and steps taken to monitor their performance to avoid any financial irregularities;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a special mechanism to ensure high levels of financial management and sector specific performances by PSUs to achieve the targets fixed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per the Public Enterprises Survey, 2007-08, which was laid in the Parliament on 25.2.2009, the foreign exchange earnings of the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), as a whole, increased from Rs. 70906 crore during 2006-07 to Rs. 74283 crore during 2007-08. However, certain sectors such as crude oil, fertilizers, heavy engineering, transportation services, industrial development & technical consultancy services, tourist services, financial services etc. witnessed decline in foreign exchange earnings during this period. The details are given in Statement 22 of Volume I of the aforesaid Survey (pages S-135 to S-142). The concerned administrative Ministries periodically review the performance of CPSEs, under their administrative control. The performance of State Level Public Enterprises (SLPEs) is monitored by the respective State/Union Territory Government.

(c) and (d) The CPSEs sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with their respective administrative Ministries/Departments. The annual MOU negotiations between the CPSEs and the administrative Ministries/Departments is a management tool for improving the performance of CPSEs. The financial targets of sales and profits are fixed in the beginning of the year, based on which the performance of CPSEs are evaluated at the end of the year.

[Translation]

Revival of Sick Textiles Mills

2813. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM
WAKCHAURE:

SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick/loss making textiles mills in the country including Surat in Gujarat as on date, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to revive and make these mills economically viable; and

(c) the provision of funds made for the purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government does not maintain data relating to textile industries earning profit, incurring loss and becoming sick. A list of Government and private sick mills State-wise is enclosed as Statement. Government seeks to foster a policy regime, which facilitates growth and development of Indian industry. It has taken a number of steps to revive sick industrial units which, inter-alia, include, guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Social Provisions) Act, etc. For restructuring of high cost debts of textiles units, in the organized sector, Ministry of Finance, Banking Division, in September 2003 introduced a Debt Restructuring Package to help textiles units overcome their unsustainable debt burden.

Statement

List of Government and private sick mills (State-wise)

Sl.No.	State	Private mills	NTC mills
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53	6
2.	Assam	5	1
3.	Bihar	2	2
4.	Chandigarh	1	—
5.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5	—
6.	Daman and Diu	1	—
7.	Delhi	46	—
8.	Goa	1	—

1	2	3	4
9.	Gujarat	122	11
10.	Haryana	26	—
12.	Jharkhand	1	—
13.	Karnataka	43	4
14.	Kerala	14	5
15.	Madhya Pradesh	31	6
16.	Maharashtra	167	35
17.	Orissa	6	1
18.	Puducherry	1	1
19.	Punjab	38	4
20.	Rajasthan	45	4
21.	Tamil Nadu	176	13
22.	Uttar Pradesh	40	11
23.	Uttaranchal	5	—
24.	West Bengal	38	12
25.	Chhattisgarh	—	1
Total		868*	117

*Out of 868 textile cases, 62 textile cases have been declared no longer sick by BIFR and 21 textile cases have been dropped as networth become positive. In respect of 64 textile cases, schemes/draft scheme have been prepared/sanctioned.

[English]

Fixation of Price of Natural Gas

2814. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI TARA CHAND BHAGORA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN
SINGH:
SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

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

(a) the criteria adopted for fixing the price of natural gas from Krishna-Godavari (KG) D6 Block;

(b) the reasons for fixing the gas price formula in US Dollar for the domestic consumption;

(c) the USD/INR exchange rate for the payment of gas to RIL by the Government owned power, fertilizer and steel companies;

(d) whether there was any deviation from the approved formula; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Production Sharing Contract (PSC) provides for pricing of gas on the basis of sales on competitive arms Length principles. The formula or basis on which the prices shall be determined is required to be approved by the Government prior to sale of Natural gas to consumers/buyers. The price obtained from the basis/formula comes to US \$ 4.2 per MMBTU for crude oil price equal or greater then US \$ 60 per barrel.

(b) Gas prices are generally indexed to liquid hydrocarbons such as crude oil, fuel oils etc. The international prices of these liquid fuels are quoted normally in US Dollars. Therefore, the prices of natural gas as well as of crude oil under the Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) are in US Dollars. Further, accounts in all PSCs are required to be maintained in US Dollars.

(c) to (e) The exchange rate is fixed on the monthly average of the daily mean of the buying and selling rates fo exchange as quoted by State Bank of India (or any other financial body as may be mutually agreed by the parties) for the Month prior to the Month in which the revenues, costs, expenditures, receipts or income are recorded. There is no deviation in the formula approved by the Government.

Rail Over Bridges at Tiruppur

2815. SHRI C. SIVASAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to construct rail over bridges at First and Second Railway gates at Tiruppur Railway Station, Chikkana college, Koolipalayam Railway gate and Vanjipalayam Railway gate; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) **Construction of Road Over Bridge at first Railway gate at Tirupur Railway Station:**

The proposal for construction of Road Over Bridge is in lieu of LC 133 at km. 441/10-12 between Uthukuli-Thirupur stations in Erode-Coimbatore-Podanur section of Salem division. The work has already been sanctioned and included in 2007-08 Railways Works Programme. Presently, the work is in planning stage.

Construction of Road Over Bridge at second Railway gate at Tirupur Railway Station:

The request for construction of Road Over Bridge is in lieu of LC 132 (SRC Mill Gate @ km. 440/26-28) between Uthukuli-Thirupur stations on Erode-Coimbatore-Podanur section of Salem division. The work has already been sanctioned and included in 2007-08 Railways Works Programme. The General Arrangement drawing has been sent to State Government for concurrence.

Near Chikanna College:

The proposal for construction of ROB at Rly.Km. 445/19-21 between Tiruppur and Vanjipalayam Railway Stations (Chikkanna College) has already been sanctioned on Deposit Terms. The General Arrangement Drawing has been sent to Chief Engineer/Highways for concurrence.

Near Koolipalayam Railway gate:

The proposal for construction of Road Over Bridge is in lieu of LC 131@ km. 438/4-6 between Uthukuli-Thirupur stations. The traffic density at this level crossing (LC) is 100464 train vehicle units. State Government has not sponsored proposal for replacement of LC by ROB on cost sharing basis. List of eligible LCs has been sent to them which also includes LC No. 131.

Near Vanjipalayam Railway gate:

The proposal for construction of Road Over Bridge is in lieu of LC 134 @ km. 441/10-12 between Uthukuli-Thirupur stations. The work has already been sanctioned and included in 2007-08 Railways Works Programme. The General Arrangment drawing has been sent to State Government for concurrence.

Benches of Supreme Court

2816. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:
DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the Government is planning to confer statutory status to the Law Commission to give it more autonomy and to ensure that its recommendations are implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chairman of Law Commission has urged the Government to set up four benches of Supreme Court and a constitutional Court in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) A draft Bill, namely, the Law Commission of India Bill, 2009 is under examination in the Legislative Department.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Direct Trains from Jharkhand

2817. SHRI ARJUN MUNDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways earns more than fifty per cent of its gross freight revenue from the State of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to ply direct trains from important cities of Jharkhand to connecting all the metro cities of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Indian Railways compile freight revenue data railway zone-wise and not State-wise.

(c) The following services are proposed to be provided for the State of Jharkhand during 2009-10.

New trains

- Ranchi-Howrah (3 days via Ghatshila, Kharagpur and 3 days via Asansol) intercity (6 days a week).
- Ranchi-Patna Jan Shatabadi Express (Daily).

Extension

- Extension of 5761/5762 Ranchi-Alipurduar Express (upto Guwahati (Bi-Weekly)).
- Extension of 2143/2144 Gaya-Nagpur Deekshabhumi Express upto Dhanbad in one direction and to Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharaj Terminal Kolhapur on other direction.
- Extension of 2985/2986 Sealdah-Jaipur Express via Dhanbad, Koderma upto Ajmer and its daily running.

Increase in frequency

- Increase in the frequency of 2443/2444 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express via Koderma, Bokaro Steel City, Tatanagar from Bi-weekly to four days a week.
- Increase in the frequency of 2905/2906 Porbander-Howrah Express via Tatanagar from Bi-weekly to tri-weekly.

[*English*]

Demand and Supply of Petrol/LPG

2818. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated supply and projected demand of petrol, diesel, LPG, CNG and Kerosene in the various States as on date State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between the estimated demand and the projected supply of these products;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any request from State Governments to increase their quotas of petroleum products; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The demand for petroleum products is estimated by aggregating sale of products by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to their dealers as well as imports by private parties. The total demand for petroleum products during 2009-10 has been estimated provisionally at 136.614 Million Tonnes in comparison to estimated actual consumption of 133.4 Million Tonnes in 2008-09. The details of estimated demand of petrol, diesel, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and kerosene during 2009-10 is given below:-

Figure in Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT)

Products	Demand
Diesel	54355
Petrol	12271
LPG	12498
Kerosene	9276

The above demand will be met through supply of products either through domestic production or through imports in case of deficit.

As regards Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), the development of CNG infrastructure in different cities in the country is being taken up in a phased manner. In order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for laying trunk natural gas pipelines and city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks.' Providing of CNG facilities in a particular city/town area depends inter alia upon proximity to trunk natural gas pipelines, availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability.

To augment the CNG supplies for the domestic market, the Government of India has initiated the following steps:-

- (i) Intensification in domestic E&P activities;
- (ii) Exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) gas;
- (iii) Implementation of Natural Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) for evaluation of hydrate resources and their possible commercial exploitation;
- (iv) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import; and
- (v) Gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.

State/Union Territory-wise details of sales of petrol, diesel, LPG, CNG and quantity allocated of Public Distribution System kerosene during the 2008-09 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) There is no State-wise quota fixed by the Government for the allocation of petroleum products except for Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas makes quarterly allocation of PDS kerosene to States/Union Territories for further distribution under the PDS network.

Requests have been received from various State Governments for increasing the SKO allocation, the Government of India commissioned a detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2004. NCAER submitted its report in October 2005. NCAER has inter alia recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only. Also, Dr. Rangarajan Committee constituted by the Government to formulate a longterm pricing policy of petroleum products has also recommended to restrict PDS SKO subsidy to BPL families only. The Government has accepted the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report and has decided 'in principle' that subsidy on PDS Kerosene may be restricted to BPL families only. The proposal to work out the modalities to implement this decision and for rationalizing the allocation of PDS kerosene among States/UTs is under the consideration of the Government.

Statement

State-wise Sales of LPG, Petrol, Diesel, Kerosene and CNG During 2008-09
Quantity in Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMTs) (Provisional)

State	LPG	MS	HSD	KEROSENE	CNG
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.74	8.01	92.91	5.816	0
Andhra Pradesh	973.03	851.73	5265.47	517.158	6.70
Arunachal Pradesh	11.10	14.76	57.86	9.257	0
Assam	178.87	113.37	570.51	258.007	0
Bihar	282.80	185.40	1424.69	647.430	0
Chandigarh	35.71	75.10	73.73	9.999	0
Chhattisgarh	117.71	176.65	903.03	146.938	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	13.02	11.63	64.11	2.782	0
Daman and Diu	6.95	12.87	49.44	2.118	0
Delhi	642.12	762.45	1220.95	160.935	459.50
Goa	53.99	84.07	377.24	19.212	0
Gujarat	664.31	804.51	3065.88	743.759	165.00
Haryana	427.83	480.97	3579.37	145.619	0
Himachal Pradesh	91.69	77.02	372.41	49.409	0
Jammu and Kashmir	122.27	102.46	422.78	76.044	0
Jharkhand	109.34	164.11	1032.53	211.175	0
Karnataka	812.11	765.52	3201.21	461.478	0
Kerala	524.37	608.00	1655.23	216.308	0
Lakshadweep	0.25	0.0000	15.65	0.795	0
Madhya Pradesh	468.20	470.19	2071.48	488.609	0.29
Maharashtra	1778.48	1585.34	5556.35	1276.876	281.80
Manipur	16.70	21.44	51.26	19.907	0
Meghalaya	13.96	35.46	234.56	20.401	0
Mizoram	17.57	12.68	33.42	6.217	0
Nagaland	14.12	16.84	29.47	13.312	0
Orissa	158.47	233.59	1412.06	314.977	0
Puducherry	30.52	71.67	321.24	12.257	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
Punjab	567.91	502.67	2630.74	237.192	0
Rajasthan	502.76	526.77	3297.64	398.913	0
Sikkim	8.84	8.39	33.76	5.582	0
Tamil Nadu	1123.91	1051.85	4595.32	558.929	0
Tripura	19.45	18.79	59.50	30.832	0.81
Uttar Pradesh	1237.63	974.71	5258.67	1241.772	36.70
Uttarakhand	146.84	120.46	452.02	89.849	0
West Bengal	604.86	307.63	2135.10	752.103	0
Total	11783.43	11257.11	51617.59	9151.967	950.80

[Translation]

New Railway Projects

2819. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the surveys conducted for gauge conversion, laying of new railway lines and construction of bridges during the last three years;

(b) the details of the surveys approved/sanctioned by the Railways during the said period; and

(c) the time by which the pending surveys are likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) During the last three years i.e. 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, 116 surveys for new lines, 16 for gauge conversion and 2 for flyovers have been completed.

(b) Out of the completed surveys, 18 new line, 6 gauge conversion and 1 flyover projects have been sanctioned.

(c) Normally, it takes between one to two years for a survey to be completed depending upon length of the line and geographical conditions.

[English]

Naming of Bhuj Airport

2820. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request to change the name of the Bhuj airport as "Kranti Guru Pandit Shyamji Krishna Verma";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Various proposals from time to time have been received from Government of Gujarat and an Hon'ble Member of Parliament for renaming of Bhuj airport after Late Kranti-Guru Pandit Shyamji Krishna Verma.

(c) The general policy of naming of airport has been to retain name of the cities for domestic airports, since passengers in general and especially foreign tourists and other visitors who may not be familiar with the local history find it easier to identify the airport, when it is named after the city, which it serves.

[Translation]

Booking of Rail Tickets through Mobile Vans

2821. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to start the facility of issuing reserved and unreserved tickets through mobile vans in order to facilitate ticket booking for travelling public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are shortly going to start a pilot project under the said scheme;

(d) if so, whether the Railways have selected certain urban and rural areas to provide the said facility to each of the States, particularly Jharkhand; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. It has been announced in the Railway Budget for 2009-10.

(b) The mobile vans are to go into rural areas, market places, mohallas and other busy places for issuing reserved and unreserved tickets.

(c) The pilot project will be undertaken after finalizing the design of such a mobile van with V-Sat connectivity, power supply etc.

(d) and (e) No area has been identified so far, since the design of the mobile van is under finalisation.

Tasar Silk Production

2822. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of export earnings from tasar silk goods during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the demand for the Indian tasar silk has increased in the foreign markets;

(c) if so, the percentage increased registered in export earnings during the aforesaid period;

(d) the amount released/spent by the Government for tasar sector under the Catalytic Development Programme, during the past three years and the current year; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for the development of tasar sector and to increase cultivable area of tasar silk, in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Year-

wise export earnings from tasar silk goods, which include tasar dress materials, scarves, stoles, raw silk, silk waste' and dupion/Spun/Noil yarns, during the last three years (2006-07 to 2008-09) and the current year are given below:

Year	Export earnings (in lakh Rs.)
2006-07	15,073.83
2007-08	12,690.16
2008-09*	13,907.85
2009-10	Not available

*Provisional

(Source. Foreign Trade of India, Director General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) Kolkata.

(b) and (c) Though there was slump in the export earnings in 2007-08 as compared to 2006-07, it has increased in 2008-09. The percentage of increase registered in the export earnings was 15.20% in the year 2006-07 when compared to 2005-06. There was a slump of about -15.8% during the year 2007-08 as compared to 2006-07. Earnings increased provisionally by 21.8% in the year 2008-09 as compared to 2007-08.

(d) Based on the proposals received from the States, the amount released/spent by the Government of India through Central Silk Board for implementation of tasar sector Schemes under the Catalytic Development Programme, during the past three years (2006-07 to 2008-09) and the tentative provision made for the current year (2009-10) are given below:

Year	Amount released/spent (in crores of Rs.)
2006-07	4.21
2007-08	3.45
2008-09	6.49

The tentative provision made for the current year (2009-10) is Rs 5.33 crores.

(e) Under the Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) being implemented in the country, the following Packages are being implemented in different States for the development of Tasar Sector:-

- Assistance to Private Tasar Graineurs:

Under the scheme, suitable training is provided for the graineurs regarding processing and production of disease free layings and they are assisted with necessary technical support, construction of Grainage building, insurance & maintenance of building/equipment, purchase of Grainage equipment, consumable, seed cocoons etc.

- Assistance to tasar Seed rearers:

The seed rearers are being assisted with the necessary rearing equipments and tools to produce seed cocoons required for grainage operations.

- Support to rearers for raising and maintenance of systematic Tasar food plantation:

The scheme envisages assisting the individual tasar rearers, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Women Groups, Vana Samrakshana Samitis (VSS) to raise systematic tasar food plants in private and degraded forestlands. Each beneficiary or Self Help Group is being assisted with supply of seedlings, cost for plantation development, cost of inputs and cost of plantation maintenance. During XI Plan, it is tentatively proposed to increase the additional area under tasar block plantation by 11,500 Hectares in the country.

[English]

Food Processing Units in Kerala

2823. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Union Government from various State Governments for setting up of food processing industries during the last three years till date, State-wise particularly in Kerala;

(b) the number of proposals cleared so far including those pending approval by the Government;

(c) the financial assistance provided to the State Governments including Kerala for the purpose during the aforesaid period;

(d) the details of amount allocated to Food Research Institute in Pathanamthitta District of Kerala during the last three years till date; and

(e) the details of expenditure incurred since its establishment?

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

To promote food processing in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant & machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries. In order to ensure speedy disbursement of financial assistance, the Ministry has decentralized the disbursement procedure through banks/financial institutions under the scheme of setting up/Establishment/Modernization/Expansion of Food Processing Industries w.e.f. 01.04.2007.

Under the decentralized procedure, the applications are received directly by the Banks/FIs, hence the data for receipt of the applications for 2007-08 and 2008-09 is not maintained centrally by the Ministry. However, the financial assistance provided to the various units under the scheme in the State of Kerala during the last three years i.e. 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is Rs. 674.140 lakhs, Rs. 876.800 lakhs and Rs. 545.37 lakhs respectively.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has released an amount of Rs. 7.00 lakhs for setting up of multiline Food Processing Training Centre and Rs. 250.00 lakhs for setting up of Food Quality and Monitoring Laboratory to Council for Food Research & Development, Konni, Kerala during last three years.

Anti Collision Device

2824. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Anti Collision Device developed by Railways got patent in China, Russia, South Africa and Singapore;

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

(c) whether the Railways is planning to export the technology to other countries to generate revenue for other projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways made any efforts for worldwide patent for ACD; and

(f) if so, the details thereon?

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

Textiles Processing Units

2825. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any bailout package for textiles processing units is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also proposing to set up new textiles parks in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps being taken by the Government to improve the situation of textiles processing units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a), (b) and (e) Government provides capital subsidy @10% alongwith interest subsidy @5% to set up new processing

units as well as to upgrade the machineries of existing processing units under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS). In addition, the Scheme also extends financial benefits upto 25% of the cost of machineries in respect of investments for setting up effluent treatment plant, which is essential for processing sector.

(c) and (d) The Government is contemplating to set up 15 new textile parks under Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP) within available plan outlay for 11th plan for SITP.

[*Translation*]

Revenue from Freight Charges

2826. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected by the Railways from the freight during each of the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been an upswing in the freight during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of quantity of material transported by Railway during each of the last three years and revenue earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The amount collected from the freight during each of the last three years is as under:

Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Amount (Rs. in crore)	41716.50	47434.90	53433.42

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. The freight earnings during 2009-10 (upto June 2009) is Rs. 13378 crore (approx) as compared to Rs. 13136 crore during the corresponding period of last year i.e. upto June 2008.

(d) The quantity of originating traffic and freight earning there from during the last three years are as under:

Name of Commodity	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Tonnes Originating (in millions)	Revenue Earnings (Rs. in crores)	Tonnes Originating (in millions)	Revenue Earnings (Rs. in crores)	Tonnes Originating (in millions)	Revenue Earnings (Rs. in crores)
• Coal	313.33	15886.61	336.86	17567.20	369.41	20029.82
• Raw material to steel plants	53.22	1899.59	11.18	762.09	10.89	775.58
• Pig Iron and finished steel for steel plants	21.04	2259.26	25.79	2627.44	27.16	2809.54
• Iron Ore for export	38.84	2516.30	136.69	7189.98	130.52	9302.58
• Cement	73.13	3649.10	78.99	3900.41	85.92	4535.68
• Foodgrains	41.84	3071.46	38.23	3212.67	34.18	3308.92
• Fertilizers	34.27	1792.07	35.83	1896.16	41.35	2801.18
• Mineral Oil (POL)	35.23	3037.57	35.88	2936.41	38.83	3200.22
• Container Service	—	—	21.13	1474.14	28.84	2284.63
• Misc. & Other Goods	116.85	7604.54	73.34	5868.40	66.21	4385.27
Total	727.75	41716.50	793.89	47434.90	833.31	53433.42

ROB At Pindwada And Swaroopganj

2827. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formulated any scheme to construct rail over bridges at Pindwada and Swaroopganj railway crossings under the Jodhpur railway division; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Pindawara & Swaroopganj crossings are not under Jodhpur division, instead Swaroopganj Railway Station falls in Ajmer Division where two works of Road over bridges (ROBs) are being executed in and around Swaroopganj station by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), these are:

- ROB between Banas-Swaroopganj (Pindwara Bypass) Stations of Marwar Jn.-Palanpur section on deposit terms by NHAI, progress of which is 55%.
- ROB in lieu of LC No. 121C on Ajmer. Palanpur section near Swaroopganj station on NH-14 under Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT) scheme. Work has been completed by NHAI during 2008-09.

[English]

Modernisation of Railway Station

2828. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway stations under Western Railway which were selected for modernisation in the last Railway budget;

(b) the names of stations where work has already been commenced;

(c) whether this include Jamnagar railway station; and

(d) if so, the works proposed to be undertaken at Jamnagar railway station and the details of work which is under way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) 56 stations of Western Railway including Jamnagar were selected for the purpose of modernisation and giving a face-lift. List of stations identified for modernisation is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) Various works have been completed/planned at Jamnagar station, the details of which are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

List of stations identified for modernisation and where work has commenced is as under

Sl. No.	Name of Station
1	2
1.	Surat
2.	Vapi
3.	Navsari
4.	Bandra Terminus
5.	Mumbai Central
6.	Vadodara
7.	Anand
8.	Nadiad
9.	Bharuch
10.	Ankleshwar
11.	Ratlam
12.	Indore
13.	Dahod
14.	Ujjain

1	2
15.	Chittaurgarh
16.	Ahmedabad
17.	Maninagar
18.	Gandhidham
19.	New Bhuj
20.	Palanpur
21.	Rajkot
22.	Surendranagar
23.	Jamnagar
24.	Than
25.	Wankaner
26.	Bhavnagar
27.	Veraval
28.	Porbandar
29.	Junagarh
30.	Gandhigram
31.	Dadar
32.	Bandra
33.	Andheri
34.	Borivali
35.	Valsad
36.	Godhara
37.	Miyagam Karjan
38.	Keshod
39.	Kosamba
40.	Kim
41.	Meghnagar
42.	Nimach
43.	Mhow
44.	Bhauchau
45.	Dhrangandhra

1	2
46.	Shujalpur
47.	Sabarmati
48.	Viramgam
49.	Kalol
50.	Bhaktinagar
51.	Hapa
52.	Khambaliya
53.	Dwaraka
54.	Botad
55.	Dhola
56.	Gondal

Statement II

Details of modernization works undertaken at Jamnagar station

Following modernization works have already been completed at Jamnagar railway station:

1. Extension of platforms shed;
2. Improvement to circulating area;
3. Coach Indication Board;
4. Digital Display Board on each platform and Foot Over Bridge;
5. Platform digital clock;
6. Computerized Auto Announcement System;
7. Renovation of platform toilet, water cooler, booking office furniture, glow sign board, time table board;
8. Retiring room;
9. Upper class & second class waiting room;
10. Clerk room;
11. Enquiry counter;
12. Inter-Voice Response System;

13. Public Address System;
14. Book stalls;
15. Refreshment rooms;
16. Illumination of Parking and circulating area;
17. Public phone booth;
18. Modular catering stalls;
19. Unreserved ticketing system, and
20. Provision of Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs).

Further, following works are planned for completion by 31st March, 2010:

1. National Train Enquiry System;
2. Washable Apron with Jet Cleaning;
3. Touch Screen Enquiry System;
4. Automatic Vending Machines;
5. "Pay & Use" toilets and
6. Computerization of complaints.

[Translation]

Voter List

2829. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint has been received regarding irregularities in voter's list;

(b) if so, the number of persons whose names have been deleted from voter's list in each State during the last two amendments; and

(c) the number of applications for voter identity cards rejected alongwith the reasons therefor?

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

[English]

Difficulty in TUFs Reimbursement

2830. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Textiles Units/Companies are facing difficulty in getting Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) reimbursements;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make the reimbursement a smooth process; and

(c) the number of powerlooms operating in the country, including the State of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the information available, there are 22,04,734 powerloom units in the country including the state of Gujarat as on 31.3.2009.

Airports Infrastructure Development

2831. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) proposed to spend 2,000 crore and an additional Rs. 12,000 crore in the Eleventh Five Year Plan on airports infrastructure development in the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the impact of world wide slow down on infrastructure development of airports;

(d) the source by which the above proposed funds are being mobilized;

(e) whether the Airports Authority of India has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Transparency International India to ensure the proper spending of proposed fund;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) propose to incur

Rs. 12434 crores (including Rs. 3244.96 crores earmarked for the year 2009-10) for modernisation of airports and air traffic services across the country during XIth Five Year Plan period (2007-12).

(c) and (d) AAI is going ahead as per XIth Five Year Plan projections and the above said amount will be financed mainly through internal resources and borrowings.

(e) and (f) AAI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 15.02.2008 with Transparency International India (TII) and the pact is implemented w.e.f. 01.04.2008 to attain its mission of ensuring no chance of corrupt practices during procurement through a binding agreement between AAI and Bidders/Contractors for specific contract. Further, AAI and TII have developed Integrity Pact Programme in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and both have agreed to implement this programme within the Authority. AAI is ensuring that contracts/procurements process in its works are as per the above said agreement.

(g) Various steps have been taken to ensure transparency in AAI contracts like uploading of Notices Inviting Tenders (NITs) and Tender Documents on AAI website and linkage of same with MIC Tender Portal, uploading of brief of contracts awarded of values above Rs. 50 lakhs on AAI website, e-tendering (under pilot), e-auction of scraps and unserviceable items through MSTC Ltd. and e-payment for all dues above Rs. 1 lakh. In addition, various systematic improvements in tendering/execution processes to bring in transparency, fairness and competition are on the way.

[*Translation*]

Introduction of Train between Indore and Bangalore

2832. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to introduce direct train between Indore and Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

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

present, there is no proposal to introduce a direct train between Indore and Bangalore.

Allotment/Leasing out of Land by BSP

2833. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the land area transferred to individuals, Non-Governmental Organizations and educational institutions out of the land acquired for Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) whether any land has been leased out to beneficiaries during the last three years till date;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time period for which land has been allotted on lease;

(d) the criteria adopted for allotting/leasing out the land;

(e) whether any violation of the provisions of Land Acquisition Act, 1894 has come to the notice of the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) As per Company policy, no land has been transferred to individuals, non-Governmental organizations and educational institutions out of the land acquired for Bokaro Steel Plant.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details of allotment of land on lease from 01/04/2006 onwards till date is given below:

Sl.No.	Name of Allottee	Date of Allotment	Purpose	Area (SQ.Ft)	Period of lease
(1)	Shakri Kumar Goswami	15/07/2008	Spare Parts Shop	863.39	33 years
(2)	Catholic Society	12/02/2009	Catholic Church	10890	33 years
(3)	Amit Reality Pvt. Ltd.	07/02/2009	Multiplex/Shopping Mall	87120	33 years
(4)	M/s Kamla Construction Co.	07/02/2009	Hyper Market & Allied Facilities	87120	33 years
(5)	M/s Mahabeer Enterprises	07/02/2009	Cultural Commercial Complex	21780	33 years

(d) The leasing out of land has been done as per prevailing SAIL Board Guidelines.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Supply of Natural Gas to Power/Fertilizer Sectors

2834. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of natural gas for power/fertilizer sectors during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of the provisions made in this regard; and

(c) the share of total production of KG D6 gas proposed to be supplied to both the priority sectors during Eleventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The estimated requirement of natural gas for power and fertilizers sectors during the remaining years of Eleventh Five Year Plan is as follows:

(in mmscmd)

Sector	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Power	102.7	114.2	126.57
Fertilizer	55.9	76.26	76.26

(b) The average daily quantity of natural gas supplied to power and fertilizers sectors during 2008-09 by using GAIL's pipeline network is 30.76 mmscmd & 26.10 mmscmd respectively. Out of the mentioned quantity, 24.22 mmscmd and 15.8 mmscmd respectively is supplied at Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) rate.

(c) Empowered Group of Minister (EGoM) formed to decide issues related to pricing and commercial utilization

of gas under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) decided that, from the initial production of 40 mmcmd from KG D6, natural gas would be supplied to existing gas based urea plants, which were getting gas below their full requirement, so as to enable their full capacity utilization. Accordingly 15.33 mmcmd of gas has been allocated to these plants (@ 8200 Net Calorific value). Further, EGoM has decided that 18 mmcmd of natural gas, being the partial requirement of gas based power plants lying idle/under-utilized and likely to be commissioned during 2008-09, and liquid fuel plants, which are now running on liquid fuel and could switch over to natural gas would be supplied to power plants.

Closure of PSUs

2835. SHRI C. SIVASAMI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of PSUs have been closed down or on the verge of closure on account of economic meltdown;

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

(c) the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Employment on Compassionate Grounds

2836. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure laid down for appointment or providing compensation under compassionate grounds in the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the administrative control of this Ministry;

(b) the number of employees who died in harness in the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) and its ancillary companies especially Bokaro Steel Plant during each of the last three years and the current year, company-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide compensation and jobs to the dependents of the deceased employees;

(d) the details of the affected families benefited during the said period, company-wise;

(e) the number of cases of appointment on compassionate grounds are pending alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the pending cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (f) The information in respect of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the administrative control of this Ministry is enclosed as statement.

Statement

(a)

Sl.No.	Name of the PSU	Procedure laid down
1	2	3
1.	Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)	As per Workmen Compensation Act, 1973, compensation is provided in case of death due to accident arising out of and in course of employment. In the case of death due to accident arising out of and in the course of employment, employment is provided to one of his/her direct dependents, except where dependents are not available or eligible for employment.
2.	Bharat Rafractories Limited (BRL)	As per a tripartite agreement entered with the unions, there is a provision for providing employment to one of the dependents of the

1	2	3
		employees who die while in service of the Company. As per practice, this employment is provided in the lowest non-executive scale of pay.
3.	MECON Ltd.	Every employee of MECON is covered under Group Personnel Accidental Insurance and suitable compensation is paid to the dependent of the deceased employee in accordance with the Policy. This is in addition to payments like Provident Fund, Gratuity, Leave salary etc.
4.	NMDC Ltd.	Suitable employment on compassionate grounds is provided in case of death or permanent total disablement of an employee, due to accident while on duty. In the event of natural death, monthly benefit is paid to the nominee of deceased employee as per 'NMDC Employees Family Benefit Scheme'. The monthly benefit is equal to the last Basic Pay plus DA drawn by the deceased employee which is payable till the notional date of retirement, on depositing an amount equivalent to the notional CPF and gratuity received by the nominee.
5.	Sponge Iron India Ltd. (SIIL)	SIIL presently does not have any provision for providing employment on compassionate grounds. However it is currently under the process of merger with NMDC Ltd. and this is at an advanced stage. Hence the provisions in NMDC will apply to SIIL once the merger process is completed.
6.	Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd. ((HSCL)	The Company at present is a loss making PSU and there is a ban on recruitment. There is no provision for appointment on compassionate grounds in Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd. at present. However, there has been no accidental death in the company since 2006-07.
7.	MSTC Ltd.	MSTC has a scheme called "Employees' Family Benefit Scheme" by which in the event of death or permanent total disablement of an employee, his nominee/employee, as the case may be, on depositing with the company the entire PF and Gratuity amounts of the employee, would be entitled to monthly payment equivalent to his Basic Pay plus Dearness allowance last drawn till the notional date of superannuation of the employee.
8.	Manganese Ore (India) Ltd. (MOIL)	A settlement has been arrived between the MOIL management and representatives of the recognized union in 1979 to provide compassionate appointment to the dependent of the employees who died in harness or (declared medically unfit during employment.
9.	KIOCL Ltd.	The compensations in such cases are paid as per statutory provision. However, there is no formal procedure laid down for appointment on compassionate grounds. Appointments on compassionate grounds on merit on each case in KIOCL were made keeping in view the guidelines issued by the Government of India from time to time.

1	2	3
10.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL)	The dependents of employees are eligible to seek employment under the Employees Family Benefit Scheme in case of death or permanent/total disablement arising out of and in the course of employment while on duty.
11.	Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd. (FSNL)	Employment is provided on Compassionate Grounds to one of the direct dependents of the deceased employees who die out of and in the course of employment (due to accidents etc.), in the initial pay scale of non-executive employees, subject to the condition that the candidate should be Literate and should be found medically fit. For the employees who die while in service (Normal death cases)/ or separate from the company on account of Permanent/Partial Disablement, FSNL has formulated a scheme called Employees' Family Benefit Scheme. Under this scheme, the direct dependents of the deceased are paid an amount equivalent to the Basic+DA of the deceased last drawn by him at the time of death/separation, till the normal date of his superannuation, subject to deposit of the entire amount of Provident Fund & Gratuity amounts of the separated employee with the company.

(b)

Year	No. of employees who died in harness due to fatal accidents in SAIL & RINL		
	SAIL (all plants)	Bokaro Steel Plant of SAIL	RINL
2006	13	3	2
2007	10	3	3
2008	15	2	4
2009 (till date)	5	3	1
Total	43	11	10

(c) Payment of compensation and provision of employment is regulated in terms of the policies prevailing in the respective companies.

(d) to (f) In RINL, jobs have been provided to the family members of 6 deceased employees. In respect of the other 4 deceased employees, 2 families have opted for benefits under Employees Family Benefit scheme in lieu of job, one family is yet to submit application for the compensation and the case of the remaining family is under process for providing employment. In SAIL out of 43 families which were to receive benefits, 32 families have already received the benefits and cases of 11

families are under process out of which 4 cases relate to dependents not having attained the minimum age of 18 as yet.

[English]

Streamlining Wakf Administration

2837. DR. K.S. RAO:
SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:
SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive plan has been formulated for implementing a pilot project meant for streamlining Wakf Administration and introducing the process of e-governance; and

(b) if so, the details of funds being provided for implementing the said project in each State of the country particularly in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Proposal for comprehensive amendment of Wakf Act, 1995 and providing central assistance for computerization of data management as well as strengthening infrastructure of State Wakf Boards is under consideration of the Government.

Computerised Tickets Reservation Centres

2838. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and the number of computerized tickets reservation centres opened under different railway zones during the last three years;

(b) whether any such computerized reservation centre has been opened in Gujarat during the period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) During the last three years a total of 130 computerized tickets reservation centres were opened under different railway zones. The details are as under:

2006-07	:	52
2007-08	:	58
2008-09	:	20

(b) and (c) During the last three years, 7 such computerized reservation centres were opened in Gujarat, details of which are as under:

2006-07	:	4
2007-08	:	1
2008-09	:	2

[Translation]

International Flights from Domestic Terminals

2839. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to operate international flights from domestic terminals;

(b) if so, the benefits likely to be reaped by the National Aviation Company of India Limited by introduction of the said scheme; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Integrated Terminal Buildings at various airports are under construction which will also allow operation of both domestic and international flights.

[English]

Cases Under MRTP

2840. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases disposed of during the above period; and

(c) the concrete steps being taken to dispose of the remaining cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Efforts are being made to dispose of the pending cases by taking these up before the benches of the Commission. Being a quasi judicial body, the MRTP Commission adjudicates the cases in process before it and after completion of the relevant proceedings, makes orders as it deems fit under the provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969.

Statement

Position with regard to various types of cases registered/pending with MRTPC since 1.1.2006 is given below:—

Year	Enquiries	Pendency at the beginning of the year	Cases registered/ instituted during the year	Cases disposed of during the year	Cases pending at the end of the year
2006	RTPE	338	73	104	307
01.01.2006	UTPE	606	149	172	583
to	MTPE	5	0	0	5
31.12.2006	CA	1147	176	213	1110
2007	RTPE	307	36	59	284
01.01.2007	UTPE	583	206	129	660
to	MTPE	5	0	2	3
31.12.2007	CA	1110	100	83	1127
2008	RTPE	284	55	49	290
01.01.2008	UTPE	660	205	145	720
to	MTPE	3	4	0	7
30.12.2008	CA	1127	204	195	1136
2009	RTPE	290	24	17	297
01.01.2009	UTPE	720	110	51	775
to	MTPE	7	0	2	7
30.06.2009	CA	1136	76	44	1168

* RTPE: Restrictive Trade Practices Enquiries

* UTPE: Unfair Trade Practices Enquiries

* MTPE: Monopolies Trade Practices Enquiries

* CA: Compensation Application.

Booking of Agriculture Products

2841. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have withdrawn provisions of booking of bales or bags of perishable agriculture products with journey tickets;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have received representations from the small farmers regarding problems faced by them due to non-booking of their perishable agriculture products with their journey tickets;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) There is no restriction on booking of bales or bags of perishable agricultural products in brake van as luggage with journey tickets. Merchandized items are not allowed for booking and carriage in the compartment as personal luggage.

With journey tickets, passengers are allowed to carry trunks, suitcases and boxes of specified dimensions in the passenger compartment as personal luggage upto the specified limits of free allowance.

Vendor Season Ticket Holders are permitted to carry perishable articles upto 60 Kgs. on outward journey on both suburban and non-suburban sections upto a maximum distance of 150 Kms.

[Translation]

Exclusion of Medicines from Price Control List

2842. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain medicines have been excluded from the price control list prepared by the Government to make the medicines available at cheaper rates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the names of medicines excluded from the said list; and

(c) the efforts made/being made by the Government to include the said medicines in the price control list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):
(a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Increase in Prices of Medicines

2843. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of medicines have increased tremendously due to decrease in export of raw material from the China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the prices of medicines like Paracetamol, Vitamin-C, Dexamixezon have increased 30 to 500 percent;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the arbitrary attitude of such pharmaceutical companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):
(a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Price control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) the prices of 74 bulk drugs, specified in First Schedule, and the formulations containing any of these Scheduled drugs are controlled. NPPA/Government fixes or revises prices of Scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any Scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA/Government. According to ORG-IMS data covering 57249 packs, the prices of 96.95% to 99.95% packs remained unchanged between October, 08 to February, 09. In the same period, prices of 1.73% to 0.02% packs had increased and that of 1.32% to 0.03% packs had decreased.

(c) to (e) The ceiling prices of Scheduled Vitamin-C formulations were revised in November 2008 and January 2009 on account of upward revision in notified price of bulk drug Vitamin C (Ascorbic acid). The details are given below:

S.O. No./Date	Name of the formulation	Pack size	Prev. price	Rev. price	%age increase
302(E)/23.01.09	Vitamin C tablet 500 mg	10's Strip/Blister	5.92	7.18	21.28
302(E)/23.01.09	Ascorbic acid 100 mg+Sodium Ascorbate 450 mg eq. to Ascorbic acid 400 mg tablets	15's Strip/Blister	10.47	13.92	32.95
2764(E)/27.1.08	Vitamin C Tablet Ascorbic acid 200 mg, Sodium Ascorbate 338 mg eq. to Ascorbic acid 300 mg tablet	10's 0.04 mm Strip/Blister	7.72	9.83	27.33

Paracetamol and dexamixezon are non-Scheduled formulations. In case of non-Scheduled drugs, manufacturers are at liberty to fix the prices themselves

without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed depending on various factors like the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost

of excipients, cost of R&D, cost of utilities/packing material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc.

As a part of price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-Scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-Scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum (20% before 01.04.2007) is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12.00 noon.

11.35 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Twelve of the Clock.*

12.00 hrs.

(The Lok Sabha reassembled at Twelve of the clock)

(MADAM SPEAKER in the chair)

[Translation]

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (GHOSI): Madam Speaker, this is a serious matter. On this a collective discussion should be held, the Minister of Home Affairs should make his statement in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Take your seat. Let the papers to be laid first.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the papers to be laid first. Just two minute time will be required in this regard.

12.01 hrs.

*(At this stage Shri Kadir Rana and some other
hon. Members came and stood on the floor
near the Table)*

12.01½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): I beg lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Pubic Enterprises for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 456/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports of the Law Commission (Hindi and English versions):-

- (i) Report No. 224 – Amendment of Section 2 of Divorce Act 1869 Enabling Non-domiciled Estranged Christian Wives to seek Divorce-June, 2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 457/15/09]

- (ii) Report No. 225– Amendment of Section 7, 7A and 7B of Industrial Disputes Act 1947 Making Advocates Eligible to man Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals-June, 2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 458/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 459/15/09]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 460/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): On behalf of my colleague, Shri M.K. Alagiri, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 461/15/09]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Kolkata for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Kolkata for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(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 462/15/09]

(3) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited for the years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective accounting years.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 463/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Airports Authority of India and the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 464/15/09]

(2) A copy of the Airports Authority of India (Annual Report and Annual Statement Accounts) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published Notification No. S.O. 1440(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 2008, under Section 43 of the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 465/15/09]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sub-section (2) of section 51 of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008:-

- (i) The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Salaries, Allowances and other Conditions of Service of the Chairperson and Members) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 321(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2009.
- (ii) The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Salaries, Allowance and other Conditions of Services of the Secretary) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 322(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 466/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 467/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Madras Fertilizers Limited and the Department

of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 468/15/09]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Projects and Development India Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 469/15/09]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 470/15/09]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 471/15/09]

- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 472/15/09]

- (vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 473/15/09]

- (vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Fertilizers Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 474/15/09]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 475/15/09]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bengal Immunity Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bengal Immunity Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 476/15/09]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bengal Immunity Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bengal Immunity Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 477/15/09]

- (4) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 478/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 479/15/09]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the IRCON International Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 480/15/09]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the RITES Limited and the Ministry of Railways for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 481/15/09]

- (2) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the progress made in the intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes against vacancies reserved for them in recruitment and promotion categories on the railways for the year ending 31st March, 2008.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 482/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 483/15/09]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 484/15/09]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadohi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadohi, for the year 2007-2008.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 485/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:-
- (i) The Naphtha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobile) Amendment Order, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 381(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 2009.
- (ii) The Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobiles) Amendment Order, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 382(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 486/15/09]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 487/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): On behalf of my colleague, Shri Arun Yadav, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited and the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 488/15/09]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Richardson and Cruddas (1972) Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 489/15/09]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bridge and Roof Company (I) Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 490/15/09]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 491/15/09]

...(Interruptions)

12.02 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Status of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 98th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in the 83rd Report on the 'Functioning of Commission of Railway Safety'***

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Madam, I beg to lay the third statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 98th Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on "Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in the 83rd report on the 'Functioning of Commission of Railway Safety' in pursuance of the direction 73 A issued by hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha in Parliamentary Bulletin Part II dated 1 September 2004 under the provisions of rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. The second statement was made on 18th December 2008.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, *See* No. LT 492/15/09.

The 98th Report on the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture contains 10 recommendations. Of the eight accepted/partially accepted recommendations, action had been completed in six cases. A Statement indicating the action taken/status of the remaining two recommendations in the Standing Commission Report is laid on the Table.

...(Interruptions)

12.03 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for today may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) **Need to check unrestricted sale of thinner and correction fluid used in typing work being consumed by children as a toxic substance**

[*Translation*]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Faridabad): An N.G.O., 'Chetna' has revealed on World De-Addiction Day that there are more than 4 lakh street children who are working in Delhi alone. Among them there are 50 per cent children who are addicted to consume or smell white fluid thinner (Toluene Chemical) to be used in erasing typed letters as drug. Its one phial costs Rs. 27 in market and half of its one phial is consumed as a single dose at a time due to which a 10-year-old child gets intoxicated for 6 to 8 hours. It can cause cancer, pneumonia, heart and brain diseases and ear and throat infection to the child who is addicted to it. Its use has increased so much that a child addicted to it consumes thinner to the cost of Rs. 27 in a day.

If the Government really wants to save the lives of these street children, then, I request the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to ban the sale of this thinner in open market and take steps to rehabilitate such children and pass instructions to sell it mixing with the white fluid instead of selling it separately in a pack of white fluid.

*Treated as laid on the Table

(ii) Need to conduct an inquiry into the heavy blast incidents that took place in M/s Rajasthan Explosives Chemical Limited and Ideal Explosives Pvt. Ltd., district Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh

[English]

SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI (Nabarangpur): On 05.07.2009 in two explosive factories namely M/s Rajasthan Explosives Chemical Limited and Ideal Explosives Private Limited situated at Waidhan, district Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh) a heavy blast occurred. In the said blast reportedly 21 persons died and more than 100 were seriously injured and lost their body parts. As on date as per reports more than 20 persons are misplaced. It has also been claimed that both the factories were running in coal which is against the law and also without using safety measures. That in Explosives Industries detonator gelatine was found though there was no use/work of detonators gelatine so how it reached there. The State Government has still not reached any conclusion and also not paying the due & proper compensation to victims as well as have not taken any action against culprits till date. The blast is one of the largest blast in India. The police has not taken action against any one as on date.

It is requested that the investigation should be directed to be done by any retired High Court Judge so that people at large may get justice.

(iii) Need to expedite the inter-linking of Ken and Betwa rivers in Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI JITENDRA SINGH BUNDELA (Khajuraho): The Government of India has granted approval to the first ever inter-linking of river project of the Asian continent. My Parliamentary Constituency has been included in the D.P.R. of the Ken-Betwa Link project. The farmers of five districts-Panna, Chhatarpur, Teekamgarh, Raisen, and Vidisha of Madhya Pradesh and Jhansi district of Uttar Pradesh will be able to get irrigation facility by this project. 30 thousand hectares of land in Panna, 2.93 hectares in Chhatarpur and 7050 hectares in Jhansi will be irrigated by this project. 72 megawatt power would be generated by this project. Besides, 39950 hectare area of Madhya Pradesh will be irrigated by this 231 kilometre-long Ken-Betwa Link Canal. Our area, Bundelkhand has been in the grip of drought for the last so many years. By early initiation of this project, while the farmers will get irrigation facility, employment

would be generated in the backward Bundelkhand region which would help to check migration. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government to immediately initiate the project and complete its work.

(iv) Need to clear the proposals for Indira Awas Yojana and release funds to help self-employment in Jalgaon, Maharashtra

[English]

SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE (Raver): There are 475 proposals for Indira Awas Yojana which are lying idle since long and not sanctioned by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi. The Gharkuls (houses) for the BPL Card Holders had been affected due to natural calamities of storms and heavy rain which occurred two-three years back. Because of this, hundreds of family are suffering without proper shelter and facing many problems due to the vagaries of weather.

Similarly, the another scheme for construction of work shed has been launched by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi to promote the BPL cardholder family member to start their own earnings by doing some sort of small business. The scheme has been closed down since 31-03-2008, but the financial assistance of 50% is still in balance. The work sheds are lying incomplete, the need of remaining amount to the tune of Rs. 449 lacs is immediately required to complete the work sheds for handing over to the respective beneficiaries.

This matter has been urgently taken up for the sake of the BPL cardholders by providing them better shelter and to start their own earnings in the work sheds as planned under the scheme.

Through this Hon'ble House I request Hon'ble Minister to please sanction the Indira Awas Yojana Gharkuls on top priority and also release the amount of Rs. 4.5 crore pending for constructions of work-sheds in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra State.

(v) Need to provide drinking water in Sheikhpura district of Bihar

[Translation]

DR. BHOLA SINGH (Nawada): In the absence of sources of drinking water, population of ten thousand mahadalits (extremely downtrodden), the most backward classes and the weaker sections of Kare, Vajitpur,

Suhaspur, Patokhar, Karihao, Lakhsana of Kare Panchayat of Sheikhpura block under Sheikhpura district of Bihar state are feeling hapless and neglected. These villages are located at foothills. The ground water is available a little far from this area. Drinking water can be made available to this population by installing rig machine for boring and drawing water. Source of livelihood can be made available to this population, which has been bearing negligence for so many years.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister, public health engineering organisation towards this.

(vi) Need to expedite Damodar rail project and re-open Angwali Colliery in Giridih parliamentary constituency, Jharkhand

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Damodar rail project and Angwali Coal mine work was started in my parliamentary constituency of Jharkhand in 1985 around 25-30 years go respectively. An amount of fund in crores of rupees was spent on each of these projects and employment was made available to thousands of people, but the people and the country did not get any benefit from it. The money belonging to the people and the country got wasted a lot. Who is responsible for it? This is an unanswered question before the Government. Today, the estimated cost of project has risen manifold and development has been hindered. CCL has excavated huge quantity of coal from Angwali coal mine and the matter of the displaced is still pending.

Therefore, the Government should immediately formulate a time-bound programme for restarting the pending work of the Damodar rail project and reviving the CCL/BCCL particularly Angwali coal mine.

(vii) Need to implement drinking water projects in Sujangarh and Ratangarh regions of Churu Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): The Government of Rajasthan in cooperation with K.F.W. Bank of Germany, had formulated a project to make drinking water available in Churu, Hanumangarh and Jhunjhunu district. This project was to be implemented in to two phases. The first phase of the project was sanctioned in the name of 'Apni Yojna' in 1994, under which there was a provision to benefit 370 villages and 2 townships. The first phase has been completed and the scheme is being implemented successfully. The villages facing grave water crisis have got great relief. Grant of approval to the second phase of the project is essential to benefit

the rest of villages and townships covered under the project and to reap the full benefit of infrastructure constructed under the first phase. Sujangarh and Ratangarh in my district are facing acute water crisis. This project is the only solution to this problem. After the initial discussion with supervisory mission of the K.F.W. Bank of Germany, the then Government of Rajasthan had sent a proposal for the purpose of getting finance of Rs. 450 crore for the second phase of the project from the K.F.W. Bank to the Ministry of Rural Development and the Department of Economic Affairs of the Government of India. Rajgarh - Boongi Drinking Water Scheme should also be linked with this project, which was even earlier a part of this project.

I request the Government to send these proposals without any delay to the K.F.W. Bank for obtaining approval for funding and to provide relief to my area by sanctioning the said project.

(viii) Need to give approval to the development schemes for naxal-hit districts of Jharkhand and devise effective strategy to combat naxalism in the State

[English]

SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI (Chatra): I would like to draw the attention of this august House about the alarming situation of naxalism in Jharkhand State. About a year ago, the then Home Minister had visited Chatra district and other adjoining districts in June, 2008 to assess the situation. Thereafter, the district Administration had chalked out some strategic schemes for developments and to combat the naxal activities. Also, a pilot project proposal was envisaged for Chatra and Palamau and the Chatra district administration had sent those developmental schemes to the Central Government for approval and implementation. Even after a lapse of about one year the Central Government has not acted upon the said proposals or taken effective measures to combat Naxalism in the State. I, therefore, call upon the Central Government to rise to the need of the hour and initiate effective steps for development and to combat the naxalism in the State of Jharkhand without any further loss of time.

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.03¹/₂ hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.00 hrs.

*(The Lok Sabha reassembled at
Fourteen of the clock)*

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

...(Interruptions)

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Reported withdrawal/downgrading of security of leaders of political parties

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any one member may speak.

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Mr. deputy Speaker, Sir, I had given a notice for an adjournment motion for holding discussion on the issue of security of our prominent leaders. I would like to submit that the Minister of Home Affairs should come here and give assurances on behalf of the Government that the security of the leaders is not being downgraded and it will remain as it is. Then we are ready to cooperate with the Government. It is certainly condemnable if such thing is done with the national leaders, prominent leaders.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down. The hon'ble Minister is making reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): When I was an M.L.A. in Uttar Pradesh, then no security was provided to me by the Uttar Pradesh Government.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon'ble Minister wants to say something. He belongs to your party. You please sit down and listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down, the hon'ble Minister wants to say something.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon'ble Minister wants to say something. first you listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please go to your respective seats. The hon'ble Minister is making reply. Please listen to him.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in the morning the hon. Leader of the House had also assured the Members here that there was nothing; no file had been sent to the Home Minister. The Home Minister, for that matter, the Government had not passed any instructions whatsoever. After that, the matter has been under discussion in both the Houses, the other House as also this House. Though we do not really refer to the proceedings of the other House, but since the notice was given in the other House, for that I will take this liberty, and your permission also, to very briefly refer to that. The notice which was given in the other House, mentions four names. Thereafter my colleague Shri Prithviraj Chavan, the MOS had assured the House that the Government has seen to it. To quote the exact words:

"The Government is deeply concerned about security of all political leaders. I assure the House that the security provided to the leaders of political parties mentioned in the notice will not be reduced."

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): You please read the name.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Why are you in so much hurry?

[English]

...(Interruptions) I go a step further here, Sir. Though the names in the notice were not mentioned here, that is, Kumari Mayawati, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, in all these cases, there will be no reduction in the security. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I have been an MLA of the U.P. legislative Assembly for 27 years. *...(Interruptions)* My security was also withdrawn. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down, let the House run. The hon'ble Minister has given the reply, so, now there should be no discussion on this issue. You please sit down. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jagdambika Palji is raising a good question. I had raised it and he has also raised this issue in this House, however, Uttar Pradesh Government has withdrawn all security. It should also be discussed as to what should be done in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I would like to request all the hon'ble Members that this House belongs to all of us. I do not have any right to take excess time of the House. If we raise the issue on the basis of news reported in electronic and print media, then it will not be possible to run the House. I have told one thing to you, you have also been in the Government and it is the responsibility of the Government to review the security after every 6 months. In course of review, the security requirement is examined. Earlier one had security cover as per the post, but, today, he is not holding any post. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I would like to extend my thanks for the announcement that has been made by the hon'ble Minister. However, hon'ble Minister is not understanding my point. I would like to extend my thanks to the Central Government that the assurance that was given by the leader of the House has been fulfilled. Now the question is that the BSP Government of Uttar Pradesh has withdrawn the security of all the leaders. I would like to know as to what will be done in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*) My question is ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: I would like to extend my thanks to the hon'ble Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: He is not understanding my point, it is digression, he is not understanding my point ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): We have stated about those four leaders...(*Interruptions*) If you go on like this, how would we function?...(*Interruptions*) Whatever was the concern, that has been addressed. In the morning, I stated that no decision has yet been taken.

The Prime Minister, at his own level, has suggested to assure the House that in respect of these four leaders,

there is no question of reducing the security. I do hope, you would allow the Government to transact its normal business. As and when the decision would be taken, it would be communicated to you. But simply, you cannot expect to have a blanket assurance on some news-items, which had appeared. It is a regular exercise. This exercise is being carried on by the Government...(*Interruptions*)

I am on my legs, Mulayam Singhji. Most respectfully, I would like to submit that the Leader of the House has the right to explain the position. Therefore, let me explain the position. In the morning, I stated that no decision has yet been taken. In that context, additional information has been shared with the House, where the decision has already been taken by the Prime Minister and communicated to the Upper House and this House exactly in the identical language. Whatever we have communicated there, we have communicated here.

Now, I would request that there are important businesses to be taken up. Financial business is to be transacted. Guillotine is to take place today. One more Demands for Grants is also there for discussion. Therefore, most respectfully I would like to submit that as you have cooperated in transacting the most important financial business, please allow it also to be transacted. If you have any other issue, that can always be subjected to discussion.

If you have any point of view, you may tell it and we would take that into account. The security of the political leaders will be assured. There will be no compromise with that. This much I can tell you.

....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down, the hon'ble Minister has given his reply.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, probably the leader of the House has not understood my point. I said that the Bahujan Samaj Party Government has withdrawn all securities in Uttar Pradesh ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is concerned with your state. What will the hon'ble Minister do in this regard?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will discuss and vote on the Demands for grants no. 104 for the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. It is a matter of security of Members of Parliament ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down. The hon'ble Minister has given his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon'ble Minister has given the reply. There is nothing to discuss after the reply of the hon'ble Minister. Your speech is not going on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down. Only Sumitra Mahajan's speech will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please maintain order in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

14.14 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Rakesh Sachan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

...*(Interruptions)*

14.15 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Rakesh Sachan and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down. Let the House run. Please maintain order.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, only the Members of the August House and their ...*(Interruptions)* Irrespective of the bad whether I am Member of this August House or Ratna Singhji or other members, there is a Government in Uttar Pradesh which does not provide security by way of assessing the real threat to life...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All of you please sit down. Let the House run.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, he has got objection even on someone's speaking...*(Interruptions)*. It is your wish to follow or not what we are doing here, but will you not allow him even to speak...*(Interruptions)*. Let him speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You take your seats.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, I am thankful to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs for expressing some concern for his leader. Our Minister of Parliamentary Affairs stood and said in the House that the Union Government were not going to withdraw any security. ...*(Interruptions)*. They should rather have extended their thanks. If he has had any morality, he should have given thanks to him. ...*(Interruptions)*. But there should be patience to listen. However, I extend my thanks to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs because he has expressed his concern for some leaders. She is the Chief Minister of the State. Members of her party expressed their concern over her security, so I would say that we are also the hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)* but our security was withdrawn. We have been provided with security by the order of court. ...*(Interruptions)* Ratna Singh's security was withdrawn security in Uttar Pradesh is given not on the grounds of threats of someone's life, but it is given on the political consideration and it is the same ground on the basis of which this security is withdrawn over there. People with criminal background are being made state Ministers in the state, they are being given security. ...*(Interruptions)*. Those who had set on fire the house of Uttar Pradesh Congress President, Rita Bahaguna Joshi. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have made your points. Now you take your seat. Your point is over. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is over now. the leader of your party has already spoken. That's all now leave it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I may also be allowed to put forth my views. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very important question He has said that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has withdrawn

security of Members of Parliament as well as that of all our leaders. ...(*Interruptions*) They are under the threats to life. ...(*Interruptions*) I request the Government to issue some instructions to restore their security. ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have made your points. Now you take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your leader has spoken on this. Despite that, you are speaking. Let the House run.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN (Fatehpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the State Government is working with a sense of retaliation. On one hand, security is being demanded for Mayawati Ji, while on the other security of public representatives, MLAs, MPs and the leaders of Samajwadi Party has been withdrawn. ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your speech is not going on record. Your speech is over. Sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: Sir, they are working with a sense of retaliation. ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your leader is speaking. Your points have gone on record. Mr. Minister has also noted them.

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sumitra Ji, you start your speech.

...(*Interruptions*)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR—2009-10 IN RESPECT OF MINISTRY OF WOMEN
AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT SUBMITTED TO THE VOTE OF LOK SABHA

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House	Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the Vote of the House
104	Ministry of Women and Child Development	2426,00,00,000	5002,00,00,000

*Not recorded.

14.20 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
2009-2010—*Contd.*

Ministry of Women and Child Development

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Members present in the House and whose cut motions in respect of the Ministry of women and child development, have been circulated, are requested to send their slips indicating the serial numbers of their cut motions on the Table of the House within 15 minutes. Only those cut motions about which notices have been received on the Table of the House will be treated as moved.

A list showing serial numbers of such cut motions treated as having been moved will be displayed at the notice board just after receiving the notices. If any member finds any discrepancy in this list, they may immediately bring it to the notice of the Table Officer.

[*English*]

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2010, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand No.104 relating to the Ministry of Women and Child Development."

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it seems to me that it is for the first time today that after many years the House is taking up the matter with regard to women and child development. If the security concern of all of you has been addressed to, it would be better if we could take care of the security concern of women and children too.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): If we ourselves are not secured how could we address to their security.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not make running commentary. Let her speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: If we take an integrated view of the mother and the children, a whole picture of the world emerges before us. The department of women and child development is not only a ministry but it is also the complete future of this country. Their security and health depend on this department. So, our views should also be well focussed to it. While discussing this budget, we should not see it in terms of crores or figures, because it is not the figures jugglery. For this, allocation of every single rupee will make the future of this country better. Taking this very view, attention should be paid towards this department and discussion be held accordingly because it is a very important department. Be it the budget speech of the Minister of Finance or the Address of Her Excellency President, in all these, it has been stated that the dreams of the youths should be given weightage. As the Minister of Finance said, the youths are sensitive towards the challenges of India's rising expectations. Today, the people below is constitute more than 44 crore population of India and among these about 40% population comprises of small children. For the education of these children, the budget allocation is 4 or 4.15 percent and in the major schemes of the department of the women and child development children upto 0-6 years have been covered. For these children, ICDS is a major scheme. It is known as Anganwadi Scheme. However, it is not only the scheme to run simply Anganwadi centers, but under this scheme, children upto the age of 6 years are brought up, educated, vaccinated and nutritious food is provided to the pregnant ladies as well as the lactating mothers. The Supreme court of India has stressed the need for its universalisation and we often talk of its universalization. It has been estimated and assurance has been given that this scheme will be accessible to every child upto the age of 6 years by the year 2010. However, virtually nothing has been said about the scheme.

If we see, the allocation for this Department has increased from Rs. 5562 crore to Rs. 6026 crore. It means Rs. 361 crore more money has been allocated. If we see the entire I.C.D.S., we will come to know that 90% fund of this scheme is spent on management, then how much money would be left for children. If so much money allocated for this scheme would be spent on salary, then how much of the remaining allocation made in this budget would be sufficient from the point of view of providing nutrition, other facilities to the children, increasing the ambit of this programme by extending its benefit to every child. In reality, I.C.D.S is a neglected scheme. Though, a lot is expected from the Anganwadi workers. But, I am sorry to say that this scheme was started in 1975, since 1975 for 25 years, the honorarium of Rs. 500 and Rs. 250 had been paid to the worker and her assistant respectively, this way neither any attention was paid towards their training, nor other things. I held the portfolio of Minister of Women and Child Development in the Government formed under the leadership of hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and reviewed the entire scheme, I am glad to say that for the first time the Government acknowledged that the Anganwadi workers who work under this scheme, though they may be working on honorarium basis, no attention was paid towards them during the last 25 years. As Anganwadi workers are paying attention to each and every child in every village, this is a very important job. Therefore, the NDA Government doubled the honorarium of Anganwadi workers and their assistants to Rs. 1000 and Rs. 500 respectively in one go. But we did not stop only after increasing the honorarium. We set up a grievance redressal cell, since Anganwadi workers face many problems, as they have to travel two-three kilometres to the district or Tehsil for collecting nutritious diet and for that they do not have any facility. At that time, we also paid attention towards such small things. If she faces any problem, the grievance redressal cell was set for redressing those problems. But we did not stop there. We made adequate arrangements for their training. In reality, the Anganwadi workers make our base strong. They work in villages, and therefore it is essential to give a comprehensive look to this project. Therefore, we started a scheme to give awards to them. They will get awards at state and national level, so that morale of Anganwadi workers working in villages may be boosted and that they could feel that their work is being acknowledged somewhere at national and state level. They should have the sentiment that they are working for the future of their children and the country. We looked towards ICDS with this perspective. But gradually what we see that somewhere, only small increase is made in this regard and issue of universalisation is raised. The

State Governments are definitely giving attention in this regard. For example Madhya Pradesh Government has increased allocation for nutrition in this year's budget. Now-a-days, we undertake the 'Godh Bharai programme' of women under Anganwadi Scheme. Under this 'Godh Bharai function', women are given medicines, good nutritious diet and small amount for nutrition, so that pregnant women may get proper care and their child could be healthy. The State Government works with this intention. But I feel that the Union Government is not giving desired attention towards this scheme. Only mere saying will not do.

[*English*]

The Government is committed to universalisation of the ICDS project.

[*Translation*]

I feel that what had to be reflected in our work, budget allocation and training programme of Anganwadi workers or every other thing is not being reflected. Today, we see that children are most unsecured, it is very disappointing. Small children are not secure. They are facing many problems. We are keeping only 0.08 percent of budget for protection of children under Child Protection Scheme. Only this small portion of the budget has been kept for security of children. We see that an organization named National Institute for Public Cooperation and Child Development is in the Department. This institute was set up during the reign of our NDA Government. Its function was to do research along with conducting training programme for Anganwadi workers. They used to tell people how to run this programme. Research programme for women should be prepared. Besides, it should impart training to social service organizations. Social service organisations should be integrated. This entire programme was of NIPCCD. The regional office of this organisation was at two places, but we increased its number from two to four. Since then, its number has not been increased further. The way research programmes should have been conducted, it seems to me, the Department is not making optimum utilisation of this organization. The Government's attention is needed in this regard. Again and again, it is mentioned in the world report, that India has maximum number of malnourished children. It may be seen that, 20 lakh children in our country, below the age of 5 years are affected by malnutrition. Therefore, mortality rate is high in our country. If these things are happening, then the organization linked with nutrition, - Food Nutrition Board should provide nutrition at grass root level. Whatever is available with us, should

be provided. The way the prices are rising during this UPA Government tenure, neither the vegetables nor pulses, necessary for protein requirement for body, are available. Therefore, if nutrition courses are conducted, it would be beneficial. I do not think so, but we have to think how to provide nutrition to children from whatever is available.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had set up National Nutrition Board, but if one sees, it will be known what treatment it has met in the budget. In my opinion, the programmes of Food Nutrition Board should be conducted at various places, the advocacy in favour of this cause should be done. The work of National Nutrition Mission should be started properly in the entire country, but we see that it was started with an amount of Rs. 2 crore in the year 2000, today it has reached upto Rs. 9 crore. 9 crore. I would like to say that Rs. 9 crore were allocated in this regard in the year 2002-2003 and today also only Rs. 9 crore have been allocated. Though the budget allocation is of Rs. 21 crore, but Rs. 9 crore have been kept under plan head and rest of money is kept under non-plan head. It means we will work with Rs. 9 crore. This is the situation of National Nutrition Mission. We had begun with Rs. 4 crore, but today allocation of only Rs. one crore has been made. We can only say that the amount, of Rs. 9 crore allocated in year 2002-03 has not changed till date, what is the adjusted value of this amount in the present scenario? Today, the value of rupee has depreciated. I would like that the full budget should be allocated in this regard.

But it seems that neither the Minister of this Department nor hon'ble Minister of Finance is serious in this regard. They talk only of Women and Child Development and youth. Today's child is going to be youth of tomorrow. If this budget and these schemes are looked down upon in this manner then it is useless to talk about youth and I think it is nothing short of a sham to talk about the scheme. The children are suffering from malnutrition, but I would like to ask as to how they have become victim of malnutrition. The reason behind this is that the mother is weak, harassed, shell-shocked and distressed. What is the condition of women in the country? Attention should be given in this regard. Many people consider women as goddess and talk about worshipping her and some people treat her as slave. But the women feel that they should neither be treated as goddess, nor as slave but she should be treated as a human being, but nobody does so. Today we call her 'Nari'.

If the women get empowered, their children will get empowered. Many times I think and imagine that we

will empower the women. The question that comes to my mind is as to that is this Naaree (woman) and from where this word Naaree has been derived. 'Naaree' i.e. Na+Aree; 'Na' means 'No' and 'Aree' means 'Enemy'. It means one who is enemy to none is called 'Naaree' i.e. woman.

Naheen kisee kee aree, wahee hai Bhartiya Naaree.

Phir bhee yugo, yugon se rahee taadan kee adhikaaree,

Use kahte to naaree hai, lekin wah taadan kee adhikaaree rahee hai.

Jinke tan-man aur adhikar par chal rahee samaj kee aaree.

Yah saalon saal se ho rahaa hai

Lekin itna hone ke bawjood dhyaan dene Laayak baat hai

Ki phir bhee wah apne kartawya wedee par Waaree-waaree.

This is the nature of a complete woman and this is the nature of even today's woman. She is overwhelmed by motherhood; so doing something for them is doing something for society. If we uplift women, it means we brighten the future of the country. We should see the budget with this view, but is it the same view with which the budget is being seen. Is there the same view being reflected in various schemes which are being run? If we look at all these, I fail to understand that they have allocated a new budget of Rs. 53 crore to the Ministry in the name of relief and rehabilitation of rape victims. Those who are rape victims should be given means of livelihood and compensation. You have allocated Rs. 53 crore for compensation, rehabilitation, consolation as well as medical tests of the rape victims. You will distribute this amount by going door to door. However, I was a little shocked to know what is happening now in respect of allocation of this fund. Today the people are quarreling over the issue that the Chief Minister of some state is distributing compensation. Many objections were raised against her as if she was doing something wrong, but it was nothing wrong if they were distributing. Have they allocated this amount with the sole intention to give message among masses that it is they who can do this work? That is why I am saying that prior to allocating this budget you have not paid any attention that there is also a Swadhar Scheme launched under the Ministry of Women and Child Development. This Swadhar

Scheme was launched for all those women who are oppressed, deserted and widow. The aim of this scheme was to support them by way of constructing shelter homes as well as starting counselling and training programmes for them so that they could become self reliant and lead a respectable life again in society. From this very point of view this Swadhar Scheme was launched. It was launched in our times itself and envisaged to implement it by constructing big shelter homes. In the beginning this scheme was aimed at Vrindawan Widows. We thought why women should go to Vrindawan for shelter. Why not they should be given shelter in their respective states and provided them training and counselling so that they could become self - reliant and feel that the whole society is with them. If these women may have such a feelings, there is no need for them to wander here and there. So, such was the conception of Swadhar Yojana. You have introduced a new scheme with the budget of Rs. 53 crore, but I would like to tell you what is the status of Swadhar Scheme at present. It was started with the budget of Rs. 135 crore in 2002-03 and now it seems to me that now nobody pays any attention towards it. At one time its budget was reduced to Rs. 2.70 crore, and then I do not know how this was increased to Rs. 5.50 crore and now it has been pegged at Rs. 13.50 crore. Thus, the thing came back to square one. What is the value of Rs. 13.5 crore of 2002 as on date? What do you want to show by doing this? You have allocated no budget for the scheme which was running smoothly but introduced a new thing instead constituting a fund of Rs. 53 crore for the rape victims. Now you are saying that the second phase of Swadhar Yojana will be launched. I do not know whether you will do that or not, but it appears from the manner in which the budget allocation is being made that the Government is not serious at all about the empowerment of the women of this country while farming schemes for the purpose. As I said at the outset, they do not have such a feeling at all. There should not be scheme for the sake of scheme. There should be support for women and this support should not only for the namesake but also the 'self' should be added to it so that they could become self-reliant. Their 'self' should also be awakened. But no attention was paid towards it.

Let us see the next to it. There is a scheme which is Swayamsiddha Yojana. This name was given because the objective behind the scheme was perhaps to empower women by giving them proper support and training to make use of savings from their household expenses and constitute Self Help Groups comprising Women to think about the scheme and the means of

development for their as well as nearby four villages. We had started this scheme and it was running very well. I came to know later that more than 75000 Self Help Groups were constituted under this scheme alone. It was the very intention behind giving training to the Self Help Groups. Today we are talking about giving reservation to women in Panchayats. If this Swayamsiddha Yojana runs well, every village will have able women who will lead and do good for the village. They will put forth demand on their own as to where dams, roads etc. are required to be constructed in their villages. They will be able to think on their own. That is why this Swayamsiddha Yojana was launched. Its result was good. A woman of one village asked me as to why 50 years were taken to introduce such a good scheme. I told her what should I do as it took us 50 years to come to power. So, the good thing should be continued. But, you see its budget allocation, I fail to understand why such has been done, while this is a good scheme meant to promote women. We made budget allocation of Rs. 19.89 crore for the Swayamsiddha Yojana in the year 2001-02. It has been increased by Rs. one-two crore so far. Today this has been hovering around Rs. 20 crore. Will this amount meet the requirement? Is the value of Rs. 20 crore of that time is the same as on date? The reply will be that we will see, but I do not know when and what they will see. However, the scheme is meant for making the women of villages empowered.

Sir, similarly there is a STEP Scheme. It has been launched to give support and training to women so that they could be able to do some work on their own and become self-reliant and financially strong. It was this very aim for which STEP scheme was introduced. But this scheme has also met the same fate. On one hand, the amount of RMK is being increased to Rs. 500 crore while on the other hand, this amount is being constituted as corpus fund. The STEP Scheme is meant for giving support to Training and Employment Programme. The main objective behind this scheme is that the social organizations should run it on large scale so that the women could become economically strong. Rs. 13 crore was provided in the budget for 2000-01 for the purpose, which was increased to Rs. 23 crore in between. Then it was reduced to Rs. 13 crore and now it is Rs. 12 crore. What do we want to do? Do we not want to see women economically strong? Do we not want women to come forward and constitute their own group and think for themselves and society as well? After all, what is the intention of the Government? I fail to understand this thing. This Ministry needs to have a positive and practical viewpoint on this matter. It was for the first time when we constituted a task force at the time when

our Government was formed under the leadership of Atalji. Women from social organizations, officials and other Ministers were called and there was a thinking among them as to what should be done in this department and how should the department run. We decided this thing at that time. We formulated a national women policy and decided to celebrate the year as women empowerment year. This action was taken with a positive approach. Today we have a domestic violence act which was enacted keeping in view the discrimination against the women. At that time we had also constituted a national resource center for women. Its aim was to conduct research on women and discuss the issues regarding progress of women at national level. But now the situation is that the national resource center for women has been handed over to the NCW. I do not know, but now I am listening Girija ji, that its withdrawal is also under discussion. What is going on? When any issue regarding women arises, people being dilly-dallying, there is no seriousness about it. We do not want to do anything about it. At that time we had floated gender budgeting. I am really thankful to our both the then two finance Ministers who had furthered the gender budgeting, but it was only the beginning of that time. Now-a-days only speak and it seems there is no positive thinking about the issues concerning women.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had started 'Stri Shakti' award. We had an idea behind it also. We all know that today in India women are at the forefront in every field. They are playing their roles in each and every field from sports to politics. At that time we had the thinking that there were many women in every part of the country who dealt with the exigency by taking it as a boon and came forward to help others. There are such common women who have no much recognition but do a lot for society. Their social recognition is must because it will help develop self-confidence among them so that even a commonest woman can take such a stand in the situation like this and do something for the society.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I remember the day when we had conferred an award upon a common woman Chinnapelli, hailed from Tamil Nadu who had fought for the agricultural labourers. Whenever we discuss this thing even today we are compelled to say that the most of the agricultural labourers are women. Girija ji knows the child widow Kamlaji of Rajasthan. Her husband passed away in a very young age and she became child widow. She was not educated, but after getting education she started school with six children and now she is giving education to the girls on large scale. We traced such women and brought them to the forefront and awarded

them to build up self confidence of women in general so that they should have feelings about their ability to do something. I remember the day even today when that Chinnapelli came to take award, she was wearing plain sleeper, her whole hair was white and she was too weak. By the sight of her face it appeared that she was coming just by doing labour in the field. After seeing her face and knowing the details of her profession the then Prime Minister of India hon'ble Atalji bent down to touch her feet. This is the way to respect women for which they deserve. What are we doing now? We have no objection to the separate fund constituted for Muslim women. It is very essential if you launch leadership development programme for Muslim women. I never oppose it, you must work for women irrespective of whether they are Muslims or the others. You should consider peacefully what I am saying.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the report of Sachchar Committee came up, we never opposed it, because it is reality that the whole minorities are backward across the country, whereas they have been committed totally to the Congress followed by Shri Mulayam Singh ji. They have been playing a big role in bringing the Congress in power, but even after the lapse of 60 years of independence today one Committee's report says that they are still backward and no development in any form has been able to reach them, so, who is responsible for this? If there is any morality in the UPA Government, then they should run sufficient schemes for them, but at first they should seek apology once from them saying that they did nothing in lieu of their 60 years affiliation with them. If you really do work for them with this very intention, only then they will be able to be benefited, this is what I would like to say.

Sir, one thing more that I would like to say is that you have many schemes. I will conclude within one minute. You should think one more thing that there can not be politics on everything. Everything should not be seen from political point of view. I am not against Girijaji, but National Commission for Women is an autonomous body.

[English]

It is a statutory body.

[Translation]

It has got independent powers It does not come under any authority. However, it is a fact that the Department of Women and Child Development provides funds to it, but it is free to do works in its own form. You see, what is the situation there now.

[English]

It is a parking place.

[Translation]

If you do not get party ticket, you get appointed Chairman of National Commission for Women. If you cannot be accommodated in the Cabinet, you are asked to continue as the Chairman of the National Commission for Women.

[English]

It is not a parking place.

[Translation]

I am sorry to say that the function of the Commission is also like that Members of National Commission for Women should work for women. It should come forward to protect the women in case atrocities are committed on them. It should listen to the voice of the downtrodden women. It should ensure enforcement of laws enacted for women.

Sir, even in our times also National Commission for Women was in existence and I can say with pride that we had held Seminar alongwith judges at that time. Many legal remedies were suggested as to how the changes are required in this regard and the Commission had the full autonomy to work on its own but what is happening now? If today a Member of National Commission for women does not listen to you, she gets removed and sidelined from the Commission. What is this going on? This all is being done totally on the basis of politics. If a woman Member of Parliament is the Member of a party and that party issues whip in a cases, it is also applicable to her also. So, it invites consideration. If the Congress is ruling in any of the state of the country, and any mishap takes place in Maharashtra represented by Shri Gopinath ji, will the Chairperson of the women Commission be in a position to act freely there? Whether the Chairperson of National women Commission has the power to summon the police, DGP of the state and talk to them or to decide any matter or to discuss anything. Since, at present there is a Congress ruled Government in the State, and the Chairperson of the National Women Commission also belongs to the Congress party, will she be in a position to act there freely and to bring justice to the oppressed in the same manner? I think that she will not be able to do that. I would like to say that let the statutory body be as it is, only then, the objective, for which the women commission has been

constituted, will be fulfilled. That objective must exist in one way or the other. This is what I really expect. I am not talking against anybody. I would like to request to consider over these points. If we politicize everything, it will not do. So, I request not to politicise at least this matter which concerns none but women.

Sir, I would like to say only one thing that this department is very important, as half of the society which consists of women only is really the foundation of the whole society. Mother power is the basic power of the whole nation and the women have to be taken out of the complex that she belongs to the weaker sex. As I said in the beginning that woman should neither be treated as a goddess nor as a slave but as a human being. We need to be provided with the rights which a human being should have. We need to be developed as is necessary for a human being and we need that recognition which we need as a human being. I have been at times listening to a poem which runs as follows?

"Abla Jeevan Hai Tumahari Yehi Kahanee

Aanchal Mein Hai Doodh Aur Aakhanon Mein Pani"

As a matter of fact, word "ABLA" does not connote the meaning which we really think. If you prefix a letter "(Aa)" before the word "Thah" it becomes "Athah" which means fathomless. Similarly, the word "ABLA" does not mean weak. You are not capable of judging its true intention. You have not yet got its basic idea that there is no limit of her power. She herself is not aware of that she has so much power. Presently, she is not aware, she is becoming a devout monkey slave as Hanuman. She should be made aware of her **folly** She has to be awakened.

Sir, I would also like to say that the woman should not be befooled by way of showing a false notion of mercy to her. The milk in her breast is the symbol of mother power. If affection is not existent in the human relations, a human being is no better than an animal. The water in eyes is not a symbol of weakness but this is a symbol of empathy. If this feeling of empathy which comes to mind while seeing others in distress, is gone, a human being will not be better than an animal. This feeling has to be generated in the women. So, do not utter "ABLA JEEVAN HAI". Let this feeling of affection remain in them as it is and the water symbolising empathy should also remain in her eyes.

15.00 hrs.

Let the department of Child Development be instructed to send a message to the women folk that the department is with them.

"Sabla Bankar Likho Ek Nayee Kahanee Man Mein Ho Viswas, Bano Swabhi Mani, Rastra Bhaimani"

Hence, this Nodal Ministry was constituted for the development of mothers and children. But I meant to say that neither this has become a nodal Ministry nor this has been successful in getting any kind of powers and this has become a miniature department which should infact deal with all the departments of the country, has been kept limited only as a very small one. The budget of the department has been continuously decreasing. The plans and schemes of the department are not being aptly considered.

I would like to thank you that after so many years, for the first time, this department is being discussed in the Parliament. We are now discussing about the security of a woman, but today there are lakhs of such women in this country, who are asking for security. Their only demand is that they should be allowed to live with security as a human being. The Child Development department should kindly pay its attention to this demand. This is my humble submission.

CUT MOTIONS

[*English*]

Token

Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE (Bardhaman-Durgapur): I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (PAGE 243) BE REDUCED BY Rs. 100.

Need to allocate more funds for universalisation of Integrated Child Development Schemes. (1)

Need to announce a policy aimed at setting up of more Anganwadi Centres in the country (2)

[*Translation*]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Chittorgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to all of you for selecting the Ministry of women and Child development

as a topic for today. I would also like to thank my sister who presented some facts very frankly and some with political touch. Somebody praised his tenure and tried to blame UPA for each and everything. In any case, I would like to thank all of you. We always think that the subjects related to women are only confined to women but the result this time is a witness to the fact that the number of women elected to the Parliament during this election is an evidence of the changed mentality of man as well. For this, I want to thank all of you.

At the outset, I would only say that the women do not want to lag behind, they will move on continuously. Therefore, they are hopeful and are waiting for something good to happen and with this thought they want to stand on their feet when we discuss woman, we can't forget to mention two great persons. One is the Gandhiji and other is also a Gandhi, *i.e.* Rajiv Gandhi. In 1922, Gandhiji had said and which was repeated in the Round Table Conference also that for him Independence means equal rights to all and when I am using the word 'all' it denotes mostly the women.

Rajiv Gandhi found that after the said statement of Gandhiji, several women took part in the freedom struggle. We got freedom & drafted our constitution. Our constitution gave us the right to equality and brought us on the same foothold. Another democratic country which was considered to be the most forward gave its women the right to vote later on. However, we got equal rights. In spite of all these things Rajiv Gandhi, in 1985, thought that women are still deprived of the rights meant for them. There are gaps between the fundamental rights and they should be filled. For this, I want to thank him with all veneration. He pointed out the inequalities in education, and politics where women are a part of the decision making process. He said that justice is denied to them and instead of getting all the rights they haven't made progress either. Therefore, at that time he prepared a perspective plan which finally came out in 2001. I would like to pay my thanks to him on behalf of all the women.

Sir, if I talk about the present, I think that the previous UPA Government have translated its ideology into reality by constituting a separate department of Women and Child Development. The hon'ble Member was talking about the Budget, however, when issues pertaining to women and children are discussed, what matters is not money, but the mindset, planning and commitment. Further by enhancing every component it has been shown that the Government have enhanced the budget allocation in the previous years. She talked

about gender budgeting, however, earlier there was no concept of gender budgeting. This concept has come into existence after this Government came in the power. Under Gender-Budgeting every Ministry earmarks 30 per cent of its budget for schemes pertaining to women. Thus certainly they are getting thirty percent budget extra. Despite that after the review if it is found that there is dearth of fund, the UPA Government is committed to meet the requirement.

I would like to extend my thanks that during the previous tenure of UPA Government the dream of Gandhiji was translated into reality. A woman became the President of this country. Further, one more step was taken when a woman was elected the Speaker of this august House which is the supreme panachayat of the largest democracy. Women are leading passing through parades and hoisting flags on other planets. I would like to submit that we will have to change our view point. Though it is also true that atrocities are also being committed against women but we should appreciate whatever we have achieved. Women have carved niche for themselves in various fields whether it in the field of politics or science or in any other field and the Government have certainly played a vital role in their achievement. I would also like to submit that till now there were several hurdles in the entry of women in the security forces, however, the way UPA Government through the concerned Ministry have invited them to join is a great thing in itself.

Sir, Five Year Plans were formulated after the enforcement of the constitution Nehruji had his own vision about the allocation of fund for the development of women in each five year plan. While, till the Fifth Year Plan our schemes were welfare centric but since the Sixth Five Year Plan there has been a shift in our mindset and Rajivji directed the course of welfare centric plans towards the development. Education for women and their economic and social development and entry of women in politics, all these things should be ensured. After that emphasis has been given on empowerment in every succeeding Five Year Plan including 11th Five Year Plan. Empowerment means full empowerment *i.e.* social, economic, educational and political empowerment. The efforts of the Government in this direction are incomparable. I would like to extend my thanks to the Government, the Prime Minister and the hon'ble Minister for this.

If we talk about the eleventh plan with respect to women and child development then we find that the focal point of this plan is the Development of Women

and Child. The 11th Five Year Plan not only envisage the security, welfare, development and empowerment of women and children as an inseparable part of plan process but also makes provision to achieve this goal. Ample importance has been given in it to gender equality and along with this economic empowerment, protection of women against all types of violence whether it is physical, economic, social or psychological are the basis of this plan. Effective policy implementation to bring women in the main stream and the strengthening of existing institutional machinery are the basis of the plan. Hon'ble Mulayam Singhji has left. I would like to submit that now the representation of women at the highest policy level, especially in the Parliament and Legislative Assemblies has become essential. I am confident that it will certainly be achieved.

Sir, hon'ble President, in her address had said this and to whom not only this country but the international world is looking with hope and faith. It is only a matter of dialogue. Through you, I would like to submit to the Members that nobody should feel threatened if women get representations. It is not aimed at threatening the leadership of any politician rather, it will be an effort to strengthen our democracy by giving it a sense of belonging. So nobody should consider us their foe rather they should consider us their friend and for me it seems that mindset of the people has changed. Even at the time of 73rd and 74th amendment our representation was 6-7 per cent, however, the Bill was passed and for this I would like to extend my thanks to our male colleagues and they should get rid of such notion. All the political parties have given more tickets to women candidates with this thinking. So, there should not be delay in it and we should not be forced to wait for longer period.

There has been a mention of the draft of the annual plan. I think that something or other has been added in every component. However, we have to take up new schemes with the passing of time. Time is witness to this fact that as per circumstances of the country new schemes are needed for that segment of society which witness frequent changes. So, whether it is creche scheme or public cooperation scheme or hostel for working women or training for self employment or women credit fund or fund for National Commission for Women or Swadhar Scheme for women living in difficult situation or social trial welfare board or other grant in aid scheme for welfare of girl child or scheme for checking the trafficking of women and children or relief and rehabilitation of rape victims or gender budgeting or Integrated Child Development Scheme or Balika Samridhi

Yojna or National Nutrition Mission or Integrated Women Empowerment Programme for self reliance or Swashakti Scheme for Women or Priyadarshni Yojna or participation of women in NREGA or Integrated Scheme for Street-Children or Creche Scheme, the UPA Government have implemented all these schemes during the last five years and have not obstructed their implementation.

If we talk about budget, this budget is dedicated to women and children because female literacy, credit support, micro finance particularly for rural women have been given priority in this year's budget. As far as children are concerned, the priority to their health and education has been given. The ICDS Scheme should benefit everybody by the year 2012, this is not merely an announcement, but also a commitment. The funds have also been increased in this regard.

As far as women are concerned, the female literacy rate was only 54.16 percent in the year 2001. In this regard, National Mission for Female literacy has been launched. I would like to thank the Government in this regard.

Special scheme has been launched and special funds have been provided for low level literacy, in particular for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, minorities and other backward classes. The budget has endeavoured to promote SHGs by at least 50 percent and to get them linked with banks. SHG is a vehicle for change and it has been changed as per the need. The efforts have been made not only to make National Women Fund Scheme functional, but also to strengthen it. And by making an increase in the budget it has been indicated that the Government is committed towards women and children.

As far as gender budgeting is concerned, I think our name comes alongwith a few selected countries of the world. If every Ministry spends 33 percent of its budget on women, then you can understand that it will change the entire scenario. 80 to 90 percent persons who have got jobs under NREGA are women and they are empowered by this. All round development of women is the declared aim of the Priyadarshini scheme, but through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that till gender budgeting is done, we cannot achieve success in that regard, because the last report has also reflected that the gender budgeting has not achieved the desired success. I would like to talk about National Mission on Empowerment of Women for implementation of Women - Centric Programmes. This is the scheme which will lead towards all round development in the

form of National Mission. The Ministry of Women and Child Development would definitely be a nodal Ministry and the Government have formulated such a scheme that there would be 14 social sectors under the Ministry. By this all-round development of women shall be kept in view. The Mission will also look into the ways to make avenues of employment available to women. They may do it by increasing quota, or by means of priority or by expanding services, but it is essential to do that. Till the women are not economically strengthened, they will continue to suffer. The Government are committed to remove their suffering. I would also like to submit to the Government that the reservation for women in jobs should also be welcome alongwith it their percentage should also be increased in other segments.

Sir, the ICDS has been mentioned by my sister. I agree with her that today the women are bearing the entire burden for child development. When some 27-28 Years ago, I was given the independent charge of this department in the State of Rajasthan, I had launched Women Sathin Scheme. Till Women themselves do not come forward to participate, we will not be able to implement these schemes. We achieved great success in this regard. As of now, a bill with regard to domestic violence has been piloted. Till the implementation of this bill is handed over to the Department, I think this work will not get completed. I am very pained to say that it is not being fulfilled. The Government are having many schemes. I would like to say that we have been armed with four rights. Just now, my sister has given a speech ornamented with 'shalokas'. I would like to say that we too have got four arms. First, we have got constitutional rights. Secondly, we have got special schemes, special bills which are passed by the Parliament. Thirdly, we have got the judgement, delivered by the Supreme Court and fourthly there is Indian Penal Code etc. We have got constitutional rights under Article 14, 15(1), 15(3), 16, 39, 39(B), 51(A) (E) etc, we have been politically strengthened by 73rd and 74th amendments.

As far as Indian Penal Code is concerned, women have been empowered under sections 376, 363-373 which are related to rape and those which are related with homicide for dowry, section 302, 304, 498 (A), 354, 509 IPC and 366(B) IPC etc. As far as other laws related to domestic violence, dowry etc. are concerned, this Parliament has passed those laws and has given to us in the form of special laws. I would like to state that the judgement being delivered by the Supreme Court in cases like Sakshi vs. Union Government and Vishakhtha versus Rajasthan Government or in cases related to child marriage defined the laws in a way. But as I said at

one place "why we are sticking to old notions, we should also move at a fast pace. The Government are committed in this regard. If we talk about party, I won't hesitate to say that the Congress is the only party which gave thought to the welfare of women in pre-independence era. It gave them constitutional rights. It gives them share in Five Year Plans. Every Government has tried to follow their policies. This is the reason that a women is holding the post of President in India. But there is a need to change the mentality of the people. How this mentality will change? On one side we salute the President, our sister receives the guard of honour in Jammu and Kashmir, and other side we see the women whose arms are chopped away.

We witness the instances where marriage is solemnized and in no time, the bride is burned to death or pushed out of the house. Whether it is our country or any other country, the women is given the sack just because she had refused to grant sexual favours. A women is thrown out of the house, just because she was late in serving food to her husband. In these circumstances, another picture emerge, which can be changed by changing our mentality. We cannot do this by making experiments. We have to see where we have reached. What is the reason that after so many years of independence, our literacy rate is only 54 percent as per the figures of year 2008? Why drop out rate of children is 41 percent as per the figures of year 2001? Why so many cases of female foeticide are taking place? Today PNDT Act is in force, yet so much atrocities are being committed against women before birth, so who is responsible for this? What is the percentage of working women today in other sector barring the unorganized sector? How many women are the IAS and IPS officers today? How many women have reached this rank today despite the fact that it has been opened from security point of view? We cannot hold the Government alone responsible for all these things. The Government make efforts to promote them through those schemes by making laws and giving them relief. But today the need of the hour is to change our mind set.

As far as their representation in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha is concerned, we were 7.7% in 10th Lok Sabha in 1991, 7.36% in 11th Lok Sabha, 8.7% in 12th Lok Sabha. 8.83% in 13th Lok Sabha and 8.3% in 14th Lok Sabha and now in 11th Lok Sabha our percentage has touched about 11%. The mentality has, therefore, changed. The same situation prevails in Rajya Sabha. There were 9.80% women Members in 1999 and now we are 11%. But I am very sorry to say about other figures which are very disturbing and shocking to us for

which our mentality alone is responsible. So, I would like to draw the attention of all you towards the increasing number of rape cases which was 15,847 in 2003 and now has risen to 20,737 with the addition of 7.2 per cent in the year 2007. The number of kidnapping cases was 13,296 in 2003, which rose to 20,416 with the increase of 17.2%. During this period the number of dowry death cases has increased from 6008 to 8093 with the increase of 6.2 per cent. The number of torture cases under section 498 has increased from 50,703 to 76,000 with the increase of 21 % molestation from 32,939 to 38,734 with the increase of 5.8 percent. Cases of sexual harassment were reported to be 12,385 in 2003 which continued to rise at the rate of more than 9 per cent. So there is no need to think as to how to change this mentality. People are also worried about the incidents that took place in the last two months. After conducting pregnancy test people made the women stand up publicly in Madhya Pradesh at the cross road where perhaps Panchali might have not stood. It was only because that they were able to get Rs. 6000 for the marriage ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is wrong. Nothing happened like this ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Sir, I did not speak even after hon'ble Member levelled personal allegations against me. So, madam, admit this fact and listen to with patience. Those who committed such crime admitted themselves before our team as well as before the media that it was very shameful the way the women were treated and being a lady I am ashamed and all should also be ashamed. There was no mention about it in this scheme. I am not criticizing the scheme but the way the administrative machinery made them stand up at the cross roads puts a question mark on the system you mentioned about the incident of Mumbai. I did go there and resolved the problem. Maharashtra's Chief Minister announced before us that this case would be referred to the fast track with all the facts. So, it is the responsibility of the Chief Minister of the concerned state to take initiative in such cases. So, I said that there was need to bring changes consciously in our mentality towards women. Whether such incidents take place, in Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana or Madhya Pradesh we need to look at them rising above party politics.

These are very awful and shocking figures. We should not forget that while Andhra Pradesh is ahead in regard to cases registered under Indian Penal Code,

Madhya Pradesh is far ahead in terms of rape cases. Percentage of rape is so high there that it is difficult to tackle them. Overall exploitation of women occurs in Uttar Pradesh. In this connection this state is ahead of all. We will have to think about all these things. Andhra Pradesh is a Congress ruled state, but in other three states other parties are in power. I want to say that nobody comes here politically motivated. Hon'ble Member who comes from Madhya Pradesh, has forgotten when one assumes any office he pays all his attention toward it disassociating from all his other engagements.

I was talking about the cases registered under Indian Penal Code which are shocking. So, there is the need for all of us to pay attention in this direction in their respective constituencies. Figures of under trial cases under IPC have now risen to 1,74,921 with the increase of 8.8 per cent every year. If we try to go in details of the facts as to why these are happening, we will find that there is no full strength of police forces. States frequently state that they will increase the strength of the police forces, but there are no more than three or four per cent police forces anywhere and among them the number of women police force is even less than this. So, how will we be able to provide justice to the people where over one and half crore cases are lying pending in the courts of law from top to below.

How will the women get justice in view of such huge pendency in judiciary. The Supreme Court alone has 50,000 cases pending as on date and out of these at least 25000 cases are related to the women. So how is it possible? So, there is need to bring changes in mentality and at the same time the five pillars are also very necessary. It is very easy to blame the Government but the people forget their responsibilities. Talking about women we have the responsibilities which are implicit in five pillars. One is the strictness of law. National Commission for women have reviewed 42 laws or sent the draft proposals of new laws including Domestic Violence Act in only four years. So, through the House and particularly the women Members, I would like to submit that they should contribute in introducing these laws and getting them passed soon.

I was saying about five pillars. Law is necessary. Law is in force but it is also necessary that the laws should be matured. Law enacted in 1860 cannot be relevant. However, changes have been incorporated from time to time therein. This was possible only because of flexibility in our Constitution, but it still needs some more changes. Moreover, the law should be stringent. Another is executive which governs the administration from police

to other system rising above the party policies. It should not be involved in politics. There should not be otherwise treatment in the case like that of Rita Bahuguna in which her house was set on fire, she was arrested and section 464 was violated and there should not be a separate treatment on the expulsion of someone. Why do we not try to have a common approach for all? It is very necessary. When police and administrative systems will become the instruments of the political party in power only then little scope is left for the women to get justice. Their lesser number, the chaotic state of their training and the prevalent prejudicial attitude towards them make matters worse for the womenfolk.

The day, I became the chairman of National commission on women, a woman come to me with her small daughter. She told me that her thirteen year old daughter had been raped till 5 o' clock and she was going from one police station to another along with the daughter who was soaked in blood but no police station registered their complaint. This tendency is needed to be changed, and it will change through training and sensitization of the police force. For this separate training facilities should be provided respectively by the Union and State Governments. The training facilities provided by Union Government to the police, should be continued, this is my request.

The role of the civil society is equally important. I want to tell you a small incident that one 72 year old woman came to me and complained that whenever she goes to temple to offer prayers an 80 years old man teased her with singing a song "mere sapno ki rani kab aayegi tu" only to evict someone from the premises. I said to her that in this country despite many adverse conditions prevailing for women if she choses to retaliate with full force even man folk will stand by her side. I told her to beat that eve-teaser or just shout at him, I will stand at a distance. Thereafter that lady shouted loudly people gathered and thrashed that old man, here civil society plays an important role. Instead of remaining just a mute spectator we have to be active participant.

Organizing awareness programmes is also necessary. I through you would like to request to the Government that out of 30 percent of gender budget 10 percent should be kept for imparting training such as creating self awareness, awareness regarding their rights alongwith giving information about different programmes being conducted by various organisations.

Fifth is the role of the media and I want to salute to the media. It is only because of them we can reach

the people and know about their suffering. There are lots of problems, suffering, but not taking much time I only would like to say that in order to implement the Government's policies properly we have to change our mentality. We should not oppose Government only because it is of another political party but we have to take into consideration as to what this Government's views are for the women since the day of it's inception till date.

Sir, the time has changed whenever girls come to me I always tell them that don't be afraid of any kind of atrocities. On which they always answer that as I have also written "Khauf kaha mere Dil mein yeha sardi ka laher hei". Girls are trying to mitigate their fear and are now saying that this is a temporary phase and we are not afraid of these situations. I would like to draw attention of the House to the fact that the situations are changing. Earlier Women used to say that when suffering became unbearable we will give divorce but how they are saying that we will make the men suffer equally and will give the same amount of pain as they are giving. The women is also a daughter, an affectionate mother, loving sister, caring wife she always try that family should stick together but we have to remain alert before any adversity struck upon them. I have explained their pain in my words which run like this "Turn Bhi dard kahan tak dete, Mein Bhi julum kahan tak sahati, turn bhi itene bure nahi ho, Mein Bhi iteni Bhali Nahi huin." We should awake before the situation worsens and change our mindset towards women and give them their due. One thing that we can provide them here is the Bill for 33 percent reservation in the House for them. If this House approves this bill with open heart and provides reservation for women, it will be turning a new leaf.

Certain comments have been made here regarding me. I would like to say only one line that I respect her very much and regard her as my elder sister. Nothing has ever held me back from fulfilling my duties. I never seek my own rehabilitation. I have been fighting for the rights of women for 30 years and will continue to fight for the same irrespective of my party affiliation. For that cause I believe in cutting across party affiliations. Being a women, I consider, it my birth right to fight for the cause of women and no one can deprive me from this right. With these words I request Hon'ble Madam Minister through the Chair that you step forward with all the schemes and commitments, the direction and circumstances, the thinking on which the budget of UPA Government is based and an outline for the coming five years have been drawn and we all are ready to

cooperate with you in achieving this objective. Now the women will not sit silent, they are awakened and their paths are now clear and they will continue to speak for moving forward.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I could not speak about the future of children. I have discussed about ICDS, which is a very important programme. But we should ensure that the childhood of children is secured. We must take care of their physical development alongwith the syllabus of schools. The process regarding adoption of children is still complex, we are awaiting for a new bill on this subject. The Department of Labour should not take the problem of child labour lightly and arrangements for schools etc. for child labourers should be strengthened and I suppose that the Government will take steps to eradicate child labour from the country. Our country and the House is concerned about the future of our children and I am sure that their future is safe in the hand of UPA Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I have a list of 25 Members who desire to speak on this subject. We have time upto 1715 hours only. Thereafter the Minister will reply. Those members who want to lay their written statement on the table can do so. All written speeches will be treated as recorded.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ (Mohanlalganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude for giving me this opportunity to speak. In the year 1975, ICDS was started on experimental basis in 33 blocks of the country. Gradually it became a nationwide programme. The main objective of ICDS is to improve the health of children up to six years, pregnant women, lactating women and mothers. A package is given for this scheme, which includes supplementary nutrition, health check ups, health education and formal school education. As per the status of 31.1.2009, a total of 773000 projects and 13.56 lakh Aanganwadi centres have been sanctioned. It also includes the extension of third stage of ICDS scheme during the year 2008 and 2009. The number of Aanganwadi centres running the children and women programmes are in lakhs and lakhs of women workers are involved in its work. Our hon'ble Members were mentioning about the Aanganwadi centres. Women workers of Aanganwadi take care of children & pregnant women but these children are not being taken care of properly. I want to bring to your notice the pitiable condition of the children in our country. 49 per cent children below 3 yrs. of age are malnourished. Recent data of WHO shows that out of the total malnourished children in the world 49 percent are in India. Every year,

two and a half crore children are born in the country. If we sum up the population of children up to 3 years of age, sixty crore and five lakh children come in this group. Out of this more than three and a half crore children are malnourished. This data is taken from the National Family Welfare Survey. It has been stated in the survey that there is also lack of health facilities besides poverty. Vaccination of children is not done properly. Union or State Governments are not making concerted efforts to prevent malnutrition. Hon'ble members are aware of the condition of mid-day-meal in schools. I have been elected from the Mohanlalganj constituency, district Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. There is a school namely, Kasturba Bai Ashram and is being run with the Government aid under the patronage of government. Three-four months back children in that school were given stale food and stale gram dal and as a result of that 50 children fell seriously ill. They remained admitted to the hospital for three days and were saved with much difficulty. I would like to say that it should be ensured from the child development point of view that children are not deprived of their childhood due to diseases and frustration. There is a need to formulate a new policy regarding malnutrition especially there is a need to bring comprehensive change in nutrition related programmes. Schemes of child development should be given right direction. Public Distribution system should be made meaningful. The savings of states should be utilized honestly in the country and it should be ensured that this policy is complied with properly throughout the States and even in their rural and tribal areas.

Today the number of child labourers is increasing in the country Where 75 per cent population comprises of women and children, the miserable condition of child labourers and women workers working in fields may be seen in India. International Labour Organisation may have girded up its loins to eradicate child labour but crores of children are still performing child labour to earn their livelihood. India has the largest number of child labourers in the world. About 1 crore children in the age group of 5-14 are engaged in occupations which are hazardous to life. The International Day against child labour was celebrated on 12th June. International Labour Organisation (ILO) of United Nations has admitted in its report that though the number of children engaged in economic activity has decreased in the year 1999 but 16.5 crore children in the age group of 5-14 are still engaged in it. You may go and see how small children are being exploited at stations, hotels and Dhabas. They are neither provided with enough food nor are they being given sufficient wages. The Government should pay attention to the labourers of urban areas especially

towards people living at footpaths in slums and towards labourers working in hotels. There should be special provision for them in the budget. As many as 75 percent children are being exploited in such way in the country. Sir, I through you, would like to point out that only an amount of Rs. 6.30 crore has been provided under the schemes for the welfare of working children and protection of needy children. Apart from this an amount of Rs. 70 lakhs has been provided for the schemes meant for the North-east states.

If you want to see shining Bharat along with shining India then it would be essential to bring crores of children out from the scourge of nutrition, child labour and illiteracy and bring smile of progress on their faces. I would like to say about the condition of woman that it is better than earlier but about the schemes being run by ICDS, I would like to talk about National Woman Empowerment Mission. This newly proposed scheme was formulated under the chairmanship of Dr. A.R. Kidwai and it is an outcome of the recommendations of the committee of Governors. The proposed national mission will monitor the programmes, policies and schemes related to the empowerment of women of different ministries, departments of the Government of India and State Governments and Panchayati Raj Institutions so that social, economic rights of women may be ensured. A token provision of Rs. 1 crore has been made for this scheme. I would like to draw the attention of Member of Parliament Shrimati Girija Vyas towards this. You have taken the name of our respected leader Shri Mulayam Singh Yadavji in regard to women reservation.

He is against the format of Women Reservation Bill. We belong to rural areas, we are women from scheduled castes. I would like to point out that when women from general category, women with the backing of muscle power would contest, then how we could be able to win? I would like to draw your attention towards Dr. Lohia who said that when power will come in the hands of tribals, women and minorities, then the sheer use in ink of language spoken by them will usher in successful revolution in the country. Our leader wants that minorities, Dalits, Scheduled Castes and women belonging to backward classes to get opportunity and get elected to Legislative Assemblies and Lok Sabha.

The doors of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha should be opened for these women. I want to draw your attention towards Empowerment of Rural Women and the livelihood project which is a new project sponsored by IFAD. This project is being implemented in two districts of Sitamarhi and Madhubani in Bihar. This scheme is being implemented in Raebareli, Shrawasti,

Bahraich and Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh. The aim of this scheme is to empower rural women and girls socially and economically. An amount of Rs. 10 crore was provided for this scheme for the year 2007-08. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether such scheme is likely to be launched in Lucknow and Mohanlalganj as well.

Sir, there is a development scheme, sponsored by ICDS, which is being run under the leadership of women of minority community. Sachchar Committee has mentioned this fact in its report that the benefits of the development have not reached the largest minority community, the Muslims whose population is 13.83 crore. The women of this community have been victims of dual neglects this year. So a new sponsored scheme is proposed to achieve the target of development of these neglected women. Through this scheme these women will be provided assistance, training and leadership and efforts will also be made for their skill development so that they come out of the four walls of their households rising above the orthodoxy of their community. An amount of Rs. one crore has been allocated for this scheme including Rs. 50 lakh for the North-Eastern states in the year 2009-10.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards Lucknow. Embroidery work is done there on a large scale, particularly women, children and the older people engage, themselves in this work. Clothes are exported to foreign countries from there and it helps in earning foreign exchange and augmenting revenue. I would like to know whether the Government will take steps to promote women by providing special package for the purpose? ICDS scheme is being run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development for their economic empowerment. This scheme is meant for skill enhancement, training, employment and earning income to facilitate economic development and self-reliance of the women. There were various schemes of self-empowerment like Swayamsiddha, Swashakti, women training, production centre, National Women Funds for which external assistance was being provided under the 10th five-year plan but these have been discontinued. Swayamsiddha centre is a sponsored scheme which was started for a period of six years. Under this scheme 32 states and 650 blocks in various districts were covered. This scheme is an amended form of Indira Gandhi Mahila Yojana (IMY) which aims to promote women through small incentives. The objective of this scheme is to provide direct benefits to the women for making them self-reliant through promotion of assistance schemes in the form of economic and social empowerment. Hon'ble

Minister of Finance has stated in the budget that the women self help groups are bringing important changes in the rural areas. Today there are 22 lakh such groups who are associated with the banks. Our target is to register at least 50% rural women as the members of self help groups and associate them with the banks in the next five years. Hon'ble Minister, I want to draw your attention towards this scheme so that the women could become self-reliant through their empowerment. I will consider them empowered only on the day when they will be in a position to purchase cosmetic items like bangles, bindis and so on with their own earnings without any reliance on the earnings of their father, son or husband. *...(Interruptions)*. Sir, give me two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You sought two minute and these two minutes are over. After that you will seek another two minutes.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Sir, the National Women's Fund has been instrumental in providing loans or facilitating additional funding to the poor women. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please lay rest of your speech on the Table.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Keeping in view the social and economic development, the allocation of funds should be increased from Rs. 100 crore earmarked at the time of setting up of the fund. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the speech is still not over, lay it on the Table.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Sir, now I have nothing to lay on the Table. I will conclude within two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already taken five minutes instead of two. Shrimati Meena Singh, you may speak.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Sir, the National Commission for women has been constituted which functions both in the states as well as at the centre. Its main function is to hold court for women. It has the constitutional power and the authority to go in for investigation to the places where women are being harassed and suppressed and submit the report to the centre. But today the screams of women are lost in the cacophony of slogans. Laws are enacted to check suppression of women and atrocities against them. Books are written. But I would like to say that large number of cases of atrocities have been committed against women in Uttar Pradesh.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are stretching your speech too far Please take your seat. Now onwards your speech will not go on record. *...(Interruptions)**

*SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA (Amreli): Mr. Deputy Speaker and all the leaders and Members present here, I would like to thank all of you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

I would like to say that our country is a country of villages and according to a survey more than 80 percent of population live in villages and the development of the country depends upon the development of villages, the way a family depends on development of a child, similarly, the country depends on development of villages. The development of women is a prerequisite for development of villages. The development of women is synchronous to the development of the country. If the women of the country would be educated, their children would also be educated. When the children would be educated, their families too become educated, an educated society will create an educated state. In this way, our country would become an educated country.

I would like to request the hon. Minister to implement following schemes essential for the welfare of backward states of the country such as U.P., Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand, Bengal, Gujarat etc.

1. A school should be opened in every village and quality education should be provided in those schools. Today, we see that there is a huge difference in the quality of education provided to the children in urban areas and rural areas. A teacher who could impart education in English medium should have been appointed in every village school and their education should have been English pattern to bridge this gap in the quality of education so that this inequality is removed. The gap between the education given to urban and rural children can be removed.
2. The fees of such schools should be low so that poorest of the poor families are able to send their children to school to get education. Many instances are coming to light where intelligent children belonging to poor families are unable to make their career due to high fees and their career is ruined.

In these circumstances, I would like to request the hon. Minister to launch an appropriate scheme so that such children are not deprived of career opportunities.

*Not recorded.

*Speech was laid on the table.

3. A Kendriya Vidyalaya should be opened in every district so that after completing village education, the child does not have to go to another place for getting good education. For example, my district Amreli is not having any Kendriya Vidyalaya.

Therefore, the Government should give priority and take necessary steps in this regard.

4. There should be provision of scholarship for poor children so that the poor hardworking children may become self-reliant and are able to get education.
5. A special provision of education for tribal children should be made. Keeping all their needs in mind such schemes should be formulated so that they could progress in education.
6. The children of backward classes should be saved from exploitation. The Government should launch schemes necessary to check child marriage, child labour etc. Now such examples are emerging.
7. A women development centre should be there for women's development in every village so that every woman is able to get the benefit of steps taken for development of women by the Government.

Here, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that only 40 percent of the people are benefited from the schemes formulated for women and child development. These schemes remains only on papers. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister that a scheme training centre should be there in every village for creating awareness about the schemes so that every citizen is aware of development schemes formulated by the Government and is able to get their benefit.

SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH (Arrah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to express my gratitude for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important issue. The name of this Ministry is Women and Child Development. But the facts is that in real terms no concrete and effective steps have been taken for women and child development even after the lapse of so much time after independence. Even today, this Government is not able to provide nutritious diet to the pregnant women in villages. In the absence of medical treatment the pregnant women die during delivery. If a

poor woman gives birth to a child, the child becomes victim of malnutrition. Recently, on the basis of WHO figure, the World Bank has stated in its report that half of the malnourished children in the world are in India. I am not levelling any allegation against the hon. Minister, but I would definitely like to ask him after looking at all these figures, doesn't he feel that all schemes for women and child development are being run on papers only. Whatever claims are made for child development are hollow.

Sir, it is true that the country and the world are proud of the new generation of India. Around 54 crore young population of the world is in India. All of us in the House should be proud of this fact. Today's children would be the youth of tomorrow, but the childhood of today's children is gradually being snatched from them. They are losing their smile, which is integral to childhood. Through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister in this regard.

Sir, now I would like to draw your attention towards the problem of women. Today, when we go in villages it appears there are very few schemes for upliftment of women, there is widespread corruption in whatever schemes we have due to which the women are not able to benefit from it. The Government's very ambitious scheme is Anganwadi for the development of women and children. I would like to draw your attention towards the problems of 'Sevikas' and 'Sahayikas' working under this scheme. The 'Sevikas' have been assigned the responsibility to look after the women and children under the age of six years in the entire country. But I am ashamed to say that their monthly salary is less than the minimum wages fixed by the Union and State Governments.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the minimum wages for unskilled labourer, in Andhra Pradesh is Rupees 127, in Bihar it is Rs. 97, in Gujarat it is Rs. 100 and in Haryana it is Rs. 147, whereas the 10th Pass Sevika working in Anganwadi gets only Rs. 1500/- per month i.e. Rs. 50 per day only. This Government talks about the upliftment of women but the Government are unable to pay even the minimum wages to these sevikas. Through the Chair, I would like to demand from the hon'ble Minister Madam, that the Sevikas working in Anganwadi should be paid at least the minimum wages.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request the Hon'ble Minister that the Government should take initiative to open more Anganwadi centres in my parliamentary

constituency Arrah and also in Bihar State because our State is a backward state. National Women Fund was constituted for the overall development and upliftment of women. During the last financial year only Rupees 31 crores have been allocated which is further reduced to Rupees 20 crores this year. I would like to know why it has been done? Everyone is aware of the fact that women who leave their houses and migrate to cities for job have to face a lot of difficulties. The biggest problem they face is of housing. Last year Rupees 9.88 crores have been allocated for the construction of hostels which has been reduced to Rupees 8.98 crore this year. I could not understand how the Government wants to solve the problems of women? Women who works in a metro city like Delhi fell victims of harassment by the landlord. I demand that the allocation for women hostel should be increased instead of reducing it, so that women can live safely.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank the Hon'ble Member Sumitra ji for her statement that Rupees 53 crores is being provided for the victimized women. Women should not be treated second to men. Before concluding my speech, I would like to request Hon'ble Minister that the schemes being implemented by the Government for women should be implemented earnestly so that women may live a respectable life in the society. They should live healthy so that their children can also live healthy. Economic empowerment of women is the need of today so that they should not be forced to take wrong steps to meet the hunger, health and education need of their children.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[*English*]

DR. RATNA DE (Hooghly): Respected Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as per 2001 census, India has around 157.86 million of children constituting 15.42 per cent of the total population who are below the age group of six years.

15.59 hrs.

(SHRI FRANCISCO COSME Sardinha *in the Chair*)

Approximately, 40 per cent of the total Indian population is consisted of children who are below the age of 18 years.

16.00 hrs.

Sex ratio of children in the age group of below six years is 927 girls per thousand boys. Many of these children live in such social and economic environment which impede their mental and physical development.

In 1974, the Congress Government under the Prime Ministership of ever regarded Shrimati Indira Gandhi proclaimed a national policy on child declaring the child as a supremely important asset providing the required framework for assigning priority to different needs of the children. In 1975, ICDS was launched in 33 Blocks seeking to provide integrated package of services in a convergent manner for the holistic development of children. However, Government's endeavour in this regard has not been able to fulfil this desire due to lack of infrastructure, poor quality of food particularly in remote villages, and to some extent the negative approach of parents in the urban areas.

Launched in 1974 August, ICDS in 33 Blocks now represents one of the world's largest programmes for the development of the early childhood. ICDS is the foremost symbol of India's commitment to our children; i.e. India's response to the challenge of providing pre-primary education to all children more hard and, breaking of the vicious circle of malnutrition, morbidity, mortality, and reduced learning capacity in the other hard.

India is the home to the largest child population. This is not because as they are most valunerable but because they are our supreme asset. Development of children should be the first priority of country's developmental agenda. India would be secured in future if the child born is safe, live be healthy. In the 2009-10 all-inclusive Budget for growth and development, hon. Finance Minister has proposed to allocate Rs. 500 crore for self-help groups for empowerment of women. It is commendable. But empowerment of women is not at all possible unless the female illiteracy rate is reduced. According to data available to me which is published by the UNESCO, India's position when it comes to female literacy rate is not so good. But there is a point to note with pleasure that female literacy rate has increased from 8.86 per cent in 1951 to the present level of 50 per cent.

Many factors have been responsible for the poor rate of female literacy in the country. They are: (1) gender based inequality, (2) social discrimination, (3) economic exploitation, (4) low enrolment of girl children in the school, (5) working of girl child for domestic purposes, (6) low retention rate, and (7) high drop out rate. Many of these factors have been identified and measures have been taken for increasing female literacy in the country. Though provisional educational opportunities for women has been an important part of our national endeavour. But this endeavour has not yield the desired result due to gender disparity persisting with

uncompromising tenacity in the country, particularly in the rural areas. So, our mission should be to mitigate this gender disparity.

The principle of gender equality has been cherished in the Constitution of India in the chapters of Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties, Directive Principles of State Policy. The Constitution of India not only grants equality to women but also allows positive discrimination towards women. Unfortunately, this is not practiced in anywhere in India. A holistic approach to the nutrition of women, which include both nutrition and health service, is much needed. If we are not able to stop child marriage, could not ensure the reproductive rights of the women, we will not be able to stop the health hazards. Lack of nutrition invites infection, diseases, malnutrition and anaemia. Deficiency of other micro-nutrients continue to be a cause of great concern. The nutritional needs of women must be paid due attention because of the critical link between the women's health and the health of an infant and children.

Sir, it is a matter of shame that in our country female foeticide still occurs in the twenty-first century. It is a matter of regret that women are being tortured for giving birth to a girl child. It is a matter of distress that the women still can not decide to have the choice when to have the child and how many child she should have. I think Indian Government alone cannot solve this problem. We all, beyond the party line, should come forward to solve this problem so as to make India strong.

Sir, I would like to conclude my speech with a few words of Swami Vivekanand. "Educate your women first and let them leave them to line themselves. Then they will tell you what reform is necessary for them. Our rights of interference are limited entirely to giving education. Women must be put in a position so that they can solve their own problems in their own way. Indian woman is as capable of doing it as any woman in the world". I support the Budget.

SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON (Kanyakumari): Respected Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on one of the most important topics of our country that is women and child welfare. I express my sincere thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak on this challenging topic of the recent times for which a broad discussion is quite essential.

At this juncture, it is my duty to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the Government of Tamil Nadu under the Leadership of Thamizhina Thalaivar Dr. Kalaingar in the areas of women & child welfare. I

may say that the Government of India can take Tamil Nadu State as a role model for planning and implementing schemes for women and children. Tamil Nadu is a fore-runner in giving 33 per cent reservation to women in the Panchayats, which is first in India. Tamil Nadu Government is also giving 30 per cent reservation to women in Government jobs and all the primary school teachers are women in Tamil Nadu. Hence, we are second to none in insisting that the Women's Reservation Bill, which proposes to give 33 per cent reservation to women in Parliament and State Legislatures, should be passed in this House at the earliest.

I would like to appreciate the Budget provisions for the empowerment of weaker sections. Especially, I would like to appreciate the target of enrolling at least 50 per cent of our rural women as Members of Self Help Groups over the next five years.

Also I would like to appreciate the hon. Prime Minister for clearing the much awaited Integrated Child Protection Scheme and for granting huge amount of money for higher education. I rise to state that the Government should associate the Non-Governmental Organizations in the Integrated Child Protection Scheme, so that the Scheme will be effectively implemented.

Sir, I would like to present the national women and child development scenario and my proposals under the following topics based on their living environment, as each group has different needs-tribal women and children, rural illiterate women and children and urban women and children living in slums.

We are very much aware of the pathetic conditions of the Tribal Women and Children and it is our duty to give a sympathetic consideration to their needs. I like to suggest the following recommendations in this regard.

1. The major cause for diseases in the tribal pocket is malnutrition. The reason for malnutrition is landlessness. The tribals are the owners of their lands, but they are exploited by the outsiders, especially, rich landlords and most of the tribal population is suffering. The most affected people are poor tribal women and children. So, I would request the Government to pass very strict laws regarding tribal land exploitation. I take this opportunity to state that the people, who are involving in the crime of tribal land exploitation should not be allowed to contest the elections.

2. The Non-Governmental Organizations, which are really sincere in working for the under-privileged women and children should be encouraged and supported. In this context, let me state that the real NGOs whether it is small or big should be identified. In my opinion, small NGOs are more effective than larger ones.
3. A National Commission for Non-Governmental Organizations can be established as a statutory body with social workers and social scientists as its Chairman and members and it can be empowered to identify, network and standardize Non-Governmental Organizations. This Commission can have a special focus on tribal women and children supporting Non-Governmental Organizations.

Sir, let me point out the problems of other underprivileged rural women and children. I am happy and I congratulate the Government for its initiatives in the development of Self-Help Groups. Let me present the following recommendation in this regard.

Rural Health Mission is a major initiative of our Government and it is our duty to bring the benefits of Rural Health Mission to reach its beneficiaries. For this purpose, before selecting a medical or para-medical professional for this noble task, "Attitude Test on Commitment" should be done by learned professionals in this area. Reference checks with NGOs also can be done. Also, strict laws can be enacted against the medical or para-Medical professionals who are failing in their duty.

Thirdly, urban women and children living in slums are again a neglected community to be considered on par with the rural women. I request the privileges of Rural Health Mission to be extended to the urban women and children living in slums.

Also I rise to state that the various schemes implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu for the welfare of women and children is to be taken as a model scheme by the Government of India and can also be implemented throughout the country for the welfare of women and children.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing a number schemes for the marriage of women in poor families, widow's daughters, destitute orphan women and widow re-marriage. Tailoring machines are given to widows, physically handicapped and destitute women.

Also, widows' children are given free notebooks for their school education. Under women-children protection scheme, parents with girl-child are supported, under certain guidelines. Child Homes are functioning in different parts of the State for the welfare of small children who are in need. Government supported homes are functioning at different places for the welfare of poor and destitute women. Pregnant women are also given monetary support based on their need. Vaccination schemes are implemented specially for young women and children.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request the Government of India to follow the model of Government of Tamil Nadu for the welfare of Women and Children. Also, I would like to request the Government for implementation of the yellow fever vaccination scheme for pregnant women and the Government should also take immediate initiatives to provide medicines high in iron content and other need based medicines for all the pregnant women of the country.

Let us together build a healthy Nation with healthy women and healthy children.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, while appreciating the Indian Government for its various schemes to cater to all the citizens of India irrespective of their caste, creed, gender, age and geographical origin, I would like to mention that children, who are often referred as the leaders of tomorrow, should be given due care by the Government through various means and measures. I am sorry to state the pathetic condition of tribal and illiterate children in our country even after six decades of Independence.

I have confidence in our present Government that it will take proper initiatives and draw up action plans to cater to the needs of the poor and downtrodden women and children.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI (Vishnupur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on demands for grants of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. We all know that women all over the world do all the work without any expectation. It is a fact that 79.3 percent of people in India earns less than Rupees twenty a day. Women works in office and prepare food in kitchen but they herself are deprived of proper food. Due to price rise trend, the prices of rice, pulses, potato etc. are increasing. Even now, there are many women who serve food to their children but herself could not get proper food. When one could not

get proper food, how could her health will be maintained and how she will get education?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I demand from the Government through the Chair that Supreme Court has directed that ICDS centres should be universalized and established in all the villages in the country. If the number of Anganwadi Centres in the country are increased to 17 lakh, then the OBCs, Tribals, SCs and other people living below poverty line will be benefitted. At present there are 10 lakh such centres and at the present rate, it will take at least twenty more years to reach the number of 17 lakhs. Therefore we want that the number of Anganwadi should be increased. The women and the helpers working in Anganwadi Centres get very less wages and it is not sufficient, in view of the price rise. They should get about Rs. 5,000/- per month. Many women are working under Asha Scheme. They also get insufficient remuneration. We want that this Scheme should be regularized. The Government should give attention to it. If one has to become doctor he has to pay heavy fees, medical facility is available to the person who can pay for it. Kindly give attention to our demand which is related to the poor and deprived section of the society.

[English]

Food, shelter and clothing are the birth rights of people. But here I would like to ask the Government as to what we have done after 60 years of Independence for the street children.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Anti Child Labour Bill has been passed by the House but still children are working as a child labour on roads, shops, houses and Dhabas. Even after this enactment, they are still doing labour but are not getting proper wages. Many of our Hon'ble Members have told that the child labour has not abolished in India. We are in favour of abolition of child labour. Children should not work as a labourer. Therefore, I request you that the Government should give attention to the problem so that child labour may be abolished from the country.

Sir, Women are the backbone of the Society. But they do not get justice in the cases of Domestic Violence. When a woman goes to the Police Station to register her complaint, the officer-in-charge do not register her case because member of her-in-laws reaches police station before her and manage to bribe the Police. Therefore, many women could not get even the case registered. When they approach to register the case under Section 498(A), the cases are not registered but

when they die, cases are registered under Section 306. Government should give a serious consideration to this problem also. Sir, we all think that our children should get good upbringing and good education, but this is not happening. To achieve this end, Government will have to do much more work. We are still discriminating between men and women. Our Government should work for removing such discrimination. If this discrimination continues then in the year 2022 or 2025 the female sex ration will plummet to such an extent that it will be difficult to find girls for boys of marriageable age. Before such a situation arises, the Government should think about it.

Sir, Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development are present in the House. I would like to request both of them that they should provide more funds to ICDS and improve its functioning and there are huge irregularities in the B.P.L. List and many names are still missing in that list. There are still 57 percent people who do not have B.P.L. cards. Government have announced that those who do not have B.P.L. cards will also get rice. My request is that B.P.L. cards should be given to those who are not getting rice so that they can also purchase rice at the subsidized rates.

Sir, women cook food, look after children and the entire household responsibility lies on them. If women are treated well then the society as a whole will get affected and if the society as a whole changes for good then the nation will also progress. These things are interlinked. Education and Health facilities and all kinds of other facilities are provided to the B.P.L. card holders. If our children are healthy then our India will also become a healthy nation. As has just now been said by the Hon'ble Member Dr. Girija Vyas.

Sir, many things have been spoken here but the main focus has been on malnutrition and drop-out rates. The drop-out rates are very high among the girls belonging to S.C., S.T. and muslim community. The school-going percentage among them is very low. The Government should take steps in this regard and the efforts should be such that the drop-out rates come down.

Sir, with these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY (Kandhamal): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am very much obliged that you have given me this opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Sir, women play an important role in the society in building a healthy family as well as the nation. According to 2001 census, the female population is 49.6 crores and the population of children is 19 crores. Thus, the population of women and children comes to 67 per cent of the total population. The development of women and children is thus of paramount importance and sets the pace of the overall development of the country. But the budgetary provision for this Ministry is only Rs. 7428 crore. It is Rs. 509 crore more than the previous year's Budget. So, in my opinion, this amount will not be sufficient to address the problems of the 67 per cent of the population, that is women and children. So, I expect that the hon. Minister should look into it and enhance this Budget allocation.

The ICDS was launched in 1975 for holistic development of children below six years, for pregnant and lactating mothers of disadvantaged sections, for providing a package of integrated services, comprising supplementary nutrition, immunisation, health check-up, pre-school and non-formal education, nutrition, health, education, etc. But, I do not think that the results are up to our expectations.

I can cite the example of my constituency, Kandhamal. As you know, during the last two years, Kandhamal has become a very problematic area. I come from that area. In Kandhamal the Infant Mortality is 119 for 1,000 live births, in comparison to the national IMR average of 57. In Orissa the IMR is 65. So, you can imagine what is the magnitude of the poverty in Kandhamal. It is published in *The Hindu* of 26th October, 2008 that the poverty and food insecurity index is the maximum in Kandhamal among thirty districts of the State. It is the lowest in all the parameters of food security index. There, the food availability is the lowest, access to food is the lowest, food absorption is the lowest, the food security index is the lowest. On food security outcome, the index is the lowest. Therefore, it is a great concern for us.

I would request the hon. Minister to kindly pay a visit to Kandhamal and see the situation of the poor *adivasi* women and children, as to how they are living there. It is not the duty of only the State Government to manage the show, it is the duty also of our Union Government to rise to the occasion. It is because during the last two years the situation in Kandhamal is very precarious. There, most of the fields have not been harvested. The situation is very terrifying. Some people have lost their houses and the *adivasis* out of fear of arrest have fled to jungles. So, the paddy fields have

not been harvested and cultivated. Therefore, it is our duty to please rise to the occasion and see that how we can save the people. The women *adivasis* have become helpless. The Self-Help Groups in those areas are not working. They do not have money. So, how to save them is a much bigger concern for us. It is the national responsibility to save the district. Therefore, I gave a Memorandum to the hon. Home Minister during his last visit to Kandhamal. There, I narrated all these things. I had requested him to kindly allot 25,000 more Antyodaya Cards to these people. Otherwise, the people will die of hunger.

Similarly, I have two more suggestions. The ICDS was launched in 1975 with a holistic approach for development of women and children. But I would like to say one thing about it. I am talking about Orissa and I do not know about other States. All these *anganwadi* centres do not have their own buildings. So, to store the foods stuffs, to impart peaceful schooling to the boys and girls and other things, there are no facilities. I expect that some budgetary provision is earmarked for the construction of buildings for *anganwadi* centres; otherwise, the Scheme cannot be implemented properly.

I would like to give my next suggestion and which is a very important suggestion. The Government of India's guideline is to have one *anganwadi* centre one for 500 people in plain areas and 200 in tribal areas. The Supreme Court also has given a verdict that the Government should try that the work of *anganwadis* reach every village. So, I would request the Government to change the guideline and all the villages should have the *anganwadi* centres, and in *adivasi* tribal pockets, all hamlets should have *anganwadi* centres or the feeding centre.

Sir, with these few words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE (Shirdi): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the ICDS programme is a very important programme for the country. But there are huge irregularities in its implementation and for example the Aanganwadi workers who are called Aanganwadi sevikas get very less remuneration. They get Rs. 1,800 per month in Maharashtra. They work from morning to evening. Their work should be evaluated. They also have to keep the record of births and deaths but their job is considered part time and Government give them part time remuneration on that basis.

Sir, through you, I would like to request hon'ble Minister that instead of considering their job part time it

should be considered full time and they should be absorbed in class three employees category so that they can perform their duties diligently. This will stop their financial exploitation. Due to part time remuneration, they cannot get pension and other benefits after retirement. And many women who retired after 60 years after working as Aanganwadi workers are living in a pitiable condition due to lack of money. My request is that Aanganwadi workers should be treated as Government employees so that they can help in a better way in regulating this programme.

In Maharashtra the nutritional meal supplied under this programme is supplied through the 'Mahila Bachat Gut'. On papers it is shown that the supply is done by 'Mahila Bachat Gut' but actually it is supplied by the contractors. The norms of quantity of the nutritional meal required to be distributed among children and pregnant women are not followed. The contractors are distributing it arbitrarily. The practical rules and written rules should conform to the quality norms.

Sir, now also the Aanganwadi workers are not getting their salaries for the last 3 to 4 months in Maharashtra. The reason is the amount kept for giving their salaries are spent on other programmes. Although the remuneration given to them is very less and that also is not given in time. Some measures are certainly needed to be taken in this regard. The Committee constituted by Government of Maharashtra which appoint the Aanganwadi workers are headed by local M.L.A. I, through you, would like to urge the Minister that the fund is given by the Central Government so the Chairman of the Committee should be a local M.P. so that the workers' appointment can be done with the help of the M.P. We do not have any objection if local M.L.A. is appointed a Committee Member.

The supervisor of Child Development Project can be included in the Aanganwadi staff. If the appointment, promotion of the staff is taken care of then the scheme can be implemented effectively. The percentage of supervisors at present is 20-30 per cent, which could be enhanced upto 60-70 percent. The promotion from supervisor to CDPO should be more than 50 percent so that the implementation of the scheme is effective and also the scheme will be run by the experienced personnel.

There should be a Mahila Bhavan in villages for women organizations of the villages so that they can exchange their views. Just now many hon'ble Members said that still there are many tribal areas where Aanganwadi workers have to work in the open. They do

not have any building, therefore, construction of building there should be a top priority because small children are also there.

There is a need to provide assistance to old women in villages. Each of your scheme is somehow related to BPL cards. Only those who have BPL cards, get homes, pension etc. But I want to say that the norms laid down with regard to BPL are quite wrong and this matter has been debated many times in the House. *...(Interruptions)*. My suggestion is that gram sabha of a village should be empowered to help such women so that it can take care of the schemes of providing homes and pensions to them. *...(Interruptions)*.

The nature of women saving scheme is very good, but it is used politically. Whichever political party it might be everyone is using it politically. I do not want to name it. I demand that there should be a definite scheme for their groups so that they could be empowered through business etc. These groups are only on paper but do not carry out any business etc. The loans given to them for this purpose should be waived. *...(Interruptions)*.

With these words I conclude. Due to shortage of time I lay my remaining speech on the table of the House.

*I through you would like to point out that the scheme of ICDS under Aanganwadi of the Ministry of Women and Child Development is very important. Under this programme, the future generation is nurtured. Under this scheme pre natal and post natal care is provided. But the condition of women who run Aanganwadies is miserable because the remuneration provided to them every month is just Rs.1800 which is negligible. The Government consider it a part time job whereas they maintain the records of each birth and death which is a full time job. They should be declared grade III employees and strengthened economically and provision of pension be made for them because their condition becomes miserable in the old age. Today several women after the age of 60 are leading miserable life.

Under this programme the nutritious food for children should be provided but actually the same is not made available as per rule because the quantity and quality of food provided by the contractor who appoint these women does not conform to prescribed norms for this purpose at all.

Aanganwadi workers get their salaries after three of four months causing hardship for them. Sir, I have been elected from Maharashtra, the amount provided for this

*.....*This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

scheme in my state is spent on other schemes. As a result this scheme in Maharashtra is lagging behind in comparison to other states.

The workers of Anganwadi are appointed by a committee constituted by Maharashtra Government and chaired by a MLA, whereas this is the scheme of Central Government and funds for this scheme are also provided by the Centre. So the local M.P. should be the Chairman of this committee and M.L.A. may be nominated at this committee as a member. This is my demand to the Government.

There were certain anomalies in the salaries given to the supervisors of Anganwadi employees on the basis of the fifth pay commission and these anomalies should be rectified in the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission.

For the promotion of Child Development Officers, 60% quota should be earmarked for women so that they get the benefit of their experience and improve their efficiency. Similarly 75% promotions of the supervisors should be given keeping in view the qualification like matric, graduate, post graduate, etc.

Similarly, there should be Mahila Bhawan for women organisations in the village where they can exchange their views and discuss policies easily. The funds for the construction of such Bhawans be provided by the Central Government.

In many villages Anganwadi centres do not have buildings and are functioning under open sky in rain, sun and are facing many problems. I demand that multi-purpose centres should be set up at all places so that arrangements for vaccination, food and sports could be made available at a single centre and such a model should be implemented across the country.

In villages there are many families who are living below the poverty line. Amongst them, pregnant women are not provided proper food and vaccination, they are not looked after properly due to which children born to them suffer from malnutrition since their birth and most of them die during infancy due to lack of health facilities and those who survive, become handicapped and malnourished thus becoming a liability on the country.

Therefore, I demand the Government to prepare an urgent programme with sufficient funds for food and other facilities. Such a programme should be under 'Dattak Yojana' wherein the whole responsibility will be borne by the Government.

The Women Savings Scheme is a very good scheme on paper but not on ground. Women are being used as a political tool whereas this scheme should be such that women could get money after carrying out work. Actually this is not happening and Women Savings Scheme has failed completely. It requires a complete overhauling and whatever amount of loan is given to women should be waived because most of the women are not in a position to repay the loan and because they could not repay the loan they are exploited.

There are some elderly women in villages who although old, are out of BPL Scheme or are deprived of the benefits of this scheme due to technical reasons. In such a situation proper attention is not paid to them. The right to select such women should be given to Gram Sabha because it is also a powerful medium. Gram Sabhas should be given rights so that they can formulate beneficial programmes for old women. The Union Government should formulate programmes working on these lines.

With these words, through you, I request the Union Government and hon. Minister of formulate programmes and provide funds for ensuring the effective implementation of the said schemes.

*SHRI O.S. MANIAN (Mayiladuthurai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to participate in this discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Women and children put together constitute 75 per cent of our total population. But still the budgetary allocation for them has been further scaled down by Rs. 343 crore. This is quite disheartening. Hence I urge upon the Union Finance Minister to allocate more funds for this Ministry.

Our leader and General Secretary of our party All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam is a lady. Our Union Minister of Railways and the leader of Trinamool Congress is also a lady. The leader of Bahujan Samaj Party is a lady. The leader of the Congress Party is again a lady. The Presiding Officer of this august House, the Speaker, is a lady. The country's President is a lady. This gives a sort of relief that at least some women leaders could occupy certain positions in public life. But at the same time, I would like to point out that the lot of women in this country is still a matter of concern to us as it remains a pitiable one and this state of affairs

needs to be changed still because economic and social freedom is still eluding them.

I would like to point at the place of women in the Indian society. The first stage of a woman commences from her birth. Till her marriage she is under the care of her parents and is entirely dependent on them. When she enters the second stage of her life after her wedding, after being given away in marriage, she is with her husband as long as her body can cooperate with her to work in raising a home there. She is forced to move to the third stage of her life in her old age left in the care of the family heirs under their care entirely depending on them. There is also a fourth stage for those who do not have anyone to take care of them in their old age and their condition remains pathetic. That is why women must get opportunity in education and jobs. When the condition of women remains to be so, we are talking about women development and their independence to lead a life without having to depend on others.

Women can be empowered. So there is a need to provide for 33 per cent reservation in Parliament and State Legislatures. I would like to emphasize the need to go in for this legislation and I reiterate this on behalf of our party AIADMK and our leader and General Secretary, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi (Revolutionary Leader) Amma.

To improve the lot of women, several welfare measures that were revolutionary in nature were evolved and brought about by our leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma J. Jayalalitha when she was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The foremost among such laudable measures as acclaimed by one and all remains to be Cradle Baby Scheme. This was her reply to the social evil female infanticide resorted to either by mother herself or by any of the family members. Instead of being done away with, girl children could be handed over to the Government. They can even be left in the cradle kept in Government offices specifically for the purpose of collecting babies sought to be abandoned so. That great scheme was widely appreciated and the world renowned social worker and the poor's saint Mother Teresa came to our leader's house to congratulate her for this noble measure.

A woman cannot easily narrate or complain about the atrocities inflicted on her to a man. But she can come out and speak out without any inhibition to another woman about any injustice meted out to her. That is why our leader, when she was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Amma, had established All Women Police

Stations setting up one station for every police district. Due to this women could get redressal and justice as they were able to talk openly about their problems to women police officers in All Women Police Stations. This was a significant achievement.

Much more than that, our leader introduced a measure that was significant in its own way for raising the status of women in the society. I hope the women Members of this august House would be appreciative of that move by our leader to give the right to children to have the mother's name too as their initial. It is only a mother who is fully responsible for the growth of her child whom she had borne in her womb for 10 months. A mother is responsible for the child till it can walk and handle things in life by itself. But a mother's name could not be given as the initial of a child. Only a father can give his name as the initial to his child. Our leader, as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, brought about a revolutionary change and legislated to see that a mother's name can also be the initial of her child.

Our leader took the initiative to establish Women Self Help Groups so that they can get awareness about their rights and place in the society and get social and economic advancement. Women were encouraged to go in for small savings and were helped to get Government's assistance in the form of Rotation Fund to start some manufacturing activity for which liberal loans from banks were also arranged. SHGs were helped to start their own small scale industrial units so that the women members can earn and get economic freedom.

Our leader also promoted education for children especially girl children. All children from Class 1 to 12 were provided with text books free of cost. Bicycles were distributed free of cost to Plus Two students. During her tenure, our leader made arrangements to provide noon meals in high-revenue-earning temples for the benefit of destitute aged people and children.

The dowry evil continues to remain a very big social evil coming in the way of the lives of many of our women. We have anti-dowry laws in place, but still the society is not free from it as yet. It is saddening us. We find so many premature deaths of young women both as killings and suicidal deaths. To put an end to this, mere legislation is not enough. The mindset of the society must change. An awareness against the evil dowry must be spread. All the citizens of the country must work for its eradication, rising above all differences. Political parties, voluntary organizations and social activists must take up a big campaign to bring about a change of

heart in those who perpetrate this evil. The Government must come forward to encourage such anti-dowry campaigns.

The next among the social evil that affects girl children is child marriage. Children at the age of 10, 12 and 15 years are married even at a time when legally permissible age is 18. This leads to many problems, especially death during pregnancy and delivery. In order to save young girls, this social practice must be curbed.

Pre-natal and post-natal care must be given enough priority to save women and children. Child birth and delivery, if not attended by trained medical personnel, it leads to so many complications affecting the health of both the mother and child. Even today, deliveries take place in houses instead of rushing such pregnant women nursing homes nearby. Awareness must be created in the minds of the people about the danger involved in the delayed delivery resulting in insufficient oxygen supply to the child's brain can lead to deformity. It is saddening to note that infant mortality is at its height in India. It is reported that about 2 crore children below the age of 5 die every year. Enough number of doctors and health care staff must be appointed in hospitals, Primary Health Centres and Maternity Homes all over the country to help save our women population and also the future generation.

We call the language we have learnt from our mothers as mother tongue. We call our country motherland. We call this earth as mother earth (Boomadevi). We consider our rivers as mothers and name them after women. We commence our speech saying 'Ladies and Gentlemen', but still the question lingers as to when our women would be really liberated and emancipated.

*Women and children are forced to leave their jobs and educational institutions because of sexual harassment in work places and educational institutions. Stringent measures must be in place to stem this rot and help women to live in a secured fashion.

Stringent laws are in place against child labour, but still it has been found out that about 1.12 crore children are still losing their childhood as child labour. This figure is available from the 1991 Census. But ILO statistics point out that 2.32 crore children are exploited as child labour in our country. Special efforts and measures should be there to identify these children and give them back their childhood along with special education and the Government must come forward to meet their needs till they are provided with education to come up in life.

*English translation of this part of the speech originally laid out the Table in Tamil.

Working women, finding themselves away from home, in towns and cities are facing the problem of getting accommodation. The Government must come forward to establish more women hostels involving voluntary organizations and even private bodies to ease this problem.

The male domination in the society comes in the way of women's development. Hence, we must work for equal rights to women which will lead to the development of both women and children. With this, we can find prosperity and growth both in our country and in our respective homes. The Government must gear up to contribute its mite evolving constructive measures and schemes to really benefit the women and children of our country who are both the future and the repository of our future. For this, enough funds must be allocated by the Government apart from evolving plans and strategies. Impressing upon the need to build a healthy nation with the development of women and children, I conclude.*

*DR. N. SIVAPRASAD (Chittoor): Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of Telugu Desam Party, which is pro-women. Sir, 50% of our population consists of women. Are we making use of intelligence and skills of our women? 'NO' is the answer. Our constitution has provided for equal rights to both men and women. Even then, why women are lagging behind? Our cultural background is one reason and social discrimination is another. Also, there is no political motivation to provide equality to women. This is how the rights of women are being suppressed. In our country, woman is regarded as 'Origin of Power'. It is also said that "Where women are worshipped, there Goddesses live". Our country was known for matriarchal system, which is not to be seen anywhere. Patriarchal system replaced it and is firmly rooted. This system suppressed women and their rights. I feel sad to mention here that even after a woman Prime Minister headed our country, the conditions of our women did not improve. In such a scenario, late Shri N.T.Rama Rao, who founded Telugu Desam Party, started giving importance of the issues of women. Houses, plots and loans were given to the women. Also, reservations for women were provided in Government offices, departments and in local bodies. Telugu Desam Party had taken many initiatives to empower women. By forming Self Help Groups (SHG), lakhs of women could be empowered. By providing crores of rupees as corpus fund, women could be empowered financially. Thus, enabling women share same platform with men and this credit goes to Telugu Desam Party.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

If we look at this august House, Speaker is a woman. A woman is running this Government. We have many successful Ministers, who are woman. We have many talented woman members in the opposition party, who sit in front rows. But, what is the ground reality? We are still facing many hurdles in providing 33% of reservation for women. This Government promised 33% of reservation for women in 100 days after coming to power. But if we look at the meagre allocation of budget for women and child welfare, it speaks for this Government's commitment.

For 2008-2009, the budgetary allocation for this Ministry was Rs. 7,200 crores, which was revised to Rs. 6,550 crores. For 2009-10, the allocation has been enhanced by only Rs. 300 crores and only Rs. 7,300 crores has been allocated for women and children, who can determine the destiny of our country. Today, we have 6,284 ICDS projects. We have 9,40,00,000 Anganwadi centres. The conditions of these Anganwadi workers are pathetic and they receive very meagre wages. We want their contribution in shaping our future. And to ensure this, we should give adequate allocations for the salaries of these Anganwadi workers.

There are around 22 lakh women Self Help Groups, which should be linked with banks. The corpus fund of 'Mahila Rashtriya Kosh' may be enhanced to Rs. 500 crores from Rs. 100 crores. Female literacy plays a vital role in the progress of our country. If a man is educated, that education is confined to that individual only. But if a woman is educated, a family is educated, a village is educated and a state is educated. For our country's progress, female literacy is very important. Children upto the age of 6 years should be protected and taken care of. The Ministry should provide nutrition and education for these children. The Government should provide nursing care for pregnant women and lactating mothers. Adolescent girls should be protected through Anganwadi centres. Working women's hostels should be set up. There is a Support to Training and Empowerment Programme (STEP). There is a need to impart training to women in agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry, dairy, handlooms and handcrafts. We should also bring awareness among rural women and empower them, so that they can come together to solve their problems. Also, mentally retarded women, widows and destitute should be protected and taken care of. With these words, I conclude and thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. At the very outset, I must thank the Chair for choosing this subject, namely, the Demands for Grants on the Ministry of Women and Child Development. I think, this is the first time, so far as my Parliamentary tenure is concerned, that I am participating in this discussion. I think, hon. Madam Speaker has chosen the subject. This is the first time and so, I must congratulate her and compliment the Chair.

So far as this discussion is concerned, hon. Madam Sumitra Mahajan, Dr. Girija Vyas, and other hon. Members have very clearly narrated the picture so far as the condition of women and children of our country is concerned.

I am not going into that. I would only just take the privilege to refer to what is said about the women community in *Manu Samhita* – woman is not independent. It says:

Pita Rakshati Kaumary, Bhartha Rakshati Yauvan

Vardhake Rakshati Putrah Na Stri Swatantra Maharti

So, till today this situation persists. I do not know when this situation will be overcome.

Now, I come to the Demand for Grant under the control of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

So far as the schemes for women's welfare under the Ministry of Women and Child Development is concerned, it is observed that it has registered a staggering decline of 42 per cent, from Rs. 427 crore in 2008-09 Budget Estimate to Rs. 246 crore in 2009-10 Budget Estimate. When compared to the figure of 2008-09 Revised Estimate, the increase is insignificant; it is only three per cent increase in nominal terms but in real terms if we take into account the present price rise, then it is not an increase but it is only a decline.

The allocation for the schemes such as Swayam Siddha, Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women, Hostels of Working Women, Scheme for Combating Trafficking have recorded an outstanding decline in absolute numbers.

In the Union Budget, the hon. Finance Minister, respected Shri Pranab Mukherjee announced that the corpus of the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh would be increased from Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 500 crore over the next few

years but the allocation for this sector has declined from Rs. 32 crore to Rs. 20 crore.

Sir, the allocation for the National Scheme for Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education has gone down. There are other anomalies. Indira Awas Yojana and Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana, all these items have been put under Part-I and Part 'B'. These are not exclusively for the development of women but all these things have been put under Part-I and Part 'B' of the Gender Budgeting statement. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, I am only mentioning the points, and I am not making a speech. Some important points are there. Please allow me to speak for two more minutes. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may conclude your speech by making one more point.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Several schemes under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports such as Nehru Yuva Kendra, National Service Scheme, the Scheme of Scouting and Guiding have been put under Part 'B'.

Sir, the new scheme, Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme aimed at providing cash directly to pregnant and lactating women has been started with a meager amount of Rs. 3.6 crore only.

The much-hyped National Mission for Empowerment of Women also finds a mention in the Budget document but there is only a token outlay, only Rs. 1 crore.

The promises made in the 11th Five Year Plan need to be implemented. Most promises made in the Plan are yet to see the light of day. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. You have been given enough time.

Now, Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Please allow me to make only two more points. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want, you can lay the rest of your speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Okay, Sir. I will lay the rest of my speech on the Table.

*Other institutional mechanisms that have been created like the National Women Commission and State Women's Commissions need to be strengthened and given more teeth and National Commission for Women Act needs to be amended.

Child

Sir, the total allocation for all child specific scheme had registered a welcome rise from 2.2 (03-04) to 4.93% in (07-08) But it has shown decline in last two budgets.

(2) The new intervention for children proposed mainly to child education while the other three sectors viz., Child health, Child developments and child protection have not been paid much attention.

(3) The allocation for schemes addressing the problems of child labourers (NCLP) has been reduced from 156 crore in 2008-09 (BE) to only 90 crore in (2009-10 BE).

(4) ICDS – Finance Minister announces that by March 2012 – it would be extended with quality to every child under the age of six so visible measures have to be taken. However, the allocation for SSA-MDM remained the same.*

17.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Faridkot): Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you, I am associating with my sister Sumitra Mahajan who has spoken in detail on the Budget. I thank the department which has after long time brought this issue before the house. I also regret that today despite being the day for an important issue to be raised about women, but due to the less time given discrimination has been done against women.

Guru Nanak Dev ji had put women on a very high pedestal, he had said "why blame that person who has given birth to kings". A woman is a mother and is the developer of the society. It is said, but I do not know whether men would reconcile with this fact that "after every successful man behind there is a woman".

It is not a big development that after 62 years, 59 women members have been elected in the house. In parliament what ever may we boast about but in the outside world the condition of women, especially dalit women is very pitiful.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi

The woman who is being called 'Devi'; to feed itself and her children have to become prostitutes, there number is ever increasing.

Woman's honour isn't secure. Whether she is going somewhere, working in farms, in job, even a woman who is mentally retarded and living in Nari Niketan is not spared. Girl child's childhood is not safe.

Dowry seekers are burning women alive. This is the reason that parents are reluctant to have a girl child. Female foeticide is increasing in the country.

Why is this happening though new laws are being made in the country. Our responsibility does not end by making the laws, until these laws are strictly implemented and the woman does not get a high status in the society and feels secure.

A woman has to be politically strengthened. We are watching that for the last 5 years a discussion is going on in the House that 33% reservation would be given to women, but no thorough discussion has taken place.

In work the right of woman has to be given to them. The woman should be made literate if she has to be strengthened. Because woman would not be strengthened until they have knowledge of their rights.

It is said that "if one male is made literate he would improve a generation, but if a woman is made literate she improves two generations".

Health facilities should be given to women. Lots of women i.e. lakhs, and crores are dying because their is dearth of health facilities for women, lack of lady doctors. The women are reluctant to approach male doctors for deliveries due to embarrassment. So they go to untrained female quacks in villages leading to their death. Until we provide health facilities to women they would not be strengthened.

On woman old age is a big curse. The son on whose birth we celebrate, he turns away the woman out of her house when she gets old. We have to think seriously about women in their old age. Widows are in a bad position after the death of their husband. She is also at risk to be turned out of her house by her children. So the pension given to widows, which is currently not enough, should be increased as per inflation.

Until a woman becomes strong physically, mentally, politically and economically than our country and woman would not be strong.

When a woman becomes a strong than our children's difficulties would be automatically solved.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a famous British writer has written about one selfish Giant. He had a big garden. Small children used to play in it. In spring, flowers blossomed and sparrows used to chirp there. One day, he decided to fence the garden with brickwall. But after that children stopped going there, spring season also did not come, flowers withered and sparrows also stopped chirping. In despair, he went to pilgrimage. In course of time, the wall broke down and again small children started coming. Meanwhile, he came back and saw that with the advent of spring birds were chirping and also the flowers were blooming. He was a changed man and he ran towards the children. Seeing him, the older children fled from the garden, they ran away from there but one small child could not do so. Other children waited to see what the rascal was upto? He took the child on his shoulders and said he has seen the almighty. The writer comes to the conclusion that the children are the representatives of God's kingdom. They are members of God's Kingdom.

Perhaps Pandit Jawaharlal Nehruji had gone through this story and perhaps was much influenced by it. As such it is well known that he had got tremendous affection for. So, he children came to be known as 'Chacha Nehru' and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's birth anniversary is celebrated on 14th November. In India, 40 percent of population comprises children and 50 percent are women. The ongoing debate is on budget for women and child development, which involves the fate of 80 crore people but the total outlay for it is of Rs. 7400 crore. Now the discussion should be held whether the budget is sufficient or insufficient. The economist, socialist and other learned scholars should ponder over the fact budgetary allocation of only Rs. 7400 crore has been made for women and children who comprise 80 crore of our population. This is a negligible allocation. Therefore, irrespective of what schemes have been implemented till now, WHO and World Bank reports clearly state and some hon. Members have also said that 49 per cent of Indian children are suffering from malnutrition. India is a country in which large number of children are malnourished. This is a curse on us. Therefore, we have to ponder over these schemes seriously. Now 40 per cent population is of children but in the year 2008-09, 4.13 per cent of budgetary allocation had been spent on health and education pertaining to children, which has subsequently been increased by nearly 2 percent i.e., 4.15 percent in 2009-10. Therefore, the provision made in the budget is quite less.

But we saw their papers. There are 33 schemes under Department of Women and Child Development. Two schemes are there in the name of Rajiv Gandhiji. One is Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme and other is Balika Samridhhi Yojna. But I want to know from the house as to how many Members know the names of these 33 schemes and the work being done under these schemes. So, the question is that what is the scheme of the Government for making the members aware of these schemes and for the participation of members in these schemes? Honourable members should aware of those 33 schemes that where these schemes are being operated? I.C.D.S. is one of the scheme out of these 33 schemes. What about 32 schemes? What is being done under this scheme? Whether work is being done or not? The question is that why only honourable members should aware of these schemes or participate in these schemes. The awareness and participation of general public should also be there. But what is being done in the name of awareness? There are 34 lac elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Article 243 of Constitution of India has provision for Gram Sabha like Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha. But Gram Sabha is not aware of anything, they have no information, their participation is also not there whereas all these institutions should be there for participation in public works. Non Government Organisations and institutions can discharge more duties in this work. There should be awareness, participation, strict vigilance and monitoring, accountability and transparency in this work. I have a suggestion regarding five point programme. But what is their response? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Singh, please conclude. Hon. Members, please do not disturb him.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sahayika and Anganvadi Sewika get salary of Rs. 750 per month and allowances of Rs. 1500 per month. Smt. Meena was demanding minimum wages. I am concluding. ...(*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati J. Shantha. No cross-talk please.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: There are 6 lac Asha accredited social health workers, they are not being paid, they are not getting any money. Why there is double criterion of Ministry of Health?

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati J. Shantha, please start.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This is the question. ...(*Interruptions*) Because Government has passed it and it has to be implemented.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Dr. Singh, please sit down. Okay, you raise your last point. Do not disturb him please.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We want that Sahayika should be paid at least Rs. 3000 per month and Sewika should be paid Rs.1500 per months. There are 6 lakh health workers in 'Asha' and there are Grass root workers in the country who are not getting any monthly allowances. Why they are not getting allowanes? Sewika is getting Rs. 1500 and Sahayika is getting allowances for no work in the same village. Asha is not serving its purpose now. ...(*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point. You have taken too much time.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Water and toilets facilities are also not there in the Centre. The facilities of water and toilets are essential. Honourable Minister please tell about the percentage of Centres where the facilities of water and toilets are there and the percentage of Centres where these facilities do not exist.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is enough. Shrimati Shantha, you can start now.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Several honourable members have raised questions regarding the self help group that women empowerment is impossible without them. *...(Interruptions).*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Shantha, you start please.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA (Bellary): Mr. Chairman Sir, in Indian culture since the time of Vedas women are highly respected. According to a Sanskrit saying "God is there where women are respected". Rivers are the life line of our country. River Ganga, Sindhu, Saraswati, Yamuna, Godavari, Krishna, Sarayu all these are named after women. It shows our reverence to women. As per our constitution Parliament is the highest democratic forum of our nation. I am very happy to be elected to this august House as the only woman member of BJP from Karnataka. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Speaker and leader of my party for giving me this opportunity to take part in the discussion.

As far as the problem of women in India are concerned, they are innumerable. Atrocities against women are being committed both inside and outside the family. They are being subjected to sexual exploitation, rape molestation and dowry harassment these problems are on the rise. Women always feel insecure and unsafe. I am sorry that our laws have failed to yield the expected result. It appears to me that it is because of under representation of women in our legislative bodies. Out of 543 Lok Sabha Members only a few of them are women. We can count them with our fingertips. Similarly out of 28 Lok Sabha Members I am the lone woman member from Karnataka. It shows the lack of proper representation of women.

As far as women and children welfare is concerned, I hope all of us eager to know whether the fruits of our welfare schemes are reaching the poor women of our country. I feel proud to say that in my state, Karnataka, the BJP Government led by Hon'ble Chief Minister B.S.

Yeddyurappa has taken several measures to ensure the welfare of women and children.

To check female foeticide and change the mindset of the parents of girls, 'Bhagyalakshmi' scheme has been introduced. Now, people feel happy to have girl child, as the Government deposits some money in the name of girl child. Such scheme may be introduced by the Union Government for the entire country.

Government of Karnataka introduced a scheme to distribute free bi-cycles to encourage girls from rural areas to go to schools. This created a kind of revolution in Karnataka.

Women empowerment would help women to become self sufficient. That is why I impress upon the Government to encourage women to set up Self Help Groups like the 'Stree Shakti Sangha' and give priority to women education. Apart from this top priority should be attached to the health of babies and lactating mothers in the country in general and in the rural areas in particular. Training programme should be conducted for Anganwaadi workers to create awareness among women and children about their health.

There are incidents of death of pregnant women while being rushed to hospital. As per the report of National Rural Health Mission 100 out of 1 lakh pregnant women are dying during childbirth. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take steps to ensure safe and risk free delivery in the country. Another point I would like to mention is about monetary assistance. Under National Rural Health Mission the Government of India is giving Rs. 3000 to every pregnant women in 3 installments. Deputy Collectors of the districts concerned and chief Executive officers of zila panchayats are the distributing authorities. But this money is being provided only after the delivery. Therefore this procedure needs to be streamline and it should be made available as per the guidelines. Blood bank should be set up in every taluk headquarters. This can help overcome problems during childbirth. To meet such exigencies the Government of Karnataka has introduced with 108 vans, Emergency Ambulance Service for rural women. It is really a very good programme. This Emergency Ambulance Service is providing a very good service to the people of my state. But I understand such programmes are not there in all the states. Therefore I request the Government of India to look into this and take steps to introduce it at a national level.

*Not recorded.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada

*As far as women reservation is concerned the subject is being discussed in this House for the last one and a half decades. We want to know about the status of Women Reservation Bill. We are providing separate counter, separate seats to women passengers in railways, in buses and also in Planes. But it is not enough. We should give exclusive opportunity in state legislatures, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. That is why Women Reservation Bill should be passed to ensure adequate representation of women in this House. Our former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, was also in favour of 33% of reservation for women in Legislative Assembly and Parliament. He also introduced it in the House. It is high time that we should fulfil his dream. Our party the BJP will support this whole heartedly. I am proud to mention that the leader of the Opposition Shri Lal Krishna Advani ji and Deputy leader of the Opposition Smt. Sushma Swaraj ji have made clear the stand of the BJP in this regard. The President of BJP Shri Rajanath Singh ji had made sincere efforts to ensure 33% of reservation in all the BJP units from grass root to national level. Women Reservation is the right of women.

Before concluding my speech, I once again congratulate the Hon'ble Chair for allowing me to speak in this august House and I believe you would definitely encourage me to speak in future also.*

RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH (Pratapgarh): Honourable Chairman, Sir, the source of inspiration for the representation of women in the house today is our first Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi. She gave empowerment to the crores of women in the decade of 1960 when there was no space for them. Today several women are representing in the house. She was the source of our inspiration. Our Congress party has done much for the women. When they felt that women and children are not being benefited, they constituted a new Ministry, Women and Child Welfare Ministry. Funds were allocated to this new Ministry. Our several women colleagues have given their views on several subjects particularly on Aanganwadis. This is a successful scheme of UPA Government. Lacs of women in villages have been given jobs under this scheme. I will request the Government that honorarium of women working in Aanganwadis should be increased.

*...*English translation of this part of the speech originally laid on the Table in Kannada

17.22 hrs.

(MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

When Shri Narayan Dutt Tiwari was the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, women and workers working in Aanganwadis were being given the honorarium of Rs. 3000 per month. I will request the Chief Minister of all the state governments to help women keeping aside the party lines. I request the state Governments not to discuss this matter in the Centre. Sevika is getting the honorarium equivalent to the employees of state in Jammu and Kashmir. I will request the women and Child Welfare Department that the women working in Aanganwadis may please be paid the honorarium equal to the honorarium given under NAREGA. Today Rs. 100 are paid every day under NAREGA. So, honorarium being paid to workers of 'Aanganwadis' and 'Asha' may be increased.

Madam Speaker, I belong to the district of Pratapgarh in Uttar-Pradesh. There has been a mention of ICDS here. This scheme is not operating in my district successfully. Madam, I request through you that Members of Parliament should be given participation under this scheme. I also demand like other hon'ble members that all the Members of Parliament may please be given the chance of monitoring all the schemes. Women should work with a positive attitude. When UPA Chairperson Smt. Soniaji, Smt. Sushmaji in opposition and Madam Speaker are here then why should we consider ourselves incapable? We should rise ourselves like a strong women. I have full confidence that UPA Government will do much for the welfare of women and children.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Before I call the hon. Minister to reply to the debate, I give the floor to Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

17.24 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam Speaker, I beg to present the Fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

17.25 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 2009-2010

Ministry of Women and Child Development— *Contd.*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Many Hon. Members haven't been able to deliver their speech. Now, there is no time. Madam Minister has yet to reply. I request that all the Members who could not get time to speak may lay their speeches on the table of the House.

[English]

*DR. PRABHA KISHOR TAVIAD (Dahod): Thank you for granting me permission to express my views on demands for grants for 2009-10 under the control of Ministry of Women & Child Development. I am here to support the demands.

It is appreciable that Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee has presented Budget for Aam-Aadmi with the guidance of UPA Chairperson Madam Soniaji and Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singhji.

As we know that women & Children (0-18 years) constitute 71.14% of India's Population (As per 2001 Census of India).

For Country's progress, there is supreme importance of development of women & children. Hence our Finance minister has allotted total Rs. 7428 crores. Out of which 6405 will be spend only on child welfare. Out of which Rs. 6026.30 crores for the implementation ICDS programme. Out of which Rs. 243.73 crores for the women welfare.

Thanks to Finance Minister for this huge allotment of grants to Women & Child Development Ministry. Which has a vision for **"ensuring overall survival, development, protection, participation of women & children of our country"**.

Healthy mother & healthy child leads to healthy nation:

The development of child starts from the conception Childhood care for overall development of children below

6 years age, pregnant and lactating mothers through this package of services namely

1. Supplementary nutrition
2. Immunization
3. Health Checkup
4. Pre School/Non Formal Education, Nutrition & Health Education

ICDS Scheme covers rural/tribal area and slum population in urban areas. ICDS is centrally sponsored scheme implemented by the State Governments with 100% financial assistance from Central Government. This Government is committed to universalisation of ICDS Scheme in country. By March, 2012, all services under ICDS would be extended, with quality, to every child under the age of six. Hon. Finance Minister has made provision of 6026.30 crores rupees for ICDS & additional amount of Rs. 678.70 crores will be provided for implementing the scheme in North Eastern States.

7073 projects, 13.56 lakh of Anganwadi. One Anganwadi worker and one Tdagar per 700 population. One ASHA worker per 1000 population. All of three are from the same village. One ANM per 3000 population is there. Vaccination/antenatal clinic day once in a week.

Adolescent girl in school are given once a week Iron Folic tablets. Adolescent girls if they are not going to school are enrolled in the Anganwadi. Antenatal mothers, nursing mothers and 0 to 6 years children are enrolled in the Anganwadi. These ladies are given Iron Folic Tablets and supplementary nutritive food & fortified Atta. They were advised health education also.

Vaccination of the pregnant mother and the children is carried out.

These women are in constant contact with Anganwadi worker, Tdagar, ASHA worker & ANM. So they are easily motivated by them for free hospital delivery, in Government as well as private hospital with the help of Chiranjivi Yojna. They are given Rs. 500 for nutritive diet after delivery. Hospital Delivery is necessary to reduce the morbidity and mortality of mother.

Thanks to Madam Soniaji and Hon'ble Prime Minister, there is a facility of free 108 ambulance. So the transportation of easy now-a-days. Otherwise the poor

people were making in ambulance by a putting thread cot in the tempo or truck and transporting the patients in it.

Rupture Uterus is now-a-days rare entity *e.g.* patient from a village Zabuma-Dahod-Ghodna.

1st 5 minutes of birth are very important for the baby so expert attendance is necessary which is possible by the hospital delivery.

*Price control – Methulergomerin, Prostatgland F2x Calcium *e.g.* Prostodin, Carbopost.

Colostrums –1st feed after birth is important for the immunity of baby. It is protecting the baby against neonatal diseases.

1st 6 month- exclusive breast feeding is advisable for good brain development. After 6 month supplementary– fortified Atta- baby food is given with breast feed.

The babies which are breast fed are having 11% more I.Q. and about 8% more puzzle solving capacity as compared to top fed babies?

The nursing mothers are given supplementary food, sukhadi, chane and Iron Folic Tablets. Breast is advisable upto 2 years of age. Children of 3-6 years of age are given nutritive food- fortified Atta & nutritive chocolate.

Brain development

At the time of birth 80%

Up to 1 year about 95%

Up to 2 year about 99%

After that only we are training the child.

This is period we are taking care of the child step by step.

The Ministry of women and child development has under taken a number of initiatives to ensure the survival and welfare of GIRL CHILD by effective implementation of pre-natal diagnostic act, Girl Child should deliver & should live.

Other important schemes for welfare, development and protection of children are as under:

- Rajiv Gandhi, National crèche scheme for the children of working mothers.

- Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Kishori Shakti Yojna: Adolescent girls (11-18 years) are given supplementary diet and Vitamins, Iron, Health and formal education at Aanganwadi.
- Scheme for welfare of working children in need of care & protection.
- Integrated scheme for street children.
- Integrated scheme for protection & control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment.
- Shishu Greha Scheme providing institutional care to children below the age of six years and their rehabilitation by (Central Adoption Resource Agency).
- Integrated child protection scheme.
- Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme for the Girl Child with Insurance cover–to eliminate discrimination against girl child.
- National Children Board.
- Bravery award for children.

Finance Minister has made budget provision above schemes.

As per 2001 censuses, women constitute 48% of total population of India. Government of India is trying continuously to ensure all round well being, development & empowerment of women. The national minimum programme is meant to empower women politically, educationally, economically & legally.

National rural livelihood Mission has time bound focus for poverty eradication by 2014-15. Stress will be laid on the formation of women self help Groups (SHGS).

The women's self help group movement is bringing about profound transformation in rural areas. There are over 22 lakh such groups which are linked with banks. Govt's objective is to enrol at least 50% of all rural women in India as members of SHGS over next five years. All these members will be linked with banks. It is proposed to provide capital subsidy as well as provide interest subsidy to poor households for loan up to one lakh from bank. Women have learnt to save money & deposit in banks.

Women takes loan from banks for income generation activities. Women have taken skill development training.

Thus swaymsidha SHGS have benefited women by increasing income, awareness for decision making process, taking part in political & social activities. They have knowledge for their legal right & health issues.

Awareness on various social issues has been created among women. Women now enjoy more freedom and there is no restriction on their movement outside home for social & business purpose, they are now demanding their right from family, community & Government. Women are now knowing the social evils like alcoholism, dowry female feticide, there is increase in sex ratio at villages. Women now feel that they have security.

Now a days politically women are active they participate in Gram Sabha activities. Due to efforts of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi there are 33% reservation in local bodies for women. Many have been elected in village Panchayat, Block/Distt. Panchayat & Urban Panchayat-bodies. Women are now more sensitive about political issues. During 15th Lok Sabha election the percentage of women voting has gone up considerably.

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh is working for credit support or micro finance to poor women. Its role for social-economic change & development. Finance Minister has increased the corpus of the kosh 20 crores, Rs. 500/.

The low level of female literacy to be grave concern, Government has decided to start National Mission for female literacy. Covering SC/ST minorities & other groups. New Kendriya Vidyalay will be started in the Distt. having low female literacy.

Other women welfare programmes are as under:

- Condensed course for women education
- Hostel for working women and their children
- short stay homes
- Awareness Generation Programme
- Support to Training & Employment Programme (STEP) improve women's skills in traditional sectors such as agriculture, dairy & handlooms etc.
- Centre Welfare Board
- National Commission for Women
- Priyadarshini Scheme

- Conditional case transfer scheme for minority
- Conditional maternity benefits scheme for pregnant and lactating women
- Other programme of Rehabilitation of Rape victims, HIV/AIDs victims.

The Finance Minister has made provision for grants above all schemes. I support the demand of Ministry for the women and child development. Once again I thanks Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee for above grants allotments.

*DR. KRUPARANI KILLI (Srikakulam): Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to express my views in the August House on the issue of Women and Child Development.

The subject is very much important and indicates the development of our country among the world. It gives me pleasure to say that the Department of Women and Child Development was set up in the year 1985 to give the much needed impetus to the holistic development of women and children.

When and where, powerful and strong healthy human sources are available, there exists a knowledgeable and healthy society. Where Women and Child Development is given importance there the BPL families can develop vigorously. UPA Government is taking many policy decisions to reduce death rate of mothers and children when compared to the previous death rates. UPA Government is implementing successful projects like when a child is born they were admitted in Aanganwadis and also provided with nutritious food and qualitative education.

In our country:-

- Children homes are established for girls of age 6-16 years.
- Service homes are organized for widows and destitute women for the age of 16-35 years.
- Working women hostels were open for employed women, but most of these buildings are hired or rented. I request the government to take firm decisions in granting government buildings for effective development and security of the women.
- In States like AP, girl child protection scheme was being run by the state government for BPL families. By this scheme a BPL family with one girl child will be awarded with a life insurance of one lakh and a family with only two girls will be awarded with life insurance policy of

Rs. 60,000/-. I request the union government to extend the financial support in the form of some special grants to these friendly schemes.

For the holistic development of the child, the Ministry has been implementing the world's largest and most unique and outreach programme of Integrated Child Development Scheme by providing a package of services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check up and referral services, pre-school non-formal education. At present, funds provided under this Ministry are very much less and there is dire need to increase the budgetary allocation more. Ministry is also implementing Swayamsidha which is an integrated scheme for empowerment of women. No doubt, this is a unique scheme but the implementation should be strengthened by giving the more powers and budgetary allocation.

I conclude that a mother and child is nothing but creation which everybody should respect and obey. It is the source of creation of human and his existence. So, the importance may be kindly understood by the highly respectable Parliament.

***SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI** (Vizianagaram): I support the Demand for Grants for the Department of Women and Child Development for the year 2009-10. I thank the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi ji, hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh ji, Shri Pranab Mukherjee ji, Finance Minister and Shrimati Krishna Tirath ji, hon. Minister for Women and Child Development for initiating several welfare programmes. "Today's children are tomorrow's nation." In fact, the Department of Women and Child Development was set up in the year 1985 as a part of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to give the necessary impetus to the holistic development of women and children. With effect from 30.01.2006, the Department has been made a separate Ministry. It is a nodal Ministry for the advancement of women and children. It formulates plans, policies and programmes, guides and coordinates the efforts of both governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the field of women and child development. In fact, the Ministry implements certain innovative programmes for women and children. These programmes cover welfare and support services, training for employment and income generation and gender sensitization. These programmes help the other developmental programmes in the field of health, education, rural development, etc. All these efforts

ensure that women are empowered both economically and socially and thus become equal partners in national development along with me. I congratulate the Ministry for her efforts in this direction.

I compliment the Ministry for implementing the world's largest and most unique programme of Integrated Child Development Services which provides supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check up and referral services, pre-school non-formal education.

Above all the Ministry is also implementing Swayamsidha which is an integrated scheme for empowerment of women. We all know that most of the programmes of the Ministry are run through non-governmental organizations. They should encourage NGOs.

The major policy undertaken by the Ministry is universalisation of ICDS and Kishore Shakti Yojana, launching a nutrition programme for adolescent girls, establishment of the Commission for protection of Child Rights and passing of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act. This Act needs to be implemented effectively.

In my Vizianagaram parliamentary constituency, the District Women and Child Development Agency is implementing various programmes for the welfare of women and children, particularly through 17 ICDS projects covering main anganwadi centres and mini anganwadi centres. Under III phase expansion of ICDS projects, proposals for sanction of 211 main anganwadi centres, 458 mini anganwadi centres were submitted to the Government. I request the Minister to expedite the approval for these proposals.

We are also ensuring child well being. During the campaign we have identified SNP beneficiaries, malnourished and disabled children in the area maps of the AWCs with assistance of ASHA workers, registration of pregnant women was taken up. We are also distributing pamphlets for awareness to this campaign.

I would like to submit that Swayamsidha Programme with 100 Self Help Groups with 1189 members is being implemented only in one ICDS block i.e., Gantyada in a successful manner. I request the Ministry to extend the scheme to all 17 ICDS blocks in Vizianagaram with 1700 groups. Each group may be sanctioned a revolving loan of Rs. 10,000 each.

With regard to supplementary nutrition programme, location food model supplementary nutrition programme

is being implemented in 14 ICDS projects. RTE Food Model SNP is being implemented in 3 ICDS blocks of Vizianagaram district. I request the Minister to extend the hot cooked food instead of ready to eat food in all the ICDS block of the Vizianagaram district. Adolescent girls should be given IFA tablets on a regular basis. And adolescent girls who are underweight should be given double take home ration. There is an order to provide hot cooked food instead of ready to eat food. There is an order from the Supreme Court also. I suggest to the Government to issue orders to provide hot cooked food to all children across the State. At present ready to eat food is being provided to three to four ICDS blocks in each district.

I request the Government to allocate sufficient funds for construction of full-fledged anganwadi centers in all the districts of the country. The Government can think of sharing the expenditure between the State and the Centre.

Though there is an increase in the number of anganwadi centers, but there is no matching increase in the field level supervisory staff.

At present we are imparting training skills to anganwadi workers/helpers with obsolete techniques. There is a need to provide them training in latest methodologies in pre-school management, community participation practices and effective sanitation.

Under World Bank, Phase four thirteen districts were selected for implementation of the ICDS, for eradication of malnutrition and training for Information Education and Communication (IEC). I thank the Government for giving Andhra Pradesh this project. It is a good programme. But so far it could not be implemented due to non-release of funds. Plan of action submitted to the Government of India. Everything was done.

The infant mortality rate in Andhra Pradesh is 54 per 1000. It can be brought down further if the Government enhances the budget for this scheme.

You will be surprised to know that during 2007-08, the percentage of immunization to children, pregnant and lactating mothers was 89.28 per cent. We are trying to improve it. We need Government's financial assistance to achieve hundred per cent.

So far as women trafficking are concerned, it is rampant in Andhra Pradesh. So it is a source for trafficking. There is no proper mechanism to address the issue. I request the Minister to constitute a committee

with people's representative of the constituency in each constituency of the country.

***SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT (Mumbai North-Central):**
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Women and child both are of equal importance and I would hope one day we would have separate Ministries for each of them.

I want to begin my submission with issues relating to children. I feel that not enough discussion is taking place on issues relating to children, may be because children are not our voter. Issues relating to children are plenty and not just about education and nutrition. I would like to congratulate UPA Government for all the schemes for the benefits of children in ICDS and education. My main concern is protection of the rights of children, safety of the child and rehabilitation of children in conflict with law. Every day we have read horror stories of children being raped and abused. Child pornography and child trafficking has become very common today. After the recent floods in Bihar there have been cases of children being sold for the flesh trade and child labour. In the city of Mumbai we see street children from various states engaged in beggary, drug trafficking and prostitution.

We need to sensitize the police to stop the menace of child trafficking. Every police station should be equipped with special cells who could address matter dealing with women and children. These special cells should be manned by female police officer. Children must, therefore, become our most priority. They are the future of the country.

A child in another ten to twelve years become adults and what kind of contribution will they be able to make towards better tomorrow when their today is uncertain and disturbed.

I would like to make some suggestions like introduction of helpline for women and children which shall be directly connected to special police control rooms. Proper rehabilitation of children rescued from forced labour with provisions for heavy penalties to the employers. These fines should be redirected for the rehabilitation of the children. There should be special homes for street and runaway children. Special centres at railway station and inter-state bus stand to identify children being brought to big cities or runaway children. In process NGOs and railway police can also be involved.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Special awareness programme on importance of breast-feeding should be made so that malnutrition of infants can be addressed to.

Adoption process of a child by childless couple should be made easy. Any childless couple adopting street children shall be given special tax incentives to encourage them.

I would like now, to speak on women issues. On one side we see women progressing in every field and making great contributions in the field of politics, aviation, science, sports and every such field which was considered male dominated and then on the other hand we have women in our country who are still being killed, murdered, raped and humiliated because of her caste, her gender. We still have numerous cases of female foeticide in our country. On one hand we worship Goddess Laxmi and Durga and on the other hand we destroy that very Laxmi in our homes through dowry deaths and female infanticide.

Poverty and social pressure are one of the reasons but as hon'ble member Smt. Girija Vyas has said our mind sets and our attitudes must change we must be able to accept women in a new role not just as a mother, wife, sister and daughter but a person in an equal position in society who contributes to decision making and change in the society. Our country needs to become child and women friendly.

I request hon'ble Minister to please take note of these points and I am sure we will see change and progress in the Ministry under your able leadership.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PATLE (JANJGIR-CHAMPA): Once again the incidents of children going missing are coming into the light in the country. Not only this, lakhs of children are going missing every year both in developing and developed countries alike. The situation in big cities is even more alarming. If we talk about the national capital alone, as per the report released recently, 2210 children in Delhi have gone missing from June, 2008 to January, 2009. On an average 17 children are going missing in Delhi daily. As per estimate, 45,000 children are going missing in India. The report released in 2007 by National Human Rights Commission reveals that most of the missing children belong to Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa.

This has come into light as a result of the calculation of figures of the Census of 2001. According to the first figures, 8.5 crore children do not go to school. According to second figures, 1.3 crore children of the age of five to fourteen are labourers. If we deduct 1.3 crores from 8.5 crores, we get 7.2 crores. This is the number of those children who are neither students nor labourers. Then what is this figure, how and where it has come from, it is not found in any book or record.

One woman dies every seven minutes due to child birth and pregnancy related complexities. What will be the future of the children of such a country? The entire family is shattered with the death of the mother and the children suffer most. Malnutrition in childhood, marriage at younger age, untimely motherhood and lack of proper and basic facilities during pregnancy and child birth are the factors that cause death of one lakh women in a year. The Government wants to bring down maternal mortality rate. For this purpose, many schemes have been formulated. We are getting foreign aid also for this. But the untimely deaths of mothers and children have not been prevented. The reason is this that there is lack of basic facilities in our rural areas. Though so many policies and measures were announced to bring down maternal mortality rate, yet it is difficult to control and check it due to lack of awareness about the available facilities, having no access to the facilities and the lackadaisical attitude of facility providers. For want of proper arrangement of safe delivery or voluntary abortion, lack of trained doctors and nurses, lack of catering, sanitation and health facilities in the rural areas, 60 per cent women depend on untrained midwives and they often deliver children at their homes. Following the complications during delivery, the pregnant women reaching hospitals are generally ignored. India alone accounts for 20 per cent of mother mortality of the world. The children whose mothers die during the time of delivery, are ten times more likely to die within two years as compared to normal children. This is the pity that we have been able to check the deaths caused by famine however, with timely measures even today most of the women can still be saved from death. If women could be familiarized with the knowledge of modern times, safe and effective methods of family planning and provided with proper medical services, the lives of one-third of such women can be saved.

Earlier, Swayamsiddha Yojna was launched for the constitution and strengthening of Self Help Groups by the Union Government. The project period is over. A new scheme should be introduced in Chhattisgarh for strengthening of existing Self Help Groups establishing new Self Help Groups.

Dhanlakshmi Scheme has been started by the Union Government in the two blocks of the State for prevention of female foeticide and promotion of Girls Education. Sanction may be granted for starting the scheme in all the development blocks of the state.

Supplementary nutritious food was provided to the teenaged girls through Anganwadi centres in Chhattisgarh. The state has spent Rs. 92 crore for this work for want of clear guidelines by the Union Government regarding providing supplementary nutritious food to teenage girls. Fifty percent amount of the expenditure incurred for Anganwadi centres should be provided to the States as Central share.

The Union Government provide financial assistance for the construction of maternity homes. But due to non provision of their maintenance and development, several buildings are in dilapidated condition. The states must be provided assistance for maintenance and regular inspection of the maternity homes.

A scheme should be introduced to undertake the study in regard to condition of women and children residing in hilly and tribal areas so that they may be benefited as per their requirement. Initially, research work on various factors must be undertaken.

Priyadarshini Yojana is in operation in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh for women empowerment. Likewise, a new scheme like Priyadarshini Yojana must be sanctioned for Chhattisgarh too.

*SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): Madam, through you, I put some demands/suggestions to hon'ble Women and Child Development Minister for the development of women and children while discussing demand for grants of the Ministry for the year 2009-10.

The Hon. Minister of Finance While mentioning about the Self-Help Group in para 48 of General Budget for 2009-10 has said that 22 lakhs self-help groups are associated with banks till date and a target has been fixed to associate at least 50 per cent rural women with banks during the next 5 years through self-help groups. I thank the Finance Minister for this commendable work, but there is no mention as to how such a big target will be achieved during the next five years and what will be the strategy in this regard. It seems that target has not been fixed, keeping in view the population of rural women. The Self-Help groups have been working for the last 15 years, even then only 22 lakh groups have

been associated with the banks till date. Suppose the number of women is 15 in a group then the total number of women comes to 1 crore 10 lakhs. Present population of India is around 120 crore. Half of the population consists of women, therefore total number of women comes to 60 crore, If we calculate the number of 70 per cent women of rural areas, this number comes to around 42 crore, When only 1 crore 20 lakh women could be associated with the banks during the last 15 years how 42 crore. women can be associated with the banks during the next 5 years.

Therefore through you I request the Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development to formulate a concrete strategy otherwise it is not possible to achieve this target during the next 5 years.

I would like to give suggestion with regard to self help groups that reputed non-governmental organisations of national level should be nominated as the member of the SLBC in order to increase the representation of women in state level banker's committee so that the matter pertaining to advance loan to women is strongly raised before the state level bankers' committee because presently the banks are not interested to grant the loan to women folk.

The universalisation of I.C.D.S. (Integrated Woman and Child Development Scheme) by March 2012 has been stated in Para 51 of the Budget but there is no mention about the I.C.D.S. project anywhere. The Planning Commission has issued instructions to implement I.C.D.S Project-4. Through you, I suggest strengthening Aaganwadi Kendras, arrangements should be made for giving training to the self-help groups and marketing of goods produced by them through I.C.D.S. The Government should give due consideration to all these aspects. The Government of Rajasthan has already sent ICDS-4 project for approval. The approval should be given to it at the earliest. It is also a matter of concern to fix the limit of the budget of National Nutrition Mission as Rs. 1 crore because under National Nutrition Mission an the quantity of nutritious food having weight of 100 grams is fixed for the children aged 0-6 years. At present the amount for this is fixed at Rs. 3.45 per 100 grams which is less than the market price. In Rs. 3.45 soya, wheat sugar and poha is included and due to inflation prices are increasing day by day. so, the rates of nutritious food being prepared by Self-Help Groups should be increased after the review of the market prices every month.

The wastage rate in goods prepared by Self-Help Groups has been fixed at 5 per cent which is very low.

*Speech was laid on the table.

It should be increased and fixed at 10 per cent. The rate of baking, packaging and transportation should also be fixed on the basis of market prices at the level of Government of India. Hot food is served to the children of age between 3-6 years and concrete arrangements should be made for its monitoring.

All Aaganwadi Kendras in Rajasthan State which I belong to do not have their own buildings. Some Aaganwadi Kendras are functioning in rented buildings. Financial position of states is not sound, so there is need to make provision of funds in Budget itself for the buildings of Aaganwadis after making an assessment by the competent authority in this regard.

I would also like to draw your attention towards survey report of Government of India. According to it malnutrition in children is more prevalent in 12 states of the country and Rajasthan is also one of them. In Rajasthan's 20 desert districts malnutrition in children is more prevalent and Bikaner from where I come, is also one of them.

Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development to approve the I.C.D.S-4 at the earliest to solve the problem of malnutrition.

Rural women should be imparted training in local art and craft according to the local traditions. For this, I demand that gender biased incentives and reservation should be given under the scheme that protects the weavers, artisans and craftsmen of Rajasthan. The world famous wool, papads and Bhujia industry of Bikaner is basically established by women but it is operated by men. My request is that special subsidy and incentive should be provided for registration of these institutions of industry in the name of women. If the Union Government release special incentive amount for registration of these industries in the name of women, it will be a milestone for the empowerment of women.

For the security and empowerment of women, women advisory and assistance centre should be mandatorily established at Tehsil level police station. In school education, the character sketches of great successful women of ancient, medieval and modern times be included in the curriculum who excelled in career and successfully looked after their families.

Outfits of child criminals are growing at railway stations, been stands and squares. My suggestion is that these children should be sent to juvenile homes under special campaign and compulsory arrangements

for their character-building and education be made so that healthy society comes into being.

*SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (Mahesana): I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on supplementary demands for Grants of the Ministry of women and Child Development. I feel proud about it being a woman and engaged in this field for the last many years.

In order to ensure the involvement of women in government jobs the Centre has decided not to charge examination fee from female candidates appearing in civil services, police force and income tax and other departmental examinations and on the advice of the President, it has been made mandatory to have a female member in the selection board for ten posts or more number of posts. These steps are commendable.

You, Me and the whole House know that today's woman is not weak. If we ponder over India and the whole world we would find that women in every sphere has earned name by dint of her hard work and have achieved covered position for themselves.

Someone has rightly said

[English]

"Women occupy half the sky."

Today, women are not weak, but, a force to reckon with. From ancient to modern time, women have been considered a symbol of 'power' and is worshipped that way. This is a unique introduction of women.

Mera parichya itna hai ki mein Bharat ki tasweer hun,

Matrabhumi per mitne wale un veeron ki peer hun,

Un putron ki duvidha hun jo huns-huns jhula jhule gaye,

Un Sheron ki mata hun, jo run prangan mein jujh gaye,

Mera Parichya itna hai ki.....

I would like to draw your attention to the third page of the President's Address. The light paragraph of the President's Address about the ten broad areas of priority, sub-para for says about....."Concerted action for the welfare of women, youth, Children, other backward

*Speech was laid on the Table.

classes, Scheduled Castes, Schedule Tribes minorities, the different by and the elderly alongwith strengthened social protection.

It is necessary to provide security to women and children because at the page number two of the outcome budget of 2009-10 of the Ministry of Women and child Development, it is written that targets of human development have deep connection with the welfare, development and empowerment of women and children. Out of the total population of the country, women comprise 48.3 percent while children about 34 percent. Women and children are not only country's precious human resources, but, with their social and economic development, the economy gets momentum.

I would request the Madam Minister that after the implementation of ICDS, it is necessary to enhance the financial allocation under it because due to limited allocation, financial set up is not suited to implement the programmes at district and taluka level.

At present, under this scheme women and educated women under Anganwadi Kendras have become aware to a considerable extent. Under certain areas the level of nutrition and education of children is very bad. Today under Anganwadi programme we are strengthening cultural values education and social foundation among children by which these children would become the future of the country.

Under the new scheme of providing supplementary nutrition to children by Gujarat Government, packed home ration in the form of fortified premix will be given to beneficiaries from this month itself. From this pack of ration hot and nutritious halwa, upma and sukhadi can be prepared within ten minutes. Under these supplementary nutritious food, premix is prepared by mixing the micro-nutrients of protein, calorie, iron, vitamin A, calcium, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, vitamin C and Folic Acid, which is vital for malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women. In our Constitution equality and freedom finds mention but they have not been implemented.

Women and Child Development Ministeries are functioning under the Government of India and all the state governments and many programmes and schemes are being run but wide disparities between men and women in adverse girl/boy ratio, high child and maternal mortality rate, literacy and wage rate and health and increase in violence against women and children are some of the problems which are continuously faced women and children.

Illegal trafficking of children, HIV and AIDS infection among women, ban on child marriage, protection of girls and domestic servants, etc. are issues of concern.

Twenty major programmes/schemes are being run under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, but development and empowerment of women is not taking place at the desired pace. It is slow. There should be radical change in it. Unless women are given due and equal honourable participation in the development, all these programmes will remain only hollow promises like that of Agastya Muni.

We all are aware that in the last census literacy rate among men was more than 75 percent, while among female was only 54 percent. The only cornerstone of women empowerment is their literacy. The low female literacy rate is a serious matter for us. It has been decided to launch a National Women Literacy Mission in the General Budget. I appreciate it and I thank the Government for it.

The Government is not keeping its words for making an amendment in the constitution and passing early the Women Reservation Bill so as to provide 50 percent reservation for Women in the Panchayats and Urban Local bodies and one third reservation in the State Legislatures and the Parliament, as was promised by it in its 100 days agenda, it is a matter of concern.

The Government of India should take it as a commitment. Our BJP party has already expressed its intention to cooperate in the passage of this Bill from the very first day. Now the Government of India should take the initiative and complete the task of empowerment of women.

The statement made in the General Budget regarding Integrated Child Development Service should be made explicit and its implementation should be expedited, as children are the future citizens of India. All the women are disappointed to see that no significant increase has been made in the final Budget of the National Women Commission for women and child development. The provision of only Rs. 5 crore should be increased. The Government should take some concrete measure which propose to provide equal opportunities for the development of women and children. Till now and even today issues regarding women are politicised. Instead, there should be politics of unanimity in this respect. Women Reservation Bill should be passed which will prove to be decisive in improving the lot of women.

In 2008-09, Rs. 280 crore were provided in the Budget pertaining to the Ministry of Women and Child

Development of the Government of Gujarat while this year *i.e.* in 2009-10 this allocation has been increased to Rs. 723 crore. The policy adopted by the Government of Gujarat for Women and Child Development is today guiding the whole country. The Government of Gujarat has taken an initiative for the whole country to follow by launching 'Balsakha Yojana' under the 'Chiranjivi Yojana' for taking care of the health of pregnant women. Besides, a separate scheme *Dudha Sanjivani Yojana* has been implemented for taking care of the health of school children, particularly, in the Scheduled Tribes backwards areas. The Government of Gujarat is also planning for establishing a Children University all over India. This is also a unique programme.

I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the schemes being run in Gujarat under the Children and Women Development Programme.

1. Bal Abhiyojana is meant for children suffering from malnutrition under which children are provided Nutricandy, Chocolate containing 7 types of ingredients and the meals prepared from fortified flour. At present this scheme is not being implemented in any other part of the country.
2. From this year children are being provided ready to eat food 'Balbhog' which is made of flour of Sheera (Halwa), Upma, Dalia, Sukhadi etc.
3. An increase of Rs. 500/- per month has been given to the women employed in Anganwadi. Two pairs of sarees for each woman totaling 2 lakh 40 thousand sarees costing Rs. 6 crore were purchased to enhance the prestige of these women.
4. Mata Yashoda Award is given to an excellent Anganwadi which stands first at the state level is given Rs. 51,000 at the district level Rs. 31,000 and at the Taluka level Rs. 25,000 in cash. 630 women workers were given awards amounting to Rs. 1 crore 10 lakh.
5. Under the 'Mata yashoda Gaurav Nighi Bima Yojana' an effort has been made to bring women workers of Anganwadi under the Insurance Scheme by taking Rs., 50/ as contribution from every woman and Rs. 50 as contribution from the state Government so that these women get an amount of Rs. one and a half to two lakh out of their savings at the time of their retirement for their livelihood.

I feel that this scheme should be implemented by the Central Government across the country so that they get a lumpsum amount after their retirement.

I believe that the Government should provide pucca houses, public conveniences like electricity, drinking water etc. for Anganwadi. At present there are 44,000 Anganwadi workers in the State. 500 houses have been built. State Government has made a provision of Rs. 100 crore in the Budget. I urge upto the Government that Central Government should also provide assistance for constructing Anganwadi Buildings.

NDA Government under the leadership of Vajapayee Jee had announced 'Balika Samridhi Yojana' on 15th August, 1997. Under this scheme to secure the life of a girl a savings account was to be opened in her name and an amount of Rs. 500/- was to be credited in her account. This amount was to be given to her at the age of 18 so that she could use it for her education. But the UPA Government discontinued the scheme in 2006-07, it should be received.

The Government of Gujarat covered 'Beti Bachao Karyakrama' in this scheme and made a provision of Rs. 6 crore. Under Beti Bachao Karyakrama, Matrvandana Karyakrama 894 girl children were registered against 1000 male children.

Under the Widow rehabilitation pension scheme Widows aged between 18 to 40 years are trained and they are made self-reliant by giving an assistance of Rs. 5000/-

Balbhog Yojana is being launched for the children of rural tribal women and those particularly engaged in Sugarcane fields, remote areas, kilns, construction. 10 mobile Anganwadis have been started and there are plans to start it in 10 more districts.

Central Financial allocation should be increased by 100 percent and out of this 10 percent financial assistance should be allocated for child welfare and development.

At present, 20 such courts are operating in 7 districts where only women are conducting them. Men also approach these courts for seeking justice.

Women conducted courts should be established across the country on the lines of Gujarat and the state government is providing assistance for the same.

An admission scheme in the schools has been started in the form of festival in the state to promote girl

child education. As a result of this, percentage of drop out rate among the girl students has dipped. Mandatory education programme should be implemented in the country for every seven year old girl child. Under the school's accident insurance scheme, school children are being provided insurance cover upto Rs. 1 lakh.

Under the Vidya Lakshmi Scheme, Rs. 1000/- Bond are provided to girl students taking admission in class I and this amount is paid with interest after class VII.

Under health check up programmes in schools, the State Government is providing health check up and test for cancer, kidney, heart etc. and facility of surgery to 1.25 crore children upto class XII.

8000 children were and operated upon 100 operations were done at Apollo Hospital of Chennai as facilities for some operations are not available in Gujarat and all expenses for such operations are being borne by the Gujarat Government.

*SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): Thank you very much for providing me an opportunity to take part in the discussion on Supplementary Demands of Ministry of Women and Child Development.

I represent Nalanda parliamentary constituency of international importance. Once upon a time Nalanda was a famous education hub of the whole world. People from all over the world used to come here for education. Nalanda is a land of Mahatma Buddha, Lord Mahavir, emperor Ashoka, great emperor Bimbisara, emperor Ajatshatru, etc.

Anganwadi scheme of the Union Government is a very good scheme. Effective efforts are needed for achieving the targets of the scheme. Government policy and rules are not followed in the selection of Anganwadi Sevika and Sahayikas. CDPO indulged in gross irregularities in the selection of Anganwadi Sevika in Baridih gram panchayat of Islampur block in Nalanda district of my parliamentary constituency. The woman who acquired first position in the merit list is not being selected, whereas an unambiguous instruction has been issued by the official of the Union Government (ICDS) in this regard and there was a gross violation of this instruction by the CDPO.

I demand from the Union Government that clear instructions should be given that no irregularity should be committed in the selection of Anganwadi Sevikas and Sahayikas.

Secondly, number of Anganwadi Centres needs to be increased in proportion to the population in my parliamentary constituency. This is my demand from the government.

There is a need to increase the remuneration and allowances of Anganwadi Sevikas and Sahayikas. I demand this from the government.

Apart from this, security should be provided to Anganwadi centres to save them from anti-social elements. I demand this from the government.

*SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Tikamgarh): I would like to say while taking part in the discussion on Supplementary Demands of the Ministry of Women and Child Development that women of our country are not lacking in talent, they are equally talented like their counterparts in any developed country of the world and they have proved their capability all over the world that if given a chance they are not less than Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams, who have gone into the outer space. They could assist their families by doing the work of ironsmith on the road side, they could run administration effectively by holding posts in the army and administration, they could educate the society by becoming teachers, they could drive Auto Rickshaws and Buses and they could work in laboratories with endurance and seriousness.

We have formulated many schemes for the empowerment of women and it has been conceptualized in the beginning in such a manner that they should be implemented properly, funds related to the schemes should reach in the villages and it should be used in a better and beneficial way. But, it is being observed that where we have perceived that women would be provided employment and children would be provided nutritious food in Anganwadi centres, but due to lack of buildings, such Anganwadi centres are being run from the houses of Anganwadi Sahayika and workers where sometimes children are invited and sometimes not and nutritious food is not being given often. It is so because women from Sarpanch or influential families become workers and Sahayikas. Thus, for the proper implementation of the scheme, participation of educated women belonging to poor families should be increased with the spirit to serve.

Women working as maids in the houses, fall under the unorganised sector and they are forced to live a life full of uncertainties because of the insecurity arising out

of their non inclusion in the schemes related to health facilities, education of children, social security, provident funds, pension etc. Girls in tender age from these families are compelled to work as maids in the houses leaving the education mid-way. The Government should seriously consider about their rehabilitation and an initiative should be taken to provide them employment oriented education. It becomes extremely painful at the time when we see that a 10-12 years old girl begs with a small child in her lap. This is a matter of great concern before the whole humanity. In this direction, the Government should prepare a special action plan for their rehabilitation with the help of social organizations and if any person compelled them to beg, strict action be taken against them.

The women from tribal areas of the country are blessed with unique ability of handicraft. Whether these women belong to North-East states or Chhattisgarh or Orissa or Jharkhand Quality garments and artistic items are manufactured by them throughout the country. By running training centers at those places and by making available raw materials at the cheapest rates, the Government should make arrangements for the sale of items manufactured by them through quality sale centres by organizing exhibitions in big cities so that they can feel more and more self-reliant.

The condition of child labour is very serious. A lot of work is taken from the small children and a little is paid to them for the same and their health is adversely affected due to hazardous job taken from them. We enacted Child Labour Act but nobody is serious to implement it. Whereas such children are compelled to work in the lock industry of Aligarh, carpet industry of Mirzapur Bhadauri, fire works, Match box and Printing industry of Shivakashi and glass industry of ferozabad where city have to work on furnaces amidst the high temperature of 200°C to 700°C the concerned labour officers of those areas either purposely do not visit such establishments or ignore it. As a result, the exploitation of child labour is going on. Therefore, the strict compliance of Child Labour Act be ensured and the Government should rehabilitate such children and provide them education and employment.

In the house, when we talk about atrocities on women we see that women leaders of the ruling party make pinching taunts on the state governments governed by opposition parties, but, Delhi is the capital of the country where special security arrangement are made both by the State Government and the Union Government. Notwithstanding, in last one year, 259 girls and women have been kidnapped in the north eastern

districts of the capital. The astonishing fact is that out of them 107 are minors. There are ten districts in the capital and about two dozen women and girls are kidnapped in one district every month. The police have solved only 83 cases out of 152 cases of kidnapping and 69 cases are still under investigation. The claim of Delhi Police about the security of women in the capital is hollow and the women are continuously becoming the victims of the criminal elements.

We are discussing the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Such a message and feeling should come out of this discussion that we should accept the grave challenges coming before us and implement the schemes made for the women and children in all states of the country. At the same time, the suggestions of the Members of opposition parties be taken positively and action be taken on them.

**SHRIMATI USHA VERMA (Hardoi):* Madam, Today I am happy that the House showed its concern about the women of our country and about our national legacy children and we are discussing about them. We can imagine a Healthy India only when the women and the children of our country would be healthy and strong.

To keep women and children healthy the Government has a scheme of ICDS. Through this scheme there is a plan to provide vaccination and nutritious diet to the pregnant women, lactating women and children upto the age of 6 years. Notwithstanding, even after spending thousands of crores of rupees, the Government is not able to eradicate the malnutrition from the country. At present, 40 present children of our country are suffering from malnutrition.

According to the survey conducted by International Food Policy Research Institute, till the year 2007, India's position is 94th in the list of 118 countries in regard to the number of deaths due to malnutrition.

The Government has proposed to open 10,000 Anganwadi Kendras in 100 days. We welcome it Hon. Minister, may please give statewide statement. Whether my parliamentary constituency, Hardoi is covered under it or not. Hon. Minister kindly cover Hardoi also.

The Government should be aware about the causes of constant deaths of mother and nascent during delivery. There has been increase in the number of deaths of nascent and mothers during delivery in my constituency, Hardoi during the last two months. When

**Speech was laid on the Table.*

I asked the Chief Medical Officer about the reasons in this regard, he told that the main reason is malnutrition and anemia.

Adolescent Girl Empowerment is the need of the hour. In the Budget, the Government has announced that after xruiting 30-35 kg. foodgrains will be given to adolescent girls per month. It is a good scheme but it needs to be implemented immediately because in future, they are to bear the burden of maternity.

If women become weak the family becomes weak, if family becomes weak the society becomes weak and consequently India weakens. There is need to amend nutritious diet scheme. There is need to increase the honorarium of Anganwadi workers and Sahayikas because the complaints against Anganwadi will reduce as a result thereof.

There is need to empower women mentally, physically, economically and politically. For this purpose, the priority of the Government should be to provide employment to women by giving them loan at lower interest rates. Helpless widows, women surviving natural calamities, women hit by violence convicted women who have completed their jail terms should not be looked down upon, but there should be a plan for their respectful living.

Sachchar Committee in its report has mentioned the fact that the largest minority community of India, Muslim Community, whose population is 13.83 crores, is not getting benefited by development schemes. In the budget of 2009-10, the provision of one crore has been made. This has to be implemented.

There is need to bring reforms in primary education because a solid building can be constructed only when its foundation is strong.

Besides, I request the Hon'ble Minister to ensure the free medical check-up of women above the age of 40 years on the lines as vaccination of pregnant woman and children has been made compulsory. This will create health awareness among women.

In my constituency, Hardoi, women and children are engaged in the work of Jardoji, Chikan work and in the work of making woven caps, but their income is not proportionate to their labour. I demand the Hon'ble Minister that the Government should make any such scheme so that they can earn in proportion to their labour.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): Thank you Madam, I am happy that about 18 Members have expressed their views on this subject and they are concerned with the fact that this department has been brought under discussion for the first time. I am extremely happy that I am speaking on this subject. As of theirs, it is my concern also that complete social security be given to the children and women. I would like to mention the work done in this regard in the Ministry and the scheme being implemented. Many hon'ble male Members said that they have no knowledge about these schemes. These schemes have been made for women and children who comprise 75 percent of the total population of the country. They expressed their concern on the budget, all of them mentioned about ICDS and general budgeting. They all know that under our awareness campaign we have been popularizing all these schemes.

Madam, today, I would like to mention all the schemes here.

[English]

National Mission for Empowerment of Women, Relief to Rehabilitation of Rape Victims, Leadership Development of Minority Women, Swadhar Working Women Hostel, Swayam Siddha-II, Priya Darshini, National Commission for Women, Support to Training and Empowerment of Women, Integrated Child Development Scheme, Food and Nutrition Board, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, Kishori Shakti Yojana, Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls, Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mother, Juvenile Justice Act, Integrated Promramme for Street Children, Scheme for Welfare of Working Children in Need of Care and Protection, Integrated Child Protection Scheme, Shishu Grah, Central Adoption Resource Agency, Research Scheme, General Grant-in-aid Scheme, General Budgeting, Dhanlakshmi, Ujjwala, Information and Technology, Central Social Welfare Board, National Commission on Protection of Child Right, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh.

[Translation]

Therefore, I would like to draw attention towards the President's Address delivered on 4th June 2009 in the Joint session of both the Houses of Parliament. In this Address, Her Excellency the President emphasized

that the Government should discharge its responsibilities of providing maximum opportunity to women and in particular strengthening the measure of social protection for the weaker sections. Among the proposed concrete measures to provide equal opportunities to women, some are their representation in elected bodies, reservation for them in jobs and the National Women Literacy Mission.

Madam, the Prime Minister of our country and the Chairperson, UPA, Smt. Sonia Gandhi have also emphasized that we work on National Mission for Empowerment of Women. Our Ministry has to function as a nodal Ministry under this Mission. The Chairman of this Mission would be the Prime Minister and the Dy. Chairman would be from the Planning Commission. There are so many departments under it, which includes.

[English]

Ministries of Human Resource Development, Finance, Housing and Urban Development, Poverty Alleviation, Rural Development, Panchayati-Raj, Agriculture and Cooperation, Health and Family Welfare, Small and Medium Enterprises, Law and Justice. Environment and Forests, Labour and Employment, Social Justice etc.

[Translation]

To achieve this mission, work is going at a on very fast pace in the Ministry. I am happy that all Members have spoken on this subject and one of my hon'ble colleagues Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan, who is sitting in front of me, expressed her views by quoting "Abala Jeevan Haai Tumhari Yahi Kahani, Aanchal Mein Hai Dudh Aur Ankhon Main Pani". I feel that we should not consider ourselves incapable rather we should feel ourselves enabled. I remember the history when Maharani Lakshmi Bai fought with sword in her hand in the struggle for dependence of our country. 'Chamak Uthi San Sattawan Men Wah Talwar Purani Thi, Khoob Ladi Mardani Wah To Jhansi Wali Rani Thi'. A woman who can battle with a sword in her hand has no reasons to get disheartened. It has been the duty of our governments to make law. Many laws have been made, and through so many sections many facilities have been provided to the villages, tribal areas and every part of the country. All have expressed their concern and have talked about the ICDS. I would like to mention that the universalization of ICDS has been done as per the order of the Supreme Court. Under it, 10,44,000 Anganwadies are being run. Still we have sanctions for 14 lakh Anganwadies, but no state has requested for opening

anganwadies. Members from Uttar Pradesh and some other Members said here that there is no Anganwadis in their respective states. I request all these Members to ask their respective state governments to send letters for opening Anganwadies there. Anganwadies will be opened within few days from the day we receive the letter. This is our plan, we have already got it sanctioned. We have made budgetary provision of Rupees 42,000 crore in the 11th Five Year Plan. We want to provide complete diet to our children, women, pregnant women under the ICDS. Presently, we have arranged for their breakfast also alongwith their lunch. At present, food worth rupees four per child is being given to the children of age group between six months to 72 months under such programmes. Previously, it was only two rupees per child whereas children suffering from severe malnutrition are concerned, we have increased the amount given for their food from Rupees 2.70 to Rupees 2.30 have been made for pregnant women and midwives. This has been done by our Government. We want every mother and child healthy and self reliant. We want to make them able physically, mentally, economically and politically. You will be aware that Rajiv Gandhiji had made provision for 33 percent reservation for women in Panchayats and local bodies during his tenure. Now, her Excellency the President has said that it will be increased upto fifty percent.

Madam, we have provided amended amount in D&T Value volume in Letter No. 5.9.2005 dated 24th Feb. 2009. Earlier the provision in S&P was 300 calorie and 8 to 10 grams protein for the children of age group of six to 72 months. Now we have started to give them 500 calorie and 12 to 15 grams protein so that malnutrition may come to an end. The previous provision of 600 calorie and 20 grams protein for the children severely suffering from malnutrition has been increased to 800 calorie and 25 gram protein. For pregnant women and lactating mothers it was 500 calorie and 15 to 20 gram protein, at present it is 600 calorie and 18 to 20 gram protein. In addition to it, these Anganwadis are being provided iron and folic acid medicines by the Department of Health. We want that pregnant women should be safe, healthy and they should not have deficiency of any type. So we want that they should be provided everything to keep them and their child, who are the future of the country, safe and sound. Keeping in view all these things an amount of Rs. 42400 crore has been provided in the Budget. As I have mentioned earlier also, all the Members of Parliament who are not aware in this regard, should take note of it. One member has asked for monitoring. You can monitor it in your

constituency, no one is going to prevent you. This is your right. You can monitor the things which have been universalized, you can monitor in your constituency the works being done for the public and if there are shortcomings, we are ready to redress them, our Government has always promised to work for the common man.

A number of things have been mentioned here. Girijaji had also mentioned that 30 percent Gender Budgeting has been done in each and every Ministry. A cell has been created in the Departments of 56 Ministries for this purpose. We are planning to set up a Commission which will coordinate with every Ministry, be it the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Poverty Alleviation or the Ministry of Rural Development and with this money we will provide for community centre toilets, hospitals, anganwadis and small dispensaries in villages. Our Ministry is trying to implement Gender Budgeting in Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Madam, hon'ble Member Smt. Saroj was talking about the ICDS Scheme, she was talking about removing malnutrition. Just a shortwhile ago, I had also mentioned about removing malnutrition. She has talked about UP and Lucknow. You should be aware about our schemes and also make the people aware about these schemes. You should ask your state Government and see that common man benefits from the money allocated by us. You have also mentioned about chicken embroidery of Mohanlalganj. We have tried to benefit these women through Self Help Group under RMK and for this purpose budget allocation has been increased from Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 500 crore during these years, you should take benefit from it. Every woman whether she does Chicken embroidery whether she makes utensils or whether she works in field, for whatever purpose money is required, we have full provision for it, you should avail it. You should be vigilant for empowerment of women.

Madam, Shrimati Sushila Saroj has talked about ICDS and informal education. We provide pre-school education with nutritious food under ICDS. They are also given food for home. Anganwadi workers carry out vaccination and other programmes for them.

Madam, Shrimati Meena Singh has said that these schemes are only on paper. I want to say that these schemes are not on paper, you should get it implemented practically. If there are shortcomings, you can ask for removing it. She has also talked about RMK. I had mentioned it earlier also that fund for RMK has been increased. There is provision for giving full amount to

rural women, women engaged in farming and the poor women.

Madam, Shrimati Meena Singhji has said that Anganwadi workers are not being paid minimum wages according to the decision of the hon'ble Supreme Court. We have increased it in 2008 and wages of Anganwadi Workers have been increased from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500 and wages for helper has been fixed at Rs. 750. We are concerned about the concerns expressed by you. Efforts will certainly be made to set things in order in future. So far as minimum salary is concerned, I would like to say that minimum salary is not applicable in their case, it is honorarium, these people are not government servants.

Madam, Dr. Ratna Deji has raised the issue of prevention of child marriage. There is provision of preventing child marriage in the Prevention of Child Marriage Act, 2006. There is need to create awareness across the society for prevention of child marriage. Child marriage not only includes girls but boys also and society is also responsible for it. The law for prevention of child marriage also covers relatives and Baratis. Anyone with a courage to speak out, needs to inform the police station about it. Those involved will get punishment under the Prevention of Child Marriage Act.

Madam Speaker, our hon'ble Member from Tamil Nadu has supported it, he has talked about 33 percent reservation. I have informed him about malnutrition, the topic she was talking about. Shrimati Bauri has mentioned that ASHA Social health activists get a meagre amount. ASHA gets payment from the Department of Health, not from my Department. If you want, I will convey it to the Department of Health. She has also mentioned about child labour, this subject is also under the Department of Labour. But if children are freed and brought here, our NGOs look after them and the Department of Labour imposes penalty on the owner of the factory or industry from where these children are freed. Then that money is used for the welfare of these children. That money is used for their food, rehabilitation and education. Shri Rudraji represents Kandhamal constituency and talking about the ICDC he has stated that there is complete 67 percent population under it He said about his visit to that area. 14 lakh Anganwadis have been sanctioned, if Anganwadis are not in your area, you must write about it, I will do the needful and so far as my visit in that area is concerned, let me complete the inquiry and find out what are the shortcomings in it, and my Department will certainly try to overcome these shortcomings. Ninth Member has said

that Anganwadi Workers are being exploited financially and they get meagre payment, they should also get pension. He is right, it is worth considering how to help the Anganwadi Workers who work from dawn to dusk. I agree with your point and we will certainly help them under any such scheme. One of the hon'ble Members has said that Anganwadis should be made permanent. This is right and whatever I have come to know from the newspapers, I have not complete information about the Mid Day Meal that they get and from where and how it comes, but newspapers have different reports about it. So there should be a permanent Anganwadi with the Anganwadi, and there should be provision for a Kitchen, good quality utensils, there should be a good quality stove to cook food and there should be means to cook food better because there is an order of the hon'ble Supreme Court that food should be served hot and it should be nutritious with protein and calcium. I would like suggestions from you as well as suggestions from a group of Ministers as to how it is going to be managed.

Madam Speaker, we have the funds and if we receive some funds from the State, we can execute this task together. Under our conditional Maternity Benefit scheme, We have made a token provision. In Eleventh Five Year Plan, we have allocated Rs. 4500 crore. Shri Pandaji had mentioned about it. Shri O.S. Manian has stated that there should be 33 per cent reservation. Shri Rajiv Gandhi has already done this and we should not forget to praise him. Today, our Government is going to make it 50 per cent. There has been a mention to check the curse of dowry. I have talked about the same and there is a law to prevent the practice of giving dowry. Under the law, both we and our society have to build a mindset and constitute some committees in this regard and if someone tries to violate the law, we can socially boycott him. The hardest punishment for the person involved in accepting and giving dowry is social boycott. If the law does not punish him, he should be socially boycotted which is the biggest punishment in this regard. Some sisters have stated that when they approach Police, the bridegroom's family bribe them to take their side. Why should we approach them, why can't we people make certain arrangement in our street and mohallas by reping in NGO's Welfare Association Resident's Welfare Association and the society at large to ensure that any person involved in accepting and giving dowry is socially boycotted.

Madam Speaker, the hardest punishment for them is to socially boycott them. One of our respected lady members has said that women after taking birth remain

under the control of parents, when they grow young they are under the control of their brother and after getting married they follow their husband. We should also consider this thing. Today, women have made a lot of progress. We have given them education. As she is educated, she is self-reliant. We can make them sustain themselves by providing money through NGO's, National Women Fund and various other institutions. Therefore, the question of her dependence does not arise. We should do everything possible, to remove her dependence. If we begin to think that how we can assist her in our respective fields, she will not remain dependent. If she is physically weak, we should arrange proper food for them through various existing schemes and if she is ill, we can treat her by providing medicines from hospitals and if she is economically weak, we can impart her training by providing funds available under various schemes. We have social welfare boards, NIFTs and other institutions, through which we can impart them training so as to make them able to earn livelihood.

Madam, one honourable lady Member has stated that the girls are not being given education. I would like to mention that under the Ministry of Human Resources Development a scheme, namely Sarva Siksha Abhiyan is being run under which the task of providing education to all is being undertaken. It was stated here that only Rs. one crore has been provided under the empowerment of women mission. I would like to tell that this one crore rupees is only a token money. After it takes a solid shape, the Prime Minister of the country, Dr Manmohan Singh will Chair this Mission. Afterwards, a complete budget will be provided for the same. Then, no woman and child of the country will consider themselves weak.

The lady Member of Parliament from Punjab who was the 13th member to speak, said that the women engaged in agricultural sector do not receive any support. I would repeatedly like to mention that we have restructured the National Women Fund under which a lot of money is available. Set money be provided to them through self-help groups. It has been stated here that the women in the women defence committees are not secure. Now, this security will have to be provided by the police or the SDM or the DM of the state. This is under their jurisdiction. Anyway, if there is anything like this, then you are competent at your own. You can provide them full power because you are the Member of Parliament from there. There has been a mention of dowry. I would like to say again that we should run awareness programmes. The people accepting dowry should be socially boycotted.

Madam, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh started his speech with the mention of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru used to love children profoundly. We celebrate his birthday as "Bal Divas" on 14th November. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh narrated a story of a Demon in which the demon used to chase away the children coming to play in the garden in which he lived. When the fruits and flowers in the garden withered away, he became very sad. When the children again turned up, the flowers blossomed again but all the children began to run away on seeing the demon. But one little child was left in the garden. I think that the children bring joviality. The children are the heritage of our country. The children are our invited guests. To bring an all-round development in the children is everybody's responsibility. It is the responsibility of the parents and as much the responsibility of the Union Government as well as that of the state Governments. It is particularly the responsibility of those NGOs as well which are working for the children with our assistance. You had talked about providing 33 percent reservation in the local bodies. That we have already provided. You said that nobody is aware of the schemes of the Centre. Therefore, efforts should be made to create awareness. I would like to say that I have mentioned about all the schemes in the House, but, still, I would like to say again that the awareness programmes about the schemes of the Union Government would be undertaken in the whole country through newspapers and big hoardings highlighting that these are our schemes. You should know and recognize and take benefit from it.

The 15th lady member from B.J.P. comes from Karnataka. She said that she is the only woman who has been elected as Member of Parliament from the state of Karnataka. I owe a gratitude to the people of that state. I acknowledge that very well. You women should come in large numbers after getting elected by the people. The more your elected number, the more I will get the support.

Our 16th lady member talked about the Anganwadi workers stating that they receive meager amount of money. Therefore, they should get the same amount, as given under NREGA scheme. I would like to tell that "NREGA" is a different scheme and what we provide under Anganwadi scheme is in the form of honorarium.

Madam, many points have been mentioned here. Various other schemes are being implemented. As I have told that Rajiv Gandhi Kishori Sashaktikaran scheme is going on. Malnourished girls between the age group of 11 years to 18 years face difficulty in conceiving after their marriage. It becomes difficult to materialise their marriage and if they remain unmarried new generation would not come into existence. So, there is a provision of foodgrains for their meal under the Rajiv Gandhi Kishori Sashaktikaran Scheme. They take foodgrains to their homes. They are advised to take full diet, play games and do exercise and they are taught and informed in such a way so that they could become empowered.

I would like to make one more point, as the time is about to be over and we have to discuss budget also. I would not take more time. I have replied to all the queries. ...*(Interruptions)*. Apart from this, I would like to inform you that for the destitute and orphan children, whom you were talking about, helpline is operational. You may dial 1098 and ask for any assistance regarding problems of children at home, outside the home or on the road, it will be provided immediately. More than 1,35,51,134 calls have been received on this number between 1998 to 2008.

Under our adoption scheme we adopt child and entrust the custody of the child to the families having no child and who want to adopt a child. There is one more cause of concern also. We have made a scheme for rape victims. Some provisions have been made therein which I would like to share with the house. Your suggestions are also here. But in my opinion and as Sumitra Mahajan has also stated that we do not want to further insult the rape victim by giving monetary support only. Recently such an incident took place in U.P. which caused a major affliction. It is my view that instead of providing monetary support we should make provision for a fast track court with that money so that she may get justice and she may get rehabilitated. We should monitor the process of her rehabilitation. The victims do not get timely justice. It is the worst thing that the rape victims have to visit Courts frequently even for 12 and 15 years in order to get justice. There are many such cases, I have noticed. It is my point and I would like to urge the Ministry that fast track Court may be established at the earliest so as women victim may get facilities and justice as well.

Keeping in view the available time, I would like to state that I have written down whatever you have said and your valuable suggestions are always solicited and my Ministry is always ready to implement them. Whatever I said and whatever plan I have shared with you, be it NIPCID training or the matter related to social welfare board, I want to expand these schemes to the states so that facilities may be provided to the masses at their doorstep and every state could have participation in the said schemes. Madam Speaker, with these words, I would like to express my thanks as you provided me this opportunity to speak.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: I shall now put cut motion nos. 1 and 2 moved by Shri S.K. Saidul Haque to the Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Women and Child Development to the vote of the House.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

MADAM SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Women and Child Development to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2010, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the Second column thereof against Demand No. 104 relating to the Ministry of Women and Child Development."

The motion was adopted.

17.55 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS—*CONTD.*

(ii) **Certain alleged discrepancies in the budget documents**

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Statement by the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri P. Chidambaram.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Madam Speaker, yesterday, hon. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj referred to certain alleged discrepancies between the figures contained in the detailed Demand for Grants (Vol. 1) pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Expenditure Budget (Vol. 2). In particular, she mentioned three discrepancies:

- (i) Police;
- (ii) NSG; and
- (iii) Modernisation of Police Forces

She also referred to the relevant pages in both the documents.

I have examined the detailed Demand for Grants (Vol. 1) of MHA as well as the Expenditure Budget (Vol. 2). I would like to state categorically that there are no discrepancies. In the annexure to this Statement we have set out the relevant figures in two columns. The first column contains the figures from the Expenditure Budget (Vol. 2) which refer to the outlays net of recoveries and the figures are mentioned in crores of rupees. In the second column, we have set out the figures from the detailed Demand for Grants (Vol. 1) where recoveries are shown separately and the figures are in thousands of rupees.

A careful reading of the annexure will show that the final number in the two columns exactly match each other. There are, therefore, no discrepancies whatsoever.

To sum up, in the case of the Police, the figure is Rs. 33,809.86 crore; in the case of the NSG, the figure is Rs. 313.80 crore; and in the case of the Modernisation of Police Forces, the figure is Rs. 1413.60 crore.

I am grateful to Shrimati Sushma Swaraj for drawing my attention to the alleged discrepancies. It gave me an opportunity to satisfy myself once again that the Budget documents are carefully prepared by the Budget Division of the Department of Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and I take this opportunity to record my appreciation of the work of the Budget Division.

ANNEXURE

Expenditure Budget, Volume 2		Detailed Demands for Grants Volume I	
(Outlays are net of Recoveries)		(Allocations are shown separately for Revenue & Capital heads. Recoveries are also shown separately)	
(Rs. in crores)		(Rs. in thousands)	
1. Demand for Grants (53)—Police			
Page 127		Page 41	
Grand Total—Police:		BE 2009-10 (charged)	108300
BE 2009-10		BE 2009-10 (voted)	340240300
		Total	340348600
		Page 88	
		Deduct Recoveries	2250000
	33809.86	BE 2009-10 (Net of recoveries)	338098600
2. NSG			
Page 124		Page 58	
Item No. 2 National Security Guard		NSG	
		BE 2009-10 (charged)	300
		BE 2009-10 (Voted)	2767700
		Total	2768000
		Add (Page 74)	
		General	
		Motor Vehicles	200000
		Machinery & Equipment	50000
		Modernisation	
		Motor Vehicles	30000
		Machinery & Equipment	90000
	313.80	Total	3138000
3. Modernisation of Police Forces			
Item 31 Page 126		Page 62	
Modernisation of Police Forces	1250.00	Assistance to State Police Organisation in kind	2450000
		Assistance to Delhi Police for Modernisation	1224000
		Page 67	
		Modernisation of Police Force of UTs without Legislature	412000
Add Item 32 (Page 126)		Page 68	
Assistance to UTs (including Delhi Police)	163.60	Modernisation of Police Force (MH 3601)	10050000
Total	1413.60		14136000

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): You had stated that Rs. 1,250 crore have been provided for the modernisation of police force, but, now you are saying it is Rs. 1,413 crores. Yesterday, when you were speaking, you gave the figure of Rs. 1,250 crore for modernisation of police force, at that time, I said it is Rs. 1,250 crore and Rs. 1,372 crore in another paper. Today, it is totally a new figure of Rs. 1,413 crore, neither Rs. 1,250 crores nor Rs. 1,372 crore.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam Speaker, may I respond? There are no new figures. In the course of the debate someone asked me as to what is the assistance to the States for the Modernisation of Police Force. Please look at the second page of the Annexure. The assistance to the States for the Modernisation of Police Force is indeed Rs. 1,250 crore. Assistance to the Union Territories is another Rs. 163 crore. If you add the two, it is Rs. 1,413 crore.

SHRI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Yesterdays figures are not reconciling with today's figures.

17.59 hrs.

GUILLOTINE

SUBMISSION OF OUTSTANDING DEMANDS TO VOTE OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House will now take up item no. 16.

I shall now put the Outstanding Demands for Grants relating to the Ministries/Departments to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2010, in respect of the

heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof, against:-

- (1) Demand Nos. 4 and 5 relating to Department of Atomic Energy;
- (2) Demand Nos. 6 to 8 relating to Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers;
- (3) Demand No. 9 relating to Ministry of Civil Aviation;
- (4) Demand No. 10 relating to Ministry of Coal
- (5) Demand Nos. 11 and 12 relating to Ministry of Commerce and Industry;
- (6) Demand Nos. 13 to 15 relating to Ministry of Communications and Information Technology;
- (7) Demand No. 18 relating to Ministry of Corporate Affairs;
- (8) Demand No. 19 relating to Ministry of Culture;
- (9) Demand Nos. 20 to 27 relating to Ministry of Defence;

18.00 hrs.

- (10) Demand No. 28, relating to Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region;
- (11) Demand No. 29, relating to Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- (12) Demand No. 30 relating to Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- (13) Demand No. 31 relating to Ministry of External Affairs.
- (14) Demand Nos. 32, 33, 35, 36, 38 to 44 relating to Ministry of Finance.
- (15) Demand No. 45 relating to Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- (16) Demand Nos. 46 to 48 relating to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- (17) Demand Nos. 49 and 50 relating to Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- (18) Demand No. 56 relating to Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

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| <p>(19) Demand No. 59 relating to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.</p> <p>(20) Demand No. 60 relating to Ministry of Labour and Employment.</p> <p>(21) Demand Nos. 61 to 62 relating to Ministry of Law and Justice.</p> <p>(22) Demand No. 64 relating to Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.</p> <p>(23) Demand No. 65 relating to Ministry of Mines.</p> <p>(24) Demand No. 66 relating to Ministry of Minority Affairs.</p> <p>(25) Demand No. 67 relating to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.</p> <p>(26) Demand No. 68 relating to Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.</p> <p>(27) Demand No. 69 relating to Ministry of Panchayati Raj.</p> <p>(28) Demand No. 70 relating to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.</p> <p>(29) Demand No. 71 relating to Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.</p> <p>(30) Demand No. 72 relating to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.</p> <p>(31) Demand No. 73 relating to Ministry of Planning.</p> <p>(32) Demand No. 76 relating to Lok Sabha.</p> <p>(33) Demand No. 77 relating to Rajya Sabha.</p> | <p>(34) Demand No. 79 relating to Secretariat of the Vice-President.</p> <p>(35) Demand Nos. 80 to 82 relating to Ministry of Rural Development.</p> <p>(36) Demand Nos. 83 to 85 relating to Ministry of Science and Technology.</p> <p>(37) Demand No. 86 relating to Ministry of Shipping.</p> <p>(38) Demand No. 87 relating to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.</p> <p>(39) Demand No. 88 relating to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.</p> <p>(40) Demand No. 89 relating to Department of Space.</p> <p>(41) Demand No. 90 relating to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.</p> <p>(42) Demand No. 91 relating to Ministry of Steel.</p> <p>(43) Demand No. 92 relating to Ministry of Textiles.</p> <p>(44) Demand No. 93 relating to Ministry of Tourism.</p> <p>(45) Demand No. 94 relating to Ministry of Tribal Affairs.</p> <p>(46) Demand Nos. 100 to 102 relating to Ministry of Urban Development.</p> <p>(47) Demand No. 103 relating to Ministry of Water Resources.</p> <p>(48) Demand No. 105 relating to Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.</p> |
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**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—BUDGET (GENERAL) IN RESPECT OF MINISTRIES/SECRETARIATS OF 2009-2010
(VOTED BY THE LOK SABHA)**

No. & Name of Demand		Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House		Amount of Demands of Grants voted by the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1		2	3	4	5
Department of Atomic Energy					
4	Atomic Energy	1307,25,00,000	698,90,00,000	2800,83,00,000	1688,80,00,000
5	Nuclear Power Schemes	787,97,00,000	425,04,00,000	1575,93,00,000	987,08,00,000

	1	2	3	4	5
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers					
6	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	36,63,00,000	18,42,00,000	183,73,00,000	36,83,00,000
7	Department of Fertilizers	24144,87,00,000	65,35,00,000	29459,59,00,000	130,69,00,000
8	Department of Pharmaceuticals	53,42,00,000	10,02,00,000	106,84,00,000	20,05,00,000
Ministry of Civil Aviation					
9	Ministry of Civil Aviation	239,26,00,000	55,42,00,000	491,83,00,000	100,53,00,000
Ministry of Coal					
10	Ministry of Coal	116,33,00,000	10,00,00,000	232,67,00,000	20,00,00,000
Ministry of Commerce and Industry					
11	Department of Commerce	999,61,00,000	220,41,00,000	2048,23,00,000	391,81,00,000
12	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	374,68,00,000	18,33,00,000	756,35,00,000	36,67,00,000
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology					
13	Department of Posts	4018,53,00,000	302,77,00,000	8071,57,00,000	86,03,00,000
14	Department of Telecommunications	2041,33,00,000	18,00,00,000	8108,67,00,000	86,00,00,000
15	Department of Information Technology	792,00,00,000	18,67,00,000	1692,00,00,000	79,33,00,000
Ministry of Corporate Affairs					
18	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	61,00,00,000	13,33,00,000	128,62,00,000	26,67,00,000
Ministry of Culture					
19	Ministry of Culture	396,63,00,000	12,03,00,000	843,27,00,000	24,07,00,000
Ministry of Defence					
20	Ministry of Defence	3298,64,00,000	491,28,00,000	6597,29,00,000	982,55,00,000
21	Defence Pensions	7263,25,00,000	—	14526,50,00,000	—
22	Defence Services—Army	20084,18,00,000	—	40168,35,00,000	—
23	Defence Services—Navy	2800,79,00,000	—	5601,59,00,000	—
24	Defence Services—Air Force	4969,95,00,000	—	9939,91,00,000	—

	1	2	3	4	5
25	Defence Ordnance Factories	2495,45,00,000	—	—	—
26	Defence Services—Research and Development	1595,68,00,000	—	3191,35,00,000	—
27	Capital Outlay on Defence Services	—	18259,87,00,000	—	36519,75,00,000
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region					
28.	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	443,99,00,000	47,83,00,000	887,98,00,000	242,47,00,000
Ministry of Earth Sciences					
29.	Ministry of Earth Sciences	278,80,00,000	75,60,00,000	644,02,00,000	214,78,00,000
Ministry of Environment and Forests					
30.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	571,83,00,000	11,17,00,000	1518,87,00,000	25,33,00,000
Ministry of External Affairs					
31	Ministry of External Affairs	1834,53,00,000	182,46,00,000	3933,44,00,000	342,54,00,000
Ministry of Finance					
32	Department of Economic Affairs	1833,85,00,000	358,04,00,000	3802,57,00,000	7405,61,00,000
33	Department of Financial Services	11198,51,00,000	1089,01,00,000	24248,01,00,000	1878,01,00,000
35	Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments	22444,02,00,000	—	46730,07,00,000	—
36	Loans to Government Servants, etc.	—	120,00,00,000	—	240,00,00,000
38	Department of Expenditure	19,87,00,000	2,13,00,000	51,73,00,000	4,27,00,000
39	Pensions	3744,14,00,000	—	7154,94,00,000	—
40	Indian Audit and Accounts Department	762,64,00,000	90,00,000	1525,29,00,000	1,80,00,000
41	Department of Revenue	3081,85,00,000	77,00,000	6563,69,00,000	1,54,00,000
42	Direct Taxes	961,33,00,000	206,00,00,000	1922,65,00,000	412,00,00,000
43	Indirect Taxes	1031,27,00,000	96,67,00,000	2062,53,00,000	193,33,00,000

	1	2	3	4	5
44	Department of Disinvestment	6,26,00,000	746,67,00,000	12,52,00,000	1493,33,00,000
Ministry of Food Processing Industries					
45	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	178,49,00,000	35,00,00,000	132,01,00,000	5,00,00,000
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare					
46	Department of Health and Family Welfare	6030,29,00,000	331,75,00,000	14993,91,00,000	1369,00,00,000
47	Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	239,92,00,000	75,00,000	679,83,00,000	1,50,00,000
48	Department of Health Research	202,00,00,000	—	404,00,00,000—	
Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises					
49	Department of Heavy Industry	91,85,00,000	178,81,00,000	183,71,00,000	357,63,00,000
50.	Department of Public Enterprises	5,73,00,000	—	11,47,00,000	—
Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation					
56	Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	285,99,00,000	—	571,98,00,000	—
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting					
59	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	706,51,00,000	116,17,00,000	1413,52,00,000	331,84,00,000
Ministry of Labour and Employment					
60	Ministry of Labour and Employment	867,52,00,000	3,41,00,000	1835,12,00,000	756,82,00,000
Ministry of Law and Justice					
61	Election Commission	7,00,00,000	—	14,00,00,000	—
62	Law and Justice	739,04,00,000	13,63,00,000	898,07,00,000	27,26,00,000
Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises					
64	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	665,86,00,000	3,48,00,000	1357,16,00,000	6,95,00,000

1		2	3	4	5
Ministry of Mines					
65	Ministry of Mines	183,82,00,000	12,80,00,000	367,64,00,000	25,60,00,000
Ministry of Minority Affairs					
66	Ministry of Minority Affairs	311,83,00,000	25,00,00,000	1319,67,00,000	100,00,00,000
Ministry of New and Renewable Energy					
67	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	202,73,00,000	6,60,00,000	405,47,00,000	13,20,00,000
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs					
68	Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs	19,67,00,000	7,00,00,000	39,33,00,000	14,00,00,000
Ministry of Panchayati Raj					
69	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	1593,57,00,000	—	3187,14,00,000	—
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs					
70	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	2,78,00,000	—	5,55,00,000	—
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions					
71.	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	162,93,00,000	-17,67,00,000	344,51,00,000	129,18,00,000
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas					
72	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	1056,33,00,000	—	12419,00,00,000	—
Ministry of Planning					
73	Ministry of Planning	132,48,00,000	4,00,00,000	342,31,00,000	40,21,00,000
The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission and the Secretariat of the Vice-President					
76	Lok Sabha	128,00,00,000	—	256,01,00,000	—
77	Rajya Sabha	51,64,00,000	—	108,26,00,000	—
79	Secretariat of the Vice-President	79,00,000	—	1,55,00,000	—
Ministry of Rural Development					
80	Department of Rural Development	34363,62,00,000	62,00,000	72285,21,00,000	63,00,000

	1	2	3	4	5
81	Department of Land Resources	801,88,00,000	—	1603,76,00,000	—
82	Department of Drinking Water Supply	2867,61,00,000	—	6435,23,00,000	—
Ministry of Science and Technology					
83	Department of Science and Technology	609,41,00,000	22,47,00,000	1456,32,00,000	52,43,00,000
84.	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	845,50,00,000	1,50,00,000	1840,80,00,000	3,20,00,000
85.	Department of Biotechnology	304,70,00,000	—	719,30,00,000	—
Ministry of Shipping					
86	Ministry of Shipping	374,00,00,000	167,70,00,000	1068,43,00,000	340,40,00,000
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways					
87	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	5069,33,00,000	4829,02,00,000	11825,85,00,000	11012,98,00,000
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment					
88	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	780,33,00,000	46,33,00,000	1665,67,00,000	92,67,00,000
Department of Space					
89	Department of Space	955,79,00,000	530,25,00,000	1951,59,00,000	1520,51,00,000
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation					
90	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	670,09,00,000	1,33,00,000	1434,63,00,000	9,22,00,000
Ministry of Steel					
91	Ministry of Steel	38,34,00,000	2,67,00,000	76,67,00,000	5,33,00,000
Ministry of Textiles					
92	Ministry of Textiles	1068,33,00,000	61,33,00,000	10275,42,00,000	122,67,00,000
Ministry of Tourism					
93	Ministry of Tourism	351,33,00,000	2,00,00,000	712,67,00,000	4,00,00,000
Ministry of Tribal Affairs					
94	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	91,71,00,000	16,67,00,000	183,42,00,000	33,33,00,000

	1	2	3	4	5
Ministry of Urban Development					
100	Department of Urban Development	362,60,00,000	901,55,00,000	645,92,00,000	1698,81,00,000
101	Public Works	372,42,00,000	159,43,00,000	744,83,00,000	243,87,00,000
102	Stationery and printing	97,47,00,000	4,00,000	194,93,00,000	9,00,000
Ministry of Water Resources					
103	Ministry of Water Resources	313,85,00,000	28,00,00,000	627,68,00,000	56,01,00,000
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports					
105	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	1192,36,00,000	65,66,00,000	1386,94,00,000	428,04,00,000

The motion was adopted.

18.04 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO. 3) BILL, 2009*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2009-2010.

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2009-2010."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I introduce** the Bill.

MADAM SPEAKER: Item No.18—Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I beg to move**:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2009-2010, be taken into consideration."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2009-2010, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MADAM SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 23.7.2009.

**Introduced and moved with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALUBHAI BABUBHAI PATEL (Daman and Diu): Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the most serious problem of my parliamentary constituency Daman and Diu. Fishing is the main occupation of this area as Daman and Diu is located at sea shore. Many fishermen of Daman and Diu and Gujarat are languishing in Pakistani jails. Among them many fishermen are from the same family and the remaining are the single bread earners of their families. Therefore, their families are facing financial hardships. They are being tortured in Pakistani jails and because of the torture many fishermen are admitted in hospitals.

During the regime of the NDA Government fishermen alongwith their boats used to be freed from the jails within six month; but, the fishermen caught during the last few years are still languishing in Pakistani jails. Through you, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, whether he has raised this issue with the Pakistani Government and if so, the details thereof?

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV (Madhubani): Madam Speaker, today, the delegation of the Commission for Backward Classes had called on the hon'ble Prime Minister. The question is that there are separate Commissions for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, women and the Human Rights, Commission for all other classes and among all of these Commissions, the Commission for Backward Classes is the one which has not been conferred the rights which has been provided to all other Commissions. This Commission is just like any other Government Department. It has no other rights except in regard to the inclusion of castes in the OBC list. You know it very well that in Bihar there are many communities under the most backward classes and the backward classes having a small population. They are subjected to social, economic, political and administrative exploitations. They are bearing more pain and insult than the scheduled castes and tribes. As other Commissions

are empowered to take cognizance there of and to set up enquiry in the case the Commission for Backward Class may be given the same powers. Backward Classes have reservations but there is also backlog in this regard. Our people also compete in the UPSC examinations. There were 27 people having their name in the merit-list, but were not provided job. Instead, they were told that they belonged to the Backward Classes and quota for the Backward Classes is full now. This injustice should be stopped and the Union Government should establish a milestone in the field of the welfare of the Backward Classes by granting equal status to this Commission.

[*English*]

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (Palakkad): Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of this august House and the Government to a very important issue relating to the approach of certain banks in giving education loans.

Students are forced to take education loans because of the failure of the Government to provide them education. Lakhs of students are depending on private sector colleges for their higher education. Recently, the Indian Banks Association issued a circular that the banks will be giving education loans only up to the Government fees. So, lakhs of students studying in private sector are excluded from the benefits of education loan. So, I would like to urge upon the Government to intervene in this matter and see that this circular is withdrawn. The Government should give direction in this regard and the Government should intervene in this matter to make sure that all the needy students get adequate education loans. I would also request that the education loans should be made interest-free and the procedures should be simplified. So, I urge upon the Government to intervene in this matter and take necessary action.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Madam Speaker, the matter which I raise today relates to Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi who is under house arrest for more than a decade. It is 19 years since the National League for Democracy swept the last national election winning over 80 per cent of the seats it had contested. Over 10,000 people were killed in six months of military repression before the election. Instead of governing the country whose people had given her party an overwhelming mandate, Aung San Suu Kyi has become a symbol of grace under duress, someone whose freedom was taken away by the military junta misruling her country, but not her steadfast courage.

The world has been transformed since Suu Kyi was put under house arrest. Berlin Wall has fallen, the iron

curtain has disappeared and India, where Suu Kyi had her education, has become one of the fastest growing economies of the world. The world has moved on. Yet Burma or Myanmar has remained in a time wrap. The walls of her Rangoon residence at 54, University Avenue are covered with quotations from Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and her father Aung San who led Burma's freedom struggle.

When Dalai Lama took asylum some 50 years ago, China and India had good relations. Some would argue that it is in India's national interest to maintain close ties with Myanmar's military junta. But can the world's largest and populous democracy, which subscribes to the values practiced by Suu Kyi, close its eyes indefinitely to the military junta's repression of the people of Myanmar? Recently, Aung San Suu Kyi has been conferred with the Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Peace and Reconciliation at Durban.

I would request the Government to rise to the occasion. India should extend full support to Myanmar's struggle for freedom. It is our moral duty and also our political duty.

[Translation]

SHRI SAJJAN VERMA (Dewas): Madam Speaker, commonwealth games are going to be held from 3rd October to 14th October 2010 in Delhi. This is a matter of concern for our nation that all the construction works related to games, be it the construction of stadia, or hotels, or flats by the DDA, are going on at a very slow pace. It is definitely a matter of concern as to whether these construction works would be completed by the time of commencement of the commonwealth games.

Madam Speaker, I understand that the Government should at least give clear directions to those agencies and persons who have taken up construction works so that the work may be done properly and on time, and the nation may not face embarrassment. At that time, many foreign dignitaries will visit our country. I understand that the pace of construction is being deliberately kept slow by those few agencies or people who want that construction work should be delayed so that they may be able to pressurize the organizers to agree to their terms and conditions. Therefore, this should be an issue of concern for the Government as well as the organisers, because sportsmen from different countries will visit our country. It should be our endeavour to ensure that our country could hold its head high at that time.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the power crisis in the country and say that a grave power crisis has emerged in the country at present. Today, the situation of power in most of the states of the country is fast deteriorating. The State Governments have made arrangements to supply power to the Block headquarters, District Headquarters, Tahseel headquarters for a few hours in a day. But the situation in rural areas is so bad that power is not being supplied for months in most of the villages. On the contrary, the Vidyut Mandals are sending consumers to jail on allegation of power theft and non-payment of bills. On the one side, power is not being supplied, and on the other, the electricity law enacted by the Union Government is being misused to unnecessarily send people to jail. I demand the Union Government to carry the power allocation process with States in an organized manner so that assistance may be provided to the States and the Central legislation may be repealed.

[English]

SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA (Chamrajanagar): Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards damages caused in the National Highway Nos. 209 and 212, which connect the Mysore city with the rest of the South Indian cities. These two highways have two major bridges, which are constructed across rivers Cauvery and Kabini.

Due to recent monsoon, flood water and flash flood water, both the bridges were damaged very badly. The flash flood water also breaches out the culvert in Kabini Bridge near Nanjanagud.

The Mysore-Nanjanagud NH 212 is one of the busiest roads in the State of Karnataka. It caters to thousands of daily commuters who shuttle between the two places. The inter-State vehicles proceeding to Kerala and Tamil Nadu also have to pass through Nanjanagud on this road.

In the similar way, traffic on T. Narasipura-Mysore Road, which is also a part of NH 212, has been disrupted due to damage occurred to the Cauvery river bridge. Again, the traffic has been diverted at this place as a precautionary measure.

So, I would like to request the Union Minister of Transport to take speedy steps to repair these two bridges as early as possible. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a very important issue before the House. This matter is in the interest of the Members of Parliament both from the ruling conglomerate as well as the opposition parties. We, the Member of Lok Sabha, are provided two coupons every year for facilitating admission of children in the central school. While the Rajya Sabha Members are permitted to get children admitted in any central school of their state, whereas the Lok Sabha Members are entitled to get children admitted in the central schools of their state, the Lok Sabha Members are entitled to get children admitted in the central schools of their parliamentary constituency only, provided, that the central school exists in that area. This is a very serious matter. The hon. Prime Minister, the leader of the House, Respected Soniaji and other Ministers are present in the House. I understand that all hon'ble Members will support me on this issue that we, too, should be given the right to get children admitted in any central school of the concerned state. ...(*Interruptions*). Besides, I would like to say that the number of coupons provided to us, is very less. These do not serve any purpose, therefore, the number thereof should be increased to at least five or ten. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down, you have stated your point.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: The hon. Prime Minister and the leader of the House are present here. ...(*Interruptions*) The Government should respond to this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing except the speech of Arjun Meghwalji will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. These matters are related to the zero hour. Reply is not given in this any time regard. You have expressed your views and they have listened to it, Shailendra Kumarji, sit down please.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue. 11 districts of Rajasthan are considered as desert districts. Now, these districts

are receiving some rain and snakes are coming out of their holes and biting the people. Snake-bite injections are sometimes available in district hospitals there, but if a villager goes CHC area from there, he is told that as he belongs to the CHC area, he should get snake-bite injection administered from there only. But in CHC it hardly remains available. On the other side, in the District Hospital injection is not administered to the people belonging to the CHC area. Mostly the BPL and the APL people belonging to the scheduled castes are subject to such treatment. I want that the Government of India should give permission to purchase snake-bite injections under the NRHM scheme, so that affected persons could be treated.

[*English*]

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (Ludhiana): Madam Speaker, there are credible reports which are emanating out of respected think-tanks around the world that the Republic of Myanmar is allegedly seeking the assistance of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for a clandestine Nuclear Weapons Programme. It would be worth pointing out that Myanmar is a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as well as the Safeguards Protocol of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Information which is available in the public space, including satellite imagery, suggests that extensive tunneling, almost 800 kilometres of tunneling and excavation, which is usually associated with preparations for an underground nuclear test, are being carried out in Myanmar with the active assistance of engineers from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Recently, there were reports that a freighter from North Korea, which was bound for Myanmar, had to turn back when it was shadowed by certain international ships because there was an apprehension that it was carrying nuclear-related material.

You are aware that D.P.R. Korea's Nuclear Programme has been a destabilizing factor in East Asia. But what is really very worrying from our point of view is the known historical link between Pakistan and D.P.R. Korea. In fact, D.P.R. Korea has been a net beneficiary of the Nuclear Wal-Mart which was being run by A.Q. Khan. In fact, this is one of the biggest travesties of justice that A.Q. Khan, who is probably the single biggest proliferator, and one of the persons who is responsible for destabilizing international security has never been brought to justice. It is my apprehension that now he is out of jail.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Madam Speaker, I will conclude in two minutes.

It is a great travesty that now that man is out of jail, that this particular network of his, which was allegedly supposed to have been wound up, has now become active once again. From India's point of view, you have China, which is a nuclear-weapon State up in the north; you have Pakistan which is a *de facto* nuclear weapon State in the west. If reports about Myanmar are true, it is indeed a very worrying specter which is appearing on the regional horizon. Even Secretary Clinton, after she left India and went to Thailand, has flagged this as a very important issue from the proliferation point of view.

My only request to the Government of India is that if these reports are emanating, and if these reports are correct, the Government of India should just be cognizant about them.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Hari Manjhi – not present.

Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Sir, in the absence of rain, paddy has not been sown in various districts of Jharkhand. Seeds of sown paddy have got ruined at many places. The farmers are facing grave economic crisis due to the ruin of the kharie crop.

Even after being carved out of Bihar, the state of Jharkhand is unable to implement programmes for development and poverty alleviation. Around 30 years

back an ambitious scheme, Konar Irrigation Project was formulated for Jharkhand. Had this Project been completed, thousands of acres of land of Jharkhand would have got irrigated. I had drawn the attention of the Government in this regard in the 11th, 12th and 13th Lok Sabha, but all in vain.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to declare Jharkhand as a drought hit state and issue necessary directions for early completion of the Konar Irrigation Project and necessary steps be taken for providing aid to the affected farmers.

[English]

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY (Kandhamal): Madam Speaker, I wish to draw the attention of this august House to the flood situation in Orissa. For the last one week, due to low pressure, there is flood havoc in North Orissa, South Orissa, and the eastern part of Orissa. Nearly 13 districts have been affected by this flood, and it claimed 37 lives. So, the flood situation is very grave. I would urge upon the Government to kindly rise to the occasion and send a Central team to study the grave situation in Orissa. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 24th July, 2009 at 11 a.m.

18.27 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, July 24, 2009/ Sravana 2, 1931 (Saka).

ANNEXURE I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1.	Shri Ahir Hansraj G.	289
2.	Shri Ajmal Badruddin	294
3.	Shri C. Sivasami	285
4.	Shri Chauhan Sanjay Singh	295
5.	Shri Dubey Nishikant	288
6.	Shri Gaddigoudar, P.C.	297
7.	Dr. Jagannath Manda	283
8.	Smt. Jayaprada	297
9.	Shri Khaire Chandrakant	300
10.	Shri Mahtab B.	293
11.	Shri Munda Arjun	287
12.	Shri Owaisi Asaduddin	281
13.	Shri Pandey Ravindra kumar	292
14.	Dr. Patasani, Prasanna Kumar	284
15.	Shri Patel, Bal Kumar	283
16.	Shri Rana Kadir	294
17.	Dr. Rao K.S.	296
18.	Shri Rao, Sambasiva Rayapati	291
19.	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	298
20.	Shri Reddy M. Raja Mohan	284
21.	Shri Reddy M. Sreenivasulu	286
22.	Shri Singh Ganesh	288
23.	Dr. Singh, Sanjay	292
24.	Shri Suresh Kodikkunnil	299
25.	Shri Tewari Manish	290
26.	Shri Wakchaure, Bhausahab Rajaram	282

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Prabhakar, Ponnamp	2645
2.	Shri Guddu, Premchand	2647, 2773, 2800
3.	Shri Acharia, Basu Deb	2690, 2759
4.	Shri Adhalarao Patil Shivaji	2745, 2755, 2784, 2796, 2808
5.	Shri Adsul Anandrao	2638, 2745, 2808, 2831, 2841
6.	Shri Agarwal Jai Prakash	2651, 2763, 2807, 2829, 2839
7.	Shri Agarwal, Rajendra	2633
8.	Shri Ahir Hansraj G.	2712, 2776, 2819, 2842
9.	Shri Ajmal Badruddin	2733
10.	Shri Baalu, T.R.	2671, 2744
11.	Shri Babar Gajanan D.	2699, 2737, 2755, 2774, 2810
12.	Shri Bavalia Kunvarjibhai Mohanbhai	2701, 2770
13.	Shri Bhadana Avtar Singh	2689, 2758
14.	Shri Bhagora Tarachand	2814
15.	Shri Bhujbal Sameer	2640, 2643
16.	Shri Bwiswmuthiary, Sansuma Khunggur	2665
17.	Shri C. Sivasami	2729, 2789, 2815, 2835
18.	Smt. Chakravarty Bijoya	2804
19.	Shri Chauhan, Prabhatsinh P.	2661, 2813
20.	Shri Chavan, Harishchandra	2653, 2764
21.	Shri Chitthan N.S.V.	2683, 2754
22.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	2668, 2741, 2798
23.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	2648, 2721, 2749, 2803
24.	Shri Deo, Kalikesh Narayan Singh	2649

1	2	3
25.	Shri Deora Milind	2646
26.	Shri Dhotre Sanjay	2702
27.	Shri Dubey Nishikant	2730, 2739, 2791, 2818
28.	Adv. Dudhgaonkar, Ganeshrao	2680
29.	Smt. Dutt Priya	2728
30.	Shri Gaddigoudar, P.C.	2771
31.	Shri Gadhvi Mukesh Bhairavdanji	2622, 2724
32.	Shri Gopal, L. Raja	2626, 2748, 2801, 2824
33.	Shri Gowda, D.V. Sadananda	2654
34.	Shri Jadhao, Prataprao Ganpatrao	2702
35.	Shri Jadhav Baliram	2680, 2697
36.	Shri Jaiswal, Gorakh Prasad	2636, 2740
37.	Shri Jawale Haribhau	2722
38.	Smt. Jayaprada	2724
39.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	2624, 2711
40.	Shri Joshi, Kailash	2657
41.	Shri Joshi, Mahesh	2670, 2743
42.	Dr. Joshi, Murli Manohar	2816
43.	Shri Joshi, Pralhad	2788, 2843
44.	Shri Kalmadi Suresh	2696, 2767, 2809
45.	Shri Khaire Chandrakant	2666, 2738, 2830
46.	Shri Kishor, Kamal "Commando"	2658
47.	Shri Kumar Vishwa Mohan	2652, 2737, 2821, 2837
48.	Shri Kumar, P.	2662, 2734
49.	Shri Kumar, Shailendra	2686
50.	Smt. Kumari Chandresh	2659
51.	Shri Laguri Yashbant	2660

1	2	3
52.	Shri Lingam P.	2648
53.	Shri Madam Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	2631, 2716, 2780, 2828, 2838
54.	Smt. Mahajan, Sumitra	2629, 2762, 2806
55.	Dr. Mahant, Charan Das	2682, 2698, 2768
56.	Shri Mahato, Narahari	2673
57.	Shri Majhi Pradeep	2669, 2742, 2799
58.	Shri Majumdar, Prasanta Kumar	2710
59.	Shri Meghwal Arjun	2685
60.	Shri Munda Arjun	2714, 2777, 2817
61.	Shri Muttemvar Vilas	2625, 2713, 2798, 2802
62.	Shri P. Balram	2797
63.	Dr. Naik, Sanjeev Ganesh	2703, 2740
64.	Shri Namdhari Inder Singh	2656
65.	Shri Narayanrao Sonawane Pratap	2688
66.	Shri Owaisi Asaduddin	2726, 2787, 2808
67.	Shri Pal, Jagdambika	2682, 2753, 2805, 2826
68.	Shri Panda, Baijayant	2676
69.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	2678, 2721, 2749
70.	Shri Pandey Ravindra Kumar	2732, 2794, 2821, 2836
71.	Dr. Pandey, Vinay Kumar	2620, 2708, 2779, 2816
72.	Dr. Patasani, Prasanna Kumar	2723, 2786, 2814, 2834
73.	Shri Patel Devji M.	2642, 2719, 2783, 2827
74.	Smt. Patel, Jayshreeben	2632, 2692, 2717, 2781
75.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	2669, 2742, 2799

1	2	3
76.	Shri Pathak Harin	2692
77.	Prof. Ramshankar	2706, 2772
78.	Shri Rana Jagdish Singh	2782
79.	Shri Rana Kadir	2637, 2718, 2782
80.	Dr. Rao K.S.	2722, 2785, 2812, 2837
81.	Shri Rao, Sambasiva Rayapati	2731, 2793
82.	Shri Rathwa Ramsinh	2627, 2707, 2792, 2820
83.	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	2735, 2762, 2795, 2822
84.	Shri Ray, Rudramadhab	2681, 2694, 2786, 2808
85.	Shri Reddy M. Sreenivasulu	2725, 2790, 2816, 2840
86.	Shri Reddy, K.J.S.P.	2640
87.	Shri Roy Nripendra Nath	2623, 2710
88.	Shri Sahu, Chandu Lal	2677
89.	Adv. Sampath, A.	2664, 2736
90.	Shri Saroj, Tufani	2639
91.	Shri Satyanarayana, Sarvey	2644, 2808
92.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	2667, 2739, 2749
93.	Shri Sethi Arjun	2641
94.	Shri Sharma, Jagdish	2672, 2814, 2816
95.	Shri, Anto Antony	2687, 2757, 2823
96.	Shri Siddeshwara, G.M.	2621, 2715, 2778, 2811
97.	Shri Sidhu, Navjot Singh	2693, 2765
98.	Dr. Singh Bhola	2694
99.	Shri Singh Dushyant	2704, 2705
100.	Shri Singh Ganesh	2679, 2756
101.	Shri Singh Pashupati Nath	2737, 2799, 2836, 2837

1	2	3
102.	Shri Singh Radha Mohan	2675, 2747, 2798
103.	Dr. Singh Raghuvansh Prasad	2695, 2766
104.	Shri Singh Rakesh	2630
105.	Shri Singh Uday	2634, 2760
106.	Shri Singh, Brijbhushan Sharan	2655, 2751
107.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan <i>Alias</i> Lalan Singh	2672, 2814
108.	Shri Sugavanam, E.G.	2635, 2754
109.	Smt. Sule, Supriya	2649, 2739, 2740, 2808, 2816
110.	Shri Suresh Kodikkunnil	2709, 2775, 2823
111.	Shri Swamy N. Cheluvaram	2628, 2752, 2804, 2825
112.	Shri Thakor Jagdish	2724, 2806
113.	Shri Thakur Anurag Singh	2816
114.	Shri Thomas P.T.	2650
115.	Shri Tomar Narendra Singh	2679, 2750, 2800
116.	Shri Toppo Joseph	2691, 2761
117.	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	2636, 2740
118.	Shri Verma Sajjan	2674, 2746, 2800, 2832
119.	Smt. Verma, Usha	2637, 2720, 2753, 2762
120.	Shri Wakchaure, Bhausaheb Rajaram	2727, 2788, 2813, 2833
121.	Shri Yadav Dinesh Chandra	2700, 2769
122.	Shri Yadav Om Prakash	2684, 2755
123.	Prof. Yadav Ranjan Prasad	2766
124.	Yogi, Aditya Nath	2663

ANNEXURE II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions

Finance	:	410, 414, 415, 416
Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	:	404, 411
New and Renewable Energy	:	419
Panchayati Raj	:	412, 418
Power	:	402, 409, 420
Rural Development	:	401, 403, 407, 417
Tourism	:	
Tribal Affairs	:	
Urban Development	:	405
Women and Child Development	:	406, 408, 413

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Finance	:	3845, 3846, 3851, 3853, 3854, 3857, 3862, 3863, 3864, 3874, 3876, 3878, 3880, 3886, 3887, 3901, 3902, 3914, 3919, 3923, 3926, 3928, 3929, 3930, 3933, 3942, 3949, 3955, 3959, 3967, 3968, 3978, 3981, 3983, 3988, 3989, 3991, 3999, 4000, 4004, 4005, 4006, 4007, 4008, 4009, 4010, 4011, 4012, 4013, 4014, 4016, 4017, 4021, 4023, 4024, 4025
Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	:	3889, 3894, 3904, 3920, 3931, 3937, 3944, 3945, 3956, 3972, 4015
New and Renewable Energy	:	3852, 3883, 3896, 3950, 3953, 3962, 3963, 3973, 3985, 3998, 4022
Panchayati Raj	:	3881, 3924, 3958
Power	:	3844, 3855, 3856, 3870, 3872, 3891, 3895, 3900, 3903, 3911, 3913, 3941, 3946, 3954, 3965, 3966, 3990, 3993, 3997, 4019
Rural Development	:	3847, 3869, 3877, 3882, 3892, 3893, 3899, 3907, 3909, 3916, 3936, 3938, 3943, 3948, 3957, 3960, 3974, 3987, 3994, 4001
Tourism	:	3859, 3873, 3925, 3932, 3940, 3951, 3977, 3980, 3984, 3992, 4003
Tribal Affairs	:	3861, 3866, 3868, 3935, 3961, 3970
Urban Development	:	3848, 3849, 3850, 3858, 3860, 3867, 3885, 3888, 3890, 3897, 3898, 3905, 3910, 3915, 3921, 3922, 3927, 3934, 3939, 3947, 3952, 3975, 3978, 3982, 3986, 4002, 4018, 4020
Women and Child Development	:	3865, 3871, 3875, 3879, 3884, 3906, 3908, 3912, 3917, 3918, 3964, 3969, 3971, 3976, 3995, 3996

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