

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



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Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates

(English Version)

Thursday, August 6, 2009/Sravana 15, 1931(Saka)

* * *

Col No./line

For

Read

35/1

Shri Virenoer Kashyap

Shri Virender Kashyap

198/9 from below

(a)

(a) and (b)

CONTENTS

Fifteenth Series, Vol. IV, Second Session, 2009/1931 (Saka)

No. 25, Thursday, August 6, 2009/Sravana 15, 1931 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
 ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 461	4-9
 WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 462 to 480	9-58
Unstarred Question Nos. 4486 to 4666	58-296
 PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	 296-298
 STATEMENTS BY MINISTER	
(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 45th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Action Taken by the Government on the 40th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2008-09), pertaining to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries	
Shri Subodh Kant Sahay	298-299
(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 77th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2008-09), pertaining to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs	
Shri Salman Khursheed	299-300
 MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need to set up a Seed Production Farm of Chillies and Turmeric at the Lam Agricultural Research Farm of the Acharya Ranga Agricultural University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh and provide necessary funds for the same	
Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao	322
(ii) Need to procure stocks of imported pulses lying at Kolkata Port	
Shri Jagdambika Pal	323

*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.

(iii)	Need to take steps for the revival and growth of pineapple industry in Kerala	
	Shri P.T. Thomas	323-324
(iv)	Need to expedite award of work for construction of railway wagons to the lowest bidder i.e. M/s Cimmco Birla Limited, Bharatpur, Rajasthan	
	Shri Ratan Singh	324
(v)	Need to review the Extra-Ordinary Gazette Notification dated 09-07-2009 detailing new Minimum Business conditions for LIC Agents	
	Shri K.C. Venugopal	324-325
(vi)	Need to make the Jogulamba Railway Halt in Alampoor, Andhra Pradesh as a full-fledged railway station	
	Dr. Manda Jagannath	325
(vii)	Need to allow plying of vehicular traffic during night time on NDH-212 between Kerala and Karnataka	
	Shri M.I. Shanavas	325-326
(viii)	Need to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya, Engineering College, Medical College and ITI in Lohardaga Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand	
	Shri Sudarshan Bhagat	326-327
(ix)	Need to develop Taregna near Patna, Bihar as a Centre for Research and Study in Astronomy	
	Shri Radha Mohan Singh	327
(x)	Need to open Indian Institute of Information Technology and Indian Institute of Management in Himachal Pradesh	
	Shri Anurag Singh Thakur	327-328
(xi)	Need to enhance the financial grant provided to Beedi workers for construction of houses	
	Shri Virendra Kumar	328
(xii)	Need to undertake repair works of National Highway between Saiyedraja and Zamania in Chandauli district, Uttar Pradesh	
	Shri Ramkishun	328-329

SUBJECT

COLUMNS

- (xiii) Need to allow Members of Lok Sabha who do not have Kendriya Vidyalayas in their Parliamentary Constituencies to recommend admission of children in Kendriya Vidyalayas outside their constituencies

Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq 329

- (xiv) Need to release funds for construction of a building for Navodaya Vidyalaya in Khagaria district, Bihar

Shri Dinesh Chandra Yadav 329-330

- (xv) Need to include Sea Erosion under the definition of National Disaster/ Natural Calamity for providing relief to the affected fishermen community living along coastal areas

Shrimati J. Helen Davidson 330

- (xvi) Need to set up additional Anganwadi centers in Kandhamal district of Orissa

Shri Rudramadhab Ray 330-331

METRO RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009

Motion to Consider

Shri S. Jaipal Reddy 333-336

Clauses 2 to 16 and 1 336

Shri Lalu Yadav 337

Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal 337-339

Shri Rakesh Singh 339

Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay 339-340

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav 340-341

Shri Sharad Yadav 341-342

Shri Tathagata Satpathy 342-343

Shri T.R. Baalu 343-344

Shri Basu Deb Acharia 344-348

Shri Deepender Singh Hooda 348-349

Shri Mahabal Mishra 350

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki	350-352
Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani	352
Shri S. Jaipal Reddy	353-361
Motion to Pass	361
RUBBER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009	
Motion to Consider	
Shri Prithviraj Chavan	361-362
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	363-366
DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193	
Rise in prices of essential commodities	
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	369-375
Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain	375-385
Dr. K.S. Rao	385-395
Shri Shailendra Kumar	395-400
Shri Lalu Prasad	400-407
Shri Radha Mohan Singh	407-409
Shri Bhudeo Choudhary	409-412
Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay	412-414
Shri B. Mahtab	414-417
Shri Ganesh Singh	417-419
Shri Dara Singh Chauhan	419-421
Shri Anant Gangaram Geete	421-425
Shri S. Semmalai	425-427
Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal	427-428
Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty	429-433
Shri K. Narayan Rao	433-434
Shri Mahabal Mishra	434-439

Shri Rakesh Singh	439-441
Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala	442-444
Shri Prabodh Panda	444-446
Shri S.S. Ramasubbu	446-448
Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar	448-449
Shri Nripendra Nath Roy	449-450
Shri Bansa Gopal Chowdhury	450-452
Shri T.K.S. Elangovan	452-453
Shri Manohar Tirkey	454-455

ANNEXURE-I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	459-460
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	460-466

ANNEXURE-II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	467-468
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	467-470

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 6, 2009/Sravana 15, 1931 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam, I had given notice for the adjournment of the question hour ...*(Interruptions)*.

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Madam Speaker, we had given notice for the adjournment of the question hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the question hour run.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go in record. All this will not go in record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: You had given notice for 4th to speak during the zero hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Put forth your points in the zero hour. Let the question hour run.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Raise your point in the zero hour. You had to raise this issue in the House on 4th, but due to some reasons, you were not present in the House. You may raise this issue today during the zero hour, but now let the question hour run.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the question hour run.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MADAM SPEAKER: Raise this matter in the zero hour. Whatever may be your issue, raise that during the zero hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You had discussed with me in this regard and I had told you that I would allow you to raise this issue on 4th during the zero hour. But due to some reasons, you were not present in the House at that time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let me speak for a minute. Even today, I do not have a notice for the adjournment of the question hour, but as only two days of this session are left, therefore, I want that you may please let the question hour run. After the question hour, you may raise this issue properly during the zero hour.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam, try to understand his feelings.

MADAM SPEAKER: I am understanding his feelings. You must let the question hour run.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 461, Shri Naveen Jindal.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You may raise this issue during the zero hour. You may raise this issue immediately after the question hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Ajnalaji, you may raise the issue immediately after the question hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.04 hrs.

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

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: I am understanding your point. Go to your seat. There is no need to suspend the question hour.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: As soon as the question hour is over, raise this issue.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: There is no need to suspend the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: I understand but there is no need to suspend the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, the Government should make a statement clarifying the position. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please go back to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please go back to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): If you do not want the Question Hour permanently, there is no problem; you suspend the Question Hour permanently. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: The Leader of the House is saying something.

...(Interruptions)

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

11.08 hrs.

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

11.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty Minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

[MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: This issue is related to the Sikh minority...(Interruptions). They want to do bifurcation...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please maintain calm. You may please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: The Haryana Government wants to create a separate Sikh Gurdawara Prabhandhak Committee...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You were called on 4th, if this matter was so urgent, why did you not turn up on that day?

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down on your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 461, Shri Naveen Jinda.

11.31 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Growth of Air Traffic

*461. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether air traffic in India has grown manifold in the past five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is developing an effective strategy to strengthen the regulatory mechanism

and safety system of India's aviation sector to meet international safety obligations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The percentage growth of aircraft movements, passenger traffic and freight (both domestic and international) during the last five years are as under:

Year	Aircraft Movements	Passengers	Freight
2004-05	11.88	21.53	19.67
2005-06	16.80	23.71	09.29
2006-07	28.60	31.40	11.00
2007-08	21.30	21.20	10.60
2008-09	-00.10	-06.80	-01.00

(c) and (d) Safety regulations in India are primarily based on Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) issued by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and are regularly amended by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) whenever new SARPs are introduced. In addition, DGCA from time to time reviews and amends its regulations as per international standards and aviation requirements of the country. DGCA itself has been strengthened to meet international safety obligations.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Madam Speaker, I compliment the hon. Minister for the impressive growth in the Civil Aviation Sector during the last five years—except 2008-09, which is due to global economic crisis—and still maintaining very high safety standards ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Only the speech of Shri Naveen Jindal will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not come into the well.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

11.33 hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala, Shri Ganesh Singh and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: We have all experienced that while flying in or out of Delhi and Mumbai, invariably there are inordinate delays. We have all experienced heavy congestion at Delhi Airport due to which aircrafts have to keep hovering for almost an hour at times ...*(Interruptions)* This results in very high fuel burn causing further losses to the Airlines, which are already incurring huge losses to the tune of more than Rs. 10,000 crore...*(Interruptions)*

It also adds to global warming unnecessarily ...*(Interruptions)* Having too many aircrafts in the airspace stacked up has safety issues too...*(Interruptions)*

This unhealthy situation of congestion occurs as our airport infrastructure has not been able to keep pace with the growth in air traffic... *(Interruptions)*

In my view, the infrastructure has not come up due to the restrictive guidelines of the Government not to allow any greenfield airport within an aerial distance of 150 kilometres of an existing civilian airports ■ *.(Interruptions)**

Madam, London city with a population of 8.5 million people has five international airports. New York city has 12 airports and Los Angeles has six airports. But the National Capital Region of India with a population of 36 million people has only one airport...*.(Interruptions)*

Madam, I would like to ask the hon. Minister if the Government would remove the restriction of 150 kilometres for opening a new airport, and allow new airports to come up freely so that people can not only choose to fly their favourite airline but also choose their convenient airport...*.(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Minister.

...*.(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Madam Speaker, the hon. Member has raised a very pertinent issue, and I do accept that the air traffic in India has grown substantially in the last few years, which has resulted in a lot of pressure on our existing airports especially in Mumbai, Delhi and other metropolitan cities...*.(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

...*.(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister reply.

...*.(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what the hon. Minister is saying.

*.(Interruptions)...**

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: We do concede that there is a need to upgrade and modernize the infrastructure as well as to see creation of more airports in the larger metropolitan cities...*.(Interruptions)* The Central Government has given the permission for creation of a

second Greenfield airport at Navi Mumbai...*.(Interruptions)* The Government of Maharashtra has given us, in principle, approval...*.(Interruptions)*

There have been requests from the States of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana as well as Rajasthan seeking creation of further infrastructure in their States. They want 150 kilometre guidelines to be relaxed ...*.(Interruptions)* However, the issue—because of the contractual nature—was taken up in the previous Government, and an Empowered Group of Ministers was constituted by the hon. Prime Minister to sort out the legal and contractual issues arising out of the joint venture agreement...*.(Interruptions)* No decision has yet been taken in the matter...*.(Interruptions)*

The spirit with which the Question has been asked and the creation of more infrastructure like in many major countries across the world where big cities have more than one airport, certainly it needs to be re-looked at.... *.(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Madam, all over the world to avoid congestion and improve safety, the concept of time slots is given for take off from an airport and landing into another, which is very well coordinated and it helps in avoiding of bunching up of aircrafts over an airport. Sophisticated satellite based equipment is available to monitor this.... *.(Interruptions)*

Madam, I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. Is there any plan to introduce the system of time slots?...*.(Interruptions)*

Also, recently ICAO and US Federal Aviation Authority had conducted safety oversight audit of the Indian aviation sector and had made various recommendations to be implemented in a time bound manner. ...*.(Interruptions)* I would like to know from the hon. Minister the progress of implementation of their recommendations. Thank you. ...*.(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: There are issues which the hon. Member has raised and certainly they deserve our consideration in terms of management of the time slots at airports for smoother flows of air traffic management.*.(Interruptions)* I will only tell this House at this

*Not recorded.

junction that we have appointed a company which is a non-profit organization promoted by the US Federal Aviation Authority to give us procedures of traffic flows, especially in bigger cities, and advise us how more effectively we can use our airspace and allow more movement of aircraft. ...(*Interruptions*)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Pantry Cars in Trains

*462. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for attaching pantry cars in trains;

(b) the details of the important long distance trains which are proposed to be provided with pantry cars in the current year;

(c) the details of such long distance express trains which continue to run without having pantry cars;

(d) whether any action plan has been drawn up by the Railways to provide pantry cars to more number of such trains; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Attachment of Pantry Cars to the trains is considered on the basis of various factors such as the availability of rolling stock, the duration of the journey, priority of the train, the timings, commercial justification, operational feasibility etc.

(b), (d) and (e) Plan for attachment of pantry cars on long distance trains in the current year is under finalization.

(c) 139 pairs of long distance Mail/Express trains having running time of more than 24 hours are not provided with pantry cars. Service of food in these trains is provided through train side vending facilities as well as catering facilities at stations enroute.

Operation of Foreign Airlines

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

(a) whether the operation of foreign airlines in the non-domestic sector in the country has increased substantially during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to review its policy under which the Ministry/the appropriate authority accords air traffic routes to foreign airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) In the summer of 2004, foreign airlines operated 711 services per week to/from India which was increased to 1315 services per week by the summer of 2009. The increase is around 85 per cent over 5 years. Correspondingly, the number of passengers has risen from around 14 million to 27 million to/from India in that period. The increase is around 90 per cent.

(c) and (d) Traffic rights for operation of international air services are specified in bilateral Air Services Agreements concluded with the various foreign countries and is part of an on-going process, depending upon traffic demand, balance of benefit to Indian carriers, overall interest of Indian economy together with diplomatic/political considerations. These agreements are based on the principles of sovereignty of nations and reciprocity, in which a balance of opportunities and benefits are paramount.

Liberalisation in international services is an ongoing process, which benefits the national economy as a whole giving a boost to the tourism and commercial sectors. It also addresses the need of the large NRI population working overseas. Also, liberal exchange of traffic rights has helped in adding capacity on international routes for benefit of the travelling public and also opening up commercial opportunities for Indian carriers.

Allocation of Fertilizers

*464. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of imported fertilizers including Muriate of Potash (MOP) allocated and released to each State during each of the last three years and current year;

(b) whether the Union Government has received a request from the Government of Orissa for increase in its quota to meet the requirement of the State;

(c) if so, the status thereof; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Union Government to ensure that the quota released actually reaches the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The State-wise quantum of imported fertilizers namely Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP) supplied during the last three years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and during current Kharif '09 (April '09-July '09) are enclosed as Statement-I.

State Government writes to the Department of Fertilizers regarding availability of fertilizers, as per their assessed requirement, from time to time and the Department takes prompt action to resolve the issues raised by the State Government. The availability of fertilizers namely Urea, DAP and MOP and Complex fertilizers during Kharif '09 (April '09 to July '09) in Orissa is given in the enclosed Statement-II. As can be seen that there is no shortage of Urea, DAP and Complex fertilizer except MOP in July '09, the supply of which will be made during August '09.

(d) The steps taken to ensure that fertilizers reach the State are as under:

- (i) The movement of fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Fertiliser Monitoring System (FMS);
- (ii) The subsidy on fertilizer is being paid only when it reaches the district;
- (iii) Department of Fertilizers operates Buffer Stock of Urea, DAP and MOP through State Institutional Agencies/fertilizer companies in major fertilizer consuming States to the tune of 6.25 LMT, 3.50 LMT and 1.00 LMT respectively;
- (iv) Department of Fertilizers has notified uniform freight subsidy scheme to transport fertilizers upto block level.
- (v) The gap between requirement and indigenous production of Urea and DAP is met through imports. There is no indigenous production of MOP and hence the entire requirement of MOP is met through imports.
- (vi) 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 revival and greenfield projects in the country.

Statement-I

State-wise Allocation of Imported fertilizers during last 3 years and current year Kharif '09 (April '09 to July '09)

State	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09			2009-10 (April to July '09)		
	Urea	DAP*	MOP	Urea	DAP*	MOP	Urea	DAP*	MOP	Urea	DAP*	MOP
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	9.78	0.56	3.95	12.63	1.32	4.51	11.40	7.23	6.29	0.92	2.85	0.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Karnataka	2.80	1.37	3.08	6.21	0.78	3.29	4.04	4.74	5.05	1.16	2.34	1.54
Kerala	0.55	0.07	1.24	0.73	0.07	1.13	0.95	0.13	1.50	0.22	0.13	0.60
Tamil Nadu	2.16	1.15	4.21	5.06	1.45	4.89	5.67	3.13	5.87	0.97	1.29	1.09
Gujarat	3.66	1.44	1.53	6.92	0.98	1.89	7.03	4.01	2.24	1.29	1.57	0.69
Madhya Pradesh	2.99	2.71	0.59	3.85	3.69	0.67	1.84	6.89	1.14	0.37	3.69	0.11
Chhattisgarh	1.76	0.41	0.52	1.96	0.09	0.53	0.92	1.17	0.89	0.41	0.89	0.42
Maharashtra	2.69	1.26	2.60	8.21	1.38	3.26	5.74	6.16	4.94	1.25	4.98	1.72
Rajasthan	2.71	2.99	0.02	3.28	3.29	0.23	2.61	4.82	0.29	0.23	1.27	0.07
Haryana	2.59	3.53	0.20	3.33	4.01	0.32	2.22	6.04	0.50	0.38	1.22	0.11
Punjab	2.70	4.69	0.41	3.35	5.26	0.55	2.59	7.78	0.98	0.36	1.62	0.07
Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.30	0.11	0.00	0.15	0.07	0.00	0.51	0.14	0.00	0.10	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	5.09	5.59	0.81	10.03	5.50	1.20	9.03	10.94	2.67	1.44	4.18	0.25
Uttaranchal	0.03	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.05	0.00	0.19	0.08	0.00	0.01	0.00
Bihar	1.87	1.44	0.78	0.92	1.42	1.11	0.73	2.48	2.16	0.00	0.63	0.32
Jharkhand	0.12	0.00	0.01	0.05	0.07	0.09	0.00	0.23	0.16	0.00	0.16	0.03
Orissa	1.36	0.01	0.91	1.83	0.01	0.91	0.73	0.11	1.49	0.00	0.13	0.28
West Bengal	2.55	0.44	2.80	3.67	0.18	2.56	1.96	1.23	4.78	0.08	0.63	0.61
Assam	0.02	0.02	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.21	0.12	1.15	0.00	0.05	0.14
All India	45.45	28.04	24.39	72.19	29.69	27.87	57.73	67.94	42.52	9.10	27.77	9.07

*DAP includes TSP/MAP

Statement-II*Availability of Fertilizers in the State of Orissa during Kharif 2009 (April '09 to July '09)***UREA**

Month	Requirement	Opening Stock	Receipts	Availability	Sales
April-09	10000	11350	15340	26690	6020

Month	Requirement	Opening Stock	Receipts	Availability	Sales
May-09	20000	20670	26200	46870	9100
June-09	40000	37770	20720	58490	20830
July-09	100000	37660	59060	96720	58560
August-09	130000		*130000	130000	
Cumulative Total	300000			@ 262670	94510
DAP					
April-09	2000	10	7330	7340	7330
May-09	5000	10	10360	10370	4740
June-09	24000	5630	58170	63800	33930
July-09	48000	24250	52062	76312	34650
August-09	38000		44000	44000	
Cumulative Total	117000			@ 171932	80650
MOP					
April-09	2500	19590	1980	21570	2730
May-09	12500	18770	5080	23850	7120
June-09	24500	16800	8890	25690	16310
July-09	37500	9380	15510	24890	10180
August-09	24000		*9000	9000	
Cumulative Total	101000			@ 60050	46340
Complex					
April-09	6700	10600	3560	14160	3550
May-09	17600	10610	22720	33330	17130
June-09	35300	16210	33380	49590	22390
July-09	65700	27200	57930	85130	43060
August-09	52500		*36900	36900	
Comulative Total	177800			@ 165090	86130

[Translation]

Processing of Fishes

*465. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is being run for providing grant-in-aid to private entrepreneurs and other agencies for construction of cold storages and purchasing of fish processing machines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of grants-in-aid approved during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for development of infrastructure for preservation and processing of fishes in the country especially in the coastal region?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Yes Madam. Government of India has taken various steps for the development of infrastructural facilities for preservation and processing of the fishery sector in the country including coastal regions of the country. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries through its Plan Schemes promotes infrastructure development like mega food park, integrated cold chain facilities, packaging center etc for development of food processing sector including fishery sector. The scheme of Integrated Cold Chain envisages financial assistance in the form of grant in aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and @75% for North Eastern Region and difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim subject to a maximum of Rs 10 crore. The scheme for Cold Chain have the following components:—

(a) Minimal Processing Centre at the farm level and this Centre is to have facility for weighing, sorting, grading, waxing, packing, pre-cooling, cold storage, normal storage and Individual Quick Frozen (IQF)

(b) Mobile pre-cooling vans and reefer trucks.

(c) Distribution hubs with Controlled Atmosphere Chambers/Cold Storage/Variable Humidity Chambers, Packing facility, IQF and blast freezing.

The initiatives are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening the cold chain infrastructure, creating value addition etc.

Further, under the scheme of technology upgradation/setting up and modernization of food processing industries, the Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of grants-in-aid for the sector to implementing agencies @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas. The financial assistance released under the scheme for fish processing industries in the last three years is at Statement-I.

Further, the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) under Ministry of Agriculture has the following schemes for providing financial assistance for the development of facilities for preservation and processing of fishes: (i) Fish dressing centers and solar drying of fish (ii) Deep sea fishing and tuna processing (iii) Infrastructure for post harvest processing (iv) Domestic fish market. The financial assistance released under the scheme in the last three years is at Statement-II.

The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture under the scheme of "Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations" provides financial assistance to various agencies for development of (i) Fish preservation and storage infrastructure such as ice plants, cold storage etc and (ii) marketing and fish transport infrastructure such as retail vending kiosks, aqua shops, refrigerated vehicles, mini trucks, auto rickshaws with ice box, motorcycle/bicycles with ice box, fish display cabinets and allied equipments. The financial assistance released under the scheme in the last three years is at Statement-III.

Besides, the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Ministry of Commerce operates various schemes involving subsidy for setting up of

infrastructure facilities development for preservation and processing of fish for export especially in the coastal regions such as (i) Assistance for processing machinery and equipment for value addition (ii) Cold Chain—financial support provided for acquisition of Refrigerated Truck/Containers, for setting up large cold storages, subsidized distribution of insulated fish boxes, for setting up ice plants (iii) Infrastructure facilities for seafood industry—financial assistance for creation of basic facilities for chilled fish/chilled Tuna for export. The

financial assistance released under the scheme in the last three years is at Statement-IV.

Statement-I

State-wise information on the amount of grants-in-aids approved/released by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) during the last three years for setting up/expansion/upgradation/modernization of fish processing units is given below:

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

State	2006-07 Amount released	2007-08 Amount released	2008-09 Amount released
Andhra Pradesh	50.00	33.22	25.00
Goa	22.58		
Gujarat			25.00
Karnataka	50.00		50.00
Kerala	103.29	191.31	161.34
Maharashtra		25.00	23.00
Manipur	11.15	30.68	
Orissa	25.00	25.00	
Tamil Nadu	46.03	8.75	50.00
West Bengal	68.87	93.89	62.10
	376.92	407.85	396.44

Statement-II

The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) under the schemes for creation of facilities for preservation and processing of fishes have released an amount of Rs. 5.61 lakhs during 2008-09* as detailed under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Scheme	Amount
1	2	3	4
1.	Tamil Nadu (TNFDC)	Domestic marketing	75

1	2	3	4
		Fish dressing centers and solar drying of fish	1,00
2.	West Bengal (State Fisheries Deptt.)	Fish dressing centers and solar drying of fish	0,46
3.	Andhra Pradesh (NIPHATT)	Deep sea fishing and tuna processing	1,85
4.	Maharashtra	Infrastructure for post-harvest processing	1,55
		Total	5,61

*NFDB was registered on 10-07-2006 with the Registrar of Societies, Hyderabad and no fund was released during 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Statement-III

Funds released by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture under the Scheme of Strengthening of Post Harvest Infrastructure during the last three years is as under:

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

State/Organisation	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh	50.00		
Haryana (Agri Marketing Board)	42.32		
Himachal Pradesh			25.00
Jharkhand (Suman Mahila Vikas Samiti)	18.00		
Karnataka Fisheries Devp. Corp.	74.00	30.40	
Maharashtra Fisheries Devp. Corp.	26.21	5.00	
Mizoram	32.50		
Orissa	18.00		
Rajasthan		15.00	
Tamil Nadu	50.00	26.25	
Tripura	20.00		
FISHCOPPED	25.00		
Malpe Fishermen Primary Coop.	18.00		

1	2	3	4
Karnataka (Sea shine Ice Plant)	9.87		
Mangalore Trawl Boat Coop. Society	22.48	22.48	
Karnataka (Mangalore Yanthrika Saharaki Sangh)	25.00	25.00	
Karnataka Coop. Fisheries Federation	25.00	30.00	20.22
NCDC	24.00		10.00
Matsyakanya Coop. Society, Aurangabad		25.00	
Matsyaraj Ice Plant, Malpe, Karnataka			25.00
Dayalakshmi Ice Plant, Udupi, Karnataka			15.00
Vinayaka Ice Plant, Pandubettu, Karnataka			15.00
Joint Selungkong Pisciculture Coop. Society, Manipur			6.00
Nagaland Agri. and Horti. Produce Mrktg. Society Dimapur			20.00
North Canara Dist. Coop. Fish Mrktg Ltd., Karwar, Karnataka			50.00
Total	480.38	179.13	186.22

Statement-IV

A State-wise detail of subsidy disbursed by MPEDA under the Scheme for induction of new technology, modernization of processing facilities and development of infrastructure facilities during the last three years is given below:

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Gujarat	81.18	319.14	375.00
Maharashtra	221.60	206.28	196.76
Goa	30.85	24.79	33.03
Karnataka	50.88	3.00	245.96
Kerala	192.30	243.53	214.13
Tamil Nadu	28.33	104.97	160.37
Andhra Pradesh	210.65	98.92	119.13

State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Orissa	19.19	18.61	118.40
West Bengal	23.14	19.35	14.09
Total	858.12	1038.59	1476.87

[English]

Indo-Oman Gas Pipeline Project

*466. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of the Indo-Oman gas pipeline project;
- (b) the details of gas to be supplied to the country as per the production sharing contract signed by the Gas Authority of India Ltd. with the Government of Oman;
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to revive an undersea project to address energy shortage in the country; and
- (d) the time by which the project is likely to be fructified?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) An Agreement on Principal Terms for supply of 56.6 million standard cubic meter per day (mmscmd) natural gas through pipeline from Oman to India was signed between the Government of Oman and the Government of India in 1994. Pursuant to the above, GAIL and Oman Oil Company jointly carried out feasibility study of the Oman-India Deepwater Gas Pipeline. However, the Project could not move ahead due to, *inter alia*, the technical feasibility of the Project not being established and inadequate gas reserves for the Project.

In recent years, there have been significant technological advancements in the field of Deep Sea Gas transportation technology. Accordingly, for the last few years, interest has been revived in deep sea gas pipeline route from Middle-East to India. Gas supplies

from several gas rich countries of Middle East through Gas Gathering pipeline with Hub in Oman (or its proximity) have been proposed, so as to supply gas to Indian Coast through the said Deep Sea Pipeline. GAIL (India) Ltd. has entered into a Principles of Cooperation in the month of July 2009 for developing the pipeline Project. As such, the proposal is at its initial stage.

- (d) Such projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the parties concerned and to protect each party's interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the Project. Therefore, no definite time frame can be indicated for commencement as well as completion of the project at this stage.

[Translation]

Gas Sale Agreement between ONGC and GAIL

*467. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

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

- (a) whether a Gas Sale Agreement (GSA) has been signed between the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) and the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for sale of the Administrative Price Mechanism (APM) gas produced by ONGC from its oil fields;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the price at which the APM gas will be supplied to GAIL as per the GSA;
- (d) whether the sale price of APM gas under GSA

is much below the price charged by the privately-operated fields;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the manner in which the GSA will benefit GAIL?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) A Gas Supply Agreement (GSA) for supply of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) gas was signed between Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and GAIL (India) on 07-07-2006. The GSA is valid for 15 years, i.e., till 06-07-2021. The GSA covers APM gas supplies through about 100 custody transfer points spread across various locations in the country. GAIL will offtake 90% of the adjusted Annual Contract quantity or nevertheless pay for it. Invoicing would take place twice a month and GAIL would make payment within seven days.

(c) The price of gas is according to Government orders prevailing from time to time.

(d) and (e) The consumer price of APM gas is Rs. 32001 thousand standard cubic meter (mscm) for power and fertilizers sector consumers. The APM gas price of small consumers having allocation of less than 0.05 million standard cubic meter per day (mmscmd) and court-mandated consumers is Rs. 3840/mscm.

The price of natural gas for customers in North-East has been kept at 60% of the price in the rest of the country. Accordingly, the price for power and fertilizers sector in the North-East is Rs. 1920/mscm and that for court mandated and small consumers in the region is Rs. 2304/mscm. The above price is at Net Calorific Value (NCV) of 10,000 Kcal/scm and is excluding royalty.

Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted by Government to consider *inter alia* issues pertaining to pricing of natural gas produced under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) has approved the price of gas produced from NELP fields. As regards pre-NELP Joint Venture (JV) gas, its pricing is governed in terms of the provisions of Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) signed between the Government and the JV.

The price of APM gas is substantially below the

price charged by privately operated fields, as APM gas is produced by National Oil Companies, viz., ONGC and OIL, from nominated gas fields and is supplied mainly to priority sector customers.

(f) Based on the projections made available by ONGC on yearly basis as per GSA, GAIL would plan pipeline capacities and also additional tie up from other sources for down stream distribution.

[English]

Implementation of Report on Fuel Prices

*468. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN:

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

(a) the major recommendations made in the B.K. Chaturvedi Committee Report on fuel prices;

(b) whether the Government has examined the recommendations; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) The main recommendations made in the B.K. Chaturvedi Committee Report are given below:

- (i) Change Refinery Gate Pricing, from the current Trade Parity (for Petrol and Diesel) and Import Parity (for Kerosene and LPG), to Free on Board (FOB) Export Parity basis.
- (ii) The price of Petrol should be adjusted to fully reflect international prices by March, 2009 and the price of Diesel be adjusted to fully reflect international prices in 24 months time.
- (iii) Sale of Diesel to industrial and commercial users should be at market prices, to be negotiated on commercial considerations.
- (iv) Once these price adjustments are completed, Government should disengage from the process of pricing of petroleum products, and allow

pricing to be an outcome of a competitive market process.

- (v) Subsidies on LPG (Domestic) and SKO (PDS) should be restricted to BPL families only. This subsidy should be delivered through Smart Cards or cash transfer in urban and semi-urban areas, and not through supply of products below
- their market prices.

- (vi) For Domestic LPG, the entitlement to subsidised supply should be reduced to 6 refills in a year, which could be progressively reduced to 4 refills, 2 refills and zero refills in the following years.

- (vii) A Special Oil Tax may be levied on the domestic producers of crude oil on pre-NELP leases, on the revenue earned at a price in excess of \$ 75 per barrel at the rates indicated below:

(a) PSUs @ 100%, and

(b) Private and JV companies @ 40%

The Special Oil Tax shall be a purely temporary measure for financing the under-recoveries and not as general revenue measure. Once the adjustment process is completed, the tax should either be annulled or reset downwards, to equal the LPG and SKO subsidies given to BPL families.

(b) and (c) The recommendations made by the Committee are under consideration of the Government.

Price of Petroleum Products

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

(a) whether the retail price of petroleum products in India is among the highest in the world;

(b) if so, whether this exorbitant retail price is the result of the taxation policy of the Government towards this sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is aware that if the taxes and levies imposed on petroleum products are valued on purchasing power parity terms retail petroleum product prices in India would be among the highest in the world; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (e) The prices of sensitive petroleum products i.e. Petrol, Diesel, Kerosene (PDS Kerosene in India) and Domestic LPG in India and its neighboring countries, in July 2009, are given as under:

(Figures in Indian Rupees)

	Petrol Rs. per litre	Diesel Rs. per litre	Kerosene Rs. per litre	Domestic LPG Rs. per 14.2 kg cylinder
India (Delhi)	44.63	32.87	9.22	281.20
Pakistan	36.52	36.82	34.89	483.06
Bangladesh	51.36	30.53	30.53	670.12
Sri Lanka	54.19	30.43	21.26	666.31
Nepal	48.41	34.35	34.35	702.72

Note: Data as provided by IOC.

It may, therefore, be seen that whereas prices of PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG in India are the lowest; prices of Petrol and Diesel are quite comparable to the neighbouring countries.

As the costs of the primary raw material i.e., crude oil are more or less uniform internationally, in developed and developing countries, the rate of taxation in a country plays an important role in determining the retail prices of petroleum products. Taxes and Duties of the Central and State Governments constitute 48.4% and 24.5% of the retail prices of Petrol and Diesel respectively (at Delhi), the details of which are given in the enclosed statement.

However, the Central Government has been rationalizing taxes and duties on sensitive petroleum products, as per the details given below:

(i) Reduction in Customs Duties

- Customs Duty on Crude Oil has been gradually reduced from 10% in August 2004 to Nil in June 2008.
- Customs Duty on Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene has been gradually reduced from 10% in August 2004 to Nil in March 2005.
- Customs Duty on Petrol and Diesel has been gradually reduced from 15% to 2.5% between August 2004 to June 2008.

(ii) Reduction in Excise Duties

- Ad-valorem Excise Duty on unbranded Petrol and unbranded Diesel has been

gradually reduced from 26% and 11% respectively in June 2004 to Nil in March 2008, and converted to Specific Duty.

- Excise Duty on unbranded Petrol and unbranded Diesel has been reduced by Re. 1 per litre in June 2008.
- Ad valorem Excise Duty on branded Petrol and Diesel has been made specific with effect from 7th July 2009.
- Excise Duty on Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene has been successively reduced from 16% in June 2004 to Nil in March 2005.

- (iii) Domestic LPG conferred "Declared Goods" status under CST Act 2006. Domestic LPG was notified a "Declared Goods", reducing the maximum rate of Sales Tax to 4%, with effect from 19-4-2006 across all States and Union Territories, from 12.5% levied by most States earlier.

The State Governments are levying high rates of Sales Tax/VAT on Petrol and Diesel. It varies from 18% to 33% on Petrol and from 8.80% to 26% in case of Diesel. The Central Government on its part, has written to the Chief Ministers of all the State Governments and the Finance Minister of West Bengal (as the Chairman of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers) recently, requesting them to rationalize the Sales Tax/VAT on Petrol and Diesel so as to reduce the incidence of tax on the oil prices to protect the interest of the consuming public.

Statement

Share of Duties and Taxes in Retail Selling Price of Petrol at Delhi

Sl. No.	Particulars	Rs./Litre
1.	Price without Customs Duty, Excise duty and Sales tax components	23.00
2.	Custom Duty (Based on 1st Fortnight of Aug '09)	0.44 (0.99%)
3.	Excise Duty (levied @ Rs. 13.35/litre plus 3% education cess)	13.75 (30.81%)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Rs./Litre
4.	Sales Tax	7.44 (16.67%)
5.	Total of Customs Duty, Excise Duty and Sales tax (2+3+4)	21.63 (48.47%)
6.	Retail Selling Price at Delhi (1+5)	44.63

* Figures in brackets give the components of customs duty, excise duty and sales tax as a % of the retail selling price.

Share of Duties and Taxes in Retail Selling Price of Diesel at Delhi

Sl. No.	Particulars	Rs./Litre
1.	Price without Customs Duty, Excise Duty and Sales tax components	24.79
2.	Custom Duty (Based on 1st Fortnight of Aug '09)	0.47 (1.42%)
3.	Excise Duty (levied @ Rs. 3.60/litre plus 3% education cess)	3.71 (11.28%)
4.	Sales Tax (incl. Pollution Cess of Rs. 0.25 per litre)	3.90 (11.87%)
5.	Total of Customs Duty, Excise Duty and Sales tax (2+3+4)	8.08 (24.58%)
6.	Retail Selling Price at Delhi (1+5)	32.87

* Figures in brackets give the components of customs duty, excise duty and sales tax as a % of the retail selling price.

[Translation]

Manufacture of Transparent LPG Cylinders

*470. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final view has been taken by the Oil Manufacturing Companies for introduction of composite (translucent fibreglass) cylinders for marketing domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the unit cost of the proposed fibreglass LPG

cylinder as compared to the cost of the LPG cylinder being used at present; and

(d) the benefits likely to accrue to the Government and the public at large after introduction of fibreglass LPG cylinders in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Government has conveyed "in principle" approval to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for expanding the product line by way of introduction of composite (translucent fibreglass) cylinders for marketing domestic LPG, subject to there being no subsidy element in the LPG to be marketed through these composite cylinders.

The composite cylinders will show the level of LPG present in the cylinder. These cylinders are being introduced (in selected markets) as a separate package and not as replacement of existing cylinders.

OMCs have reported that necessary approval of Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE) has been obtained for use of composite cylinders for LPG. OMCs have invited Global tender for procuring 1 lakh cylinders and it is expected that the same will be introduced in the select markets for test-marketing during the second quarter of 2010.

(c) Estimated unit cost of composite cylinders is expected to be between Rs. 3000 to Rs. 3200 as against around Rs. 1050 per cylinder for the 14.2 kg steel cylinder presently in use.

(d) The benefits likely to accrue from the composite cylinders are as under:—

- The composite cylinders being translucent level of LPG present would be visible in these cylinders, thereby improving customer's satisfaction about quantity of LPG being there in cylinders.
- The composite cylinders being lightweight compared to the existing cylinders would be easy to handle. The tare weight of composite cylinders is about 1/3rd of the existing steel cylinders.
- Composite cylinders would be non-corrosive and as such the failure due to corrosion gets avoided, thereby improving safety.
- Composite cylinders are proposed to be marketed at non-subsidized price. This will bring down the subsidy burden on the Government to that extent.
- The composite cylinders will be aesthetic and superior in looks with improved features.

Corruption in Oil PSUs

*471. SHRI RAMKISHUN:

SHRI VIRENOER KASHYAP:

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

(a) whether some cases of corruption in public sector oil companies particularly in the Indian Oil Corporation have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported during the past three years and the current year till date and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the concrete measures taken by the Government to check corruption in public sector oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. On the basis of complaints received in the Ministry/ Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and surprise checks, scrutiny of contracts carried out by Vigilance Units of PSUs, 106 cases of irregularities, including corruption in PSUs, have been reported during the past three years and the current year till date. Out of these, 37 cases relate to Indian Oil Corporation.

Action as per the law has been taken against 108 officials during the past three years and the current year till date. Out of these, 38 officials belong to IOC against whom action has been completed as per law.

The systems and procedures are regularly reviewed and updated to strengthen the Vigilance administration. It has been constantly impressed upon PSUs to implement, in letter and spirit, measures suggested by Central Vigilance commission for enhancing greater transparency in commercial decisions making. Some of such measures undertaken by PSUs to check corruption are as under:—

- (i) initiation of E-payments;
- (ii) wide publicity to tenders including their publication on their websites of respective PSUs, E-tendering;
- (iii) establishment of quality control cells;
- (iv) carrying out regular and surprise inspections by the Vigilance
- (v) review of the delegation of powers;
- (vi) rotation of officers working in sensitive posts;

- (vii) Implementation of Integrity Pact.
- (viii) greater stress on vigilance awareness;

Advertisements by Railways

*472. SHRI HUKUMDEV NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) the policy in place for issuing railway advertisements through print and electronic media;

(b) the total expenditure incurred by the Railways on displaying advertisements during the past three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the policy governing issue of advertisements has been reviewed in the recent past or is proposed to be reviewed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Railways follow the advertising policy framed by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in respect of selection of media and advertising rates for both print and electronic media. Depending upon the requirements of dissemination of information and the availability of funds, Railways release their advertisements.

(b) The amount spent on print media by the Railways during the last three years (2006-07 to 2008-09) had been approximately Rs. 132.80 crore, Rs. 159.11 crore and Rs. 208.90 crore, respectively. The amount spent on electronic media during the same period had been approximately Rs. 67.49 lakh, 110.78 lakh and Rs. 67.48 lakh respectively.

(c) and (d) The advertising policy is under the purview of DAVP under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Electrification of Rail Routes

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

(a) the criteria laid down for selection of rail routes for electrification;

(b) the total length of rail network where electrification has not been carried out so far, zone-wise;

(c) the details of requests received from various State Governments including the Government of Rajasthan for electrification of rail routes in their respective States during the last three years; and

(d) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Electrification of rail routes is decided based on the operational requirements and financial viability.

(b) As on 01-04-2009 the total length of rail network where electrification has not been carried out is 44331 Route Kilometres (RKMs). Zone-wise details are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Zonal Railway	Unelectrified RKMs
1	2	3
1.	Central	2016
2.	Eastern	1106
3.	East Central	2022
4.	East Coast	1190
5.	Northern	5654
6.	North Central	1681
7.	North East	3356
8.	Northeast Frontier	3756
9.	North Western	5274
10.	Southern	3275
11.	South Central	3863
12.	South Eastern	482
13.	South East Central	1195
14.	South Western	2925
15.	Western	5004

1	2	3
16.	West Central	1532
	Total	44331

(c) and (d) During the last three years, the following proposals for electrification of Rail Routes have been received from various State Governments including the Government of Rajasthan and their present status is as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the proposed section(s)	State Government	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	Vijayawada-Gudiwada-Machilipatnam-Bhimavaram/Narsapur-Nidadavolu	Andhra Pradesh	For electrification, these sections are not in the priority at present.
2.	Bidinagar-Nadikudi/Macherial-Nallapadu (Guntur)	Andhra Pradesh	
3.	Guntur-Tenali-Repalle	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur-Tenali is already electrified. Electrification of Tenali-Repalle is not in priority at present.
4.	Itarsi-Allahabad	Madhya Pradesh	For electrification, this section is not in the priority at present.
5.	Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep	Orissa	Completed.
6.	Koraput-Rayagada-Vizianagaram	Orissa	For electrification, these sections are not in the priority at present.
7.	Talcher-Jharsaguda	Orissa	
8.	Daitari-Banspani	Orissa	Work is progress and being done by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. Target-June 2010.
9.	Haridaspur-Paradeep	Orissa	Electrification is being taken up by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited with new line.
10.	Bina-Kota	Rajasthan	Work in progress. Target-March 2010.
11.	Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur	Rajasthan	Proposal under consideration
12.	Ratlam-Neemuch-Chittorgarh	Rajasthan	For electrification, section is not in the priority at present.
13.	DC/AC Conversion work at Kasara-Titawala section	Maharashtra	Completed.
14.	Delhi-Rohtak	Haryana	Work in progress. Target-2010.

1	2	3	4
15.	Laksar-Rishikesh/Dehradun	Uttarakhand	For electrification, this section is not in the priority at present.
16.	Najibabad-Kotdwar/Moradabad-Kashipur-Ram Nagar/Kashipur-Lalkuan and Rampur-Lalkuan-Kathgodam	Uttarakhand	For electrification, this section is not in the priority at present.
17.	Villupuram-Tiruchchirapalli-Madurai	Tamil Nadu	Work in progress. Target-March 2010.
18.	Madurai-Tuticorin/Nagercoil	Tamil Nadu	Sanctioned. Detailed estimate is under preparation.
19.	Coimbatore-Tiruchchirappalli	Tamil Nadu	For electrification, section is not in the priority at present.
20.	Shoranur-Mangalore	Kerala	Requisite clearances are being obtained.
21.	Bangarpet-Marikuppam	Karnataka	Material modification proposal for Bangarpet-Marikuppam under process.

*[English]***Decline in Global Production of Steel**

*474. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the report of the World Steel Association, there has been a progressive decline in the global production of steel in the recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the

impact of fall in global production of steel on the steel industry as well as the perspective policy pursued by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to protect the country's interest in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) and (b) According to the statistics furnished by World Steel Association, the global steel production during the first six months of 2009 has fallen by (-) 21.33% on year-on-year basis. The month-wise break-up of world steel production for the first six months of year 2009 vis-a-vis year 2008 is given below:

(in million tonnes)

Month	2008	2009	% Change
1	2	3	4
January	112.87	86.42	(-) 23.43%
February	107.47	84.90	(-) 21.00%
March	119.93	93.14	(-) 22.34%

1	2	3	4
April	117.02	89.00	(-) 23.94%
May	122.06	95.97	(-) 21.37%
June	118.85	99.83	(-) 19.02%
January-June (Six Months)	698.20	549.26	(-) 21.33%

In the "Worldsteel Short Range Outlook" published on 27th April 2009 the World Steel Association (worldsteel) had made a forecast that worldwide apparent steel use is expected to decline by -14.9% to 1,018.6 million metric tons (mmt) in 2009 after declining by (-) 1.4% (1,197 mmt) in 2008. However, World Steel Association has predicted that world steel demand is expected to stabilize in the latter part of 2009 leading to a mild recovery in 2010.

(c) and (d) The global meltdown, beginning September 2008, had its initial effect on Indian steel sector. The steel production and consumption during the period October to December 2008 (Q-3) witnessed

reduction by (-) 7.8% and (-) 13.6% respectively, on year-on-year basis. Government initiated various steps to enable the steel sector to manage itself during the economic slowdown. These measures along with the economic stimulation packages resulted in a revival of steel demand during January-March period of 2009 (Q-4). During this period (Q-4) the production and consumption finished steel in the country grew by 2.67% and 2.21% respectively, on year-on-year basis. The growth in production and consumption of finished steel has also continued in the first quarter of the current year i.e. 2009-10 compared to the first quarter of the previous year as may be seen in the table below:—

Production, Export, Import and Consumption April-June 2009-10 vs. 2008-09

(In million tonnes)

Finished Steel	April-June 2008	April-June 2009	% Change
Production	13.527	13.982	3.4%
Import	01.493	01.414	-5.3%
Export	01.032	0.642	-37.8%
Real Consumption	12.200	12.830	5.2%

Source: JPC (Figures are provisional)

Government has taken the following fiscal measures during the post September 2008 period for sustained growth of steel sector in the country:

- (i) Export duty on all steel items withdrawn from 31-10-2008.
- (ii) Re-imposition of import duty on steel items at 5% (except steel melting scrap) on 18-11-2008.
- (iii) Re-introduction of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme on steel items on 14-11-2008.
- (iv) Reduction of Excise Duty on steel items from 14% to 10% in December 2008 and further to 8% in February, 2009.
- (v) Re-introduction of Countervailing Duty on TMT bars and rods.

Import of Steel

*475. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a shortfall in the estimated indigenous production of iron and steel in the country for the past three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether imports are resorted to bridge the gap between estimated production and anticipated demand in the domestic sector;

(d) if so, the quantum of iron and steel imported during each of the last three years and the current year indicating the sources of such import;

(e) the amount of foreign exchange spent by the

Government for such imports during the said period; and

(f) the precise steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to make the country self-sufficient in production of iron and steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The production of finished steel in the country has been consistently growing over the past three years. However, as the steel consumption in the country is growing at a rate faster than the production, the additional requirement is met through imports, in order to meet the domestic demand. Apart from this, steel imports are also resorted to make available certain specific grades of steel normally not available in the country to meet the high-end applications. The details of production and consumption of finished steel during the last three years and the first quarter of the current year are given below:—

(in million tonnes)

Year	Production		Consumption	
	Quantity	%Growth	Quantity	%Growth
2006-07	52.53	12.80	46.78	12.91
2007-08	56.08	6.76	52.12	11.42
2008-09	56.42	0.61	52.05	-0.13
April-June 08	13.53		12.20	
April-June 09	13.98	3.33	12.83	5.16

(d) The quantity of steel imported during each of the last three years and in the first quarter of the current year is as under:—

Year	Total finished steel import (Unit: million tonnes)
1	2
2006-07	4.93
2007-08	7.03

1	2
2008-09*	5.72
April-June 2009-10*	1.41

Source: Joint Plant Committee;

*=provisional

Steel is imported primarily from China, Korea, Japan, Russia, Ukraine, Germany, Belgium, Romania, United States of America and Saudi Arabia.

(e) The Government neither imports steel directly for its consumption nor canalizes such imports. However, the Rupee equivalent value of foreign exchange of import of finished steel during the last three years and the first quarter of the current year is as under:

Year	Value of imports (total finished steel import) (Unit: Rs crores)
2006-07	16,083
2007-08	24,952
2008-09*	29,728
April-June 2009-10*	5,351

Source: Joint Plant Committee;

*=provisional

(f) Steel being a deregulated sector decisions related to production are taken essentially by the steel producing units. The Government acts as a facilitator only and provides the overall policy environment to promote industry growth. In order to promote the domestic steel industry and to meet the projected demand, the Government has framed the National Steel Policy, 2005 and constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), under the chairmanship of Secretary (Steel), to monitor and coordinate the issues concerning major steel investments in the country related to infrastructure, raw material supply, environmental clearance and other resource constraints.

Implementation of Incentives Schemes in Air India

*476. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Air India has paid to its employees wages to which they were not entitled;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the productivity linked incentive scheme of Air India was implemented without the approval of its Board or by the Government;

(d) whether the directives issued by the

Government to stop these payments were ignored by the airlines; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to fix responsibility on those who have not followed the directives of the Government and also to check wasteful expenditure in Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Public Sector Enterprises of the Government of India are required to follow the wage Policies laid down by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE). The wage agreements with the recognized Unions of the Public Sector Enterprises should be within the parameters laid down by the DPE. The pay and allowances in Air India are also being paid as per the agreements signed by the Management with its Unions/Associations. However, some of these agreements are not in line with DPE guidelines.

(c) The Performance Linked Incentive payment is a part of the Settlements/Agreements/Understanding. These Settlements/Agreements/Understanding signed with the Unions/Associations/Guilds have been duly approved by the Board of Directors of erstwhile Air India Limited and Indian Airlines Limited. However, no approval of the Government has been granted.

(d) and (e) NACIL has been asked to take corrective action to bring the perquisites and allowances of its employees in line with DPE's guidelines.

Rail Connectivity Projects

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

(a) the details of the progress so far made on the port/hinterland rail connectivity projects in various parts of the country including West Bengal;

(b) the details of funds allocated for each of such projects during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred on these projects as on date; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) The details of the Port/Hinterland connectivity works including their funding and present status are given as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project with Length (in kms)	Outlay provided from 2006-07 to 2008-09	Outlay 2009-10	Expenditure as on 31-03-2009	Status and Targets (TDC) wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Obulavaripalle-Krishnapatnam New Line (NL) (113 kms)	45	50	95	The project has been taken up by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) created by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways. Out of 113 kms, 21 kms completed. For balance portion, preliminary action taken.
2.	Bharuch-Samni-Dahej Gauge Conversion (GC) (62.36 kms)	17.6	45.65	15	The project is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of RVNL. Earthwork has been started.
3.	Gandhidham-Palanpur GC (313 kms)	75.4	—	440.0	Completed and Commissioned.
4.	Hospet-Guntakal Doubling (DL) (115.4 kms)	89	26	290.19	Work completed and commissioned except 1.5 kms Bellary Bypass, work for which is in progress.
5.	Haridaspur-Paradeep NL (82 kms)	144	—	135.37	The project has been taken up by an SPV of RVNL. Land acquisition and earthwork are in progress. Overall physical progress—14%.
6.	Angul-Sukinda NL (98 kms)	92	75	20.87	Land acquisition is in progress. The project is to be implemented through an SPV of RVNL.
7.	Bhildi-Samdari GC (223 kms)	232.80	70	261.86	Earthwork, bridgework, blanketing, ballast supply and track linking are in progress. Overall physical progress—87%. TDC-2009-10.
8.	Ajmer-Phulera-Ringus-Rewari GC (294.97 kms)	545	100	545.01	Earthwork, blanketing, bridgework, track linking in progress. Rewari-Phulera (215 kms) completed. Overall physical progress—89%. TDC-2009-10.
9.	Thanjavur-Villupuram GC (192 kms)	185	42	496.85	Out of 192 kms, 138 kms has been completed. Overall physical progress—92%. TDC-2009-10.
10.	Cuddalore-Salem via Viruddhachalam GC (191 kms)	112	2	311.07	Completed and commissioned.
11.	Delhi-Rewari 2nd line GC (83 kms)	65	5	143.89	Completed and commissioned.

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Barauni-Tilrath Bypass DL (14 kms)	5.39	1	14.40	Completed and commissioned.
13.	Arasikere-Hassan-Mangalore GC (236 kms)	0.01	2.4	234.93	Completed and commissioned.
14.	Panvel-Jasai-JNPT DL (28.5 kms)	10.01	—	136.32	Completed and commissioned.
15.	Panskura-Haldia Ph-I DL (14 kms)	0.50	—	31.26	Completed and commissioned.
16.	Surendranagar-Bhavnagar-Rajula-Mahuwa with the extn. upto Pipavav and Sihor-Palitana GC (385 kms)	35	—	446.04	Completed and commissioned.
17.	Daitari-Banspani NL (155 kms)	190.85	60	780.69	Completed and commissioned.
18.	Panvel-Karjat NL (28 kms)	1.02	—	136.62	Completed and commissioned.
19.	Rahama-Paradeep DL (23 kms)	10.75	0.2	77.3	Completed and commissioned.
20.	Nergundi-Cuttack-Raghunathpur DL (43 kms)	12.26	0.5	178.96	Completed and commissioned.
21.	Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop with Anand Nagar Nautanwa GC (260 kms)	55	30	159.32	Earthwork, ballasting and bridgeworks are in progress. Overall Physical Progress—32%.
22.	Rangia-Murkongselek alongwith linked fingers GC (510.33 kms)	82	54.28	71.64	Earthwork and bridgework are in progress. The overall physical progress is 5.03%. This has been declared as a National Project.
23.	Mansi-Saharsa and Saharsa-Dauram Madhepura-Purnia GC (142 kms)	105.15	49.10	180.57	Mansi-Saharsa completed. Saharsa-Dauram Madhepura-Purnia section-earthwork and minor bridges are in progress. Saharsa-Dauram-Madhepura is targeted for completion during 2009-10.
24.	Rajatgarh-Nergundi DL (28 kms)	0.3	—	83.34	Completed and commissioned.
25.	Madurai-Dindigul DL (62.06 kms)	110.65	—	164.95	Completed
26.	Puttur-Attipattu NL (88.3 kms)	0.01	45	0.31	Final Location survey taken up.

Out of the above works, only Panskura-Haldia Phase I doubling (14 kms) at S.No. 15 above falls in West Bengal.

The completion of above ongoing projects would depend upon the availability of resources and other allied factors.

[Translation]

**Demand and Supply of
Ammonia Nitrate**

*478. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details about production of ammonia nitrate during the past three years and the current year; State-wise;

(b) whether the production of ammonia nitrate has declined in the country during the said period;

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

(d) the demand and supply of ammonia nitrate during the said period; State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between assessed demand and indigenous production of ammonia nitrate including imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The total production of Ammonium Nitrate during the past 3 years in the country is given below;

Year	Indigenous production of AN (in Metric Tonnes)
2006-07	2,67,000
2007-08	3,35,363
2008-09	3,70,900

(b) and (c) There has been no decline in the production of Ammonium Nitrate rather it has shown progressive growth in its indigenous production.

(d) and (e) The short fall between demand and indigenous supply of Ammonium Nitrate has been covered by import. Accordingly, the total demand and availability of the Ammonium Nitrate in the country during the past three years has been as follows:

(Quantity in Metric Tonnes)

Year	Indigenous Production	Import	Total availability	Total Demand of AN (In Metric Tonnes)
1	2	3	4(2+3)	5
2006-07	2,67,000	1,35,350	4,02,350	4,60,000
2007-08	3,35,363	1,94,000	5,29,363	4,99,590
2008-09	3,70,900	2,43,700	6,14,600	5,61,601

[English]

**Reserves of Coal Bed Methane and
Gas Hydrates**

*479. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated reserves of coal bed methane and gas hydrates found in the country;

(b) the number of blocks awarded so far for

exploration and exploitation of coal bed methane indicating the names of both national and international bidders;

(c) the achievements made so far in this regard; and

(d) the progress made in exploration and exploitation of gas hydrates found in Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin pursuant to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons with some foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) The estimated resources in 26 Coal Bed Methane (CBM) blocks are 1480 billion cubic meters (BCM). Initial estimated resources of gas hydrates are about 1894000 BCM.

(b) A total of 26 CBM blocks have been awarded so far, out of which 23 blocks were awarded in the three bid rounds under CBM policy. Of the balance three blocks, two blocks were awarded on nomination basis and one block was awarded through the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) route. Details of blocks awarded to national and international companies are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The achievements made so far in CBM blocks

are as under:

- (i) 250 exploratory/pilot wells have been drilled so far.
- (ii) 176 BCM reserves of CBM gas have been established in four CBM Blocks.
- (iii) Commercial Production of CBM commenced from July, 2007 in Raniganj CBM block, which is currently at 100000 cubic meters per day.

(d) Drilling of gas hydrates at 21 sites, Gas hydrate characterization study, Micro Biological study, Biochemical study and study of Physical properties of gas hydrates have been completed in Gas Hydrate Expedition-I under the National Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP).

Statement

List of CBM Blocks Awarded

Sl. No.	State	Block Name	CBM Round	Operator
1.	West Bengal	Raniganj (South)	FIPB Route	GEECL
2.	West Bengal	Raniganj (North)	Nomination	ONGC
3.	West Bengal	RG(E)-CBM-2001/I	I	Essar Oil
4.	West Bengal	BB-CBM-2005/III	III	BPE
5.	Jharkhand	BK-CBM-2001/I	I	ONGC
6.	Jharkhand	NK-CBM-2001/I	I	ONGC
7.	Jharkhand	Jharia	Nomination	ONGC
8.	Jharkhand	SK-CBM-2003/II	II	ONGC
9.	Jharkhand	NK-(W)-CBM-2003/II	II	ONGC
10.	Jharkhand	RM-CBM-2005/III	III	Arrow
11.	Madhya Pradesh	SP(E)-CBM-2001/I	I	RIL
12.	Madhya Pradesh	SP(W)-CBM-2001/I	I	RIL
13.	Madhya Pradesh	ST-CBM-2003/II	II	ONGC
14.	Madhya Pradesh	SP(N)-CBM-2005/III	III	GEO-Petrol
15.	Madhya Pradesh	SR-CBM-2005/III	III	Coal Gas

Sl. No.	State	Block Name	CBM Round	Operator
16.	Chhattisgarh	SH(N)-CBM-2003/II	II	RIL
17.	Chhattisgarh	TR-CBM-2005/III	III	Arrow
18.	Chhattisgarh	MR-CBM-2005/III	III	Arrow
19.	Rajasthan	BS(1)-CBM-2003/II	II	RIL
20.	Rajasthan	BS(2)-CBM-2003/II	II	RIL
21.	Rajasthan	BS(4)-CBM-2005/III	III	GEO-Petrol
22.	Rajasthan	BS(5)-CBM-2005/III	III	GEO-Petrol
23.	Maharashtra	WD-CBM-2003/II	II	ONGC
24.	Andhra Pradesh	KG-(E)-CBM-2005/3	III	GEO-Petrol
25.	Andhra Pradesh	GV(N)-CBM-2005/III	III	Coal Gas Petrol
26.	Gujarat	BS(3)-CBM-2003.II	II	ONGC

Shortage of Coaches and Wagons

*480. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have been facing shortage of all types of coaches and wagons;

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

(c) whether the Railways propose to start projects under private-public partnership mode to manufacture wagons and coaches;

(d) if so, the details of the proposal mooted in this regard;

(e) the response of the private players thereon; and

(f) the steps taken by the Railways to meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (f) Railways are lifeline

of the Nation and there is constantly growing demand to introduce more trains in different regions of the country. Taking into account the unfulfilled demands for introduction of trains, there is a shortage of coaches on Indian Railways. To meet with requirement of coaches, the production capacity of the existing Railway production units has been augmented and orders for coach manufacture have also been placed on public and private sector firms.

A new rail coach factory has been sanctioned at Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. Proposal for setting up of manufacturing factory at Palakkad in Kerala has been announced. Proposal for manufacturing of coaches under Joint Venture/Public Private partnership mode has been announced in the Railway Budget 2009-10 to set up a rail coach factory at Kanchrapara in West Bengal for which preliminary work is in progress.

There is no shortage of wagons except on account of seasonal fluctuations, when pockets of unsatisfied demand for freight transportation are sometimes noticed. At present, manufacture of wagons through public private partnership is not envisaged.

Compensation for Acquisition of Land

4486. SHRI A. SAMPATH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government compensates the State Governments for the land acquisition costs for modernization of the existing airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for meeting a portion of the costs of additional land as required by the Airports Authority of India for the proposed expansion of the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Modernisation of airports needs a huge investment. The development cost of the airports met by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and normally State Governments/ Union Territories provide land free of cost, free from all encumbrances to AAI.

(c) For development of the new international terminal at Thiruvananthapuram airport as per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Kerala, the later is to provide land free of cost to the tune of 120 acres, out of which 33 acres have so far been handed over to AAI.

Reimbursement of Expenditure

4487. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees of the Public Sector Undertakings are entitled for reimbursement of the expenditure incurred by them on maintenance and repair of their houses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India has raised objections to the payment of such expenses to the employees; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) The executives of the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are entitled to House Rent Allowance (HRA), if they are not staying in the accommodation provided by the CPSEs. Where CPSEs provide the leased residential accommodation, the responsibility of repair and maintenance lies with the lessor, in terms of the lease deed.

(c) and (d) Earlier Central Vigilance Commission had brought to the notice of the government certain irregularities in the matter of allowing leased accommodation, etc. by the CPSEs in respect of their executives. In view of this, instructions were issued vide O.M. dated 05-06-2003, which *inter-alia*, provided that self leased accommodation should not become a source of additional income for the executives.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C and AG) had also raised the issue of reimbursement of expenditure to the executives of CPSEs towards repair and maintenance of leased accommodation provided to them, over and above the lease rent paid to lessor. Government after considering C and AG's observations issued instructions vide O.M. dated 20-05-2009, prohibiting reimbursement of any amount to executives towards repair and maintenance of leased accommodation provided to them.

Assistance to BHPV

4488. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Ministry for grant of financial assistance to the Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels Limited (BHPV) in Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) the financial position of BHPV;

(d) whether BHPV is likely to be merged with any Public Sector Undertakings; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be materialized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) Yes Madam.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had in September, 2007 requested Government of India to waive off loans and interest to the tune of Rs. 415 crore and provide cash support of Rs. 264 crore for liquidating liabilities of BHPV to the Banks, the suppliers and others.

Government of India waived off loans and interest of BHPV amounting to Rs. 415.61 crore. Government of India has also decided to provide government guarantee for an amount of Rs. 250 crore to enable BHPV to raise funds from the market.

BHPV was taken over by BHEL as a going concern with all its assets and liabilities, as its 100% subsidiary in May, 2008.

(c) The financial position of BHPV as per 'Operating Results' of 2008-09 is:—

	(Rupees in crore)
Order book position	235.74
Turnover	84.39

Profit before Tax	(-)133.15
Networth	(-)229.93

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Import of Natural Gas

4489. SHRI MITHILESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the countries from where natural gas is imported in the country; and

(b) the company-wise details of gas imported during the last two years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Import of natural gas in the country is made only in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). LNG is imported from various countries, including Qatar, Malaysia, Australia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Russian Federation, Oman, Trinidad, Indonesia, Guinea and Algeria.

(b) Currently, two LNG regasification terminals, viz., Dahej terminal of Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL) and Hazira LNG Terminal of Hazira LNG Private Ltd. (HLPL), are operational in the country. Details of LNG import made by PLL and HLPL from 2007-08 onwards are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Company-wise imported quantity [In million metric tonne (mmt)]	
		PLL	HLPL
1.	2007-08	6.29	2.03
2.	2008-09	6.46	1.56
3.	2009-10 (till 30-6-2009)	1.7	0.49

[English]

Production of Electricity from Wind Generators

4490. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has started producing electricity from wind generators in various States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this method is cost effective in comparison to diesel or gas generators;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to generate more electricity through wind generators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Madam. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has installed Wind Generators in the State of Gujarat only and have started producing electricity.

(b) The capacity of the Plant is 51 MW (Megawatt) comprising of 34 machines having capacity of 1.5 MW each.

(c) Yes, Madam. Wind power is clean, green energy (pollution-free) and its long term generation is cost effective than Diesel and Gas methods. However, the wind power is cyclic and subject to variation and therefore, is a supplementary source of energy.

(d) Comparative details of captive power generation from diesel, wind and gas in ONGC is of the following order:

Generation mode	Rs./Kilo Watt hour	Remarks/Criteria
Wind	2.00	As per Bid valuation for wind project
Gas	2.26	As in Hazira Plant
Diesel	10.00-11.00	Depending upon generation for standby, drilling etc. undertaken by ONGC.

(e) Based on pre-feasibility in-house study carried out by ONGC, four states viz. Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have been identified to carryout Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) studies.

Vehicles for Physically Challenged Persons

4491. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the car manufacturing companies including those in the public sector have stopped/reduced manufacturing of vehicles for the physically challenged persons;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware of the difficulties being faced by the physically challenged people without having suitable vehicles;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to mitigate the problems of the handicapped people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the Indian automobile manufacturers who were earlier providing vehicles with automatic transmission for physically challenged persons had to discontinue the same since the demand for such vehicles is rare and making them available "off the shelf" is not economically viable. However, SIAM has also informed that the Indian Automobile industry is committed to manufacture such vehicles, on specific order, to suit the disability of persons. Further, subsequent to the disinvestment of

Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL), there are no car manufacturing companies in the Public Sector.

(c) and (d) The Government has been advising the car manufacturers to consider manufacturing at least one or two models of their cars suitable to be driven by the physically challenged persons. The Government of India is also providing excise duty concession on vehicles meant for physically challenged people.

Capacity of Steel Plants

4492. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steel plants in the country have exceeded their rated capacity during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some steel plants are facing problems

relating to storage and liquidation of the finished goods;

(d) if so, the quantum of finished goods produced and released from each plant during the said period; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Union Government to help these steel plants for storage and liquidation of the finished goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) As per the data compiled by the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) on capacity utilization (Crude Steel) for the three Main producers namely Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) in public sector and Tata Steel Ltd. Steel in private sector as given below, the plants of all the three Main steel producers have been operating at more than 100% of their capacity during the last three years:—

Capacity utilization levels of crude steel production (%)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09*
SAIL	105	109	104
RINL	120	108	113
Tata Steel	103	100	102

Source: Joint Plant Committee

*= Provisional

However, as per the data compiled by the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) on capacity utilization of all the steel plants in the country (Main, Major and Other Producers put together) for the last three years as given below, the steel industry as a whole has been operating less than its capacity:—

Year	Capacity Utilization (%)
2006-07	89
2007-08	90
2008-09*	83

Source: JPC; *= provisional

(c) to (e) No steel producer has reported about any problem relating to storage and liquidation of finished goods to the Government as yet.

Performance of Steel Plants

4493. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the profit/loss of the Integrated Steel Plants and Mini Steel Plants both in public and private sectors during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the net profit alongwith the total amount given to the Union Government in the form of dividend and various taxes during the said period, company-wise; and

(c) the year-wise performance of steel plants during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) The Profit/Loss of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) during Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) is given as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Profit after Tax	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
SAIL	-304	2512	6817	4013	6202
RINL	521	1547	2008	1252	1363

The total amount given to the Union Government in the form of dividend and various taxes during the

tenth five year plan was as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
SAIL	2603	3224	4917	7775	9886
RINL	644	813	1013	1608	2144

Financial figures regarding the profit/losses and payments of dividends and taxes by various private sector steel companies during the Tenth Five Year Plan period are not maintained by this Ministry.

(c) Year-wise production performance of finished steel during Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) is given as under:

(in million tonnes)

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Production	39.22	43.35	46.87	51.22	57.66

Production in Auto Industry

4494. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the average annual rate of increase of the production in the auto industry during the Tenth Five Year Plan, year-wise; and

(b) the export growth of auto products from the

country during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV) : (a) The details of production of auto industry during the Tenth Five Year Plan period, as intimated by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) and Auto Components Manufacturers Association (ACMA) is as under:—

Automobiles

(in Numbers)

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	%CAGR
Total Production of vehicles	6,279,967	7,243,564	8,467,853	9,743,503	11,087,997	15.27
% inc. (YoY)	—	15.3%	16.9%	15.1%	13.8%	NA

(YOY)—Year on Year

Auto Components

(Rs. in crore)

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	%CAGR
Turnover of auto components	25,535*	30,640*	38,500*	53,400	64,500	26%
% inc. (YoY)	—	20%	2.57%	38.7%	20.8%	NA

*production data

(b) The export growth of auto products from the country during the said period is as under:

Automobiles

(in Numbers)

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	%CAGR
Export of vehicles	307,308	479,919	629,544	806,222	1,011,529	34.69
% inc. (YoY)	—	56.2%	31.2%	28.1%	25.5%	NA

Auto Components

(Rs. in crore)

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	%CAGR
Export of Auto components	4,620	5,795	7,937	11,198	13,184	30%
% inc. (YoY)	—	25.4%	37%	41.1%	17.7%	NA

[Translation]

Constitutional Bench

4495. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended

to constitute a permanent constitutional bench for immediate disposal of constitutional matters;

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

(c) the steps/action taken by the government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds in Railways

4496. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of applications for appointments on compassionate grounds are pending with the Railways for years together;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria/norms adopted by the Railways for appointment on compassionate grounds;

(d) whether keeping in view the services rendered by the deceased employees while in service, the Railways propose to increase the quota of appointments compassionate grounds; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) Compassionate appointment is considered in favour of one eligible dependent family member of Railway servants who die in harness or retire prematurely on account of medical decategorisation.

There is no limit laid for number of compassionate ground appointments on the Railways.

As per available figures, 2906 cases were pending for appointment on compassionate grounds as on 30-11-2008.

Prices of Patented Drugs

4497. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formed a panel for negotiating prices of patent drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for making the Indian Industry a part of the committee;

(d) the recommendations of said panel; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) A Committee having Members from Departments/Organisations like, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Drug Controller General (India), National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA), Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and Pharmexcil has been constituted in this Department to examine the issue of Price Negotiations for the Patented Drugs. The committee had interacted with stakeholders including Industry and Industry Associations during the course of its proceedings. The Committee has not submitted its report yet.

Free Legal Aid to SC and ST

4498. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide free legal aid to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the suggestions received from various Government agencies in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Free legal aid to all members of Schedule Caste and Scheduled Tribes is being given through the Legal Services Authorities set up under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (Central Act). The Act has come into force in 1995 and 35 State Legal Services Authorities have been set up in the States and Union Territories. There are 596 District Legal Services

Authorities, 2037 Taluk Legal Services Committees. 21 High Court Legal Services Committees and a Supreme Court Legal Services Committee to give effect to the provisions of legal services as per the Act. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is the apex body giving policy guidelines and Schemes for Legal Services to all the aforesaid legal services institutions in India.

The Legal Services Authorities since their inception have provided free legal services, as on 31st March, 2009, to the members of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes as follows:

Number of persons belonging to Scheduled Caste	=13,13,510.
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Number of persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes	= 4,64,503.
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(c) No suggestions have been received from Government agencies by NALSA.

(d) Does not arise.

Textiles Projects in Orissa

4499. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approached RBI recently for some projects being implemented in Orissa for textiles projects; and

(b) if so, the details of discussion and decisions taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Madam.

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

Railway Projects in Karnataka

4500. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are constructing the broad gauge project of Chikkamangalore-Kadu railway project consisting of six railway stations in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways revised the estimate of these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. This is a sanctioned new line project from Kadur to Sakleshpur (93 km) and in the first phase, work has been taken up from Kadur to Chikmagalur. Six railway stations are involved in this first phase of this work. Earthwork and minor bridge works on Kadur-Chikmagalur (46 km) have been taken up.

(c) and (d) The revised estimate for the project has not been prepared.

Declaration of Minority Status

4501. SHRI P. BALRAM: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Government to declare the minority status to each community;

(b) the details of minority status given to each community, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has made any efforts to identify minorities living in Tribal areas of the country;

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

(e) the funds allocated and utilised during each of the last three years for the welfare of minorities?

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 community is notified as minority in terms of Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992, which provides as given below:—

"Minority for the purpose of this Act, means a community notified as such by the Central Government".

Accordingly, vide Notification No. 1/11/93-MC(D) dated 23rd October, 1993 the Central Government notified five religious communities in the country, namely,

Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) as minority communities.

(c) and (d) The communities referred to in reply to parts (a) and (b) above are minority communities for

the entire country, including tribal areas.

(e) The plan funds allocated to and utilised by Ministry of Minority Affairs, during each of the last three years, for the welfare of minorities, are given below:—

(Rupees in crores)

Years	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Expenditure (Actual)
2006-07	0.98	130.89	119.50
2007-08	500.00	350.00	196.65
2008-09	1000.00	650.00	618.62

Shuttle Train between Meerut Cantt. and Rewari

4502. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 1 MNR Meerut Shuttle Train, which earlier used to run between Meerut Cantt. to New Delhi has been extended up to Rewari;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the train has been running late since its extension upto Rewari;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to avoid such unnecessary delay?

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

(b) Due to public demands and operational convenience, 1 MN/2 MN Meerut-New Delhi Shuttle has been extended up to Rewari from 1-09-2004.

(c) to (e) The punctuality of commuter trains is closely monitored. The punctuality of the train in question has been quite satisfactory.

[Translation]

New Rail Lines in Chhattisgarh

4503. SHRI MURARI LAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal from the Government of Chhattisgarh for laying new rail lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to link the Anuppur-Vishrampur rail line in Chhattisgarh with Ramanuj-ganj via Ambikapur rail line in North Chhattisgarh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A letter from State Government of Chhattisgarh had been received for conducting survey for Naya Raipur connecting Mandir Hasaud to Kendri station.

(c) and (d) Updating survey for a new line from Barwadih to Chirimiri has been taken up.

[English]

ROB at Jhargram

4504. SHRI PULIN BIHARI BASKE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to construct rail over bridge at Jhargram of South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the construction of said ROB; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Work was sanctioned during Works Programme of 2001-02 but could not be taken in hand, as State Government had not assigned priority. Detailed Estimate for approaches has not been furnished by State Government inspite of Railway's pursuasion. Railway has allocated Rs. 2 crore during 2009-10 for its portion of work.

Reservation Quota

4505. SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any reservation quota has been created for Singhudurga and Ratnagiri station of Maharashtra in Rajdhani trains passing through these station;

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

(c) the prevailing norms under which reservation Quota is fixed for any station;

(d) whether representative from various quarters have been received the Railways for creating reservation quota for said stations; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A reservation quota of 2 berths in 2nd Air-Conditioned class and four berths in 3 tier Air-Conditioned class in train number 2432 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express train has been provided at Ratnagiri station. In train number 2431 Trivandrum-Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express, passengers of Ratnagiri can access the reservation quota available at Madgaon on first come first served basis. Both the above mentioned trains do not have halt at Sindhudurg and hence no reservation quota has been provided at Sindhudurg in these trains.

(c) Distribution of reservation quota in a train is

done based on availability of reserved accommodation and demand pattern at various stations.

(d) and (e) Provision of reservation quota and its review based on representations or otherwise is a continuous process and the existing arrangements are considered adequate.

Appointment of Porters

4506. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway have any plan to appoint Porters at different Railway stations including Palanpur, Bhiladi and others in Western Railways; 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. Consequent to absorption of licensed porters as Trackmen, some vacancies had arisen in the category of licensed porters. Railways have already initiated the process of assessing the vacancies and engaging additional licensed porters, wherever required, at the railway stations including Palanpur. At Bhildi, presently there is no plan for engagement of licensed porters.

[Translation]

RMS Office at Marwar Junction

4507. SHRI BADRI RAM JAKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Office of Railway Mail Service (RMS) set up at Marwar Junction in Rajasthan, has been closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways propose to restart this RMS office;

(d) if so, the time by which the said office is likely to be reopened; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Madam. Office of Railway Mail Service (RMS) at Marwar Junction has been closed by Post and Telegraph Department. No reasons have been advised by them in this regard and no proposal for reopening of the RMS office at Marwar Junction has been received from them.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Construction of Airports in Uttarakhand

4508. SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether airports are being constructed at Gauchar, Pithoragarh and Chinyali Saud in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the time by which construction of these airports is likely to be completed;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct airport at any other place in Uttarakhand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Madam. These airports belong to the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No new places have been identified for construction of airport in Uttarakhand.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Reduction in Retirement Age

4509. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) is considering to reduce retirement age of its employees;

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

(c) the total strength of the NACIL employees as on date;

(d) the number of employees likely to be affected/ retrenched as a result thereof;

(e) whether the decision will apply on the Commercial Pilots also; and

(f) if so, the number of Pilots likely to retire and its effect on the performance of NACIL due to reduced strength of Pilots?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As on 30-06-2009, the total strength of employees in National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) is 30753, excluding its subsidiaries.

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

Insurance Requirements of Railways

4510. SHRI UDAYANRAJE BHONSLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have engaged Oriental Insurance Corporation for insurance requirements of Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of annual premium paid by the Railways during the last three years; and

(d) the amount of insurance claimed by the Railways during the said period?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Disinvestment of Andrew Yule and Company Limited

4511. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has asked the Andrew Yule and Company Limited to disinvest their stake in Tide Water Oil Company Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been a delay in the process of disinvestment in the said company;

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

(e) whether the Government has prepared any roadmap for disinvestment of its holdings in the first 100 days of new Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, BIFR in its hearing held on 30-10-2007 has sanctioned the revival scheme of AYCL which, *inter-alia*, includes disinvestment and offloading of all shares held by AYCL in Tide Water Oil Co. Ltd. (TWOL).

(c) and (d) The procedure for disinvestment of equity in associate/group companies was prepared by Department of Heavy Industry in April, 2008 in consultation with Department of Disinvestment. In accordance with the same, on 02-05-2008, AYCL was requested to constitute a Committee Appointed by Board of Directors (CABOD) to follow the proposed disinvestment procedure (upto finalization of recommendation of CABOD) for disinvestment of AYCL's stake in TWOL. Accordingly, AYCL in its Board Meeting held on 09-05-2008 constituted the CABOD. The first meeting of CABOD in respect of TWOL was held on 26-06-2008. Six meetings of CABOD for disinvestment of equity in TWOL have been held so far. SBI Capital Markets Ltd. has been selected as Consultant by CABOD to assist in the disinvestment process of AYCL's stake in TWOL and there is no delay in the process of disinvestment.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

Reconstruction of Munnar Railway Line

4512. SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway line at Munnar of Idukki is in dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount needed for the reconstruction of the Munnar railway line; and

(c) the time by which the said rail line is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) At present, there is no railway line connecting Munnar.

[Translation]

Road Over Bridge at Sien Village

4513. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for the construction of over bridge on the railway line at Sien Village situated between Pipreha and Nariyar Station in the District of Muzaffarpur (Bihar);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which Railway Board is likely to sanction the said project?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Food Served by the IRCTC

4514. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pantry car services in the train are being operated by the private contractors under the label of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the trains in which food is served directly by IRCTC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The pantry car services in the trains are operated by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) either directly or through its licensees.

(b) and (c) Out of 260 Mail/Express trains running with pantry car facilities, the following trains are

managed by IRCTC directly under departmental operation:-

1. 2001-02 New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani
2. 2305-06 New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani
3. 2951-52 New Delhi-Mumbai Central Rajdhani
4. 2953-54 H. Nizamuddin-Mumbai Central Rajdhani
5. 2309-10 New Delhi-Patna Rajdhani
6. 2123-24 Mumbai-Pune Deccan Queen
7. 2857-58 Howrah-Digha Tamralipta Express and
8. 8001-02 Howrah-Digha Kandari Express

[English]

Legislative Recognition to SFIO

4515. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to give legislative recognition to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle the issue of good corporate governance and transparency in companies in view of Satyam Computer financial scam?

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) An Expert Committee on issues concerning Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) was constituted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs under the Chairmanship of Shri Vepa Kamesam. The Committee has suggested for statutory recognition to SFIO. The report submitted by the Committee is under consideration of the Government.

(c) An elaborate regulatory framework is already in place under the Companies Act, 1956 to deal with corporate disclosures by the companies registered under the Act. This framework provides for statutory disclosures

to the Stakeholders about the true and fair view of the state of affairs of the companies. To facilitate corporate disclosures, an e-governance system has been set up for filing of documents electronically with round the clock access, including public inspection of documents. The Government is empowered to inspect the books of accounts of a company and also to investigate its affairs, if need be, under the Companies Act, 1956. The companies are also required to disclose their financial position in accordance with Schedule VI of the Companies Act, 1956 and the Companies (Accounting Standard) Rules, 2006. Furnishing of false statement in any document required by or for the purpose of any of the provisions of the Act is punishable.

Further, the Companies Bill, 2009 introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3-8-2009, provides for a comprehensive revision of the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 with more disclosure norms and transparency in the management of the companies.

Mini Dal Mills

4516. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides assistance for setting up of mini dal mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of proposals received from various States for setting up of such mills during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the total number of dal mills set up in various States during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries was providing assistance for setting up of mini pulse processing units during the ninth and tenth plan periods. Implementing agencies desirous of setting up mini pulse processing units were eligible to get assistance up to 50% of the total cost of the equipment (for setting up mini pulse processing unit) subject to a maximum of Rs. 35,000

per unit. The assistance was routed through CFTRI, Mysore who helped in identifying the eligible beneficiaries.

(c) Scheme is not operational during the 11th plan period and hence no grant was released for mini pulse processing unit during 2007-08 and 2008-09. Similarly, no grant was released during 2006-07 (the last year of the 10th plan) in the absence of suitable proposal.

(d) During 1999 to 2002, 100 Mini Dal Mills were established in various states under the above scheme:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Dall Mill established
1.	Bihar	4
2.	Punjab	1
3.	Madhya Pradesh	3
4.	Maharashtra	10
5.	Rajasthan	5
6.	Uttar Pradesh	59
7.	Orissa	6
8.	Andhra Pradesh	5
9.	Karnataka	2
10.	Tamil Nadu	2
11.	West Bengal	1
12.	Manipur	2
Total		100

In the 11th plan Ministry of food processing industries provides financial assistance in the form of grant in aid under the scheme of Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of food processing industries including pulse-processing units. Under this scheme, the Ministry extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grants-in-aid @25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas.

Monthly Expenditure of Air India

4517. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present figure of employees in Air India;

(b) whether the Air India has the highest monthly expenditure when compared to other private airlines;

(c) if so, whether Air India is planning to reduce its expenditure on employees;

(d) whether 30% of Air India flights are filled with its employees travelling on complementary passes; and

(e) the other benefits given to the employees of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) As on 31-05-2009, the total number of employees in National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) is 30753 excluding its subsidiaries.

(b) The average monthly expenditure of Air India before Depreciation and obsolescence is approximately Rs. 1500 crores.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) The facilities being presently provided to the employees of Air India are medical benefits for self and family, subsidized canteen facilities, staff housing colonies/company lease, Community Centre, Holiday Homes, Long Service mementos, Passages and subsidized transport facility.

Similarly, after retirement, the employees are provided the facilities of free passages, medical benefits for self and family and use of holiday Homes.

Railway Gates on Daltonganj-Barwadih Rail Line

4518. SHRIINDER SINGH NAMDHARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the accidents are taking place due to the lack of proper railway gates on Daltonganj-Barwadih rail line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Railways for the construction of Railway Gates at the accident prone points on the said rail line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No Madam. There are three manned level crossing gates at Km. 272/15-17, 259/37-39 and 259/1-3 between Daltonganj and Barwadih. No Major incident/accident took place on account of lack of level crossing.

(c) As per existing policy, provision of level crossing is made in consultation with the state government at the time of laying of new line or within 10 years from the date of its commissioning to traffic. Thereafter, any accommodation work such as level crossing can be provided at a technical suitable location on deposit terms, if such a proposal is sponsored by the State Government/Local bodies duly agreeing to bear the initial cost of construction of the level crossing and one time capitalised cost of recurring maintenance and operational charges.

However, no proposal have been received from State Government/Road Authorities concerned for construction of additional level crossing on this section. As per current policy, no new unmanned level crossing is permitted on existing lines.

Suburban Routes in Mumbai

4519. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passengers are facing difficulties due to lack of facilities at suburban routes in Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have any action plan to upgrade the railway stations in the suburban routes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Railways have any plan to make the stations disable friendly; and

(e) if so, the stations selected for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Facilities as per norms have been provided at suburban stations of Mumbai area. Upgradation of passenger amenities at stations commensurate with increase in passenger traffic is a continuous process and is undertaken through Annual Works Programme depending upon availability of funds and other relative priorities. 66 sub-urban stations in Mumbai area have been identified for upgradation under various upgradation schemes, e.g. Model Station Scheme, Touch and Feel Scheme, Extension of platforms to accommodate longer trains and Adarsh Station Scheme. Upgradation work at 20 stations has already been completed and at 5 stations work is planned for completion by March, 2010. Work of upgradation of 41 sub-urban stations of Mumbai area as Adarsh Stations with basic facilities such as drinking water, adequate toilets, catering services, waiting room and dormitories especially for ladies passengers, better signage etc. has been planned for execution during 2009-10.

(d) and (e) Railways have plans to make sub-urban stations disabled friendly after completion of such work at "A-1", "A" and "B" category stations.

[Translation]

Damodar Rail Diversion Project

4520. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have launched the Damodar Rail Diversion Project in Jharkhand in collaboration with Coal India Limited and Central Coalfields Limited

(b) if so, the details of the amount spent on the above project so far and the status of the said project; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to implement the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Phusro-Jarandih Railway diversion project has been undertaken

by Railway as a deposit work of Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL).

(b) and (c) An expenditure of Rs. 28.19 crore have been incurred so far. During year 1981 to 1986, work was held up due to delay in acquisition of land due to difficulties associated with resettlement of land owners. Inter Ministerial Group proposed change in alignment involving three stretches in the year 1992. However, as complete land on the revised alignment has not been handed over by M/s CCL. The Railway has not been able to up the work in these patches. In the meantime, the cost of the project has escalated to Rs. 67.11 crore. CCL has not given the approval to this revised cost.

[English]

Begumpet Airport

4521. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army Cantonment owns any land in the Begumpet Airport at Hyderabad which has been closed;

(b) if so, the details of the land owned by the Airport Authority of India and the Army Cantonment separately;

(c) whether the land that belongs to the Cantonment will be transferred back to the Army Cantonment;

(d) if so, the time by which the land is likely to be transferred; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Army Cantonment does not own any land at Begumpet Airport.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Stipend to Junior Advocates

4522. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide stipend to the Junior Advocates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Bar Council of India has forwarded draft Scheme to the Government of India in 2006 for providing assistance to young lawyers upto two years of practice from the resources of Legal Services Authorities. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) though appreciated the Scheme but is not agreeable for disbursement of the stipend amount using its funds.

Aviation Regulatory Mechanism

4523. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have Jointly audited the country's Air Safety Oversight Mechanisms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has complied with all the recommendations made by the ICAO;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the various steps taken to improve the regulatory and safety oversight mechanisms by the DGCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Madam. International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) conducts mandatory audit of all member states under Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP), whereas the United States of America's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) under its International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) Programme carries out audit of only those countries whose airlines

operate to USA. The ICAO audit covered the areas of airworthiness, accident investigation and air navigation services including the legislation and organisation. The FAA under its IASA programme carried out audit of airworthiness, flight operation and licensing aspects. The ICAO audit was conducted in October, 2008 and FAA assessment was conducted in March, 2009 as two separate audits.

(c) and (d) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has implemented 54 of the 70 recommendations and initiated action for implementing the remaining 16 recommendations of ICAO.

(e) Various steps taken to improve the regulatory and safety oversight mechanism include amendment of Aircraft Rules, modification of Specific Operating Regulations, filling up of vacant posts in DGCA, training of technical staff, modification of licensing and certification procedures, surveillance procedure, preparation of enforcement manual etc.

Promotion of Textiles Industry

4524. SHRI K. SUGUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to send a high level team of officials to various countries with a view to promote Indian textiles industry;

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

(c) whether the Government with a view to promote Foreign Direct Investment in Textiles Industry is going to set up Apparel Parks at various locations in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to send a high level team of officials to foreign countries for promoting the textiles industry. However, the Textiles Export Promotion Councils are being provided with funds to hold Mega Shows abroad in selected countries for showcasing India's textiles products. The countries include Australia, Russia, South Africa, Brazil, Argentina and Germany.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Use of Natural Gas for RIL Refineries

4525. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) has sought permission to use gas from KG basin for its refineries as the Government has failed to find enough buyers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has allocated the initial production of 40 million metric standard cubic meters per day (mmscmd) to various priority sectors. RIL has also requested for allocation of gas to meet its own captive requirements, including for its refineries. However, EGoM constituted to decide issues pertaining to pricing and commercial utilization of gas under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) has decided that allotment to these users will be made while taking decisions on utilization of gas beyond 40 mmscmd.

[Translation]

Halts of Trains at Bharwari Station

4526. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passengers are facing hardships and the Railways are suffering financial losses due to cancellation of halts of several trains at stations such as Bharwari on major rail route from Howrah to Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the halts of Sealdah Express, Toofan Express and Katihar Express trains have also been cancelled at Bharwari Station;

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

(d) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) No, Madam. To avoid inconvenience to travelling public, stoppages of some trains were given at Bharwari station during the period when Sealdah and Toofan Express were cancelled. These temporary stoppages have been withdrawn after restoration of these two trains.

[English]

Mini Ratna Status

4527. SHRI BALKRISHNA KHANDERAO SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated any proposal to accord Mini Ratna Status to some of the Government owned textiles mills in the country including Gujarat;

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

(c) the criteria laid down for according Mini Ratna status; and

(d) the time frame fixed for the approval of such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) No proposal has been received in the Department of Public Enterprises for grant of Miniratna status to any of the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in Textiles sector.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the laid down criteria, the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) having profit in the last three years continuously, with pre-tax profit of Rs. 30 crore or more in at least one of the three years, and having positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna Category-I status. The CPSEs having profit in the last three years continuously and having positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna Category-II status.

(d) Generally, the Department of Public Enterprises conveys its approval/disapproval on the complete proposals received from various administrative Ministries/Departments for grant of Miniratna status to CPSEs under

their administrative control, within six weeks of their receipt.

Demand and Supply of Fertilizers

4528. SHRI S. SEMMALAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to change the existing system of assessing the fertilizer requirements of State Governments and its supply at the lag end of the month for the next month's needs;

(b) if so whether the Government proposes to assess the requirements of each State and deliver the fertilizers one month well in advance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) No, Madam Department of Agriculture and Co-operation (DAC) assesses the season-wise and month-wise requirement of fertilizers for each State in consultation with state agriculture department in a Zonal Agriculture Conference held for this purpose. There is no change in system of assessment of fertilizers requirements. However, 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 Department of Fertilizers monitors the availability of fertilizers including delivery in advance in each State as per the monthly/seasonal requirement assessed by DAC.

Wind Turbine Generator under TUFs

4529. SHRI C. SIVASAMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering for reinclusion of wind turbine generator under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFs) as many Textiles mills and garment units in the country including Tamil

Nadu are installing wind turbine generators to bring down their input cost; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time frame within which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Wind turbine generator has been covered in the existing scheme as "captive power plant (including non-conventional sources) of the units availing of TUFs loan" alongwith specified investments, eligible upto to 25% of the cost of machinery.

Raza Textile Mill, Rampur

4530. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to revive Raza Textiles Mill, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Madam. As per the information available M/s. Raza Textiles, Rampur has been liquidated and the official liquidator has been appointed by the High Court, Allahabad vide order dated 1-6-1994.

Revival of Handloom and Powerloom Industry

4531. DR. MIRZA MEHBOOB BEG:

SHRI PRATAPRAO GANPATRAO JADHAO:

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Handicrafts and Handloom Export Corporation of India (HHEC) has failed to come to the rescue of the large number of weavers because of the paucity of funds;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make HHEC more effective;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revive the silk, handicraft/handloom and powerloom industry in

the country/particularly in Jammu and Kashmir and Vidarbha region of Maharashtra; and

(d) the details of financial assistance being provided to each State for the revival of Handloom and Powerloom industry during each of the last three years, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Madam, HHEC is a trading company. Based on the buyers' requirement, HHEC procures its material mostly from the weavers/clusters ensuring a fair return on the product. It has established procurement centres at the weavers' door-steps and ensures prompt payment.

(b) The Government supports HHEC's marketing efforts by way of grant-in-aid for participation in international exhibitions for generation of export orders to be catered to by the large number of weavers.

(c) In order to revive the silk, handicraft/handloom and powerloom industry in the country including Jammu and Kashmir and Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, Government is implementing several programmes and schemes such as Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) for Silk Sector, Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY), Marketing Support and Services, Design and Technical Upgradation, Research and Development, Human Resource Development, Handicraft Artisans' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme for Handicraft Sector Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme, Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Diversified Handloom Development Scheme for Handloom Sector and Modified Group Workshop Scheme, Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Sector (having components of Marketing Development Programme, exposure visit of powerloom weavers to other clusters, survey of powerlooms, Powerloom Cluster Development and Development and Upgradation of skills) etc.

(d) The details of State-wise and Scheme-wise funds released during the last three years under different Schemes of the Handloom Sector is enclosed as statement. In so far as Powerloom Sector is concerned the Schemes are Central Sector Schemes for which assistance is not routed through the State Governments.

Statement

Details of releases made during 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and 2009-10 (upto 26-06-2009) to various states under different Handloom Plan and Non-Plan Schemes

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Plan						Non-Plan					
		Integrated Handloom Development Scheme			Markegint and Export Promotion Scheme			Implementation of the HI (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985			10% Special Rebate		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16.78	6.22	0.22	0.95	1.87		0.72	0.18		5.87	6.27	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.50	3.21		0.03	0.02					0.00	0.00	
3.	Assam	7.85	3.12	0.06	1.43	2.10	0.15				0.00	6.40	
4.	Bihar	0.88	1.04		0.02	0.02					0.00	0.00	
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.92	0.61		0.42	0.17					0.20	0.00	
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.49	0.37	0.35				0.00	0.00	
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00					0.00	0.00	
8.	Gujarat	1.11	0.75		0.27	0.26			0.56		0.50	0.52	
9.	Haryana	0.05	0.00		0.13	0.37		0.28			5.10	0.00	
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.77	0.76		0.17	0.26					0.00	2.20	
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	1.43		0.06	0.00					0.00	0.00	
12.	Jharkhand	1.69	2.83		0.00	0.04					0.00	0.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13. Karnataka		8.76	5.74	0.74	0.70	1.44	0.05				2.48	1.66	
14. Kerala		6.24	6.43	2.30	0.18	0.23					8.30	3.50	
15. Madhya Pradesh		1.46	2.13		0.86	0.12			0.12		0.00	0.00	
16. Maharashtra		0.00	0.00		1.09	1.89					0.25	0.16	
17. Manipur		6.02	2.86		0.10	0.35					0.89	0.00	
18. Meghalaya		0.83	0.55		0.17	0.06					0.00	0.00	
19. Mizoram		0.00	0.00		0.51	0.34					0.00	0.00	
20. Nagaland		1.94	2.43		0.87	2.06	0.34				1.89	2.31	
21. Orissa		3.98	5.70	0.03	1.15	1.07					4.80	7.64	
22. Pondicherry		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00					0.00	0.00	
23. Punjab		0.00	0.00		0.05	0.00					0.00	0.04	
24. Rajasthan		0.26	0.54		0.64	0.44			0.29		0.00	7.34	
25. Sikkim		0.00	0.37		0.04	0.03					0.00	0.00	
26. Tamil Nadu		29.77	41.75	7.45	0.62	1.54		0.39	0.24		6.49	5.29	
27. Tripura		1.36	1.28		0.04	0.09					0.29	0.00	
28. Uttar Pradesh		2.36	4.28		1.35	2.36					0.00	7.03	
29. Uttarakhand		0.50	1.57		0.15	0.46					0.00	0.00	
30. West Bengal		4.05	5.01	2.79	0.51	1.06		0.11	0.11		1.91	2.65	
Total		99.51	100.61	13.94	13.00	19.02	0.89	1.50	1.50		39.40	53.01	
Other Organisations		10.99	8.37		10.44	25.97		0	0		1.00	0.32	
Grand Total		110.50	108.98		23.44	44.99		1.50	1.50		40.00	53.33	

Railway Track between Dahod to Udaipur

4532. DR. PRABHA KISHOR TAVIAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to lay new railway track between Dahod (Gujarat) to Udaipur (Rajasthan) via Zalod, Fatepura, Santranpur, Lunawada and Khanpur to connect Ahmedabad-Udaipur railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Registration of Companies

4533. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received reports about the companies operating in the country without getting themselves registered with the Registrar of Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such companies; and

(d) the details of procedure laid down for floating new 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) No such instance has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The promoters who are desirous of floating a new company have to obtain availability of name and thereafter submit Memorandum and Articles of Association duly subscribed by adequate number of persons. On satisfying that all the requirements are complied with, Registrar of Companies issues Certificate of Incorporation.

[English]

Allocation of Natural Gas from KG Basin

4534. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:
DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from various State Governments including Maharashtra for supply of natural gas from the Krishna Godavari (KG) basin D-6 block of Reliance India Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Requests have been received *inter alia* from State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Haryana and Rajasthan and Union Territory of Puducherry for allocation of KG-D6 gas to their proposed power plants.

Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has decided that, subject to the availability of gas, necessary allocations from KG-D6 fields will be made to power projects in the pipeline as and when they are ready to commence production.

Electricity Consumption in Railways

4535. SHRI BALIRAM JADHAV:
SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO
DUDHGAONKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual electricity consumption of Railways during the last three years;

(b) the annual electricity bills of the railways during that period;

(c) the rate at which the Railways have been purchasing the electricity for operational and non-operational purposes;

(d) the source of power supply of Railways;

(e) whether the Railways purchase power at uniform price from all the suppliers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The Annual electricity consumption of Indian Railways for operational (Traction) and non operational (Non traction) purpose for the last three years are as under:

(Electricity bill paid in million Rs.)

Type	Year		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Operational purpose (Traction)	10398	11035	11685
Non Operational Purpose (Non Traction)	2307	2322	2411
Total	12705	13357	14096

(b) The annual electricity bills of the Indian Railways for the last three years are as under:

(Electricity consumption in million Kwh)

Type	Year		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Operational purpose (Traction)	43919	47182	50108
Non Operational Purpose (Non Traction)	9786	9893	10448
Total	52705	57075	60556

(c) Average cost of energy in paisa per unit for Operational (Traction) and Non operational (Non-Traction)

purpose for the last three years are as under:

(Paisa per unit)

Type	Year	Average cost
1	2	3
Operational Purpose (Traction)	2005-06	422

1	2	3
	2006-07	428
	2007-08	429
Non Operational Purpose (Non-traction)	2005-06	424
	2006-07	426
	2007-08	433

(d) Power is purchased from different distribution companies (DISCOMs) in States and three power companies viz. Tata Electric, Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) and NTPC.

(e) and (f) No Madam. However, it varied from 369 paisa per unit (in Kerala) to 518 paisa per unit (in Gujarat) during 2007-08.

[Translation]

Rail Accidents and Compensation

4536. SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of train accidents reported during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the main causes of such accidents;

(c) the total loss of railway property and the number of persons killed/injured alongwith the compensation paid to victims and their kin, accident-wise;

(d) the details of the inquiry ordered into each accident, their findings and the action taken thereon;

(e) whether the recommendations of the inquiry commissions/committees on earlier accidents have not been implemented so far;

(f) is so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the safety measures taken/to be taken by the Railways to check recurrence of such accident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Category-wise number of consequential train accidents during 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and in the current year from April to July 2009, is as under:

Type of Accident	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	April to July, 2009
Collision	8	8	13	2
Derailments	96	100	85	26
Manned Level Crossing Accidents	7	12	7	2
Unmanned Level Crossing Accidents	72	65	62	15
Fire in Train	4	5	3	2
Miscellaneous	8	4	7	-
Total	195	194	177	47

(b) Cause-wise number of consequential train accidents during 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and in the

current year from April to July 2009, is as under:

Type of Accident	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	April to July, 2009*
Failure of Railway Staff	85	87	82	21
Failure of Other than Railway Staff	84	81	71	19
Equipment Failure	9	9	2	-
Sabotage	8	7	13	2
Combination of Factors	1	-	1	-
Incidentals	7	8	5	3
Could not be established	1	2	3	1
Under Investigation	—	—	—	1
Total	195	194	177	47

(c) Number of persons killed/injured, compensation paid and loss of railway property in consequential train

accidents during 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and from April to July 2009, are as under:

Type of Accident	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09*	April to July, 2009*
Killed	208	191	207	54
Injured	402	412	416	45
Amount of Compensation paid (Rupees in lakhs)	500.89	121.37	218.94	110.25 (April to June, 2009)
Loss of Railway property (Rupees in lakhs)	3193	4055.40	5850.80	345.73

*Figures are provisional.

(d) and (e) Each and every train accident is inquired either by a committee of railway officers or by the Commission of Railway Safety depending upon the seriousness of the accident. During the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and in the current year from April to July 2009, a total of 613 consequential train accidents took place on Indian Railways. Out of which, 80 were

inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety and balance 533 were inquired into by the Departmental Committees. Each inquiry establishes the cause and the responsibility. Recommendations/findings of the Commission of Railway Safety and the Departmental Committees are examined by the concerned Departments of Indian Railways for compliance if

feasible and disciplinary action is taken against the defaulting staff. During 2006-07 to 2008-09, major penalties have been awarded to 207 defaulting staff and minor penalties have been awarded to 303 defaulting staff. In the current year from April to June 2009, major penalty has been awarded to 19 and minor penalty has been awarded to 30 defaulting staff.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Measures taken by the Railways to prevent accidents include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for up-gradation and maintenance of track, measurement of overstressing of track and bridges, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. As a result, there has been a declining trend in the number of accidents from 415 in 2001-02 to 194 in 2007-08 and further to 177 in 2008-09.

[English]

Appointment of Additional Solicitor General

4537. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for the appointment of Additional Solicitor-General;

(b) whether the Government has appointed Additional Solicitor-General for the Supreme Court and High Courts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the allocation made by the Government therefore?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) There is no eligibility criterion or experience fixed for the appointment of Additional Solicitor General of India. However, for the said appointment LLB qualification is a must and he or she must be an advocate of eminence.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) List of Additional Solicitor General appointed for the various Courts is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

List of Additional Solicitors General

Sl. No.	Name of Additional Solicitor General of India	Court
1	2	3
	S/Shri	
1.	Mohan Parasaran	Supreme Court of India
2.	Parag P. Tripathi	Supreme Court of India
3.	P.P. Malhotra	Supreme Court of India
4.	(Ms) Indira Jaising	Supreme Court of India
5.	Mohan Jain	Supreme Court of India
6.	Gourab Banerji	Supreme Court of India
7.	Harin P. Raval	Supreme Court of India

1	2	3
8.	Muthukrishnan Ravindran	Chennai, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala High Courts
9.	Dr. Ashok Nigam	Allahabad High Court and its Lucknow Bench
10.	Darius J. Khambatta	Bombay High Court
11.	Farook M. Razack	Calcutta High Court and the High Courts of Bihar, Orissa and North East
12.	Amarjit Singh Chandhiok	Delhi High Court

[Translation]

Railway Line between Shankareshwar-Harji

4538. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to lay a new Railway Line between Mehsana via Chanasma-Shakareswar-Sabhi-Harji and Mehsana-Bechraji; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Export of Textiles

4539. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:

SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI
BAVALIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken serious steps to ensure the availability of sufficient cotton to the textiles sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the growth in the export of cotton garments in the total textiles export during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) the targets set and the achievements made for the export of readymade garments during each of the last three years and the current year;

(e) whether there has been any shortfall in achieving the targets during the said period; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of cotton for the textiles sector in the country.

(c) The exports of cotton garments in the total exports of textiles and clothings during each of the last three years is given below:—

(in US\$ Million)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (Apr.-Feb.)
Readymade Garments of Cotton includin accessories	6909.48	7534.84	6937.38
Total Textiles and Clothing Exports.	126262.68	162904.15	153018.22

(d) The targets set for exports of textiles and clothings and achievement made during the last three years are given below:-

(in US\$ Million)

Year	Target	Achievement
2005-06	15565	17080
2006-07	19730	19146
2007-05	25060	22130
2008-09	26556	18519

(Apl.-Feb '09)

(e) and (f) There has been a shortfall in achieving the targets as may be seen from the table at part (d) of the reply. The reasons are attributable to the high and persistent appreciation of the Indian rupee vis-a-vis the US dollar during 2007-08 leading to lower realization for the textiles sector. This phase was immediately followed by onset of global economic slowdown and recession in the major markets for India's textiles exports, leading to lower sales in these markets.

[Translation]

Strike of Lawyers

4540. SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH:

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

(a) whether the lawyers of the several courts had gone on strike recently to protest against "service tax" imposed by the Government in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government/Bar Council of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The Bar Council of India (BCI), statutory body created under the Advocates Act, 1961 has informed that they have received representations from some of the associations viz. Central Bar Association, Azamgarh, Meerut Bar Association, Meerut and District Bar Association, Mirzapur intending to condemn the decision on the proposed Service Tax Bill.

However, they do not have any information as to whether the said associations actually had gone on strike on the dates as stated by them. The lawyers without going through the contents of the bill intent to go on strike were deprecated by the Chairman on his telephonic talk to the Secretary/Chairman of the Bar Associations. The BCI has a meeting with the Hon'ble Law Minister on this subject on 29-7-2009 and they are in agreement with the provisions of the Bill as it stands and therefore no resolution was taken by them to go on strike. The BCI have also issued circular to all the States Bar Councils to forbid the associations under them not to resort to strike in any form on this issue.

Production of Crude Oil by IOC

4541. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation is undertaking oil production work in many areas of the country;

(b) if so, the names of areas where crude oil is being produced by the corporation;

(c) the increase made in crude oil production in these areas during the last three years till date;

(d) the average cost of crude oil produced by the Indian Oil Corporation in the country during the last year;

(e) whether the produced crude oil was sold at the rate of imported oil to the oil refineries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (f) No, Madam. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) is participating in exploration activities in various parts of the country. However, as of now, IOCL does not have production from any of its E and P assets.

Share of Private Sector in Construction of Airports

4542. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the state-of-the-art airports made operational during the current year; and

(b) the details of the share of participation of the private sector in the construction of the said airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There is no state-of-the-art airport made operational during the current year. However, during the current year new terminal buildings were made operational at Amritsar (Punjab), Aurangabad (Maharashtra), Dibrugarh (Assam), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir), Surat (Gujarat), Trichy (Tamil Nadu) and Vishkapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). The cost of the new Terminal Buildings at these airports were borne entirely by the Airports Authority of India.

Repair of Railway Bridges

4543. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail bridges in the country which have been declared 'dangerous' by the Railway Safety Review Committee, State-wise;

(b) the number of bridges which have been repaired so far;

(c) whether the Railways have formulated any scheme to construct new bridges; and

(d) if so, State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No Railway bridges in the country have been declared dangerous by the Railway Safety Review Committee.

(b) to (d) Information on Railway Bridges is maintained Zone-wise not State-wise. Rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of Bridges is an ongoing work on Indian Railways. Rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of Bridges is undertaken on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during regular inspections carried out in the field and not on the basis of age. Therefore, all old Bridges do not necessarily require rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening.

Certain Bridges which may show signs of deterioration of physical condition indicating need for rehabilitation etc. are classified as Distressed Bridges. These, however, are neither unsafe nor dilapidated Bridges. Priority is given to early rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of Distressed Bridges. If required, suitable speed restrictions are imposed on such bridges till rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening is carried out. Sometimes the Bridges are strengthened due to the requirement of heavier axle loads and higher tractive effort. Based on such identification of Bridges, allotment of funds is made annually to carry out their rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening duly prioritizing the works as per requirement.

A total of 12851 numbers of Railway Bridges, including 1345 number of distressed Bridges, have been rehabilitated/rebuilt/strengthened on Indian Railway since 1998-99 upto May, 2009.

[English]

Vacant Posts under SC/ST Category

4544. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reserved posts for SC/ST and OBC vacant as on date in Railways;

(b) whether the Railways are planning or have taken any decision to fill up these posts;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which these vacant posts are likely to be filled up;

(e) whether the Railways have received various representations in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) As per figures available with Railways, the details of vacant posts of SC, ST and OBC, as on 01-11-2008, are as under:

SC—10280, ST—12727, OBC—6557.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) An Action Plan has been made to fill up the identified backlog vacancies through a Special Recruitment Drive.

(d) Drive has already been launched to fill up the backlog vacancies as early as possible.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

Statutory Auditors

4545. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Statutory Auditors of listed companies are appointed by the companies in its general meeting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether by such appointment of statutory auditors by the management there is a nexus between the Auditors and the management;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is a proposal to have the statutory auditors appointed by a Regulatory Authority in respect of listed companies like in the cases of banks and Government companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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) Yes, Madam. As per provisions of section 224 of the Companies Act, 1956, every company is statutorily required to appoint an Auditor of hold office from the conclusion of that meeting until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting. As per section 619 of the Act, an Auditor in a Government company is appointed by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The appointment of statutory auditor is made by the shareholders of a company in its annual general meeting.

(e) and (f) At present, no such proposal is there.

FDI in Textiles Sector

4546. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for Textiles sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government has set up a FDI cell in this regard;

(c) if so, the objectives of such cell; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to promote FDI in textiles sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy applicable for the textiles sector provides for 100% FDI in the sector through automatic route.

(b) and (c) An FDI Cell was set up in the Ministry of Textiles to monitor the progress of inflow of FDI in the textiles sector.

(d) The Government has initiated a plan scheme in 2008-09 for mobilization of FDI in the textiles sector from certain target countries which hold the potential to invest in the textiles sector in India.

[Translation]

Rail Bridge on River Saryu

4547. DR. NIRMAL KHATRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of the new Railway Bridge constructed on river Saryu, Ayodhya;

(b) the number of trains passing through this bridge;

(c) whether a new train on Gorakhpur-Ayodhya-Faizabad route via Allahabad as announced in the railway budget is proposed to be run from Gorakhpur to Mumbai to facilitate the passengers of this route; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

revised estimate, the cost of construction of new line from Katra to Ayodhya including bridge over river Saryu was estimated as Rs. 95.31 crore.

(b) At present, 1 pair Express and 4 pairs of passenger services are passing through the bridge.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Production of Crude Oil/Natural Gas by ONGC

4548. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) during the last five years;

(b) whether any action plan has been formulated by the Government to bring transparency in the functioning of the ONGC; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The achievements made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) during the last five years (2004-09), as on 01-04-2009, are as follows:

Head	Achievement
Production of Crude oil	128.25 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)
Production of Natural Gas	112806 Million Cubic Metres (MMm ³)
Discoveries Made	102 new discoveries including 51 new prospects discoveries
Reserve accretion	910.91 Million Metric Tone (MMt) of Oil+Oil Equivalent Gas (O+OEG)
Onshore	
Acquisition 2D	8,665 Ground Line Kilometre (GLK)/Line Kilometre (LK)
Acquisition 3D	18,075 sq. km.
Wells	358
Offshore	
Acquisition 2D	1,09,245 LK
Acquisition 3D	92,528 Sq. km.
Wells	148

(b) and (c) ONGC has taken various steps to bring transparency in its operations over the years. Some of these are as follows:—

(i) The website of ONGC is a store house of information relating to various areas of operations and functioning of the Company.

(ii) ONGC has an elaborate Vigilance Mechanism spread through out the Company headed by a Chief Vigilance Officer who reports to Chief Vigilance Commissioner.

(iii) ONGC was the first corporate entity in India to introduce an "Integrity Pact Program" (IP)

which involves an elaborate mechanism for floating of various tenders, wherein all the bidders are required to sign on IP while submitting their bids. The major features of IP programme include commitments and obligations of ONGC Commitments and obligations of counterparties, violation and consequences. The entire process is overseen by Independent External Monitors. This ensures that all the tenders for procurement of goods and services are processed in a very transparent manner in line with international standards.

- (iv) ONGC holds regular interaction with the vendors of the Company through Vendors Meet organized at least once in a year. All the major tenders of the Company are hosted on website of the Company to enable all eligible bidders to participate.

[English]

LNG Petronet Project at Kochi

4549. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation work of LNG Petronet project is in progress in Kochi, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total expenditure incurred on the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) is setting up an LNG terminal at Kochi, Kerala. Work on administration building, warehouse, workshop and Occupational health center is under progress. LNG storage and marine facilities work has been awarded. Contract for regasification facilities is expected to be awarded shortly.

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 512.80 crore has been incurred on the Project.

(d) Mechanical completion of the Project is scheduled in December 2011.

Computerized Reservation Centre

4550. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI
BAVALIA:

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

SHRI PRATAPRAO GANPATRAO JADHAO:

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE:

SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE:

SHRI P. BALRAM

SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria/norm for opening of a computerized railway reservation centre;

(b) the details of the requests/representations received from various quarters including State Governments for opening of computerized railway reservation centres during the last two years, station-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on each of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) As per existing policy, computerized reservation facilities are generally provided at locations where the assessed potential is about 100 transactions per day. At places where assessed potential is less than 100 transactions, this facility is provided alongwith the Unreserved Ticketing System. Computer Reservation System is also provided at selected post offices.

(b) 490 requests/representations were received during the last two years for opening computerized reservation centres.

(c) Sanction has been given for opening of computerized reservation office at 270 locations.

Loan from Asian Development Bank

4551. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have requested financial assistance from Asian Development Bank for funding railway projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the ADB in this regard;

(d) the names of railway projects which are proposed for funding by ADB; 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) to (c) Yes, Madam. The Railways have requested for a second loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) for funding railway projects in the country. The loan is still in the discussion stage.

(d) and (e) Railways have identified five project for the loan and these are as under:—

1. Daund-Gulbarga Doubling
2. Sambalpur-Titlagarh Doubling
3. Raipur-Titlagarh Doubling
4. Pune-Guntakal Railway Electrification
5. Hospet-Tinaighat Doubling

[Translation]

Railway Reservation Counter

4552. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Reservation Office at Gumla has been closed and ticket reservation work has been entrusted to the postal department;

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

(c) whether the Government is considering to reopen the said Railway Reservation Office; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes Madam. Reservation facility at non-Rail Head location at Gumla, is now being provided through the post office.

(b) This has been done to provide reservation facility to customers and at the same time lower cost to Central Government.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) The present arrangements are working satisfactorily.

Oil Exploration in Bihar

4553. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise details of the petrol reservoirs in Bihar where exploration has been delayed;

(b) whether exploration has not still been completed in Koshi and Ganga basin where petrol reservoirs were discovered long back;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure timely completion of exploration work of the said reservoirs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The exploratory inputs extended by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) and Private/Joint Venture Companies in the state of Bihar have not indicated presence of any petroleum reserves so far.

(b) and (c) The surface data gathered so far in Ganga and Purnea Basin in Bihar has not given any lead for hydrocarbon reservoir.

In the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime,

following three exploration Blocks are under operation in the state of Bihar:

- (i) GV-ONN-2002/1 (falling in the district of Madhubani, Sitamari, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Munger, Begusarai, Patna, Khagaria, Saharsa, Bhagalpur, Madhepura and Supaul).
- (ii) PA-ONN-2004/1 (falling in the district of Araria, Kishanganj and Purnea).
- (iii) GV-ONN-2005/3 (falling in the district of Paschim Champaran)

(d) Government of India has entered into Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for these three blocks. The Operator has to complete Minimum Work Programme as per the time frame stipulated in the PSC.

[English]

Statutory Levies on Crude Oil Produced from Barmer Fields

4554. 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) has been allowed to shed its obligation to pay statutory levies on crude produced from Barmer fields;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the ONGC has to pay royalty on Barmer oil even if ONGC gives up its stake;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon; and

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

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

(c) to (e) As per the provisions of Production Sharing Contract for the Block RJ-ON-90/1, royalty is payable by the Licensee. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), being the licensee of the

Block, RJ-ON-90/1, is liable to pay royalty in respect of mineral oil produced from the Block.

[Translation]

Compliance of the DGCA Rules

4555. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rules framed by Directorate General of Civil Aviation are being followed by all the Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the activities and flight safety measures adopted by the Airlines are being monitored by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether centralization of flight dispatch is recognized by the Government; and

(f) if not, the action taken by the Government against the Airlines which are implementing flight dispatch centralization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. All the airlines follow Aircraft Act, 1934, Aircraft Rules, 1937 and instructions issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in pursuance of thereof.

(c) and (d) To monitor the compliance of rules and regulations pertaining to aviation, surveillance and safety audit of the operators is carried out by DGCA.

(e) and (f) Centralised flight despatch is an alternate means of compliance of the flight plan submission requirements. A committee has been constituted to look into detailed provisions of centralised flight despatch.

[English]

Avantha Bhandar Thermal Power Project

4556. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has received any order for the main plant package at the upcoming Avantha Bhandar Thermal Power Project in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the said power project;

(d) the special steps taken by the BHEL for the said project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes Madam, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has received an order for the main plant package for one unit of 600 MW coal based Avantha Bhandar Thermal Power Project (TPP) in Chhattisgarh from Korba West Power Company Limited (KWPC) in May 2009.

BHEL scope of work includes design, engineering, manufacture, supply, erection and commissioning of Boiler, Steam Turbine and Generator set alongwith Controls and Instrumentation (C and I).

(c) Value of above order placed on BHEL for its scope of work is Rs. 1,475 crore approximately.

(d) BHEL has initiated design, engineering, procurement and manufacturing action for the project.

(e) As per contract, the trial operation is likely to be completed in November 2012 for BHEL's scope of work. Project completion is dependent on timely availability of fronts/inputs/clearances etc.

Welfare of Weavers

4557. SHRI M. KRISHNASWAMI:

SHRI O.S. MANIAN:

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total budget allocated for improvement of

the conditions of the Weavers in the country including Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide tax exemption for gold and silver zari weavers of handloom sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Handloom Development Centres have been set up with the grants received from the Union Government to provide benefits to the weavers in the country including the State of Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No State-wise funds are allocated under the schemes being implemented by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms. The budget allocated for the first three years of the 11th Plan throughout the country including State of Tamil Nadu is as under:

(Rs. in crore)	
Year	Budget Allocated
2007-08	Rs. 294.52
2008-09	Rs. 325.98
2009-10	Rs. 340.00

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Madam. Under the erstwhile, Handloom Development Centres (HDCs) and Quality Dyeing Unit (QDU) Scheme, which was introduced in the year, 1993-94 and was in operation till the year, 1997-98. 1848 HDCs and 391 QDUs were sanctioned to various State Government including Kerala State where 72 HDCs and 12 QDUs were sanctioned.

(e) A statement showing State-wise HDCs/QDUs is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Handloom Development Centre/Quality Dyeing Unit Scheme (Status of Funds Released from 1993-94 to 2001-02)*

(Rs.in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	1993-94			1994-95			1995-96			1996-97		
		HDC	QDU	Amount	HDC	QDU	Amount	HDC	QDU	Amount	HDC	QDU	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50	24	246.95000	30	13	414.09000	47	3	217.82000	159	49	671.67000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh												
3.	Assam	45		100.00000	58	12	489.23500			84.49000			
4.	Bihar					14	74.48000	35	4	114.41000	1		4.00000
5.	Gujarat				6		20.42000			8.25000	1		0.15000
6.	Goa												
7.	Haryana							1		4.00000			
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1		2.00000	4		30.38000	5	1	26.19600	1	2	23.99500
9.	Jammu and Kashmir				2		6.08000	1		3.04000			
10.	Karnataka	6	1	17.50000	15	3	84.69000		2	26.69500	7		12.51000
11.	Kerala	8		29.37000	36	3	260.98000	18	5	116.05000	9	4	86.95400
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5		20.00000	12	6	82.06500	11		31.87000			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13. Maharashtra		1	1	6.00000	14	1	53.38500	5	1	26.48000			
14. Manipur		41		113.74000	96	7	607.52500			132.00000			
15. Meghalaya													
16. Mizoram													
17. Nagaland								2		8.00000	60	1	239.91000
18. Orissa		38	26	178.30000	48	8	278.28000	55	1	153.84000	57	5	84.43000
19. Punjab													
20. Rajasthan					1		3.04000			2.23500			
21. Tamil Nadu		30	6	124.85000	119	17	805.83000	99	5	449.10500	38	4	114.20000
22. Tripura					13	10	48.01000			17.87500			
23. Uttar Pradesh					76	42	404.89000	7	8	140.13000	2		2.38000
24. West Bengal		42	8	161.29000	56	12	336.64000	38	8	165.85500	55	12	104.82000
25. Pondicherry					5		18.50150						
26. Sikkim													
27. Delhi													
Total		267	66	1000.00000	605	134	4018.50150	326	36	1728.34000	390	77	1345.01900

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	1997-98			1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	Total		
		HDC	QDU	Amount	Balance only	Balance only	Balance only	HDC	QDU	Amount
1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1.	Andhra Pradesh	111	62	460.34000	13.68624	27.89300		397	151	2052.44924
2.	Arunachal Pradesh									0.00000
3.	Assam							103		673.72500
4.	Bihar	3	3	16.97000				53	19	209.86000
5.	Gujarat							7		28.82000
6.	Goa									0.00000
7.	Haryana			5.00000				1		9.00000
8.	Himachal Pradesh				2.84000	5.10000		11	3	90.49000
9.	Jammu and Kashmir							3		9.12000
10.	Karnataka							30	4	141.39500
11.	Kerala			4.06000	15.99192			72	12	513.40592
12.	Madhya Pradesh							28	8	133.93500

1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
13.	Maharashtra							20	3	85.86500
14.	Manipur							137	7	853.26500
15.	Meghalaya									0.00000
16.	Mizoram									0.00000
17.	Nagaland	80	6	315.63000	61.39000	78.84000		142	7	703.77000
18.	Orissa	16	2	24.11000				214	42	718.96000
19.	Punjab									0.00000
20.	Rajasthan					1.77500		1		7.05000
21.	Tamil Nadu	38	4	116.07000	290.08887			324	36	1900.14387
22.	Tripura							13	10	65.88500
23.	Uttar Pradesh	4	1	19.69200	12.18960			89	51	579.28160
24.	West Bengal	7		6.66000				198	40	775.26500
25.	Pondicherry							5		18.50150
26.	Sikkim									0.00000
27.	Delhi									0.00000
Total		260	78	968.53200	396.18663	111.83300	1.77500	1848	391	9570.18713

Increase in Prices of Pesticides

4558. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of pesticides have increased manifold during the recent years;

(b) if so, the reason thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to control and bring down the prices of pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The prices of pesticides are not regulated. Generally the prices of pesticides have gone up particularly during 2008. However, in some case the prices have decreased. There was substantial increase in the prices of pesticides during 2008, resulting from increase in prices of inputs caused by spurt in prices of crude oil as also raw materials mainly coming from China. There was large scale closure of manufacturing plants in China due to Olympics in 2008. The prices of pesticides have since been stabilized.

(c) The excise duty on pesticides has been lowered from 16% to 8%.

[Translation]

Model Railway Stations in Madhya Pradesh

4559. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the railway stations proposed to be upgraded/modernized as model railway stations in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the details of the additional facilities likely to be provided at each of such railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The names of the railway stations proposed to be upgraded/modernized as model railway stations in the State of Madhya Pradesh are as under:

Bamnia, Bhopal, Babina, Damoh, Gwalior, Guna, Habibganj, Hoshangabad, Indore, Jabalpur, Katni Jn., Pipariya, Ratlam, Satna, Ujjain, Khandwa, Burhanpur, Betul, Singrauli, Morena, Shahdol, Mhow, Dewas, Mandsaur, Nagda, Nimach, Madanmahal, Sagour, Maihar, Rewa, Itarsi, Bina, Vidisha and Chhindwara.

(b) Model Stations are to be provided with additional amenities such as retiring room, waiting room, public address system/computer based announcement system, electronic train indicator board, public phone booths, water coolers, standardized signages etc., depending upon the category of the station.

[English]

High Speed Trains

4560. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are seeking French cooperation to introduce high speed trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sale of Barmer Oil

4561. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC and Mangalore Refinery Private Ltd. were designated as buyers of Barmer oil by Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to designate other oil marketing companies to buy the oil; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to make the project viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Mangalore Refinery Private Ltd. (MRPL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), and

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL), have been nominated to purchase the crude oil to be produced from the Block RJ-ON-90/1 for the year 2009-10 and 2010-11 are as under:

Nome of Government Nominee	Allocation during 2009-10 Million Metric Tonne (MMT)	Allocation during 2010-11 Million Metric Tonne (MMT)
HPCL	0.30	0.50
MRPL	0.20	0.40
IOCL	0.20	1.50

The allocation of crude beyond the quantities of crude indicated above will be made after ascertaining the capacity of the other public sector refineries to absorb the quality of crude produced from this oil field.

Railway Staff Quarters

4562. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that many of the railway staff quarters in the country lack basic amenities and are lying in a dilapidated conditions and many of them are also vacant;

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

(c) whether the Railways have any proposal to improve the basic amenities in the staff quarters and the amount allocated for the purpose during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the railway staff quarters are likely to be renovated; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Operation of Tuticorin and Puducherry Airports

4563. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has given its nod for the operations of Tuticorin and Puducherry airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal to provide for night landing facilities in all the airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Tuticorin and Puducherry airports are operational airports. Scheduled flights of M/s. Kingfisher Airlines are already operating on the Chennai/Tuticorin sector. Non-scheduled flights helicopters and flying club aircrafts are also operating from Puducherry airport.

(c) and (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has planned to provide Night Landing Facilities at most of its airports. Night landing facilities have already been provided at 83 airports related to the AAI/Army/Navy and at 11 airports, the night landing facilities are expected to be provided by March 2010.

Computer Education to Minorities

4564. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to facilitate computer education and self-employment based education to minority community particularly women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the schemes at present being run or funded for this purpose by different institutions of the Government; and

(d) the future strategy chalked out by the Government for development of women of minority community in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) to (c) The various schemes to facilitate computer education and self-employment based education to persons belonging to minority communities, including women, are as under:—

(1) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a Public Sector Enterprise under Ministry of Minority Affairs, extends Educational Loan through its State Channelising Agencies for pursuing technical and professional courses, including computer education. NMDFC also provides loans to persons belonging to minorities, living below double the poverty line, for undertaking self employment and income generating activities. Besides, the micro financing scheme of NMDFC specifically focuses on women belonging to minority communities organized into Self Help Groups (SHGs). NMDFC is also running a scheme namely Mahila Samridhi Yojana, exclusively for women. This scheme provides training cum credit to poor women from minority communities. Till 30-06-2009, NMDFC had extended loans of Rs. 1232.78 crores to 4,44,465 beneficiaries.

(2) Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), a registered society under the administrative control of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, is implementing a scheme of scholarship for girl students belonging to minority communities. The details of the scheme are available on its website www.maef.nic.in.

MAEF is also running a Vocational Training Centre for women. At this centre free training is provided to girls in different vocational courses which include computer courses also.

(3) Directorate General of Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing Craftsman Training Scheme. The scheme

is being implemented through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)/Industrial Training Centres (ITCs) spread all over the country. There are 6906 ITIs/ITCs having a seating capacity of 9.53 lakh. The training is available for various trades. 30% seats are reserved for women candidates.

(4) National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and Government of Bihar have jointly, launched "HUNAR", a scheme of vocational education for the Muslim girls. 13000 girls have been trained in 2008-09, the first year of the scheme. There is a target to train 50000 girls in 2009-10 by NIOS.

(5) National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) has started one-year Diploma in Computer Application and Multilingual DTP Course under which till date 23,712 women belonging to minority communities have been trained and presently 5,772 muslim women are pursuing the said course.

(6) Besides the above schemes, the Ministry of Minority Affairs also implements various scholarship schemes for persons belong to minority communities viz. Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means Scholarships in which there is 30% earmarking for girls. Ministry is also implementing a Coaching and Allied Scheme.

(d) The future strategy for development of minority women has been processed as per approved modalities.

Export Order of Readymade Graments

4565. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh orders for export of readymade garments has been received in recent times;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated foreign exchange likely to be earned in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Government does not maintain records of export orders received by the thousands of exporters. Only records of actual exports made are compiled on a monthly basis from port data, and publicized on the web-site of the

Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI and S). As per industry estimates, the foreign exchange earnings from exports of readymade garments, in the first quarter of 2009-10, is likely to be around Rs. 11775 crore.

[Translation]

Sambhar Salts Limited

4566. SHRI MAHESH JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the royalty fixed in 1959 for the State of Rajasthan from Sambhar Salts Ltd. is being paid at present;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to increase the rate of said royalty to the State of Rajasthan on annual basis;

(c) the total area of land with Sambhar Salts Ltd;

(d) the area out of it, being utilized for salt production and being used as a reservoir;

(e) the initiative taken by Sambhar Salts Ltd. for conservation of the Sambhar Lake;

(f) whether the Government proposes to divest Sambhar Salts Ltd; and

(g) if so, the time by which it is likely to be divested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) In lieu of full compensation to Government of Rajasthan for royalty, Government of India has allotted free shares in favour of Government of Rajasthan to the extent of 40% of paid up capital of the company. Hence, in view of this, Sambhar Salts Ltd. is not paying any royalty to Government of Rajasthan. However, as per V.T. Krishnamachari Award 1961, lease rent @ of Rs. 5.50 lakhs per annum is payable by Sambhar Salts Ltd. to Government of Rajasthan.

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

(c) Sambhar Salts Ltd., has been given 90 Sq. Miles land on lease for 99 years.

(d) Out of 90 Sq. Miles land, 60 Sq. Miles is the lake area and 30 Sq. Miles is utilized for salt production which includes area for the collection of water and 16.5 Sq. Miles area used as Reservoir.

(e) The company is continuously pursuing with the Government of Rajasthan to ensure free flow of water into the lake.

(f) No.

(g) Not applicable.

[English]

EMU Services between Delhi-Rewari Route

4567. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the inconvenience caused to daily passengers due to inadequate number of passenger trains on Rewari-Delhi route;

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

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Railways to accommodate the inconvenience of commuters on this route; and

(d) the time by which Railways propose to begin electrification of Delhi/New Delhi-Rewari route in order to facilitate EMU Services between Delhi and Rewari?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) At present 15 pairs of Mail/Express and 9 pairs of Passengers trains are available for Delhi-Rewari Passengers. For the convenience of the commuters, one pair of passenger Train No. 9/10 RD has been introduced in this section from 08-10-2007 and 44 additional stoppages have been provided in the Delhi-Rewari section.

One new train between Delhi Sarai Rohilla and

Sadulpur and extension of Bandra-Jaipur Garib Rath to Delhi Sarai Rohilla has been announced in the Railway Budget for 2009-10.

(d) At present there is no proposal to electrify the Delhi/New Delhi-Rewari section.

Setting Up of Airport at Salboni

4568. SHRI PULIN BIHARI BASKE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up an Airport at Salboni of Paschim Medinipur District of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(d) whether the land has been acquired for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities

4569. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any action on the recommendations made by the Commission in its report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY

OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) The National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM) submitted its report in May, 2007. The recommendations are under consideration of Government.

[English]

Railway Projects, SCR

4570. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal to give Rs. 2,500 crore to South Central Railway (SCR) to complete its pending projects during the year 2009-10;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon so far;

(c) the funds released so far for the pending projects of SCR during the last three years; and

(d) if not, the time by when funds are likely to be released to SCR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) A letter has been received from Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh for allocation of funds in 2009-10 to various ongoing projects in South Central Railway. Rs. 647.56 crore have been provided during 2009-10 for various projects on the Railway. Budget outlay of Rs. 1348.81 crore was provided for various projects in South Central Railway in the last three years.

Trains between Mumbai CST and Sawantwadi Station

4571. SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of trains being run on daily basis between Mumbai CST and Sawantwadi Station is insufficient keeping in view of the heavy passenger traffic on this route;

(b) if so, whether the Railways propose to

introduce any new Mail/Express train on daily basis on this route;

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

(d) whether the Railways also propose to increase the number of coaches particularly AC Coaches in all the trains running on this route;

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

(f) the other remedial steps to be taken to give a sigh of relief to the general public of this route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Existing trains services, which are available from Mumbai area to Sawantwadi Road are considered adequate for the present volume of traffic. To meet the passenger demand, holiday specials are run during Ganapati festival, Diwali, Winter, Christmas and summer to clear the extra rush of traffic.

(d) to (f) Increasing the number of coaches including air-conditioned coaches in trains is an ongoing process, which is done keeping in view the operational feasibility, commercial viability and availability of resources. Measures, such as increase in frequency of the existing services, running of special trains during peak seasons and introduction of new trains are also taken with a view to take care of the increasing passenger traffic.

Tax Holiday

4572. SHRI P. BALRAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced tax holiday for food processing industries to pull Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to

(c) As per provisions of sub-section (11 A) of section 80-1B of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 a deduction from profits up to specified amounts is allowed in the case of an undertaking deriving profit from the business of processing, preservation and packaging of fruits or vegetables or from the integrated business of handling, storage and transportation of food grains subject to specified conditions, if such undertaking begins to operate such business on or after the 1st day of April, 2001. With a view to preserving perishable food items like milk, poultry and meat, the Finance (No. 2) Bill 2009 proposes to amend sub-section (11 A) of section 80-1B to also provide tax holiday in respect of the business of processing preserving and packaging of meat and meat products and poultry, marine and dairy products.

The Finance (No. 2) Bill, 2009 proposes to also extend investment-linked tax incentive by way of insertion of a new section 35AD in the Income-Tax Act, 1961 to the business of setting up and operating cold chain facilities for specified products and to the business of setting up and operating warehousing facilities for storage of agricultural produce. As per the proposed new section hundred per cent deduction would be allowed in respect of the whole of any expenditure of capital nature (other than expenditure on land or goodwill or financial instruments) incurred, wholly and exclusively, for the purposes of the specified business during the previous year in which such expenditure is incurred subject to specified conditions. This will also give an indirect boost to the setting up of food processing units.

Increase in Dealers Commission

4573. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal of Oil PSUs pending with the Government for the increase in dealers commission due to price hike and increase in All India Consumer Price Index; and

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal shall be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The proposal is under consideration.

Electrification of Ghaziabad-Meerut Section

4574. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether electrification of Ghaziabad-Meerut section has been sanctioned by the Railway Board recently;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned for the aforesaid purpose;

(c) whether the electrification work of said section has been started;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time frame for completion of the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Electrification of Ghaziabad-Meerut section has been sanctioned in February 2009 as material modification to on going Khurja-Meerut-Saharanpur electrification project. Rs. 39.68 crore has been allotted to this project during 2009-10.

(c) to (e) Preliminary design, material schedule and contracts are under finalization and work is targeted for completion by June, 2010.

Irregularities in Selection of Pilots

4575. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received several complaints of manipulations and irregularities in the selection of 40 trainee pilots in April this year;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted into the matter;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the final decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) had received Complaints with regard to irregularities in the selection of trainee pilots held in April 2009. A detailed in-house investigation was carried out by the Vigilance Department of NACIL on the issue. The complaints were verified and none of the allegations were found justified. However, recruitment will be subject to the delivery schedule of new Boeing 787 aircrafts and demand for new flights.

Demand of Higher Wages by Cabin Crew

4576. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India's Executive Cabin Crew Staff has been demanding higher wages for quite some time;

(b) whether any agreement has been signed with regard to the revision of wages of the cabin crew staff; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the date from which the proposed agreement is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. An agreement for revision of wages and allowances for the period from 1-1-1997 to 31-12-2006 has been signed on 28-5-2009 with the Air India Officers' Association for the Executive Cabin Crew, which shall come into effect after its approval by the Board of Directors of the Company.

Extra Charge for Computerized Tickets

4577. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway passengers have to pay extra money of Rs. 10 per ticket for computerized ticket;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount received by Railways on this account in the year 2009-10;

(d) whether the Railways are considering to abolish this extra amount being charged; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Railway passengers booking e-tickets have to pay service charge varying between Rs. 10 and Rs. 25 per ticket in case of Sleeper (SL) and Reserved Second Sitting (2S) Classes and Rs. 20 and Rs. 40 per ticket in case of other classes, depending upon the number of passengers booked on a ticket. The service charges for booking i-ticket are Rs. 40 per ticket for SL and 2S classes and Rs. 60 per ticket for other classes.

(c) The service charge collected goes to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The amount collected by IRCTC on this account during the Financial Year 2009-10 (till July 2009) was Rs. 36.24 crores.

(d) and (e) At present, no such proposal is under consideration.

Technical Textiles

4578. SHRI K. SUGUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production of technical textiles in the country; and

(b) the centres identified where such production units are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAAGA LAKSHMI): (a) For the Growth and Development of the Technical Textiles and to boost its production in the country, the Government has taken the following steps:

- Major machinery required for the technical textiles has been placed in the concessional custom duty list of 5 per cent.
- Technical textile machinery is covered under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme

(TUFS) with additional benefit in terms of 10 per cent capital subsidy in addition to 5 per cent interest reimbursement.

The Government has initiated a Scheme for Growth and Development of Technical Textiles (SGDTT) comprising of 3 components, (i) Setting up of 4 (four) Centres of Excellence (COEs), (ii) Baseline survey of technical textiles and (iii) Creation of awareness.

(b) The Government has created conducive environment for investment in the technical textile sector and it is for the industry to decide on the location for setting up of the units.

Amendment in Advocates Act, 1961

4579. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to make amendments in the advocates Act, 1961 and Bar Council Regulations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Helipads at Tourist Places

4580. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct helipads at some selected hilly and remote areas;

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

(c) whether any private company is likely to be made a partner in this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the ratio of investment likely to be made in this scheme alongwith the extent to which the Government is likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Madam. However, Ministry of Tourism has decided to extend financial assistance up to Rs. 75 lakh to States/ Union Territories for construction of heliports in hilly and remote areas under the scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Denial of Franchise to Weaker Section

4581. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received by the Election Commission that voters from weaker sections were not allowed to vote at some polling booths in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in consultation with the Election Commission of India to check such irregularity?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The Election Commission of India has intimated that after poll, two complaints from Sitamarhi district of Bihar state were received in the Commission alleging weaker sections intimidations. The same were forwarded to Chief Electoral Officer, Bihar for enquiry and report, who after enquiry found allegations unsubstantiated. Further, during the recent Lok Sabha elections, various new measures have been taken to ensure that weaker sections were not prevented from voting. In each polling station area vulnerability mapping was done and vulnerable voters were identified. This exercise was aimed at identifying the segment of electorate vulnerable to any threat, intimidation or interference in exercise of their electoral rights. Further, the persons responsible for this were also identified and preventive action was taken to ensure free and fair poll in each polling station of the State. Sector Magistrates/Zonal Magistrates were appointed to track these areas and to inform the district authorities/ Observers to check any instance of malpractice. In this regard, it is pertinent to mention that 3,09,792 persons

were bound down in the State under section 107/116 of Cr. P.C. during the Lok Sabha General Election 2009.

[English]

Non-Operational Airports in Orissa

4582. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-operational airports in Orissa at present;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make these airports operational within a time-bound period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has only one non-operational airport in Orissa at Jharsuguda.

(b) In accordance with the recommendations of Feasibility Study submitted by M/s. RITES, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans to develop Jharsuguda airport initially for ATR type of aircraft operations. However, action for further development of this airport will be considered after additional land measuring 815 acres is made available as per the Master Plan by the State Government of Orissa to AAI, free of cost and free from all encumbrances.

Special Electric Trains

4583. SHRI C. SIVASAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce Special trains from Tiruppur to Coimbatore, Tiruppur-Plakad, Tiruppur-Erode;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said trains are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No Madam. There is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Technology Upgradation
Fund Scheme**

4584. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure laid down for release of funds to States/Nodal agencies under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS);

(b) whether there was delay in disbursement of funds under TUFS in the recent times which hampered technology upgradation of proposed textile mills in different sectors; and

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the section which suffered due to lack of funds, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The nodal banks determine the eligibility for their own cases as well as case of their co-opted PLIs. The data is forwarded online to Office of the Textile Commissioner in the prescribed format. Textile Commissioner compiles and recommends the release of funds to the concerned agencies/nodal banks. Ministry of Textiles releases the funds to the nodal agencies/nodal banks directly subject to the availability of funds.

(b) and (c) No, Madam. As on 31-3-2009, 24572 units with a loan amount of Rs. 60,955 crores have been disbursed an amount of Rs. 6089.43 crore as interest and capital subsidy. Due to overwhelming response of the scheme, there is a gap between subsidy requirement and budget outlay. Yearwise Progress of TUFS as on 31-3-2009 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Year-wise Progress of TUFS (As on 31-3-2009)

(Rs. in crore)

Period	Received		Sanctioned			Disbursed		
	No. of applications	Project Cost	No. of applications	Project Cost	Amount	No. of applications	Amount	Subsidy
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1999-00	407	5771	309	5074	2421	179	746	1.00
2000-01	719	6296	616	4380	2090	494	1863	70.00
2001-02	472	1900	444	1320	630	401	804	198.89
2002-03	494	1835	456	1438	839	411	931	202.59
2003-04	867	3356	884	3289	1341	814	856	249.06
2004-05	986	7941	986	7349	2990	801	1757	283.60
2005-06	1086	16194	1078	15032	6776	993	3962	485.00
2006-07	12336	61063	12589	66233	29073	13168	26605	823.92
2007-08	2408	21254	2260	19917	8058	2207	6854	1143.37

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2008-09 (P)	5092	43406	5063	42807	18301	5104	16577	2632.00
As on 31-3-2009 (P)	24867	169016	24685	166839	72518	24572	60955	6089.43

[Translation]

**Committee to Formulate Outline of
PPP Model**

4585. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS
LALAN SINGH:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Amit Mitra to formulate the outline of Public-Private Partnership model;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the responsibility assigned to this Committee alongwith the time fixed to fulfil it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Railways have constituted an Expert Committee on 25-07-2009 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Amit Mitra, Secretary-General/Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) for developing business models and innovative funding through Public Private Partnership (PPP) instruments. The Terms of Reference of the Expert Committee are as under:

1. Developing business models and innovative funding through PPP instruments in respect of the following:

(i) **Industrial Corridor**-Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor along side Western Dedicated Freight Corridor comprising industrial hubs, rail-port connectivity, logistics parks, mega

power plants and the same in respect of the Ludhiana-Dankuni Industrial Corridor along side Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor.

(ii) Utilizing railway land bank along side the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor for starting projects in rolling stock production, assembly facilities and coach rehabilitation at Dankuni-Majerhat-Nowpara.

(iii) Private freight Terminals and multi-modal logistics parks.

(iv) Possibilities of PPP/Joint Venture (JV) in setting up of new coach factory at Kanchrapara-Halisahar Railway Complex.

(v) World-Class stations, Multi-functional Complexes, Medical Colleges, Nursing Colleges.

(vi) Setting up of 1000 MW power plant at Adra in collaboration with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).

2. Developing business models and strategies for commercial utilization of railway land and air-space.

3. To identify from the existing basket of all the economically unviable yet socially desirable railway projects, for the purpose of undertaking such projects through innovative funding, including participation of all stake holders and State Governments.

4. Review of status of progress of ongoing activities undertaken by Railways.

5. To develop vision 2020 for the Railways with

appropriate phasing of unfolding this vision, in the short, medium and long term plans of action.

6. Any other connected issues that may be referred or entrusted to the Committee.

[English]

Classification as Superfast Trains

4586. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale behind classifying such trains which are running at the speed of less than 55 km/hr. as super fast train;

(b) whether any qualitative changes have been visible in such trains since the classification of such trains as super fast trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith any possible scope for the review of such system;

(d) whether there is any rationale in levying return journey surcharge for journey originating from a station other than the one from where the ticket has been issued; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Those trains whose average speed on the entire run in both Up and Dn directions is minimum 55 kmph on Broad Gauge, and 45 kmph on Metre Gauge, are designated as superfast since they provide faster transit.

(d) and (e) To recover the additional expenditure involved in maintenance and continuous upgradation of a network system, reservation fee for the tickets booked for journeys originating from other than the ticket booking station are enhanced by (i) Rs. 10 in second and sleeper and Rs. 15 in other classes of Passenger, Mail and Express trains, (ii) Rs. 20 in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains and (iii) Rs. 15 in Second class and Rs. 20 in AC Chair Car of Jan Shatabdi Express trains.

[Translation]

Rail Line between Maksi-Godhra

4587. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of laying of Maski-Godhra new railway line;

(b) the details of funds sanctioned and the expenditure incurred on the project so far; and

(c) the time by which the laying of 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 work of Godhra-Indore and Dewas-Maksi new line project was included in the Railway Budget 1989-90 as one project. The work was taken up only on Dewas-Maksi section which has since been completed and commissioned. The clearance from the Government for Dahod-Indore was obtained in February, 2007. The cost of this new line from Dahod to Indore has been estimated as Rs. 948.80 crore. Part detailed estimate at a cost of Rs. 137.66 crore for Dahod-Katwara and Sagar-Indore section has been sanctioned and work taken up. An expenditure of Rs. 42.20 crore has been incurred upto March, 2009. An outlay of Rs. 40 crore has been provided for this project for the year 2009-10. The completion of the project depends upon availability of resources and other factors.

ROB in East Central Railway

4588. SHRI RAMKISHUN:

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of road over bridges proposed to be constructed in East Central Railway during the year 2009-10;

(b) whether the works of road over bridges in East Central Railway are lagging behind the schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof, project-wise alongwith reasons for the delay; and

(d) the time schedule fixed for completion of these projects including Chukti level crossing no. 28/special, Saharsa, Pachgachia level crossing no. 31/special and Khagaria level crossing No. 23B?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Following ROB's are expected to be commissioned during 2009-10.

- (i) LC No. 31 (near Sachivalay, Patna)
- (ii) LC No. 72 (near Rajendra Nagar, Patna)
- (iii) LC No. 101 (near Muzaffarpur)
- (iv) LC No. 101A (near Muzaffarpur)
- (v) LC No. 6/B/T (Ray-Khelari)
- (vi) LC No. 12/A/T (Phushro-Amlo)
- (vii) LC No. 75 (Rajendra Nagar Station)
- (viii) LC No. 28 Spl (Chukti)

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) The work at following ROB sites is lagging behind the schedule due to land related issues with the State Government.

- (i) At LC No. 73, Gulzarbagh-Rajendra Nagar
- (ii) LC No. 72 in Patna City
- (iii) LC No. 79 Mithpur
- (iv) LC No. 45 between Bihta-Koelwar
- (v) LC No. 101A, Samastipur-Muzaffarpur
- (vi) LC No. 33 at Dehri-on-Sone.
- (vii) LC No. 43 at Sasaram
- (viii) LC No. 52/1 at Kurda
- (ix) LC No. 27 Darbhanga
- (x) LC No. 6/B/T Ray-Khelari
- (xi) LC No. 2, Gaya
- (xii) LC No. 12/AIT Phusro-Amlo

Due to non-approval of General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) non-finalization of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) decision with State Government and non-commitment of funds by State Government.

- (xiii) LC No. 48/A Kulharia-Ara
- (xiv) LC No. 47 A between Chhapra and Chhapra Katchery
- (xv) LC No. 23B at Khagaria
- (xvi) LC No. 35B Phulwarisharif-Danapur
- (xvii) LC No. 53A Kauria Halt-Bihta
- (xviii) LC No. 31/Spl. Saharsa-Panchgachia (xix) LC No. 23B at Khagaria
- (d) (i) Chukti LC No. 28/Spl.—Work of ROB shall be completed during current year 2009-10.
- (ii) Saharsa-Panchgachia LC No. 31/spl.:—Target date cannot be indicated due to non commitment of fund by State Government and GAD is yet to be approved by MOSRT and H.
- (iii) Khagaria level crossing No. 23B:—Target date cannot be indicated due to non-commitment of fund by State Government.
- (iv) In case of other works of ROB's mentioned against (c) above, time schedule can be fixed only after the State Government furnishes approved GAD, removes encroachments, makes available land, executes MOU and commits funds to bear share of cost, etc.

Allotment of Stalls and Booths at Railway Stations

4589. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the procedure laid down for allotment of stalls and booths at railway stations;
- (b) whether applications for allotments of stalls and telephone booths at railway stations in various States including Maharashtra are under consideration of the Railways;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

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

Procedure for allotment of stalls/booths such as catering stalls/trolleys, refreshment rooms, AVM Kiosk, fast food restaurants, Milk stalls, Miscellaneous item stalls/trolleys, Chemist stalls, bookstalls/trolleys and PCO/STD booths, etc. at Railway stations depends on category of station and the activities undertaken at the station. Allotment of such facilities are done by IRCTC/Zonal Railways either through two packet tender system or by inviting applications through press notification followed by a process of selection.

Indian Railways provide the above mentioned facilities at large number of stations and allotment is an on-going process. State-wise details of such allotments are not maintained by Zonal Railways/IRCTC.

[English]

Import of Oil and Gas

4590. SHRI SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

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

OIL:

Year	Petroleum Oil Import (Qty. in MMT)		
	Crude	Product	Total
2006-07	111.50	17.66	129.16
2007-08	121.67	22.46	144.13
2008-09 (Prov.)	128.15	18.29	146.44
Apr.-June 09 (Prov.)	37.07	4.18	41.25

LNG:

Year	LNG Import (Qty. in MMT)
2006-07	6.811
2007-08	8.249
2008-09 (Prov.)	7.958
Apr.-June 09 (Prov.)	2.193

MMT: Million Metric Tonne

(a) the quantum of oil and gas imported during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the comparative picture of country's net oil import during the past two years till date;

(c) whether the country's dependency on oil imports is likely to increase phenomenally in the coming years due to rising demand for energy and inadequate production of domestic crude oil;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide tax holiday to major oil/gas producers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The imports of oil (Crude Oil + Petroleum Products) and LNG during the last three years and the current year (April-June 2009) are as under:

(b) The comparative picture of country's net oil imports during the past two years and for the current year is as under:

(Qty. in MMT)	
Period	Net Oil Imports
1	2
2006-07	95.54

1	2
2007-08	103.36
2008-09 (prov.)	109.51
April-June, 2008	28.32
Apr.-June 2009. (Prov.)	32.66

During the years 2007-08 and 2008-09, the growth in net oil import over the previous years was 8.2% and 6% respectively. During the current year 2009-10 (April-June), the growth in net oil import over the same period in the previous year is 15.3%

(c) and (d) India's dependency on oil imports (based on the requirement for domestic consumption) was 76.6% in 2008-09 and it is expected to increase to around 80% in 2014-15.

The Government has taken several steps to reduce country's dependency on oil import. These 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) Substitution of oil in the transport sector through use of alternative fuels such as Bio-diesel, Ethanol-blended Petrol, etc.

(e) and (f) The subject of giving tax benefits to oil/gas producers pertains to Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance (MoF).

[Translation]

Late Running of Trains

4591. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains coming from eastern India which arrived late at Delhi/New Delhi railway station during the period from 01-06-2009—31-07-2009;

(b) the reason for their being late;

(c) the total number of trains delayed due to various reasons during this period alongwith the loss of revenue suffered by the Railways on this account; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to pinpoint lapses in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Punctuality data is maintained Zonal railway-wise. Trains do run late due to various reasons like miscreant activities, alarm chain pulling, natural calamities like cyclonic storms, damage to track due to breaches, law and order problems, bad weather, equipment failure and electricity grid failure, etc.

(c) During this period, approximately 23% of Broad Gauge Mail/Express trains on Indian Railways got delayed more than 15 minutes from their scheduled time of arrival. Data on loss of revenue by the Railways due to late running of trains is not maintained.

(d) All cases of excessive detention to trains losing

punctuality are analysed and appropriate managerial action taken at Divisional, Zonal and Railway Board level on a continuous basis to improve punctuality of trains.

[English]

New Rail Lines in Tamil Nadu

4592. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for laying four new railway lines in Tamil Nadu including Dindigul-Kumuli-Ariyalur-Thanjavur, Mannargudi-Pattukkottai, Dharamपुरi-Morappur has been held up due to paucity of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways for laying said rail lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Proposals for construction of Dindigul-Kumuli, Thanjavur-Ariyalur, Dharamपुरi-Morappur, Needamangalam-Pattukottai via Mannargudi and Tiruvannamalai-Jolarpettai new lines were processed for "In Principle" approval of the Planning Commission with the condition to process these proposals after getting participation from the State Government to the extent of 50% of the cost of the proposals. However, Planning Commission has advised to process these proposals for their "In Principle" approval after obtaining consent of the State Government for the proposed cost sharing. State Government has shown inability to share part cost of Dindigul-Kumuli via Bodinayakkanur, Tiruvannamalai-Jalarpettai, Needamangalam-Pattukottai via Mannargudi new line proposals and advised to take up the proposals

with full Railway funding. The proposals could not be considered further in view of State Government refusal to share cost.

[Translation]

Adulteration in Petroleum Products

4593. SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE:

SHRI ANJANKUMAR M. YADAV:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) the number of cases of adulteration of petrol/diesel and malpractices reported during the past three years and the current year; and

(b) the details of action taken against those found guilty for adulteration and malpractices during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel.

The details of number of inspections carried out, malpractices detected and termination of retail outlets by the public sector Oil Marketing Companies during the last three years and the current year April-June, 2009 are as under:

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (April-June, 2009)
Number of inspection carried out	122555	132524	151097	29959
Malpractices detected including adulteration	3003	2635	3485	594
Retail outlets terminated	137	160	137	22

*[English]***Modernisation of RPF**

4594. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to modernize the Railway Protection Force in the light of prevailing security scenario;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Southern Railway has worked out any modality for engaging private security personnel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) (i) The Ministry of Railways have accorded approval for implementation of Integrated Security System at 195 sensitive/vulnerable stations of the country at an estimated cost of Rs. 344.31 crore.

(ii) Modern Arms/Ammunition worth Rs. 10.91 crores have been procured for the RPF personnel during the year 2008-09.

(iii) Rs. 67.09 crores have been sanctioned to RPF for procurement of security equipment.

(iv) 973 nos. of additional posts of RPF personnel have been sanctioned to strengthen RPF.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Rajnagar Textile Mill

4595. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajnagar Textile Mill is being set up by the Government in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for setting up of such mill;

(c) the reasons for the delay in commissioning of said project;

(d) the prevailing norms adopted by the Government for the fresh employment in this regard;

(e) whether the local population especially SC/ST and backward class will be considered for employment in the said project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against officials responsible for the delay of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Rajnagar Mill, Ahmedabad is being set up by National Textile Corporation (NTC) Ltd. as a Greenfield mill with spinning and weaving activities. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 121.55 crores, to be met by NTC itself through funds generated through sale of surplus assets. NTC has spent Rs. 14.57 crores so far on civil works and for placing orders for machinery.

(c) The project is delayed due to delayed receipt of approvals regarding land and other clearances from Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, Gujarat Pollution Control Board, Airport Authority, Railway authorities etc.

(d) Being a new Greenfield project with hi-tech spinning and weaving machinery, the Company would employ skilled persons as per requirement, keeping Government guidelines in view.

(e) People from local area including SC/ST and backward classes will be considered for employment as per Government norms.

(f) Delay is mainly because of reasons mentioned in part (c) above i.e. delayed receipt of approvals from Government agencies/departments, regarding land and other clearances.

Subsidy under TUFs

4596. SHRI C. SIVASAMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend the interest subsidy and capital subsidy under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFs) for purchase of special machinery intended to manufacture synthetic garments and processing of fabrics; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Madam. The current scope of the scheme extends 10% Capital Subsidy and 5% interest subsidy on installation of machineries of manufacturing garments and for processing machinery as well.

**Flexible AC Transmission
System of BHEL**

4597. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEV GAIKWAD:

SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO

PATIL KHATGAONKAR:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has developed a new series compensation scheme Flexible AC Transmission System (FACTS) to enhance power transfer capability and reduce transmission losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which power transfer capability has been enhanced and transmission losses reduced so far after the use of FACTS; and

(d) the details of transmission lines in which such system has been installed so far in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) Yes Madam, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has developed Thyristor Controlled Series Capacitor (TCSC) Flexible AC Transmission System (FACTS).

(b) The TCSC FACTS of BHEL was developed with indigenous efforts and successfully test charged in November 2004 on the 400 KV Kanpur-Ballabgarh transmission line.

(c) The following were observed during the test charge of Kanpur-Ballabgarh transmission line:—

- Enhancement of power transfer in the line by 50%;
- Successful damping of low frequency power oscillations;
- Overall network loss reduction by 8 MW.

(d) TCSC FACTS has been installed on the following four lines by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited through BHEL as well as other vendor companies:—

- (i) Kanpur-Ballabgarh;
- (ii) Raipur-Rourkela line;
- (iii) Purnia-Muzaffarpur line; and
- (iv) Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur line.

Facilities at Railway Stations

4598. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI
BAVALIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for providing different passenger facilities at railway stations and in trains;

(b) the system of monitoring the passenger facilities/amenities at railway stations/trains;

(c) whether any complaints/requests have been received by the Railways for the provision of passenger facilities at various stations and in trains during the last one year;

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

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Railway stations have been classified into seven categories ('A-1' to 'F') based on the earnings from passenger traffic and facilities at stations are provided as per norms laid down for each category of station.

Facilities and amenities in passenger coaches are provided in accordance with laid down norms for different classes of coaches on Indian Railways.

(b) Monitoring of provision and maintenance of amenities at stations and trains is done by Additional General Managers (Zonal Level) and Additional Divisional Railway Managers (Divisional Level). Service Improvement Groups at various levels are formed to inspect amenities and take remedial measures for rectifying deficiencies/shortcomings in passenger amenities. Moreover, review of existing passenger amenities at stations is done annually over all Zonal Railways.

(c) to (e) A large number of requests/suggestions/complaints are received at various levels from the general public and people's representatives for provision of additional facilities at different stations and in trains. Action is taken on such requests at various levels. Details of complaints relating to some of the passenger facilities like working of enquiry offices, non-availability of water, maintenance/cleanliness of coaches and mal-functioning of electrical equipment during 2008-09, Railway-wise are as under:

Railway	No. of Complaints	Railway	No. of Complaints
Central	595	Southern	311
Eastern	171	South Central	159
East Central	161	South Eastern	122
East Coast	362	Southeast Central	140
Northern	818	South Western	48
North Central	183	Western	554
North Eastern	119	West Central	117
Northeast Frontier	88		
North Western	107	Total	4055

Although it is Railways' endeavour to accommodate as many suggestions as possible, the works are undertaken taking into consideration volume of traffic handled, relative importance of the station and availability of resources. Zonal Railways have been instructed to take into account all such suggestions while formulating their Annual Works Programme.

Declaration of Srinagar Airport as an International Airport

4599. DR. MIRZA MEHBOOB BEG: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Srinagar Airport has been declared an International Airport recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is provided with all types of facilities;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to install low visibility infrastructure and instrument landing system at the Airport; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Srinagar Airport was already declared as an International Airport on the 11th March, 2005.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) is in the process of providing an instrumental landing system at Srinagar.

[Translation]

Pending Cases

4600. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of dishonour of cheques pending in the courts during the last three years as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more number of courts for disposal of such pending cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No such information is being maintained centrally.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal at present to establish more courts for disposal of such cases. Subordinate Courts are set up by the State Governments in consultation with the concerned High Courts as per the need.

[English]

Acquirement of Stake by NMDC

4601. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) to acquire stake in the ailing Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) and has constituted a Committee to suggest ways for similar moves in other Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

(b) if so, whether the Government has received the report of the Committee; and

(c) if so, the recommendations made therein and the steps being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) A Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Steel in May, 2009 to study the structure and functioning of MSTC,

FSNL, KIOCL and HSCL and to suggest measures to achieve sustainable profits, enhanced business presence, diversification as well as re-organisation or merger with other companies with a view to optimizing efficiency and profitability. The Committee has not submitted.

Encroachments at Platforms

4602. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Railway platforms in the suburban section of Sealdah-Naihati, Sealdah-Barasat-Bongosa, Howrah-Bardwan, Sealdah-South sections have been encroached upon by the small shop owners;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to remove these encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) There are 10511 encroachments on some of the Railway platforms in the suburban section of Sealdah-Naihati, Sealdah-Barasat-Bandel-Bongaon, Howrah-Bandel-Bardwan and Sealdah-South sections. Making Railway platforms free from encroachments is a continuous exercise.

Regional Directorates

4603. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for setting up of new Regional Directorates;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up new Regional Directorates in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) The Government proposes to set up two new Regional Directorates. One Regional Directorate would be set up in the North Western Region in Gujarat (Ahmedabad) and the other in the North Eastern Region in Assam (Guwahati). Various factors such as the

increasing number of companies in the Region, accessibility for the corporate sector of the country, development of the area, geographical location, etc. have been taken into consideration while deciding the location.

Tax Holidays for Oil and Gas Production

4604. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

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

(a) whether New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)-I to VII had provided tax holidays both on oil and gas without any exceptions;

(b) if so, whether bidders had submitted bids on explicit commitment on availability of 7-years tax holidays on commercial production of both oil and gas under NELP-I to VII;

(c) if so, the reasons for withdrawing tax holidays; and

(d) the likely impact of such decision on future exploration programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) As per provisions of Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) signed under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) i.e. NELP-I to NELP-VII, Company(ies) are eligible for benefits available under the provisions of Income-tax Act 1961, as applicable from time to time. Accordingly, the bidders had submitted bids and the awardee(s) had signed PSCs. A clarification issued by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on 27-6-2008 before receipt of bids on 30-6-2008 under seventh round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VII) is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Clarification issued on 27-06-2008 regarding 7 year Income Tax Holiday on Commercial Production of Natural Gas

Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)

and Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, has been assuring potential bidders of income tax rebate for a period of seven years from the beginning of commercial production. However, some Income Tax Authorities have disallowed the above relief in respect of production of natural gas due to lack of specific inclusion of the term Natural Gas under the related provision in the Income Tax Act. The matter is presently sub-judice before different authorities, including Tribunals and Courts.

The Notice Inviting Offer (NIO) and Petroleum Tax Guide for the NELP-VII bidding round, for which bids are due to be received on 30th June, 2008 holds out the same assurance as in the previous bidding rounds. The Ministry of Finance has clarified that income tax relief of seven years will be available only on commercial production of Crude Oil. In the light of the above clarification, Income Tax related provisions in the NIO and Petroleum Tax Guide issued by this Ministry for the NELP-VII bidding round may be read accordingly

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas clarifies that all the potential bidders may submit their bids under NELP-VII, keeping the above clarification in mind.

Power for Steel Plants

4605. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the annual requirement of power for public sector steel plants in the country, plant-wise;

(b) the sources for which each steel plant get its required power;

(c) whether any power plant has set up or proposed to be set up its own reserve power plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The annual requirement of power for the Public Sector steel plants viz. the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) for 2009-10 are 987 MW and 256 MW respectively.

(b) The steel plants/units of SAIL and RINL get their power from two sources: generation from captive power plants and purchase from utility power grid.

(c) and (d) The details of captive and other power plants of SAIL and RINL are given below:

	Existing Captive power plants fully owned	Joint Venture Companies
SAIL		
Bhilai Steel Plant	3x12 MW 1x15 MW	2x30 MW (JV with NTPC) 1x14 MW (JV with NTPC) 2x250 MW (JV with NTPC)
Durgapur Steel Plant	4x5 MW	2x60 MW (JV with NTPC)
Rourkela Steel Plant	4x25 MW	2x60 MW (JV with NTPC)
Bokaro Steel Ltd.	—	2x55 MW (JV with DVC) 1x12 MW (JV with DVC) 3x60 MW (JV with DVC)
IISCO Steel Plant	2x10 MW 1x20 MW 1x54 MW (is under installation).	—
RINL		
Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant	286.5 MW 117 MW (in under installation)	—

Capital Investment in Petroleum Sector

4606. SHRI BALKRISHNA KHANDERAO SHUKLA:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been huge capital investment in the petroleum and natural gas sector during 2004 to 2008 in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of investment made in various States during the said period, State-wise including Gujarat;

(c) the capital investment made in the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) i.e. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. during the said period; and

(d) the total annual turnover of these PSUs during that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) The details of capital investment made in the petroleum and natural gas sector by various oil PSUs during 2004-05 to 2007-08, State-wise, including Gujarat, are given in the enclosed Statements-I to IV. These investments are made by oil PSUs through their own resources and no budgetary support is provided by the Government.

(d) The turnover of various oil PSUs during the period 2004-05 to 2007-08 is given in the enclosed Statement-V.

Statement-I**State-wise Investments made by Oil PSUs during 2004-05**

(Rs. in crore)

Name of State	Name of Oil PSU											
	ONGC*	IOC	GAIL	HPCL**	OIL	BPCL	CPCL	MRPL	NRL	BRPL	Balmer Lawrie	Biecco Lawrie
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	304.92	16.67	97.87	237.38	10.00	452.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	7.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assam	598.45	24.76	0.00	0.00	739.75	2.56	0.00	0.00	98.28	21.98	0.00	0.0
Bihar	0.00	40.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	131.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Delhi	179.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	186.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00
Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.55	0.00
Goa	10.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	610.91	702.17	20.68	14.52	2.87	390.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	344.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Haryana	0.00	2751.81	0.14	0.00	0.00	223.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	11.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	39.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Karnataka	6.28	0.01	0.00	8.02	0.00	373.55	0.00	64.39	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00
Maharashtra	0.00	7.39	0.00	101.58	3.61	9042.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.93	0.00
Mizoram	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.02	599.39	0.00	0.00	245.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Orissa	0.00	346.12	0.00	0.00	8.69	176.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	223.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rajasthan	3.15	4.22	0.00	0.00	27.36	275.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sikkim	0.00*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	299.40	219.26	48.83	0.00	1.08	586.47	277.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.63	0.00
Tripura	70.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	0.00	512.68	59.24	0.00	5.11	795.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttarakhand	0.00	5.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
West Bengal	91.94	183.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	414.48	0.00	0.00	7.90	0.00	0.17	0.00

* excludes investments in Joint Ventures and offshore areas.

** Rs.17.05 crore also invested in LPG Bottling Plants located all over the country.

Statement-II**State-wise Investments Made by Oil PSUs during 2005-06**

(Rs. in crore)

Name of State	Name of Oil PSU											
	ONGC*	IOC	GAIL	HPCL**	OIL	BPCL	CPCL	MRPL	NRL	BRPL	Balmer Lawrie	Biecco Lawrie
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	462.34	3.01	89.92	397.99	77.04	521.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00	45.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assam	501.87	7.04	0.00	0.00	724.37	3.30	0.00	0.00	129.48	27.06	0.00	0.00
Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	146.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	218.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00
Gujarat	1151.85	453.72	54.10	420.88	1.67	446.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Goa	1.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Haryana	0.00	2172.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	329.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	7.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Jharkhand	21.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	49.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3005.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.91	0.00	419.83	0.00	358.57	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00
Maharashtra	7.55	10.18	1326.52	593.70	0.02	9820.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00
Mizoram	0.00	2.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.20	30.76	0.00	0.00	293.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Orissa	0.00	644.49	0.00	0.00	29.57	207.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Punjab	1.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	267.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rajasthan	7.21	66.40	0.00	0.00	53.56	321.08	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	350.87	113.08	0.00	0.00	29.69	651.84	176.59	0.00	0.0	0.00	2.13	0.00
Tripura	78.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	57.21	253.02	1.05	0.00	2.53	1228.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttarakhand	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
West Bengal	500.51	298.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	462.54	0.00	0.00	8.98	0.00	1.60	0.00

* excludes investments in Joint Ventures and offshore areas.

** Rs.17.93 crore also invested in LPG Bottling Plants located all over the country.

Statement-III*State-wise Investments Made by Oil PSUs during 2006-07*

(Rs. in crore)

Name of State	Name of Oil PSU											
	ONGC*	IOC	GAIL	HPCL*	OIL	BPCL	CPCL	MRPL	NRL	BRPL	Balmer Lawrie	Biecco Lawrie
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.04	0.00	875.44	61.60	549.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assam	733.84	4.58	0.00	0.00	931.93	6.64	0.00	0.00	31.31	118.17	0.00	0.00
Bihar	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	151.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chhattisgarh	0.00	2.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	46.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Delhi	17.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	233.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00
Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.25	0.00
Gujarat	868.93	324.94	0.00	837.81	0.52	493.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Goa	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	68.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Haryana	0.00	2369.36	1.00	0.00	0.00	395.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	62.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Jharkhand	29.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	55.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3496.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Karnataka	7.69	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	423.39	0.00	205.31	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00
Maharashtra	0.00	9.09	0.00	923.21	2.68	10903.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.22	0.00
Mizoram	2.38	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	7.71	29.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	331.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Orissa	1.16	264.99	0.00	0.00	60.34	242.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Punjab	8.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	305.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rajasthan	73.15	52.55	0.00	0.00	44.40	359.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	223.72	47.06	0.00	0.00	1.15	705.34	244.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.98	0.00
Tripura	110.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	252.75	171.06	401.06	0.00	5.84	971.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.00
Uttarakhand	0.00	13.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
West Bengal	0.00	152.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	485.38	0.00	0.00	49.38	0.00	2.75	0.00

* excludes investments in Joint Ventures and offshore areas.

** Rs.17.39 crore also invested in LPG Bottling Plants located all over the country.

Statement-IV**State-wise Investments Made by Oil PSUs during 2007-08**

(Rs. in crore)

Name of State	Name of Oil PSU											
	ONGC*	IOC	GAIL	HPCL**	OIL	BPCL	CPCL	MRPL	NRL	BRPL	Balmer Lawrie	Biecco Lawrie
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	283.03	0.00	13.74	730.48	9.12	684.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assam	1185.99	7.79	0.00	0.00	1027.91	9.30	0.00	0.00	16.28	252.14	0.00	0.00
Bihar	16.04	11.80	0.00	0.06	0.00	192.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	61.51	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Delhi	49.10	0.00	1750.00	0.00	0.00	252.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00
Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.71	0.00
Gujarat	2106.27	457.36	4569.61	228.32	0.84	511.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00
Goa	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	71.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Haryana	0.00	2839.82	591.70	0.00	0.00	422.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.12	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	44.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Jharkhand	107.57	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	68.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	66.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4130.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00
Karnataka	0.00	19.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	555.25	0.00	93.31	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00
Maharashtra	0.00	2.39	12.71	435.51	0.13	11402.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	0.00
Mizoram	18.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	6.92	11.51	1435.00	0.00	0.00	367.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	81.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Orissa	1.48	700.80	0.00	0.00	32.28	262.02	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Punjab	3.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	346.70	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rajasthan	72.65	6.72	0.00	0.01	50.54	423.06	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	6.01	9.94	0.00	0.00	4.25	826.31	350.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.09	0.00
Tripura	218.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	3.67	149.57	4748.53	0.00	2.50	1040.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttarakhand	0.00	15.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
West Bengal	48.36	434.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	548.10	0.00	0.00	47.15	0.00	5.71	0.00

*excludes investments in Joint Ventures and offshore areas

**Rs. 27.94 crore also invested in LPG Bottling Plants located all over the country.

Statement-V.**Year-wise and Company-wise Turnover of Oil PSUs**

(Rupees in crore)

Name of oil PSU	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
ONGC	47245.00	49440.00	59058.00	61543.00
HPCL	64689.51	74044.11	91448.03	103837.43
OIL	3915.84	5550.19	5389.20	6081.95
BPCL	63857.00	85149.00	107452.00	121684.00
GAIL	12927.07	14875.49	16545.85	18580.21
IOC	150729.00	183172.00	220779.00	247457.00
BRPL	4992.45	6288.64	6425.96	6645.00
NRL	4298.99	5820.37	7930.32	8764.16
CPCL	16270.64	25407.84	29349.49	32889.32
MRPL	20692.00	28058.00	32208.00	37339.00
Balmer Lawrie	1071.69	1329.19	1376.70	1571.42
Beicco Lawrie	35.38	45.08	47.59	54.95

[Translation]

Benami Petrol Pumps

4607. SHRI BADRI RAM JAKHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some 'Benami Petrol Pumps' are operating in the country;

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

(c) whether any rules have been framed by the Government regarding Benami Petrol Pumps;

(d) if so, whether these petrol pumps are proposed to be regularized; and

(e) if so, the time by which these are likely to be regularized and the manner in which these will be regularized?

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), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) have reported 15 established cases of Benami operation of Retail Outlet (RO) dealerships. These ROs are in operation because either action as per dealership agreement is in process or termination is stayed by the Courts. The State-wise number is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of OMCs	State	No. of Benami RO
1.	IOC	Jammu and Kashmir	1
2.	IOC	Punjab	1
3.	IOC	Gujarat	1
4.	IOC	Rajasthan	3
5.	IOC	Andhra Pradesh	1
6.	IOC	Uttar Pradesh	1
7.	IOC	Uttarakhand	1
8.	IOC	Tamil Nadu	1
9.	HPC	Assam	1
10.	HPC	Kerala	4

(c) During Retail Outlet (RO) dealership selection process and finally while awarding RO dealership under various reserved categories, utmost care is taken by OMCs to ensure that the dealerships are awarded to the persons belonging to the category only under which dealership is rostered and advertised. The required certificates submitted by the candidate, in support of his/her belonging to the category, are checked and verified. Also subsequent to the selection/empanelment of the candidate by selection committee, the Field Verification Credentials (FVC) of the empanelled candidate is carried out by the officer of the Corporation. On the basis of this FVC, Letter of Intent (LOI) is issued to the selected candidate.

In addition, officers of OMCs conduct inspection of RO regularly and monitor whether the signatories to the dealership agreements are managing the dealership personally. If doubt arises, then bank documents, sales tax registration, income tax returns, retail selling licenses and other relevant documents, etc, are checked to ensure that there is no Benami operation. Whenever, any case of operation of RO by persons other than the allottee/authorized partner is detected, the matter is investigated and if Benami operation is established,

action is taken in line with Dealership Agreement by terminating the concerned RO dealership.

(d) There is no proposal to regularize these ROs.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

PNG Facility in Kerala

4608. SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is finalizing the modalities for the supply of piped natural gas in various cities of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time schedule drawn up for this purpose;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

PRASADA): (a) to (d) At present, Kerala does not have connectivity to any gas pipeline. However, GAIL (India) Ltd. has been granted authorization by the Government for laying Kochi-Kanjirakkod-Bangalore-Mangalore pipeline on common carrier basis. The pipeline is expected to be commissioned in 2011-12. The major cities in Kerala, which fall in the proximity of the pipeline and where gas would be available accordingly for City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects, are Palakkad, Thalassery, Kanhangad, Kasaragod, Malappuram, Manjeri, Kochi/Ernakulam, Kanjirakkod, Kayamkulam, Ponnani, Thrissur and Kozhikode.

In order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for *inter alia* city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006'. The supply of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in various cities of Kerala can be taken up only after the Kochi-Kanjirakkod-Mangalore/Bangalore pipeline of GAIL is commissioned and necessary authorization for CGD project is obtained from PNGRB.

[Translation]

Lohardaga Railway Station

4609. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Lohardaga railway station is in delapidated condition and also lacks of basic amenities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways to make it a model station?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For the purpose of providing upgraded passenger amenities, the existing criteria provides for selecting 'A-1', 'A' and 'B' category stations as Model stations. Lohardaga being a 'D' category station has not been selected as model station. However, the station

has been selected for modernization and giving a face-lift. Modernization works including improvement to circulating area, construction of boundary wall along platform, development of low lying area, widening of platform with mastic flooring and provision of steel chairs on platforms have been planned for completion by 31st March, 2010 at a cost of Rs. 95 lakh.

[English]

Change in Body Regulating Pharmaceutical Activities

4610. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring about changes to the body that regulates the manufacture, import, storage, promotion and use of medicines, cosmetics and other pharmaceutical products;

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

(c) the time by which these changes are likely to be made effective; and

(d) the extent to which the new structure is able to tighten the lax manufacturing practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) The Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill 2007, introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st August, 2007, contains provisions for *inter alia* creation of an autonomous drug regulatory authority, namely, the Central Drugs Authority in place of the existing Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). The Central Drugs Authority would undertake the regulatory functions in respect of drugs, cosmetics and medical devices under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 like import, manufacture, storage, distribution etc., which is presently done by the CDSCO. It would also undertake the functions of the Central Licensing Authority for which the said Bill contains the enabling provision by transferring this responsibility from State Governments. The said Bill is presently pending in the Rajya Sabha.

Kotdwara Railway Station

4611. SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kotdwara Railway Station in district Pauri Garhwal Uttarakhand is the last rail link of Uttarakhand and during post independence no extension of railway line has been done to this hill station;

(b) if so, whether the Railways propose to extend the above rail link to Lansdowne on the pattern of Shimla and Darjeeling Railway Stations and now upcoming Srinagar Railway Stations in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) There is no proposal at present for extending rail link beyond Kotdwara.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mismanagement in Reservation Quota

4612. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mass scale mismanagement of reservation quotas for out-of-turn accommodation has been brought to the notice of the Railways;

(b) if so, whether cases where Railways officials found involved along with touts selling out-of-turn accommodation tickets were also identified;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken against the delinquent officials;

(d) whether the Railways are contemplating to evolve a transparent policy for out-of-turn accommodation in the Railway reservation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No case of Railway Official involved along with touts in selling out-of-turn accommodation (Emergency Quota) tickets has come to notice.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The present system of allotment of accommodation out of Emergency Quota is transparent. Need-based refinements are a continuous process.

[English]

Joint Venture with Changi Airports International

4613. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has tied up a joint venture with Changi Airports International of Singapore to set up greenfield airports in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the location where the proposed greenfield airport is likely to be set up in the first phase;

(d) whether such airports are proposed to be set up in other parts of the country; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Competition Commission of India

4614. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up Competition Commission of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set up selection panel to select members of the Competition panel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Competition Commission is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) The Competition Commission of India has already been established. A Chairperson and six Members have been selected. Chairperson and four Members have joined the Commission.

(e) The Commission has already been set up and is functional.

[Translation]

Stoppage of Chitrakoot Express at Harauni Railway Station

4615. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from the Kanpur-Lucknow Daily Passengers' Association to provide stoppage of Chitrakoot Express at Harauni Railway Station on Kanpur-Lucknow section; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to provide stoppage of Chitrakoot Express at Harauni railway station.

[English]

Export of Automobiles

4616. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite global recession the export of cars and two wheelers from India has gone up during 2008-09;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the foreign exchange earned as a result thereof;

(c) whether export projections for the current year have been finalized; 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) Yes, Madam. As per the information received from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the export of Passenger Cars and Two Wheelers from India during the year 2008-09 has increased. The details thereof are as under:—

Category	Exports (in Numbers)		
	2007-08	2008-09	% Change
Passenger Cars	211,112	331,539	57.04
Two Wheelers	819,713	1,004,174	22.50

As per the information received from Department of Commerce, Director General of Foreign Trade, the

details of foreign exchange earned as a result of export of cars and two wheelers are as under:—

(Rupees in crore)

ITCHS Code	Item Description	2007-08	April, 2008-February, 2009
8703	Motor Cars and other motor vehicles including RCNG cars, etc.	5575.07	9999.19

(Rupees in crore)

ITCHS Code	Item Description	2007-08	April, 2008-February, 2009
8711	Motorcycles including mopeds and cycles fitted with auxlry motors, etc.	1180.39	2101.63

(c) and (d) No, Madam.

(c) No time frame for the purpose has been fixed.

Training Centres of ICAI

4617. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) plans to set up training centres in various cities in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details, the estimated investment and its purpose for setting up of these centres; and

(c) the time by which the new centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has plans to set up Centers for Excellence at Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Chennai.

(b) The purpose of setting up these Centers of Excellence is for organising orientation programmes and providing training and in-house professional development of members and students of the Institute in various fields like IT, Management and Communi-cation skills. Details are as under:

Sl. No.	Place of Centre	Estimated investment (Rs. in crores)
1.	Jaipur	90.00
2.	Jaisalmer	30.00
3.	Hyderabad	25.00
4.	Bangalore	65.00

Railway Projects Funded by Foreign Financial Institutions

4618. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing railway projects funded by foreign financial institutions along with the estimated cost of such projects;

(b) the details of funds received by the Railways for each project;

(c) whether the Railways have utilized the said amount;

(d) if not, whether the Railways have paid commitment charges to the said foreign institutions; and

(e) if so, the total amount paid by the Railways on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The details of ongoing externally aided Railway projects and the loans taken from various foreign financial agencies for execution of these projects are as given below:

- (i) Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) for improvement of suburban rail services in Mumbai area, which has both road and rail components. The estimated cost of the rail component of the project is Rs. 4174.40 crores. It is partly funded by a loan from World Bank, i.e. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan and International Development Association (IDA). Credit earmarked for the rail component of the project are US Dollar 304.5 million and US Dollar 60 million respectively from IBRD

and IDA. The total amount utilised under this loan upto 31-03-09 is US \$ 132.072 million of IBRD loan and US \$ 42.47 million of IDA credit.

- (ii) Modernisation of Signalling between Ghaziabad and Kanpur at an estimated cost of Euro 108.5 million is being partly funded by loan from Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KfW), Germany. The loan amount is Euro 94.5 million. The total amount utilised under this loan upto 31-03-09 is 24.028 Million Euros.
- (iii) The Asian Development Bank has extended a loan to finance the Railway Sector Improvement

Project with the objective of enhancing capacity of the rail network and improving operational efficiency/safety. The subprojects to be funded from the loan are principally in the Golden Quadrilateral and its Diagonals and Port Connectivity projects. The estimated total cost of the various projects under this loan is Rs. 990.82 crores. The loan amount is US \$ 212.3 million. The total amount utilised under this loan upto 31-03-09 is US \$ 126.115 millions.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. The Government has paid commitment charges on the ADB, World Bank and KfW loan. The amount of commitment charges paid upto 31-3-2009 is given below:—

ADB	US \$ 4.68 millions paid by Ministry of Finance
World Bank-IBRD Loan	US \$ 6.165 millions paid by Ministry of Finance
KfW Loan	A total amount of Euro 2.546 millions of which Euro 1.45 millions paid by Railways and rest by Ministry of Finance.

Employment Opportunities in Textiles Sector

4619. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to devise an action plan for creating 10 million employment opportunities over the next five years in this labour-intensive sector, which is witnessing job losses because of shrinking global demand of textile products;

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

(c) the funds provided to each State including Andhra Pradesh during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Madam. There is no specific action plan for creation of 10 million employment opportunities in the textiles sector over the next five years. However, several initiatives are underway to infuse investment, which may lead to creation of employment opportunities in the ensuing

years. Some of the major schemes are Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme. Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks, Cotton Technology Mission and Jute Technology Mission.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Rail Bridges on Chapra- Muzaffarpur Rail Line

4620. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tenders for construction of rail bridges on Chapra-Muzaffarpur new rail line have been floated;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the said work; and

(c) the time by which the construction of the said bridges is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Tenders have been finalized for all 12 major bridges and work on these bridges are in various stages of progress. An outlay of Rs. 2 crore has been provided for this project for 2009-10.

(c) Completion would depend upon availability of resources and other allied factors.

[English]

Opening of LPG Agency in Kandhmal, Orissa

4621. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is no LPG gas agency in Kandhmal district of Orissa and its surrounding areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to open LPG agencies in Kandhmal district and its neighbouring areas; and

(d) if so, the time by which the LPG agencies will be opened in the said district and its surrounding areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) One LPG distributorship of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is functional at Phulbani in Kandhmal District and Letter of Intent (LoI) for opening one more LPG distributorship by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) at Baliguda in Kandhmal District has been issued.

In addition to above, OMCs are in the process of opening 17 new LPG distributorships in the State during the current financial year which are at various stages of commissioning.

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 be commissioned.

[Translation]

Licenses for Establishment of Steel Plants

4622. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small, medium and big steel plants in the country, location-wise;

(b) the number of licenses issued for establishment of steel plants during the last three years; and

(c) the time by which the applications pending for issue of licenses will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The State-wise distribution of Main and Major steel plants and small-to-medium scale steel plants in the country is given in Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

(b) According to New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, steel industry has been de-licensed and removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector subject to certain locational restrictions. No Industrial license is, therefore, required for setting up steel plants under the Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 and the entrepreneurs are free to set up such plants anywhere in the country except in the restricted locations based on their commercial judgement.

As per available information the number of Industrial Licenses issued for setting up of iron and steel plant during the last three years in relaxation of the locational policy of the Government is one which has been issued to M/s. Ashwini Steel Pvt. Ltd., Village Lodariyal, Taluka Sanand, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

(c) No Industrial License applications pertaining to

establishment of steel plants are pending. All the Industrial undertakings are exempted from obtaining Industrial License except the items of manufacture falling under the list of compulsory licensing.

Statement-I

State-wise Distribution of Main and Major Steel Plants

Plant	State
Main Producers	
1. Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) Plants	
Bokaro Steel Ltd.	Jharkhand
Durgapur Steel Plant	West Bengal
Alloy Steel Plant	West Bengal
IISCO Steel Plant	West Bengal

Plant	State
Rourkela Steel Plant	Orissa
Bhilai Steel Plant	Chhattisgarh
Viseswariya Steel Ltd.	Karnataka
Salem Steel Plant	Tamil Nadu
2. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd./ Vizag Steel	Andhra Pradesh
3. Tata Steel	Jharkhand

Major Producers

1. Ispat Industries	Maharashtra
2. JSW Steel	Karnataka
3. Essar Steel	Gujarat
4. Jindal Steel and Power	Chhattisgarh

Source: Joint Plant Committee

Statement-II

State-wise Distribution of small to medium scale steel plants (in numbers)

State	Electric Arc Furnace	Induction Furnace	Re-rolling	Wire Drawing	HR Sheet Plates/ Coils	CR Sheets/ Coils	GP/GC Sheets/ Coils
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Western Region							
Chhattisgarh	2	64	127	2	1		
Dadra and Nagar Haveli		25	3				
Daman		14					
Goa	1	22	13				
Gujarat	4	62	136	1	2	4	2
Maharashtra	8	73	130	4	3	10	8
Madhya Pradesh	1	19	42	4		3	3
Total	16	279	451	11	6	17	13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Northern Region							
Chandigarh	1	3	3	1			
Delhi		10	32				
Haryana	3	33	18	1	2	9	
Himachal Pradesh		14	4				
Jammu and Kashmir		8	11				
Punjab	4	124	359	3	1	4	
Rajasthan		33	190	2		1	
Uttar Pradesh	2	130	168	2		4	4
Uttaranchal		27	7				
Total	10	382	792	9	3	18	4
Southern Region							
Tamil Nadu		76	114			1	
Pondicherry		29	13				
Karnataka		21	22	2	1	4	1
Kerala	1	41	39				
Andhra Pradesh		33	55	1		3	
Total	1	200	243	3	1	8	1
Eastern Region							
Assam		11	9				1
Bihar		10	12				
Jharkhand	3	24	30	1		1	1
Orissa	2	57	28				
West Bengal	4	43	70			3	2
Meghalaya		14	9				
Total	9	159	158	1	0	4	4
Grand Total	36	1020	1644	24	10	47	22

Source: Joint Plant Committee.

[English]

Industrial Policy for Food Processing

4623. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government to encourage States to frame industrial policy for the development and growth of food processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Governments in this regard so far;

(c) whether there has been huge wastage of perishable food items per annum due to lack of proper food processing;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government is considering to develop technologies to minimize wastage of perishable food items; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, with the intention of creating an enabling environment for the development and growth of food processing sector across the country, has been repeatedly requesting the states for framing a suitable Food Processing Industrial Policies. While Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh have formulated separate food processing policies, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa and Tripura have included the policy as an integral part of their industrial/agricultural policy.

(c) to (e) It is estimated that the annual wastage of agricultural food items is about Rs. 50,000 crores occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting. In order to increase the level of processing and promote industrial growth in the sector, the Ministry has come out with Vision 2015 with an objective of trebling the size of the industry, increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and Indian share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015.

In order to achieve the above, the Ministry has been implementing various plan schemes, namely: (i) Scheme for Infrastructure Development with major components i.e. Mega Food Park, Cold Chain and Value Added Centres, Modernization of Abattoirs, (ii) Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment! Modernization of Food Processing Industries, (iii) Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex, Standards and R and D, (iv) Scheme for Human Resource Development, (v) Scheme for Strengthening of Institutions and (vi) Scheme for Upgradation of Quality of Street Food. Under the scheme of funding R and D projects, the Ministry has been funding projects submitted by reputed institutions like IIT, etc to develop new technologies and new products so as to enhance shelf life and reduce wastages.

The Ministry has also set up bodies like Indian Grape Processing Board, National Meat and Poultry Processing Board and is in the process of setting up/upgrading institutions like National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) and Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT) to develop new technologies, to improve the processing capabilities of the Indian industry and thus reduce wastage.

[Translation]

Pilferage of Petrol/Diesel/Kerosene

4624. SHRI RAMKISHUN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of pilferage of petrol, diesel and kerosene have been reported from the depots of Hindustan Petroleum, Bharat Petroleum and Indian Oil Corporation situated at Mughalsarai, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Oil Marketing Companies have informed that there have been no reports of any major theft of any petroleum product from Mughalsarai depot.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

National Institute of Fashion Technology

4625. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places where centres of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) including the

State of Karnataka have been opened during the last three years; and

(b) the amount spent for the proper functioning and maintenance of these centres during the said period, year-wise, and centre-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Following 5 (five) centres have been opened during the last three years:

Sl. No.	Place of NIFT centre	State	Year of Opening
1.	Rae Bareli	Uttar Pradesh	2007
2.	Shillong	Meghalaya	2008
3.	Patna	Bihar	2008
4.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	2008
5.	Kannur	Kerala	2008

There is already a NIFT Centre at Bangaluru since 1997 and no new Centre has been opened in Karnataka during the last 3 years.

(b) The amounts spent for the proper functioning and maintenance of these centres during the said period, year-wise, and centre-wise as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Centres	For the year 2007-08	For the year 2008-09
Rae Bareli	297.89	464.93
Bhopal	—	295.78
Kannur	—	138.17
Patna	—	257.54
Shillong	—	267.33

[English]

**Hub-and-Spoke Model for
Aviation Industry**

4626. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated deliberations on a hub-and-spoke model for the country's aviation industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the feasibility of a hub-and-spoke model has since been worked out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the advantages likely to be accrued to the airlines with introduction of hub-and-spoke model?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) A consultation group, coordinated by this Ministry, and

comprising representatives from airports and the airlines is exploring the feasibility of implementation of a hub and-spoke model.

Rail Line on Cost Sharing Basis

4627. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received proposals from various States for construction of new rail line on cost sharing basis;

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

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon, proposal-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Apart from ongoing projects where some of the State Governments have agreed for cost sharing, certain new line proposals have been proposed by State Governments for being taken up on cost sharing basis as under:

Sl. No.	Project	State	Action taken
1.	Manuguru-Ramagundam	Andhra Pradesh	Survey completed
2.	Akkanapaet-Medak	Andhra Pradesh	Updating of the survey taken up.
3.	Multi Model Transport System (MMTS) Phase II for Twin cities	Andhra Pradesh	Updating of the survey taken up.
4.	Manmad-Indore	Maharashtra/Indore	Survey completed
5.	Wadsa-Gadchiroli	Maharashtra	Survey completed
6.	Gadag-Haveri	Karnataka	Survey taken up.
7.	Almatti-Kustagi-Koppal/Kanakagiri-Kampli-Daraji	—do—	Survey taken up.
8.	Shimoga-Harihar	—do—	Survey taken up.
9.	Yadagir-Shahapur-Shorapur-Muddebihal-Almatti	—do—	Survey taken up.
10.	Anekal Road-Bidadi bye-pass	—do—	Survey taken up.
11.	Madanapalli-Srinivasapura	—do—	Survey taken up.
12.	Dharwad-Kittur-Belgaum	—do—	Survey taken up.
13.	Bijapur-Shahaabad	—do—	Survey taken up.
14.	Kottur-Chitradurga	—do—	Survey taken up.
15.	Davanagere-Chitradurga-Tumkur	—do—	Survey completed
16.	Bagalkot-Kudachi	—do—	Survey completed
17.	Talguppa-Honavar	—do—	Survey taken up.

Setting Up of ALDS

4628. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and State run oil companies propose to set up more Automobile LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) across the country during 2009-10;

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

(c) the number of ALDS of various State run oil companies functioning in various States as on date;

(d) the criteria for selection of site for setting up of ALDS by IOC; and

(e) the extent to which market share of various State run oil companies will be increased by the end of 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Subject to obtaining various approvals and meeting the Statutory norms, 80 new Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) are proposed to be set up during 2009-10 by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), 20 by Indian Oil Corporation Limited

(IOC), 10 by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and 50 by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL). State-wise details in respect of IOC and BPCL are given in the enclosed Statement. However, location in respect of HPCL are yet to be finalized.

(c) As on 01-07-2009, OMCs are operating 459 ALDS in the country.

(d) ALDS facilities are set-up based on establishing feasibility which includes:—

(i) Sales potential based on the Auto LPG demand in the area for which data on population of Motor Sprit (MS) driven vehicles likely to get converted to Auto LPG, availability of Auto LPG vehicles, plans of vehicle manufacturers to introduce Auto LPG variants of vehicles, demand from customer groups, Auto LPG sales at the existing ALDS in that market is collected.

(ii) Technical feasibility for setting up the ALDS/ storage and equipment by following stringent norms of Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) and as specified in Static and Mobile Pressure Vessels Rules (Amended in 2000).

(iii) Financial viability for making the investment for facilities at ALDS.

(e) OMCs have reported that by the end of the year 2009-10 they will endeavor to increase their market share by 1% to 2% each from their existing market share.

Statement

**State-wise details of Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) Proposed to be set-up by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCS) during the Year 2009-10*

Sl. No.	State/UT	IOC	BPCL
1.	Punjab	1	
2.	Rajasthan	1	3
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	

Sl. No.	State/UT	IOC	BPCL
4.	Gujarat	1	
5.	Madhya Pradesh	1	1
6.	Maharashtra	4	
7.	Andhra Pradesh	1	
8.	Karnataka	3	1
9.	Uttar Pradesh	2	
10.	Tamil Nadu	2	1
11.	West Bengal	1	4
12.	Uttarakhand	2	
Total		20	10

Note:—In addition to above 30 locations (20 of IOC and 10 of BPCL), 50 locations are proposed by HPCL which are not yet finalized.

Zonal Railway Offices

4629. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have issued directions for setting up of Minority Cells in all Zonal Railway offices and in the Railway Board for promoting minorities' welfare and ensuring their adequate representation in railway services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the Zonal Offices and the Railway Board have implemented the said directions;

(d) whether it has been made mandatory to have one member from the minority community in all the recruitment boards and committees of the Railways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Welfare and interest of minorities is taken care of by Identified staff. The Executive Director Estt. (Res.), a Joint

Secretary grade officer in Railway Board, has been assigned the work of co-ordination and monitoring the Minority affairs. The issues of minority affairs are, thus, being dealt with satisfactorily.

(d) and (e) For recruitment to 10 or more group 'C' or 'D' posts, one member belonging to Minority Community is also included in the recruitment process.

Mandatory Production of Kerosene

4630. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI
BAVALIA:

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

(a) whether the Oil Coordination Committee has inspected the refining companies to go in for mandatory production of Kerosene;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are trying to restrict its import bill; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Consequent on dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism for oil companies on 1-4-1998 and abolition of Oil Coordination Committee from 1-4-2002, the oil companies produce various products including kerosene based on their commercial considerations.

(c) and (d) In order to reduce dependence on oil imports, the Government of India has been initiated, *inter-alia*, actions on the following aspects:

- (i) Exploration of entire domestic sedimentary basins to augment domestic availability of oil and gas.
- (ii) Acquisition of equity oil abroad by domestic companies.
- (iii) Improvements in oil and gas recovery levels in the existing oil fields in the country.
- (iv) Increase in refining capacity.
- (v) Exploitation of alternative fuel sources such as bio fuels, CBM, Gas Hydrates, etc.
- (vi) Improvement in energy efficiency.

Carpet Industry of Bhavani

4631. SHRI K. SUGUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any concrete steps to protect the handmade carpet making industry of Bhavani (Tamil Nadu); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The steps taken to protect and promote the Handmade Carpet Industry in the Country including of Bhavani (Tamil Nadu) include implementation of schemes of Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Yojana (AHVY) for integrated development of selected craft clusters; Marketing Support and Services; Design and

Technology Upgradation; Research and Development; Human Resource Development and Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Schemes. In addition to these six generic schemes, the other steps taken include: setting up of Indian Institute of Carpet Technology at Bhadohi; two Mega Clusters at Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh and Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir; organization of Indian Carpet Expo at New Delhi and Varanasi annually.

Investment Made by ESSAR Steel

4632. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Essar Steel proposes to make investments in setting up of steel processing units in the country and Middle East and North America;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which this investment will help meeting the demand of the steel in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Essar Steel Limited has replied that it has already commissioned three service centres for steel processing in the country, at Chennai, Pune and Bahadurgarh. The company is also currently engaged in the process of studying market feasibility for steel processing in Middle East and North America.

(c) The steel processing service centres will not directly contribute to increase in steel availability in the country, but are likely to serve small consumers in getting customized steel in smaller lots, from the company at the above locations.

Defunct Companies

4633. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956 are defunct;

(b) if so, the details of total number of companies

which have not filed Balance Sheets and Annual Returns during the last five years;

(c) whether any action under Section 560 of the Companies Act have been initiated for striking off the name of such companies; and

(d) if so, the number of such companies struck off during the last three years?

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) Yes, Madam. There are 2,19,355 companies which have not filed Balance Sheets and Annual Returns during the last five years.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Names of 98,164 companies have been struck off from the Register of Companies during the last three years.

Apparel Export Promotion Council

4634. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance and functioning of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) during the last three years;

(b) if so, the shortcomings noticed by the Government therein;

(c) the manner in which the Government reviews the functioning of regional offices of AEPC; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to make AEPC more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) No shortcomings have been noticed in the Council's functioning towards its objectives.

(c) and (d) The functioning of the Regional Offices of the AEPC is not individually reviewed by the Government but it oversees the functioning of AEPC like that of all such Councils. Senior Government officers are nominated on the Executive Committee of the AEPC to oversee effective functioning of the Council.

Gas Pipeline from Dabhol to Bangaluru, Kochi and Mangalore

4635. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited has finalized the details for laying gas pipeline from Dabhol on the Maharashtra Coast to Bangaluru, Kochi and Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments of Kerala and Karnataka have also agreed to the proposal; and

(d) if so, the total investment on laying gas pipeline and the time schedule fixed for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SIIRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. GAIL (India) Ltd. has been authorized by Government to lay Dabhol-Bangalore and Kochi-Kanjirkkod-Mangalore/Bangalore trunk natural gas pipelines. The details of these pipelines are given below:—

Features	Dabhol-Bangalore pipeline	Kochi-Kanjirkkod-Mangalore/Bangalore pipeline
1	2	3
Starting Point	Dabhol LNG terminal, Dabhol	PLL LNG Terminal, Kochi

1	2	3
Termination Point	Bidadi and Bangalore	Mangalore and Bangalore
Capacity	16 mmscmd	16 mmscmd
Trunk line	30 inches, 730 km	24 inches, 860 km
Spurline	18/10/8 inches, 659 km	12/8 inches, 252 km

(c) Both State Governments are extending the required support to GAIL (India) Ltd. for timely execution of these projects.

(d) The estimated cost of Dabhol-Bangalore pipeline and Kochi-Kanjirkkod-Mangalore/Bangalore pipeline is Rs. 4543 crore and Rs. 3032 crore respectively. Investment proposal for Dabhol-Bangalore pipeline has been approved by GAIL Board on 22-6-2009 with targeted completion schedule of 42 months from the Board approval and in synchronization with readiness of city gas distribution projects. Investment approval for Kochi-Kanjirkkod-Mangalore/Bangalore pipeline has been approved by GAIL Board on 22-6-2009 with targeted completion schedule of 42 months from Board approval and in synchronization with expansion and commissioning of PLL RLNG terminal at Kochi.

Modernisation and Expansion of Steel Plants

4636. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received external assistance for modernization and expansion of steel plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, plant-wise and countries from which it has been received; and

(c) the progress made in the modernization and expansion of steel plants so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Government has not received any external

assistance for the present phase of modernization and expansion of steel plants in the country.

(c) The Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) is undertaking modernization and expansion plan for its five Integrated steel plants namely Bhilai Steel Plant (Chhattisgarh), Bokaro Steel Limited (Jharkhand), Rourkela Steel Plant (Orissa), Durgapur Steel Plant and IISCO Steel Plant (West Bengal) and Salem Steel Plant (Tamil Nadu). SAIL's installed capacity of hot metal is expected to increase from 13.82 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 23.46 MTPA.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) is expanding its liquid steel capacity from 3 MTPA to 6.3 MTPA. The expansion is expected to be completed by the year 2011.

NMDC Limited is setting up a 3 MTPA integrated steel plant at Nagarnar (Chhattisgarh) which is likely to be commissioned by the end of September, 2013. Besides, merger of Sponge Iron India Limited (SIIL) with NMDC Ltd. is going to be completed soon and after completion of merger, NMDC Ltd. has planned for expansion of sponge iron production to 2.6 lakh tonnes per annum and also for manufacturing steel with a capacity of 0.3 MTPA at Paloncha in Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Development of Drug Manufacturing Sector

4637. SHRI BALKRISHNA KHANDERAO SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any mega scheme for the development and expansion of chemical and drug manufacturing sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to declare certain areas like Baroda and its adjacent areas as chemical zone to make such plants located in Gujarat more effective and viable;

(d) if so, the details of the progress made so far in this direction; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Based on approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), Government of India notified the Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Region Policy (PCPIR) in April, 2007.

(b) The PCPIR is a specifically delineated investment region having an area of about 250 sq. kms (with minimum 40% of the designated area earmarked for processing activities). This region is a combination of production projects, public utilities, logistics, environmental protection, residential areas and administrative services.

PCPIRs would reap the benefits of co-sitting, networking and greater efficiency through use of common infrastructure and support services. They would have

high class infrastructure and provide a competitive environment conducive for setting up businesses. They would thus result in a boost to manufacturing, augmentation of exports and generation of employment.

(c) No.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Silk Production

4638. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target was fixed for silk production in the country during each of the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details of actual production of silk in the country during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Madam. The target fixed for production of raw silk in the country during the last three years, i.e. 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is 21,800 MTs, 20,374 MTs and 21,549 MTs respectively.

(b) State-wise targets fixed for production of raw silk and the actual production of raw silk during the aforesaid periods (2006-07 to 2008-09) are given below:

(silk production in M.Ts.)

States	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Target	Actual Production	Target	Actual Production	Target	Actual Production
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Karnataka	9,850.00	7,883.00	9,066.00	8,240.00	9,323.00	7,238.00
Andhra Pradesh	6,085.00	5,556.00	5,512.00	4,497.00	5,858.00	4,512.00
Tamil Nadu	1,290.00	1,125.00	1,326.00	1,368.00	1,502.00	1,411.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
West Bengal	1,621.00	1,633.00	1,688.00	1,700.00	1,745.00	1,851.66
Jammu and Kashmir	100.00	103.00	104.00	105.00	107.00	102.01
Assam	975.00	858.00	1,111.00	956.00	1,135.00	1,261.00
Arunachal Pradesh	17.00	6.80	13.00	12.00	15.00	18.60
Bihar	64.00	16.30	23.00	21.00	33.00	27.00
Chhattisgarh	159.00	117.13	120.00	155.00	126.00	153.75
Himachal Pradesh	22.00	17.00	20.00	20.00	23.00	22.00
Jharkhand	115.00	121.20	122.00	144.00	125.00	297.10
Kerala	50.00	14.00	21.00	14.00	55.00	20.00
Madhya Pradesh	86.00	56.00	58.00	87.00	137.00	130.14
Maharashtra	120.00	87.00	91.00	129.00	172.00	204.28
Manipur	540.00	447.20	480.00	296.00	508.00	339.60
Mizoram	24.00	10.60	16.00	9.00	17.00	15.30
Meghalaya	359.00	209.05	281.00	316.00	307.00	449.00
Nagaland	109.00	116.60	203.00	125.00	229.00	163.00
Orissa	122.00	41.20	53.00	55.00	56.00	69.50
Punjab	5.00	4.00	4.00	5.00	4.00	4.00
Rajasthan	5.00	0.30	1.00	0.30	1.00	1.00
Sikkim	5.00	0.30	1.00	0.40	2.00	1.50
Tripura	15.00	5.00	5.00	8.00	5.00	8.00
Uttarakhand	17.00	14.15	20.00	17.00	28.00	18.90
Uttar Pradesh	45.00	33.00	35.00	40.00	36.00	51.93
Total	21,800.00	18,474.83	20,374.00	18,319.70	21,549.00	18,370.27

Source: State Sericulture Departments.

Tribals Engaged in Textiles Sector

4639. SHRI P. BALRAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is promoting textiles industry with a view to protect the culture of tribal community in the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial assistance being given in this regard; and

(c) any specific steps taken/proposed to be taken for the tribals of Mahabubabad region of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government continuously makes efforts to promote every sector of textiles industry and implementing various schemes/programme for the development of textile industry. The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Programme viz. Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) in the country in coordination with all the State Governments including the State of Andhra Pradesh. CDP is a unique and effective tool for

production of quality silk, both mulberry and Vanya, and to create more employment in rural areas through sericulture practices. The culture of tribal community is thus protected, since the Vanya silks (Tasar and Eri) are mostly produced by these Tribal communities in rural regions of the country.

During the XI Plan period allocation of Rs. 661.62 crores have been approved by the Government as Central Government share for implementation of CDP in the country, in different states including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Financial Assistance provided to Andhra Pradesh state under CDP Vanya sector schemes, during the first three years (2007-08 to 2009-10) of XI plan is given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sector	CDP Scheme	Assistance provided to A.P. during XI Plan (07-08 to 09-10)
TASAR	Assistance to Pvt. Tasar Graineurs	3.00
	Assistance to Tasar Seed Rearers	1.13
	Assistance for construction of cocoon storage houses	0.50
ERI	Assistance for strengthening of Eri Farm-cum-Grainage/ Assistance to Eri Seed Rearers-cum-Pvt. Graineurs	2.50
	Support for Castor/Tapioca cultivators with start-up tools	0.63
	Construction of Rearing houses	7.50
Total		15.26

As reported by the Department of Sericulture, Government of Andhra Pradesh, assistance has been provided for two Tribal beneficiaries (STs) of Mahabubabad region of Andhra Pradesh, under the CDP scheme "Support for Mulberry Plantation Development".

Under the Handloom Sector the Government of

India is implementing following schemes for the development, promotion of handloom sector and Welfare of the Handloom Weavers throughout the country, including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

- (i) Integrated Handloom Development Scheme.
- (ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme.

- (iii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.
- (iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme.
- (v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme.

[Translation]

Minority Commission

4640. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether minority commission has been constituted in all the States;
- (b) if so, the details of the States where minority commission has already been set up;
- (c) whether the National Minorities Commission has issued directions to certain States regarding initiating action to set up minority commission; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Madam.

(b) The State Minority Commissions have been constituted in fifteen States, namely Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and

West Bengal.

(c) and (d) The National Commission for Minorities has recommended to the State Governments to set up State Minorities Commission where they do not exist.

Women Judges in Courts

4641. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of women judges in each High Court and the Supreme Court and the comparative ratio thereof in relation to men judges;
- (b) whether the steps being taken/likely to be taken by the Government to increase women judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Appointment of the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. The Government has, however, addressed letters to the Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time impressing upon them the need to give representation to persons from the Bar, belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and from amongst Women, who may be suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Women Judges	Ratio of Women and male judges
1	2	3	4
A.	Supreme Court of India	—	—
B.	High Court		

1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad	05	1:16
2.	Andhra Pradesh	02	2:27
3.	Bombay	07	7:59
4.	Calcutta	02	2:39
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—
6.	Delhi	07	7:37
7.	Gauhati	01	1:20
8.	Gujarat	03	1:8
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—
11.	Jharkhand	02	2:11
12.	Karnataka	02	2:35
13.	Kerala	02	2:31
14.	Madhya Pradesh	04	4:33
15.	Madras	06	3:25
16.	Orissa	01	1:15
17.	Patna	03	3:20
18.	Punjab and Haryana	04	2:21
19.	Rajasthan	—	—
20.	Sikkim	—	—
21.	Uttarakhand	—	—
Total		51	1:11.64

Local Train in Jaipur

service in Jaipur on the patterns of Mumbai local train;

4642. SHRI MAHESH JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(a) whether the Railways propose to start local train

(c) the steps taken to convert the Jaipur-Sriganganagar railway line into broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The gauge conversion of Jaipur-Sriganganagar has been taken up and the work will be completed in coming years as per the availability of resources.

UTS Tickets at Railway Stations

4643. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passengers are facing difficulties in getting Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) tickets at Patna, Khadagiya and Saharsa Junction in Bihar;

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

(c) whether the Railways propose to establish more UTS counters at the said stations to address the problem faced by the passengers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Sufficient number of Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) counters are available at Patna, Khagaria and Saharsa Junction to facilitate passengers in getting UTS tickets.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Since the existing number of UTS counters at Patna, Khagaria and Saharsa Junction are adequate to cater to the present level of traffic, there is no proposal at present for providing more UTS counters at these stations.

[English]

Inconvenience Faced by Passengers

4644. SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a lot of inconvenience is being faced by the daily commuters of NCR towns like Ghaziabad in local trains;

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

(c) whether the daily commuters quite often face jam like situation at all the platforms of Ghaziabad Railway Station, as the stairs connecting different platforms are quite narrow to accommodate the huge flow of passengers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to address the hardships being faced by the commuters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Adequate facilities have been provided at Railway stations in the National Capital Region (NCR) including Ghaziabad station, keeping in view the quantum of passenger traffic being handled there.

(c) and (d) At present, there are 2 Foot Over Bridges (FOB) at Ghaziabad at both ends of the station. These FOBs have adequate width to cope up with the present level of passenger traffic at this station. Augmentation of passenger amenities, commensurate with increase in passenger traffic at stations, is a continuous process and is undertaken through Annual Works Programme depending upon availability of funds and other priorities.

Textiles Research Associations

4645. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to increase its funding to Textiles Research Associations from the current year onwards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of annual support from the Union Government being provided to Textiles Research Associations alongwith the specific purposes;

(d) whether the Government is also working on a Technology Mission for developing Technical Textiles; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Benefits of Pay Revision to Retired Employees of IDPL

4646. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of employees had taken retirement under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL);

(b) if so, whether these employees have been provided with/are being provided with the benefit of pay revision;

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

(d) the time by which the benefits are likely to be given to them?

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

(b) to (d) The benefits of wage revision has been given to employees in the service of the Company.

Excise Duty Benefits to Consumers

4647. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had issued an advisory to drug companies to pass on the excise duty benefits to the consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has worked out the exact reduction in the prices of scheduled drugs and issued notification in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to pass on the excise duty benefits to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) issued two advisories to drug companies to pass on the benefits of reduction in excise duty to the consumers in case of non-Scheduled formulations as follows:—

(1) Guideline No. 2/2008 dated 10th March, 08 when Ministry of Finance notified reduction in excise duty on 01-03-2008 from 16% to 8% and the rate of abatement from 42.5% to 35.5%.

(2) Guideline No. 5/2008 dated 10th December, 08 when Ministry of Finance notified reduction in excise duty from 8% to 4% on 07-12-2008.

(c) to (e) Yes, Madam. NPPA has issued following two notifications to reduce the prices of Scheduled drug formulations in order to pass on the excise duty benefits to the consumers:

(1) Order No. S.O. 418(E) dated 03-03-2008 for reduction in equivalent Maximum Retail Price (MRP) (inclusive of excise and all taxes) of all Scheduled formulation packs by 4.58%.

(2) Order No. S.O. 2856(E) dated 10-12-2008 for further reduction in equivalent Maximum Retail Price (MRP) (inclusive of excise and all taxes) of all Scheduled formulation packs by 2.84%.

Rail Line between Secunderabad to Nizamabad

4648. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to lay railway line between Secunderabad-Nizamabad through Medak District in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose; and

(d) the time by which the work on this route is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to connect Medak on Secunderabad-Nizamabad line on 50% cost-sharing basis. An updating survey for new line from Medak to Akkanapet has been included in the Railway Budget 2009-10.

Corruption in Judiciary

4649. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

DR. K.S. RAO:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

SHRI P.T. THOMAS:

SK. SAIDUL HAQUE:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring legislation to tackle issues relating to accountability and corruption in the judiciary;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received representations in regard to corruption in judiciary;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action contemplated by the Government on such representations and further reaction of the Government to root out corruption from judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) Allegations of corruption in the higher judiciary have come to the notice of the Government from time to time. As for the subordinate judiciary, the administrative control over its members vests with the concerned High Courts and the State Governments as per the provisions of Article 235 of the Constitution of India.

The Government is in the process of preparing a road map for judicial reforms in the country. Consultations in this regard have already begun. Accountability in the judiciary is also one of the components of the judicial reforms. A decision in the matter will be taken on completion of the process of consultation.

Setting Up of National Gas Highways Fund

4650. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Gas Highways Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the proposed fund would be raised; and

(d) the time by which the fund is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) As of now, no such proposal has been formulated by the Government.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Installation of Safety Equipments

4651. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR)

directions to the operators for mandatory installation of safety equipment such as Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) on aircraft, Mode 'S' transponders, etc.;

(b) if so, whether such equipments have been installed in all the aircraft both on domestic and international sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the DGCA for strict compliance of these directives?

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

(c) Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 2, Series I Part VIII and CAR Section 2, Series R, Part IV have made Installation of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) and Mode "S" transponders mandatory in specified types of aircraft for both domestic and international sectors.

(d) The above requirements are mandatory. However, if any aircraft is found not in compliance with these requirements, its Certificate of Airworthiness is not issued or renewed. Compliance of these requirements is also monitored through regular surveillance and audits of the airlines including ramp inspection of the aircraft.

Haj Pilgrims

4652. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI
BAVALIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Haj Pilgrims ferried by the National Aviation Company of India Limited and the Saudi Arabian Airlines from the different embarkation points during 2008 alongwith comparative figures for 2006 and 2007;

(b) the number of flights operated by these airlines for the purpose;

(c) whether the aircraft were adequate enough to ferry all the haj pilgrims to Jeddah;

(d) if so, the average amount spent on fare by each pilgrim alongwith the amount of subsidy provided by the Government per pilgrim;

(e) the number of haj pilgrims to whom the said subsidy was provided; and

(f) the total amount of subsidy provided by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) ferried 64,247 pilgrims from different embarkation points in India for Haj 2008 as compared to 49,327 and 51,083 pilgrims for Haj 2006 and Haj 2007 respectively. Saudi Arabian Airlines (SAA) ferried 57,448 pilgrims from different embarkation points in India for Haj 2008 as compared to 59,191 and 58,917 pilgrims for Haj 2006 and Haj 2007 respectively.

(b) NACIL operated 278 flights for Haj 2008 as compared to 167 + scheduled flights and 162 flights for Haj 2006 and Haj 2007 respectively. SAA operated 198 flights for Haj 2008 as compared to 221 flights and 149 flights for Haj 2006 and Haj 2007 respectively.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Each Haj pilgrim paid Rs. 12,000 towards airfare for Haj 2008. Same amount was paid for Haj 2006 and Haj 2007. The balance amount of airfare (subsidy) for each pilgrim paid by the Government for Haj 2008 was Rs. 60,932 (subject to audit) as compared to Rs. 35,495 and Rs. 35,838 for Haj 2006 and 2007 respectively.

(e) 1,21,695 Haj pilgrims travelled on subsidised fare during Haj 2008 as compared to 108,518 and 1,10,000 Haj pilgrims during Haj 2006 and Haj 2007 respectively.

(f) The total amount of subsidy provided by the Government for Haj 2008 was Rs. 741.47 crores (subject to audit) as compared to Rs. 385.14 crores and Rs. 394.18 crores for Haj-2006 and Haj 2007 respectively.

Jute Production

4653. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of jute in the country has fallen considerably during the last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to boost production of jute and also to revive the jute mills/industries in the country; and

(d) the jute production estimated by the Government in this fiscal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, there has been a marginal fall in the production of jute during the last three jute years (July-June). The main reason for the fall in production was adverse weather conditions in jute growing States. The details of the Jute production during the last three years are as under:

(Qty: in lakh bales of 180 kg each)

Jute	2006-07*	2007-08*	2008-09*
	103.17	102.21	96.34**

*Jute year July to June,

**As per fourth advance estimates

(c) The Government has taken the following major steps to boost production of jute and to revive Jute Mills/Industries in the country;

(i) Implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme for raw jute.

(ii) Implementation of Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory use in packaging commodities) Act, 1987 to protect the interest of jute farmers, workers and the jute industry.

(iii) Implementation of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS).

(iv) Implementation of Incentive Scheme for modernization of jute industry.

(v) Launching of Jute Technology Mission (JTM).

(d) The production of raw jute is estimated on the basis of jute year. i.e, July-June. The production assessment of raw jute for the jute year 2009-10 (July-June) has not yet been carried out.

Limited Liability Partnership Act

4654. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of companies registered under the newly enacted Limited Liability Partnership Act;

(b) whether there is only one Registrar for registering LLP companies for the whole of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make registration of companies under LLP Act easier and hassle free?

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 total of 91 Limited Liability Partnerships have been registered under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Registration of LLPs is done by the Office of Registrar for Limited Liability Partnership, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, 3rd Floor,

Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.

(d) The registration of LLPs is done through filing of e-forms electronically so as to make it easier and hassle free.

Performance of SITP

4655. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the working and performance of Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that such parks have not been able to make any substantial impact;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make these parks more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) M/s Ramky Enviro Engineers Ltd., New Delhi had recently conducted an evaluation study of the implementation of the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP). The evaluation report has revealed positive impact of the scheme in terms of technology upgradation, enhancing competitiveness of the industry, employment generation, etc. The evaluation report has further recommended to continue the scheme, and to consider more projects for creating a wider textile base in the country. The findings of the evaluation report suggest that the projects are delayed due to a number of reasons, *inter alia*, including delay in various statutory and regulatory approvals, delay in finalisation of business plan by the member of the parks due to market fluctuation of textile industry during the past couple of years, change in technology during execution

period, etc.

(c) As the textiles park projects sanctioned under the SITP are yet to be fully functional, it is premature to draw conclusion on the impact of these parks.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Schemes for Development of Handicrafts

4656. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes being implemented for the development of handicrafts in the country;

(b) the details of funds disbursed for each scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether any new scheme/measure is proposed to be introduced in the current year for the development of handicrafts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated budget outlay for the said schemes/measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The schemes being implemented in the 11th Plan for development of handicrafts in the country include: Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for integrated development of selected craft clusters; Marketing Support and Services; Design and Technology Upgradation; Research and Development; Human Resource Development and Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.

(b) The details of the funds released under each scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise is as per statement attached.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement*State-wise fund released under Various Schemes implemented by DC (Handicrafts) during the year 2006-07*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	AHVV	EP	R and D	Design	Training	Marketing	SHTP	RGSSY	Bima Yojana	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	189.84	22.23		24.86	2.20	131.00	33.19			403.92
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	38.14			0.00	1.10	0.00	5.47			44.71
4.	Assam	228.13	70.93	1.35	99.30	3.30	136.41	44.73			584.15
5.	Bihar	22.7			3.50	4.15	20.64	9.38			60.37
6.	Chandigarh	0.00			0.00		35.00	0.00			35.00
7.	Chhattisgarh	11.97	16.39		1.80		0.00	0.00			30.16
8.	Delhi	46.33	825.27	18.81	107.41	6.64	181.11	20.42			1205.99
9.	Goa	1.00			0.00		8.06	4.68			13.74
10.	Gujarat	238.94	5.00		30.84	1.10	42.75	3.7			322.33
11.	Haryana	59.82			6.02	1.10	34.07	11.52			112.53
12.	Himachal Pradesh	76.61			5.24	1.10	56.93	5.54			145.12
13.	Jharkhand	26.25			0.84		20.64	6.36			54.09
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	85.21	5.00		20.35	2.20	11.98	124.18			246.93
15.	Karnataka	32.30	13.48		28.69	2.36	57.11	10.47			144.41

16.	Kerala	49.23	4.90	3.09	0.00	1.10	18.77	1.52		78.61
17.	Madhya Pradesh	44.76	21.11	1.65	0.85	0.00	22.61	9.88		100.86
18.	Maharashtra	14.92			5.94		71.25	8.36		100.47
19.	Manipur	163.36	3.63	3.21	20.15	1.10	52.96	34.05		278.46
20.	Meghalaya	0.98			0.00	1.10	5.75	8.32		16.15
21.	Mizoram	36.38			0.00	1.10	0.00	2.34		39.82
22.	Nagaland	15.32			0.85	0.00	12.60	20.38		49.15
23.	Orissa	155.53			32.88	3.30	65.85	30.36		277.92
24.	Punjab	56.43			12.07	0.00	5.75	9.92		84.17
25.	Pondicherry	0.00			0.00	1.10	11.48	2.68		15.26
26.	Rajasthan	172.29	5.06		11.75	1.10	100.33	1.32		291.85
27.	Sikkim	0.00			0.85	0.00	0.00	2.23		3.08
28.	Tamil Nadu	129.31	64.40	1.35	9.2	3.05	63.67	6.18		287.16
29.	Tripura	46.15			4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		50.15
30.	Uttar Pradesh	568.43	33.48	43.91	128.53	14.58	264.02	121.82		1174.77
31.	Uttaranchal	63.89			5.96	0.00	32.56	16.20		118.61
32.	West Bengal	72.34	29.01	1.5	12.15	8.80	27.83	10.62		162.25
Total		2646.56	1119.89	74.87	574.03	61.58	1481.14	576.42	501.00*	7035.45

*Not maintained State-wise.

In 10th Plan there were separate schemes called Export Promotion (EP) and Special Handicrafts Training Projects (SHTP).

State-wise Scheme-wise funds released under Handicrafts Schemes during the year 2007-08

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Marketing Support Services						Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme		Total
		AHVY	Design	Marketing	Export	Publicity	R and D	HRD	Birna Yojana/ RGSSBT xx	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	267.29	20.05	149.73	35.62	0		23.27		495.96
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Island		0	0	0	0		1.2		1.2
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	111.46	1.68	0	0	0		5.63		118.77
4.	Assam	264.27	99.07	133.72	57.53	3.00	10.01	78.17		645.77
5.	Bihar	49.44	10.20	25.91	0	0	0	7.37		92.92
6.	Chandigarh	0.50	0	0		0				0.5
7.	Chhattisgarh	0.50	0.9	9.75	26.92	0		0.81		38.88
8.	Delhi	19.78	106.66	162.39	701.53	0	79.32	36.96		1106.63
9.	Goa	3.00	0	17.49	0	0		0		20.49
10.	Gujarat	413.42	68	55.76	4.98	0.16		3.86		546.18
11.	Haryana	35.64	4.42	29.9	0	0		19.96		89.92
12.	Himachal Pradesh	89.99	5.05	31.16	0	0		6.35		132.55
13.	Jharkhand	38.16	7.2	50.02	0	0		0.44		95.82
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	172.4	330.58	19.45	5.69	0	5.78	56.44		590.34

15.	Karnataka	77.22	50.22	69.25	10.12	0	10.71	217.52
16.	Kerala	70.06	1.8	45.1	0	0	5.55	122.51
17.	Madhya Pradesh	66.82	5.35	125.13	24.98	2.95	16.42	241.65
18.	Maharashtra	7.99	6.35	95.65	0	0	2.12	112.11
19.	Manipur	171.96	62.09	51.1	0	0	14.8	334.03
20.	Meghalaya	6.76	0	3.14	0	0	4.27	14.17
21.	Mizoram	4.74	0	4.04	0	0	0	8.78
22.	Nagaland	30.29	47.95	20.85	0	0	7.56	123.04
23.	Orissa	278.71	36.81	108.12	0	1.50	29.59	454.73
24.	Punjab	37.63	59.5	2.76	0	0	8.73	108.62
25.	Pondicherry	0	5.2	16.56	0	0	1.43	23.19
26.	Rajasthan	57.95	15.65	59.46	0	0	24.14	157.2
27.	Sikkim	57.5	0	6.75	0	0	0	64.25
28.	Tamil Nadu	55.28	19.43	38.27	6	0	30.9	149.88
29.	Tripura	43.4	3.6	24.03	0	0	4.58	75.61
30.	Uttar Pradesh	571.05	346.16	819	67.79	5.06	74.57	1997.73
31.	Uttaranchal	85.33	5.11	39.4	0	0	15.05	144.89
32.	West Bengal	76.47	34.57	36.25	17.56	0	3.05	167.9
	All States						7117.00	7117
	Total	3165.01	1353.6	2250.13	958.72	12.67	561.57	7117.00* 15418.70

*Not maintained State-wise.

**Bima Yojana and Rajiv Gandhi Shilp Swasth Bima Yojana (RGSSBY) have been included under Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme from the XIth Plan.

Sl. No.	State	Marketing Support and Services							Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme		Total
		AHVV	Design	MSS	Export	Publicity	Bima Yojana/ RGSSBY	HRD	Bima Yojana/ RGSSBT		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	550.48	35.71	294.78	23.74	0	13.38	13.98		932.07	
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	86.44	0	0	0	0	0	3.13		89.57	
4.	Assam	502.31	141.95	446.30	118.2	0	17.57	39.30		1265.63	
5.	Bihar	50.13	13.47	35.85	0	0	0	7.93		107.38	
6.	Chandigarh	0.75	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.75	
7.	Chhattisgarh	5.49	1.00	27.08	12.09	0	13.07	0		58.73	
8.	Delhi	43.72	115.25	261.41	982.66	44.60	209.94	18.58		1676.16	
9.	Goa	4.37	10.33	8.37	0	0	0	0		23.07	
10.	Gujarat	332.00	130.81	110.65	42.49	0	18.15	5.07		639.17	
11.	Haryana	39.25	5.40	47.06	0	0	0	1.19		92.90	
12.	Himachal Pradesh	27.90	18.74	52.21	24.27	0	0	0.90		124.02	
13.	Jharkhand	37.72	5.99	27.97	0	0	0.0	0		71.68	

14.	Jammu and Kashmir	254.04	61.81	23.10	13.92	0	36.58	48.46	437.91	
15.	Karnataka	147.17	34.69	149.61	8.88	0	35.50	5.74	381.59	
16.	Kerala	198.72	11.36	25.15	0	2.76	3.09	18.34	259.42	
17.	Madhya Pradesh	105.53	35.82	127.85	77.71	0	7.37	6.50	360.78	
18.	Maharashtra	290.74	15.04	73.74	7.5	16.00	29.60	24.80	457.42	
19.	Manipur	181.52	64.41	110.41	0	0	2.83	41.33	400.50	
20.	Meghalaya	0.75	0	6.75	0	0	3.37	7.16	18.03	
21.	Mizoram	52.34	0	46.47	0	0	0	0	98.81	
22.	Nagaland	124.37	26.80	61.67	0	0	0	3.27	216.11	
23.	Orissa	60.29	31.11	133.02	0	0	12.52	21.22	258.16	
24.	Punjab	30.26	46.08	4.89	0	0	0	1.80	83.03	
25.	Pondicherry	0.90	4.50	31.60	0	0	0	0.90	37.90	
26.	Rajasthan	34.94	85.08	256.35	0	3.56	2.05	25.86	407.84	
27.	Sikkim	1.27	0	6.38	0	0	0	0	7.65	
28.	Tamil Nadu	183.62	52.92	105.29	25.67	2.91	8	7.58	385.99	
29.	Tripura	71.45	4.00	3.00	7.05	0	0	8.72	94.22	
30.	Uttar Pradesh	461.13	549.5	436.75	75.63	5.00	67.11	69.14	1664.26	
31.	Uttaranchal	12.86	2.70	42.95	0	0	0	5.41	63.92	
32.	West Bengal	86.67	104.90	63.25	45.75	0	7.54	13.28	321.39	
33.	Daman and Diu	0.62			0	0		0	0.62	
34.	All States							8489.20*	8489.20	
Total		3979.75	1609.37	3019.91	1476.56	74.83	487.67	399.59	8489.20	19536.88

*Not maintained State-wise.

State-wise Scheme-wise funds released under Handicrafts Schemes during 2009-10 (upto 31-7-2009)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Marketing Support and Services						Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme		Total
		AHVY	Design	MSS	Export	Publicity	Bima Yojana/ RGSSBY	HRD	Bima Yojana/ RGSSBY	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37.90	5.40	38.60	18.03	0	0	6.03		105.96
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.75	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.75
4.	Assam	84.27	0	216.73	61.53	0	0	7.50		370.03
5.	Bihar	0	3.68	8.40	0	0		0.80		12.88
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.00
7.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	13.66	0	0	4.00		17.66
8.	Delhi	25.01	37.65	536.46	397.46	0	58.07	10.12		1064.77
9.	Goa	4.31	25.81	4.91	17.12	0	0	0		52.15
10.	Gujarat	38.60	41.80	11.47	17.22	0	4.5	4.00		117.59
11.	Haryana	36.89	0	0	0	0	0	1.6		38.49
12.	Himachal Pradesh	3.88	10	6.75	15.03	0	0	1.6		37.26
13.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.00
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	50.15	135.50	15.15	0	0	0	1.25		202.05

15.	Karnataka	7.14	0	7.76	0	0	0	8.6	23.50
16.	Kerala	25.87	0.9	2.55	0	0	0	0.8	30.12
17.	Madhya Pradesh	95.74	1.8	4.24	14.78	0	0	4.17	120.73
18.	Maharashtra	11.73	0	4.42	0	0	0	1.60	17.75
19.	Manipur	69.71	6.80	0	0	0	0	21.91	98.42
20.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
21.	Mizoram	0.75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.75
22.	Nagaland	10.41	29.80	0	0	0	7.35	0.77	48.33
23.	Orissa	0	6.14	4.31	0	0	4.01	4.00	18.46
24.	Punjab	24.58	0	0	0	0	0	0.80	25.38
25.	Pondicherry	0	0	13.09	0	0	0	0.80	13.89
26.	Rajasthan	5.41	0	20.25	0	0	0	0	25.66
27.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
28.	Tamil Nadu	10.82	4.80	17.51	12.37	0	0	4.80	50.30
29.	Tripura	38.75	0	0.00	12.80	0.00	0	3.08	54.63
30.	Uttar Pradesh	235.69	25.87	39.03	8.61	0	0	33.50	342.70
31.	Uttaranchal	10.29	2.70	6.75	0	0	0	2.05	21.79
32.	West Bengal	6.30	0	0	7.40	0.00	0	0.80	14.50
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
34.	All States	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2021.00*
Total		834.95	338.65	958.38	596.01	0.00	73.93	124.58	2021.00
									4947.50

*Not maintained State-wise.

Special Summer Trains

4657. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trains running as summer special every year;

(b) whether advance time table has not been issued for all the summer special trains;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to issue advance time table to give information to public for all the summer special trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of summer special trains run during the last three years are as under:—

Year	No. of trips
2007	2295
2008	3616
2009	7500 (approx.)

(b) to (d) Time table for Summer Special trains is published every year. However, it is not always possible to include all summer special trains in the time table as some of the special trains are run at short notices in order to clear surge of passenger traffic due to certain events. However, publicity to the extent feasible is given to such special trains through print media and notice boards/public announcement system at the stations.

[Translation]

Extension of Bhavnagar-Tarapur Railway Line

4658. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway have conducted any survey for laying a railway line between Bhavnagar-Tarapur and extend it upto Amrali; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Amreli and Bhavnagar are already connected by railway line via Dhasa and Dhola. A survey for new line between Bhavnagar-Tarapur was completed during 2006-07 as per which cost of this 135 km long line was assessed as Rs. 411.27 crore. The proposal could not be considered due to its un-remunerative nature, heavy throw-forwarded of ongoing projects and constraint of resources.

Setting Up of Steel Factories by SAIL

4659. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has decided to set up three factories in West Champaran, Vaishali and Gaya districts in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the land has been acquired for the said purpose and tenders have been invited for construction works of these factories;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said works are likely to be completed and the factories will be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Yes, Madam, the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has proposed to set up three Steel Processing Units (SPU) at Bettiah in West Champaran, Mahnar in Vaishali and Gaya District in the State of Bihar.

(b) to (e) The land at Bettiah was acquired from the Bihar Industrial Development Authority. Since no government land of adequate size could be made available in Mahnar and Gaya, land was purchased through EO/open tender route. After acquisition of land, foundation stones have been laid in all these locations.

The SPU at West Champaran district (Bettiah) is scheduled to be completed by January 2010. For the SPUs at Vaishali (Mahnar) and Gaya, the time schedule

would be firmed up after completion of the tendering process.

National Law University

4660. SHRI MAHESH JOSHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 50% of the seats in the National Law University, Bhopal are reserved for the students from Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is no such quota for the students from Rajasthan in the National Law University, Jodhpur;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make uniform rules for admission in National Law University throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) No, Madam. The National Law University, Bhopal has been established by Act No. 41 of 1997 of the Madhya Pradesh Legislature and the National Law University, Jodhpur established under the National Law University, Jodhpur Act, 1999 (Act No. 22 of 1999) enacted by the Rajasthan State Legislature. The said Universities though named as National Law University but in fact have been established by the Act of respective State Legislature, therefore, in true sense are State Universities. Hence, the respective State Governments are concerned with the subject matter of the Question.

[English]

Inland Container Depots

4661. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public tariff for haulage of empty container between various Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and also between port to ICDs has been reduced by the

Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) to win freight from roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the additional revenue generated by the CONCOR since such reduction;

(d) the extent to which profit margin of CONCOR has come down after such reductions; and

(e) the extent to which the booking of empty containers by rail has been increased thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) has reduced public tariff for haulage of empty containers in selected streams.

(c) to (e) The profit margin of CONCOR has shown improvement in Financial Year 2008-09 as compared to 2007-08. The level of booking of empty containers in 2008-09 as compared to that of 2007-08 has remained same.

Auction of Oil and Gas Blocks

4662. SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to relaunch the country's largest ever auction of oil and gas blocks for exploration;

(b) if so, the total number of blocks identified for auction, oil and gas block-wise and area-wise;

(c) whether the auction is opened both for public and private companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total number of oil blocks awarded so far in New Exploration Licensing Policy-I, II, III and IV under production share contract, list-wise;

(f) the total investment made by the contractors in each block, list-wise;

(g) the approximate quantity of geological reserves of oil and gas in these blocks, block-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII) was launched on 09th April, 2009. 70 Exploration blocks have been offered under NELP-VIII. The details are given in the enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) and (d) National Oil Companies (NOCs) and Private, both Indian and Foreign companies, are required to compete with each other on an equal footing to secure Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PELs).

(e) to (g) A total of 90 of blocks were awarded under NELP-I, II, III and IV. The details of blocks, investment made and reserve established are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

List of Blocks offered under NELP-VIII

Sl. No.	Basin	Block Name	Approx. area (Sq. Km.)
1	2	3	4
DEEP WATER BLOCKS			
1.	MUMBAI	MB-DWN-2009/1	2961
2.	KERALA-KONKAN	KK-DWN-2009/1	5349
3.		KK-DWN-2009/2	5361
4.		KK-DWN-2009/3	5374
5.		KK-DWN-2009/4	5390
6.	KRISHNA-GODAVARI	KG-DWN-2009/1	1800
7.	ANDAMAN	AN-DWN-2009/1	4981
8.		AN-DWN-2009/2	3995
9.		AN-DWN-2009/3	3992
10.		AN-DWN-2009/4	3990
11.		AN-DWN-2009/5	4002
12.		AN-DWN-2009/6	3999
13.		AN-DWN-2009/7	4009
14.		AN-DWN-2009/8	4006
15.		AN-DWN-2009/9	4017
16.		AN-DWN-2009/10	4014
17.		AN-DWN-2009/11	4024

1	2	3	4
18.		AN-DWN-2009/12	4021
19.		AN-DWN-2009/13	4007
20.		AN-DWN-2009/14	4014
21.		AN-DWN-2009/15	3518
22.		AN-DWN-2009/16	3524
23.		AN-DWN-2009/17	4034
24.		AN-DWN-2009/18	4040
SHALLOW WATER BLOCKS			
25.	GUJARAT-KUTCH	GK-OSN-2009/1	1264
26.		GK-OSN-2009/2	1242
27.	MUMBAI	MB-OSN-2009/1	2299
28.		MB-OSN-2009/2	1635
29.		MB-OSN-2009/3	1492
30.		MB-OSN-2009/4	1309
31.		MB-OSN-2009/5	1477
32.		MB-OSN-2009/6	1876
33.		MB-OSN-2009/7	1865
34.	KERALA-KONKAN	KK-OSN-2009/1	2004
35.		KK-OSN-2009/2	1860
36.		KK-OSN-2009/3	1874
37.		KK-OSN-2009/4	2475
38.		KK-OSN-2009/5	2088
39.		KK-OSN-2009/6	2107
40.		KK-OSN-2009/7	1914
41.		KK-OSN-2009/8	2295
42.		KK-OSN-2009/9	2032
43.	CAUVERY	CY-OSN-2009/1	1362
44.		CY-OSN-2009/2	1621

1	2	3	4
45.		CY-OSN-2009/3	2385
46.	KRISHNA-GODAVARI	KG-OSN-2009/1	1472
47.		KG-OSN-2009/2	1471
48.		KG-OSN-2009/3	1988
49.		KG-OSN-2009/4	835
50.	BENGAL	WB-OSN-2009/1	2621
51.		WB-OSN-2009/2	1915
52.		WB-OSN-2009/3	1695
ONLAND BLOCKS			
53.	ASSAM-ARAKAN	AA-ONN-2009/1	2217
54.		AA-ONN-2009/2	1740
55.		AA-ONN-2009/3*	84
56.		AA-ONN-2009/4*	84
57.	BENGAL	WB-ONN-2009/1	1519
58.		WB-ONN-2009/2	1887
59.	VINDHYAN	VN-ONN-2009/1	1405
60.		VN-ONN-2009/2	1562
61.		VN-ONN-2009/3	1250
62.	HIMALAYAN FORELAND	HF-ONN-2009/1	1930
63.	CAMBAY	CB-ONN-2009/1*	113
64.		CB-ONN-2009/2*	68
65.		CB-ONN-2009/3*	90
66.		CB-ONN-2009/4*	69
67.		CB-ONN-2009/5*	165
68.		CB-ONN-2009/6*	177
69.		CB-ONN-2009/7*	144
70.		CB-ONN-2009/8*	136

Statement-II*Investment and Reserves made in NELP I to NELP IV as on 31-03-2009*

Sl. No.	Total Investment (Provisional) in lakh \$				Reserves (MMT O+OEG)	
	Expl.	Dev.	Total			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NELP-I EXPLORATION BLOCKS						
1.	GK-OSN-97/1	RIL-100	305.73	0.00	305.73	
2.	SR-OSN-97/1	RIL-100	18.05	0.00	18.05	
3.	MB-OSN-97/2	RIL 100	224.65	0.00	224.65	
4.	MB-OSN-97/3	RIL 100	379.05	0.00	379.05	
5.	KK-OSN-97/2	RIL-100	480.76	0.00	480.76	
6.	KG-OSN-97/2	RIL-100	471.28	0.00	471.28	
7.	KG-OSN-97/3	RIL-100	325.55	0.00	325.55	
8.	KG-OSN-97/4	RIL-100	233.01	0.00	233.01	
9.	NEC-OSN-97/2	RIL-90, NIKO-10	3625.32	49.53	3674.85	27.052
10.	KG-DWN-98/1	RIL-100	1655.05	0.00	1655.05	
11.	KG-DWN-98/3	RIL-90, NIKO-10	7123.08	64200.76	71323.83	569.9358
12.	MN-DWN-98/2	RIL-100	1227.82	0.00	1227.82	
13.	KG-DWN-98/2	ONGC-90, CEIL-10	2421.46	0.00	2421.46	
14.	CY-OSN-97/2	OIL	3.58	0.00	3.58	
15.	MN-DWN-98/3	ONGC-100	1465.76	0.00	1465.76	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	KG-OSN-97/1	ONGC-100	186.18	0.00	186.18	
17.	KG-DWN-98/4	ONGC-85, OIL-15	2191.56	0.00	2191.56	
18.	KG-DWN-98/5	ONGC-100	615.81	0.00	615.81	
19.	KK-OSN-97/3		46.62	0.00	46.62	
20.	GV-ONN-97/1	ONGC-40, IOC-30, CEIL-15, CEEPC-15	183.41	0.00	183.41	
21.	MB-OSN-97/4	ONGC-70, IOC-30	220.66	0.00	220.66	
22.	MN-OSN-97/3	ONGC-85, GAIL-15	493.07	0.00	493.07	
23.	NEC-OSN-97/1	OAO-50, GAIL-50	594.24	0.00	594.24	
24.	CY-OSN-97/1	HOEC-80, MIL-20	56.40	0.00	56.40	
Sub-Total (NELP-1)			24548.10	64250.29	88798.39	596.99
NELP-II EXPLORATION BLOCKS			0.00	0.00	0.00	
1.	CY-OSN-2000/1	ONGC-100	65.24	0.00	65.24	
2.	CY-OSN-2000/2	ONGC-100	268.78	0.00	268.78	
3.	GS-DWN-2000/1	ONGC-100	305.30	0.00	305.30	
4.	GS-DWN-2000/2	ONGC-85, GAIL-15	200.23	0.00	200.23	
5.	GV-ONN-2000/1		10.41	0.00	10.41	
6.	KK-DWN-2000/2		23.03	0.00	23.03	
7.	KK-DWN-2000/4	ONGC-100	33.71	0.00	33.71	
8.	KK-OSN-2000/1		27.94	0.00	27.94	
9.	MB-DWN-2000/1	ONGC-85, IOC-15	77.67	0.00	77.67	

10.	MB-DWN-2000/2	GSPC 10, ONGC-50, IOC-15, GAIL-15, OIL-10	159.16	0.00	159.16	
11.	MB-OSN-2000/1	ONGC-75, IOC-15, GSPC-10	722.14	0.00	722.14	
12.	MN-OSN-2000/1	ONGC-100	52.98	0.00	52.98	
13.	MN-OSN-2000/2	ONGC-40, IOC-20, GAIL-20, OIL-20	623.47	0.00	623.47	
14.	WB-ONN-2000/1		5.65	0.00	5.65	
15.	WB-OSN-2000/1	ONGC-85, IOC-15	838.20	0.00	838.20	
16.	GS-OSN-2000/1	RIL-90, HEPI-10	629.17	0.00	629.17	
17.	KK-DWN-2000/3	RIL-100	38.76	0.00	38.76	
18.	KK-DWN-2000/1	RIL-100	50.51	0.00	50.51	
19.	AS-ONN-2000/1	RIL-90, HEPI-10	0.00	0.00	0.00	
20.	RJ-ONN-2000/1	OIL-100	8.74	0.00	8.74	
21.	MN-ONN-2000/1	ONGC-20, OIL-40, IOC-20, GAIL-20	33.12	0.00	33.12	
22.	CB-ONN-2000/1	GSPC-50, GAIL-50	88.71	49.51	138.22	8.588
23.	CB-ONN-2000/2	NIKO 100	338.52	90.09	428.61	0.97
Sub-Total (NELP-2)			4601.42	139.60	4741.02	9.56

NELP-III

1.	KG-OSN-2001/3	GSPC-80, GGR-10, JEPL-10	1811.54	0.00	1811.54	35.38275
2.	KK-OSN-2001/2	ONGC-100	63.29	0.00	63.29	
3.	KK-OSN-2001/3	ONGC-100	102.38	0.00	102.38	
4.	GS-OSN-2001/1	ONGC-100	138.93	0.00	138.93	
5.	CY-DWN-2001/2	RIL-90, HEPI-10	705.35	0.00	705.35	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	CY-PR-DWN-2001/3	RIL-90, HEPI-10	298.62	0.00	298.62	
7.	CY-PR-DWN-2001/4	RIL-90, HEPI-10	293.87	0.00	293.87	
8.	KG-OSN-2001/1	RIL-90, HEPI-10	1318.00	0.00	1318.00	
9.	KG-OSN-2001/2	RIL-90, HEPI-10	1209.70	0.00	1209.70	
10.	KG-DWN-200 1/1	RIL-90, HEPI-10	1106.53	0.00	1106.53	
11.	PR-DWN-2001/1	RIL-90, HEPI-10	184.80	0.00	184.80	
12.	KK-DWN-2001/1	RIL-90, HEPI-10	265.02	0.00	265.02	
13.	KK-DWN-2001/2	RIL-90, HEPI-10	273.56	0.00	273.56	
14.	HF-ONN-2001/1	ONGC-100	182.00	0.00	182.00	
15.	KK-DWN-2001/3	ONGC-100	761.06	0.00	761.06	
16.	CY-DWN-2001/1	ONGC-80-OIL-20	1379.89	0.00	1379.89	
17.	AA-ONN-2001/1	ONGC-100	47.65	0.00	47.65	
18.	AA-ONN-2001/2	ONGC-80, IOC-20	121.74	0.00	121.74	
19.	AA-ONN-2001/3	ONGC-85, OIL-15	65.66	0.00	65.66	
20.	AA-ONN-2001/4	ONGC-100	13.89	0.00	13.89	
21.	RJ-ONN-2001/1	OIL-70, ONGC-30	16.54	0.00	16.54	
22.	CB-ONN-2001/1	ONGC-70, CEIL-15, CED-15	110.67	0.00	110.67	
23.	PG-ONN-2001/1	ONGC-100	7.80	0.00	7.80	
	Sub-Total	(NELP-3)	10478.49	0.00	10478.49	35.38
NELP-IV						
1.	KK-DWN-2002/2	ONGC 0%, HPCL-20	43.15	0.00	43.15	

2.	KK-DWN-2002/3	ONGC 80%, HPCL-20	84.14	0.00	84.14
3.	GS-DWN-2002/1	ONGC 100%	127.39	0.00	127.39
4.	KG-DWN-2002/1	ONGC 70%, BPCL-10, OIL-20	1511.62	0.00	1511.62
5.	CY-ONN-2002/2	ONGC-60%, BPCL-40	31.98	0.00	31.98
6.	NEC-DWN-2002/1	ONGC-100%	372.57	0.00	372.57
7.	CB-ONN-2002/1	ONGC-70%, CEGB1-30	109.13	0.00	109.13
8.	NEC-OWN-2002/2	ONGC-100	979.98	0.00	979.98
9.	AN-DWN-2002/2	ONGC 100%	603.34	0.00	603.34
10.	AA-ONN-2002/3	OIL-30, ONGC-70	4.49	0.00	4.49
11.	MN-DWN-2002/1	ONGC-70, OIL-20, BPCL-10	830.14	0.00	830.14
12.	MN-DWN-2002/2	ONGC 100%	1109.62	0.00	1109.62
13.	CB-ONN-2002/3	GSPC-55, PPCL-15, JOGPL -20, GGR-10	940.02	0.00	940.02
14.	CY-ONN-2002/1	ENPRO-30, GAIL-50, GSPC-20	516.38	0.00	516.38
15.	AA-ONN-2002/1	ENRO-20, GAIL-80	475.00	0.00	475.00
16.	AA-ONN-2002/4	OIL-10, ONGC-90	14.48	0.00	14.48
17.	GV-ONN-2002/1	CPIL-50, CESL-50	375.18	0.00	375.18
18.	RJ-ONN-2002/1	OIL-60, ONGC-40	3.87	0.00	3.87
19.	CB-ONN-2002/2	GSPC-60, JOGPL-30, GGR-10	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	AN-DWN-2002/1	ONGC 100%	403.79	0.00	403.79
Total NELP IV			8536.27	0.00	8536.27
Grand Total			48164.28	64389.89	112554.17

Official Liquidators

4663. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large number of companies are under court liquidation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Official Liquidators are outsourcing various works to speed up liquidation; and

(d) if so, the policy of the Government in outsourcing the work of the Official Liquidators?

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 Madam.

(b) The total number of companies under liquidation as on 31-03-2009 was 6155.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The outsourcing is done as per the orders of concerned Hon'ble High Court.

Research and Development in Steel Sector

4664. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the investment made for research and development on Steel by Public Sector Steel plants during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and Plant-wise;

(b) the results achieved in terms of process optimization, increase in productivity, improvement in quality reduction of cost of production and utilization and solid work etc.;

(c) whether the Government proposes to invest on R&D works for improving the quality of steel etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present status of on-going R and D projects

and the projects which are under consideration of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) There are two public sector steel producing companies namely Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL). In various plants of SAIL, Research and Developments (R and D) activities are mainly pursued through Research and Development Centre for Iron and Steel (RDCIS), SAIL, Ranchi. The investment made for research and development on steel by Public Sector Steel plants during last three years and the current year are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	R and D Expenditure	
	SAIL	RINL
2006-07	76.85	11.68
2007-08	101.86	17.93
2008-09	118.20	17.35
2009-10 (Apr.-June)	25.52	2.07

(b) Major achievements in the areas of process utilization, productivity, quality improvement, cost reduction and solid waste utilisation in SAIL and RINL are enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Government has made a budgetary allocation of Rs. 118 crore during the 11th Five Year Plan Period for the first time for promoting R and D activities which *inter-alia* includes quality upgradation also.

(e) Indian steel companies have taken up a large number of R and D projects which primarily focus on following areas:

(i) Productivity improvements

(ii) Energy conservation

(iii) Beneficiation of raw material

- (iv) Product development
- (v) Quality improvement

Statement

Major achievements in R and D in public sector steel plants

Steel Authority of India Ltd.

- RDCIS has developed a technology for beneficiation of Iron ore slimes which otherwise were being dumped as a waste material. Through this technology, waste material with 49-50% Fe, is being enriched to 62-65% Fe for use in sinter making.
- RDCIS has developed "Curtain Flame Ignition System" for heating the sinter-mix. This technology has been introduced in Sinter plants of SAIL. This has resulted in reduction of specific gas consumption and the furnace start-up time reduced. In addition, improvement in productivity has also been achieved.
- Modified lining design developed by R and D centre using in-house developed bricks resulted in highest-ever lining life of 129 heats against the avg. life of 90 heats at Rourkela Steel Plant.
- A new rail steel chemistry was developed by R and D Centre through micro alloying with vanadium. This has resulted in improvement in yield strength accompanied by other mechanical and metallurgical properties of rails.
- SAIL has developed process technology for producing TMT bars of higher yield strength through indigenous R and D efforts. In addition to this, another variety called Earthquake resistant TMT bars (TMT EQR) has also been developed recently.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.

- Optimization of coal blend with different sources and type of coal.

- Maximization of usage of micro fine iron ore in sinter making.
- Improving the yield and Metallurgical performance of Vizag Steels 4-strand Tundish by water Modeling.
- Technical Analysis and Optimization of Continuous Casting at VSP using existing Plant facilities.
- Briquetting of SMS Gas Cleaning Plant Sludge as a replacement of sized iron ore.
- Briquetting of Solid Metallurgical Waste generated in the plant for usage in blast furnace.

Cash Surplus

4665. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of cash surplus before dividend earned by Indian Railways in each of the years from 2004-05 to 2008-09;

(b) the amount of current as well as deferred dividend paid to Government during the said period, year-wise;

(c) the amount of investible surplus earned by the Railways during this period;

(d) the amount appropriated to Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF), Development Fund, Capital Fund and Special Railway Safety Fund from internal generation during the above period;

(e) the amount of annual plan expenditure financed through internal generation of Railways in each of these years; and

(f) the total fund balance of Railways in each of these years?

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

Shortage of Manpower in DGCA

4666. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a shortage of manpower in Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) despite heavy growth of air traffic in the country;

(b) if so, whether in view of present global scenario, the Government has made any assessment of the existing shortage of manpower and envisage future requirement of the DGCA;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the actual strength and shortage of manpower in various airports in the country against the sanctioned strength as on date, airport-wise;

(e) the extent to which passenger safety aspect has been affected by such inadequate manpower in various airports; and

(f) the number of vacant posts filled by DGCA during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Keeping in view the growth in the civil aviation sector, the Government constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri M.K. Kaw, former Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation to review the roles and functions of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). This Committee submitted its report in 2006 and projected future manpower requirements in view of the exponential growth in the field of Civil Aviation. Further in 2008, based on the recommendations of the Kaw Committee, a fresh reassessment for reorganisation/restructuring of DGCA was made. Government has since, based on this reassessment, agreed for creation of 427 Group "A" posts in DGCA.

(d) The staff of DGCA are distributed region-wise to regulate airport operations in their respective regions. After implementation of the Kaw Committee recommendations, regarding manpower enhancement, the region-wise sanctioned strength, actual strength and

shortage of staff in that order are, Delhi 71,42,29; Lucknow 12,10,2; Kanpur, 8,5,3; Mumbai 58,34,24; Bhopal 8,5,3; Hyderabad 22,16,6; Kolkata 42,34,8; Patna 10,6,4; Bhubaneswar 4,4,0; Guwahati 4,4,0; Chennai 19,11,8; Cochin 4,3,1; Bangalore 17,14,3.

(e) DGCA continues to effectively enforce safety and regulatory standards on all airlines/operators without compromising passenger safety.

(f) 20 promotional posts were filled up in 2006, 19 in 2007 and 9 in 2008.

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12.00 hrs.

11.38 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Twelve of the clock.*

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.

[MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Papers to be laid on the Table of the House—Item No. 2, Shri Praful Patel.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 665/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Bharat Refractories Limited and the Steel Authority of India Limited Amalgamation Order, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1847(E) in Gazette of India dated

the 28th July, 2009 under sub-section (5) Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 666/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 667/15/09]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurgaon, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurgaon, 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 668/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Heavy Electricals 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 669/15/09]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Triveni Structurals 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 670/15/09]

12.01 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 45th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Action Taken by the Government on the 40th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2008-09), pertaining to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): Madam, I beg to lay the statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 45th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction of hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The 45th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 18-12-2008. The Report relates to examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the year 2008-2009.

Action Taken Notes on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Report of the Committee has been sent to the Standing Committee on Agriculture

*Laid on the table and also Placed in Library, See No. LT 671/15/09.

[Shri Subodh Kant Sahay]

on 28-7-2009. The Action Taken Notes in the prescribed format is enclosed as annexure.

There are 10 recommendations/observations made by the Committee in the said Report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations pertain to promotion of food processing industries by way of full utilization and enhanced Budget allocation, proper formulation of the new schemes regarding economic viability of Food Parks, development of infrastructure for food processing industries, modernization of abattoirs and food/nutrition clinic.

Present status of implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee and reported to the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my statement and the same is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents given in the Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as having been read.

12.02 hrs.

- (ii) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 77th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2008-09), pertaining to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): Madam, I beg to lay the statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Seventy-seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

In all six recommendations were made by the Committee in Chapter I of the above report where action was required on the part of the Government. Besides,

*Laid on the table and also Placed in Library, See No. LT 672/15/09.

there were three recommendations contained in Chapter V of the Report, on which the Committee had observed that final replies of the Government were awaited. The present status of implementation of all the recommendations made by the Committee is given in the Annexure to this Statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of the Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now matters of urgent public importance under 'Zero hour'. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta to speak.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Madam Speaker, please let Mr. Ajnala speak first.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please let the 'zero hour' proceed. You did not let the question hour run, now please let the zero hour proceed.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Khadoor Sahib): Madam Speaker, please let me speak first.

MADAM SPEAKER: No, please sit down. First let Gurudas Dasgupta speak. Let the 'zero hour' run. Several Members have to raise important matters. First let them speak.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Madam Speaker, you are not doing justice to us.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Shri Gurudas Dasguptaji.

SHRI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam Speaker, if you do not want the House to run, then it will not run. Therefore, we are saying that first let Dr. Ajnala speak.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. First let the zero hour run. I have called Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal): Madam Speaker, give me two minutes.

MADAM SPEAKER: All of you, please sit down. Listen to him peacefully. Take your seat. It has been taken up uring question hour. Please sit down. All of you, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Madam, I have also given notice on the same subject.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: It has been taken up in question hour. Now let Shri Dasgupta raise his point.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Question hour is over. Let the Zero Hour run. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: First, Shri Dasguptaji will speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Gurudas Dasgupta says.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Dasguptaji, please speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Madam

Speaker, I was not present in the morning, but I was watching proceedings on television in my office that when Dr. Ajnala rose to speak, then, you had repeatedly said that you will allow him immediately after the question hour is over. Thereafter, Sushmaji and other Members wanted to say something on that issue. When they rose and mentioned that they have given notice for the adjournment of the question hours.

I remember that earlier when question hour was adjourned, then, they were allowed first in zero hour. You yourself had told Ajnalaji that the Question hour. *...(Interruptions)*. I request you that today there is an issue on which discussion started, it was adjourned a ecouple of times and then resumed that people in the country are suffering due to price rise, so how to solve this problem?

Madam, I request that as you have told Ajnalaji in the morning, kindly permit him to speak on the subject so that the House may run smoothly. It is my request to you and now it is upto you to decide.

MADAM SPEAKER: I understand your point. The Leader of opposition has made a request, but I would like to say something in this regard. When I told Ajnalaji and other hon'ble Members that I will call him immediately after the zero hour and now let the question hour run, but they did not accede to my request.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: All of you, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: All of you, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Madam, the point is that you had not given the time. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. The House will not run like this.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Madam, I had

[Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala]

requested two-three times, but you had not give a time. I have given three notices. How will it go? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: The House will not run like this. The leader of opposition had requested on your behalf and I wanted to call you, but if you rise like this and get agitated, then, the House will not run. As far as the notice is concerned, you had come on 4th, I had told you that I will call you. The same day various matters were raised during zero hour. When we started the zero hour smoothly, you were not present here. Your name was called, but you were not present here. Whatever may be the reason, but you were not present here.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please keep quite.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please keep quiet, since the leader of opposition had requested, hence I will allow only Ajnalaji to speak. No other Member will speak on this subject. He will be allowed to speak only for three minutes. Thereafter Shri Gurudas Dasguptaji will speak. Now Ajnalaji, please speak.

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Khadoor Sahib): I thank you Madam Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to speak on this very important issue concerning the Sikhs. Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee is the religious body of the Sikhs. It came into existence in 1925. We fought hard against the British to get the Act passed in 1925. The SGPC got the right to manage all the Gurdwaras in 1925. The agitation for the rights of the Sikhs to manage their own Gurdwaras started in 1921. More than 150 Sikhs attained martyrdom during this struggle. I am happy to note that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had wholeheartedly supported the Sikh cause during this struggle. When the Sikhs emerged victorious in this agitation, Mahatma Gandhi remarked that we

have won the first battle in our war of Independence against the British. I reiterate that it was after a lot of sacrifices made by the Sikhs that we could win this struggle against the British. Only then did the SGPC come into existence.

Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee is an elected body of Sikhs. Sikhs elect the members of SGPC after every five years. The SGPC members manage the Gurdwaras and serve the Sikh community. Let me remind you, madam, that Sikhs have always been at the forefront to protect the interests of the country. For more than 250 years, the valiant Sikhs fought against the Mughal tyranny. We fought against the British for 100 years for the sake of the country. We opposed tooth and nail the emergency imposed on the country so that democracy could flourish in India.

Madam, disregarding the supreme sacrifices made by the Sikhs, an attempt is being made to meddle into the internal affairs of Sikhs. Sikhs had lost a major chunk of pre-partition Punjab to Pakistan. Later on, Punjab was further divided and Himachal Pradesh and Haryana were carved out of Punjab. Today, an effort is being made to bifurcate the SGPC in Haryana. We will not allow anyone to meddle into the religious matters of Sikhs. SGPC has been at the vanguard in running schools, charitable institutions and hospitals. We believe in the service of entire mankind. SGPC has always taken up all issues pertaining to the Sikhs in any corner of the world. SGPC is the supreme religious body of the Sikhs and Sikhs look upon it with reverence. The orders of Akal Takht are binding on all Sikhs throughout the world.

Therefore, I am shocked that some greedy elements in Haryana are holding an election and trying to divide the SGPC in Haryana. We will not allow this to happen. Madam, celebrated Sufi poet Bulle Shah had said : "I do not talk about now, I do not talk about the future or past. I talk about everyone. Had Guru Gobind Singhji not been there, who would have taken care of entire humanity." Had the Sikh Gurus including Guru Tegh Bahadur not stood up against tyranny and made their supreme sacrifices, there would have been no temples or Gurdwaras left in this country. Guru Tegh Bahadur did not give up his life for Sikhs. He and his

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

family members made the supreme sacrifice to protect the interests of the Hindus.

Madam, the history of Sikh religion is steeped in sacrifices. So, you should give us some time to air our grievances on matters related to our faith. We had met you in your room, madam and requested you to give us some time so that we may express our concerns in this august House. We will not allow anyone to meddle into our religious affairs. Madam, the ninth Sikh Guru Shri Guru Tegh Bahadurji had said—"For the sake of humanity we will give up our lives but not our faith or self-respect."

MADAM SPEAKER: Your time is over, Ajnalaji. Thank you very much. Shri Gurudas Dasguptaji.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, please conclude. Please stick to your word.

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: If Hindu religion survives today in India, it is only due to supreme sacrifice made by the ninth Sikh Guru Shri Guru Tegh Bahadurji.

MADAM SPEAKER: Alright, it's over. Please sit down. Please conclude.

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Madam Speaker, I would like to request Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Home Minister to stop meddling into the religious matters of Sikhs. We will oppose it tooth and nail. We know how to protect our interests. We will not allow this to happen. I also request you to please give us time to express our views. ...**

MADAM SPEAKER: Alright, thank you very much, you were given time to speak. Don't level such allegations on the Chair. This is not fair. You were given time to speak. Please withdraw your Statement.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: You cannot level charges

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

**Not recorded.

against the Chair when you are being given time to speak. The other day also you were called, but you were not here.

[Translation]

This is not fair. You have been given time

...(Interruptions)...*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please don't indulge in arguments, no arguments, please. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Rewati Raman Singh are also associated with the issue raised by Shri Rattan Singh Ajnala.

MADAM SPEAKER: The next hon. Member to speak is Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL KISHOR 'COMMANDO' (Bahraich): There should be discipline in the House, and the decorum of the House has to be maintained. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, I have also given a notice on the same subject.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I rise to draw the attention of the government, particularly the hon. Minister

*Not recorded.

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

of Finance, to the two-day strike of nearly ten lakh bank employees throughout the country by all the trade unions, irrespective of party affiliation. This is due to the negative attitude of the management, that is, the Indian Bankers' Association, which had earlier given a commitment to the workers for 17.5 per cent increase in salaries and wages, which had given a commitment that there will be a pension scheme for nearly four lakh employees, and they had given a commitment that there will be compassionate appointments for the people in the whole of the country. After giving that commitment, the management has withdrawn from that commitment. This has never happened in negotiations in the banking sector. Every three years, there is negotiation. This is the most unusual, and since it is unusual, therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the House to this issue.

The main dispute is with regard to pension. In order to give a second option to four lakh employees, there is a need for Rs. 17,000 crore; Rs. 11,000 crore is available from the Provident Fund Reserve, and for the remaining Rs. 6,000 crore, the employees have agreed to share and contribute not less than Rs. 1800 crore. The management had also agreed on compassionate appointments. The agreement was in the offing; only drafting and signing was not done, and it was almost ready. At that point of time, the management suddenly said that they could not give them 17.5 per cent, it had to be 15 per cent, and the next day, they said that it would be 13 per cent. Ultimately, they have come around, I must admit. But the main question, that is, regarding the payment of pension which has been agreed upon, now the management is saying that every year, the liability of the pension will have to be calculated and then the scheme will be invoked. This has never happened in the whole country.

Therefore, I appeal to you and to the Government and to the Minister of Finance to ensure that this confrontation between bank employees and Government does not escalate because as I apprehend, I do not speak for them, that this strike may escalate and there may be prolonged agitation. If there is a prolonged

agitation, the economic system, particularly the financial system, will be in jeopardy. That will affect our economy which is already afflicted by decline of the growth of economy and the GDP. Therefore, there cannot be any luxury on the part of anyone to enter into a confrontation with the biggest financial sector of the country because this has never been the history. Always, the management and Unions have sorted out their issues; there was no need for a confrontation, and there is no need for a confrontation now.

Therefore, I wish the Government takes a proactive policy in order to settle the dispute, in order to create a congenial atmosphere, in order to ensure that the bipartite agreement which has been pending for long is sorted out, and industrial peace is restored to the benefit of the whole country.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, I have also given a notice on the same issue.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, I am permitting to associate your name. You can send your name to the Table and you will be associated with what Shri Gurudas Dasgupta said.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: While associating myself with what Shri Gurudas Dasgupta has said, I urge upon the Government to come forward, the Finance Minister is here, he should respond. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: On everything that is said during 'Zero Hour', the Government does not respond. You know that. Let other Members speak.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Nama Nageswara Rao, Shri Saidul Haque, Shri M.B. Rajesh, Shri P.K. Biju and Shri A. Sampath are allowed to associate on the matter raised by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

Only what Shri Sajjan Verma is saying will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Madam Speaker, I associate myself with this matter.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please send your name to be associated with the matter.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam Speaker, I associate myself with the matter.

MADAM SPEAKER: You may also send your name.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Kindly take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not disturb. Let other Members also speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is a very serious matter. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I know it is a very serious matter. He has made his point. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

SHRI SAJJAN VERMA (Dewas): Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the poor, the weaker sections and people belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the wake of the decision taken by some Governments, other than the U.P.A. Governments, through their cabinet regarding the reservation policy provided in Constitution deciding to fill the reserved posts with general category candidates...(Interruptions).

*Not recorded.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Madam Speaker, I also associate myself with the matter. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please send a slip.

SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: The BJP Government of Madhya Pradesh has recently taken a decision to fill all the backlog vacancies in the Department of Health with general category candidates. The BJP Government in connivance with the senior bureaucrats has hatched a conspiracy by preparing a report saying that the people belonging to the reserved category are not qualified and that no one from the reserved category is found suitable for these posts. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let Vermaji speak, listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: So the BJP Government in Madhya Pradesh has hatched this conspiracy to further weaken the weaker sections belonging to the reserved category.

Madam, through you, I seek protection from the Government, as it is a matter within the ambit of the Union Government. Any such decision taken by the State Government should be immediately banned. This is my demand....(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please allow him to speak. Why are you on your legs every now and then?

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Hon. Madam Speaker, They suppress the voice of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes both in this House and also in states. That is their policy...(Interruptions). They should tell their Governments not to take such malicious and harmful decisions. Bhimrao Ambedkarji and Mahatma Gandhiji have secured the right to life of the people belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in this country.

Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I demand that

[Shri Sajjan Verma]

the Union Government ban such decisions of the State Governments under the provisions of the Constitution and persuade them to withdraw such decisions.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Dr. Manda Jagannath is allowed to associate on the issue raised by Shri Sajjan Verma.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Hon. Madam Speaker, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak. The people belonging to Kol caste reside in several districts across Uttar Pradesh. Like Dravidians in Southern India, people belonging to Kol community also reside in several North Indian States. There is a discernable population of Koi caste in several districts of Uttar Pradesh in particular. They have a population of two lakh in Allahabad, one lakh in Chitrakoot, two and a half lakh in Banda, three lakh in Mirzapur, two lakh in Sonbhadra, one lakh in Chandauli, fifty thousand in Varanasi, one and a half lakh in Jhansi and one lakh population in Lalitpur.

Madam Speaker, 62 years have elapsed since India achieved independence. I have raised this matter in Lok Sabha several times. If the Union Government is willing they can get reservation benefits very quickly. In Uttar Pradesh, Mulayam Singh Yadavji secured them the status of Kol community. They started getting jobs also, however, the reservation to this community has been withdrawn ever since the Bahujan Samaj Party Government came to power...(Interruptions).

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Why is he leveling allegation on them?...(Interruptions).

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Madam Speaker, should not I call a spade a spade? I am only citing what the Government of Uttar Pradesh has done. The hon. Member should not interrupt...(Interruptions).

Madam, I am only trying to drive home the point that only a few days back people of Kol community have got reservation in the name of Gaun, Kharwad, Chero, Bajanga, Aria, Agaria, Pankika, Pathari, Guian and

Saharia etc. communities, however, they have not got reservation in seats due to which they can neither contest Panchayat, Legislative Assembly nor Lok Sabha elections. The Union Government should award the status of scheduled tribe to the Kol community on the lines of reservation given to this community by Mulayam Singh Yadavji in the past. Through you, I also demand that if the Government required to bring the Constitution Amendment Bill to give the status of Scheduled Tribe to the Kol caste, it should be done.

Madam, denying the status of Scheduled Tribe till now to the people of Kol caste by the Union Government, has been causing unrest in many districts of the Uttar Pradesh and people are resorting to arms. Due to this resentment, people are getting involved in naxalite activities and some people have even become naxalites. The danger is looming large. Therefore, through you I would like to request the Government to immediately give statement on this important issue.

Madam, I will conclude after making the point that these people have the status of Scheduled Tribe in many States. The people of Kol caste have been given status of Scheduled Tribe in all States like Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya and Maharashtra etc. Similarly, they should immediately be given status of Scheduled Tribe in Uttar Pradesh also.

[English]

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (Nizamabad): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a very important issue relating to those unfortunate women from villages and towns who are lured by certain unscrupulous elements on the promise of providing them attractive jobs or roles in movies and force into prostitution. Such hapless young women and girls are taken away to other countries by means of force, fraud, deception, etc.

The number of cases of human trafficking from India to other countries is on the rise. A recent report of the United Nations Population Fund as also other leading sources on human trafficking suggest that countries like India, Pakistan, Thailand, China and Cambodia are the major sources of this. A majority of these unfortunate women are from India and Pakistan. They are taken to other countries using the Middle-East as the transit point.

According to a report of the International Labour Organisation, the human trafficking industry generates an estimated seven to twelve billion US dollars annually. The trafficked women are usually forced into prostitution, sex tourism, commercial marriage, and other occupations such as domestic work. It has also been noted that these women are forced into selling their organs. A large number of internationally trafficked women are from India and other countries in the South Asia and South East Asia. The estimated number of such women is 2.5 lakh.

Human trafficking violates all forms of human rights and human dignity. These women have no freedom of choice. They are forced to lead a life of indignity and social stigma. There is no respect for them in the society and they are afflicted by a host of ailments including AIDS. It is an irony that the law does not target the traffickers, pimps, procurers and brothel owners and instead, treats the trafficked women as criminals and not as victims. Efforts to rescue and rehabilitate these women are grossly inadequate in the country.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government through you to evolve an effective action plan to check such illegal and inhuman acts immediately. I urge upon the Government to set up a one-stop national help centre for this purpose where these women can get help, protection, counseling and rehabilitation.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the ambitious rural development scheme of the Government, the Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

The NDA Government had introduced this scheme for the development of rural areas of the country, but, it is matter of regret that though the Government provides adequate funds, but, even after that the contribution of the State Governments for the development of roads is negligible, especially in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh, where the seventh phase of construction of roads under Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana was expected to start by this time

but regretfully even the work of sixth phase has not yet been completed. Some works of third and fourth phase are still lying pending.

There are some important roads to connect Gorakhpur city district headquarters. Gorakhpur to Pipraich, Sahajanawan to Bakhira wala route, Gorakhpur to Maheva Manli Tatbandh etc. are all such routes, where work was supposed to be completed last year itself but due to gross negligence and corruption at local level, the work on the schemes related to development of rural areas could not be executed in consonance with the intention of the Union Government. The local mafia, corrupt contractors and corrupt officers are ruining the efforts of the Government of India.

Through you, I would like to request the Government to review the funds provided under the Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana and action should be taken against the corrupt elements who have intruded into this scheme and are causing hurdle in the development to rural areas. The necessary guidelines should be issued to fix time-limit for the completion of works under third, fourth, fifth and sixth phase which are yet to be completed and the quality of work should be ensured as per laid down norms.

[English]

SHRI TAPAS PAUL (Krishnanagar): Thank you for giving me this chance to say something in this august House. This problem is the problem of entire country. India is a land of villages; it is for the villages that the glittering cities are thriving, but in this glitter, we tend to forget the people who help us to live. I would like to take this opportunity to draw the kind attention of the House to the enormous amount of artisans in all parts of India who are living a neglected life.

While working in rural areas of my constituency, I have witnessed and experienced that our motto of '*ma, mati, manush*' is aptly applicable to those artists and artisans—that is, *manush*, the people with their mother Earth *ma* and *mati*, to create wonderful pieces of art. But these artists lead a miserable life within the vicious circle of poverty, becoming puppets in the hands of the middlemen.

[Shri Tapas Paul]

My vision which is influenced by our leader, Dr. Manmohan Singh, hon. Prime Minister is to uplift their condition. I propose to make particular places for them to display their handicrafts so that the buyers can go directly to them or to make archive for their art. I propose to develop micro, small and medium enterprises so that they can come together and keep their art living. I feel that the clay models of Krishnanagar should reach every part of the world. For this work, the Government has to allot land to make their archives and permanent fair grounds. I have met the President's prize winning artisans, leading a downtrodden life which should be put an end to.

I sincerely hope, under the able leadership of our leader, this vision of mine, actually be a reality and always make us aware of our roots.

I would like to request the hon. Minister of the Department of MSME to look into this issue on priority basis.

Madam, I just want to say that I was the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information, Culture, Youth and Sports in the Assembly. At that time, I visited Kumartuli and Potopara, i.e., South and North. They are facing the same problem.

[Translation]

Necessary guideline should be issued to ensure compliance in this regard.

SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHATO (Balmikinagar): Madam Speaker, as per the BPL list prepared by the Bihar State Government according to the norms laid down by the Union Government, one crore, 22 lakh, 22 thousand BPL families are in Bihar, though, the Government is providing foodgrains for only 65 lakh 23 thousand BPL families.

Therefore, I demand that the Government would provide foodgrains for remaining 56 lakh 77 thousand BPL families.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Badruddin Ajmal—Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The Shiksha Mitras (Para-teachers) have been appointed in all the States of the country. Today, they are facing deep crisis. Shiksha Mitras (Para-teachers) have been appointed in all States whether it is Chhattisgarh or Madhya Pradesh or any other State. They get only honorarium in my State, Uttar Pradesh. They are asked to put in all hard work to teach the children and they make all efforts to teach the children. In other States they have been declared as permanent employees and are being paid salary at par with the other employees. Though you, I demand from the Government that Shiksha Mitras (Para-teachers) should be appointed as permanent employees not only in Uttar Pradesh, but in all other States where they are working on honorarium basis and should be given salary at least at par with the teachers of primary or junior school. ...*(Interruptions)* Laluji was saying that it has not been done in Bihar also. I demand that they should be declared permanent employees and should be provided salary at par with primary or junior teacher, as per the provision made in other States.

I would like the Union Government to issue directions to the State Government and if there are no budgetary provisions available for them, the Union Government should provide budget to the State Government for declaring them as permanent employees, and provide them salary at par with the permanent employees so that their standard of living may improve. They many take interest in teaching the children.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Akbarpur): Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana, which is an ambitious scheme being run by the Government which was started in the year 2006. Only seventy lakh people have been benefited out of it, though their total number is one crore 70 lakh. Out of them only 10 lakh are handloom workers. Under this scheme, the Government contributes Rs. 200 and Rs. 800 contributed by the beneficiary. The health facilities

of upto Rs. 15,000 are provided to their families, but the handicraft artisans are not getting benefit of this scheme. The Government gives 100 per cent contribution in case of handloom workers though in case of the handloom artisans, the beneficiary has to make contribution of Rs. 200. Till now, the scheme has been extended to only 70 lakh people, though there are one crore 70 lakh workers in the country.

Madam, this is a gvery important scheme. We demand from the Government and like to draw the attention of Respected Sonia Gandhiji towards this issue that the benefit of Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Yojna should be uniformly extended to one crore 70 lakh workers in the entire country. I make this demand through you.

*SHRI C. SIVASAMI (Tiruppur): Madam Speaker, Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu is one of the biggest and very famous export oriented industrial town known for knitting industry. This town contributes to the earning of foreign exchange to the tune of about Rs. 11,000 crore every year. This industrial town is also providing job opportunities and livelihood both directly and indirectly to five lakhs of people.

An important ancillary industry that go about along with the knitting industry is the dyeing industry. The dyeing units in thousands that are carrying out their industrial activity give rise to huge amount of effluent that are being treated as per the orders of the judicial courts and the High-Court of Madras. At a cost of about Rs. 800 crore, 19 Common Effluent Treatment Plants have been established. In anticipation of proportionate subsidy both from the Union and the State Government, the industrialists have raised a loan of about Rs. 600 crore from commercial banks. It was evolved that 25 per cent of the total cost involved would be contributed by the industrialists which has been done accordingly. The remaining 75 per cent will have to be shared by both the State Government and the Government of India at the rate of 15 per cent and 60 per cent respectively. This long-pending demand of the industrialists are yet to be attended to causing great concern to all concerned.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

For the past two years, the demand for subsidy before the Union Government is lying unattended. Continuance of these Effluent Treatment Plants is much dependent on the subsidy that has to come from the Centre. Otherwise, they are facing closure. This would result in a huge loss to the Government of being deprived of foreign exchange earnings. About five lakh workers will be rendered jobless when production is affected hugely in the knitting units. Export trade will also have a huge fall. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to extend the Central grant at the earliest to these 19 Common Effluent Treatment Plants in the same fashion as it was extended to Tanneries dealing with animal hides. The Centre must attend to this problem on a war footing extending this subsidy as a special grant and earnest steps must be taken by the Government.

I would like to point out that whenever the Government extends subsidy or grant under various other heads, they may not fetch a rich dividend to the Government. In this case, the subsidy that is sought to be extended to these dyeing units in order to augment the performance of knitting industry will only help the Government to earn more foreign exchange and revenue earnings. Excise and other duties levied and collected both directly and indirectly will fetch more for the Exchequer. In order to meet the competition with both China and Pakistan in the knitting industrial sector, the Central Government must act on a war footing by way of granting this subsidy as a special grant to promote export of knitted goods from Tiruppur. Hence I urge upon the Government to extend this subsidy for the Common Effluent Treatment Plants in Tiruppur at the earliest.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (Chennai North): Madam, it is an important issue and I would like to associate myself with what has been said by him.

MADAM SPEAKER: You may please send your notice to the Table.

Next, Shri K. Karunakaran. Shri M.B. Rajesh has given notice for the same issue. He may associate with Shri Karunakaran.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government in regard to the decision taken by the State Bank of India about the appointment and rejection of promotion of pregnant women. The State Bank of India is in the process of recruiting about 11,000 employees which is the highest ever in the recent times. But in the guidelines for recruitment and also in the norms of recruitment it has specifically been stated that all applicants should go for a medical check up. That is all right. But at the same time it has also been stipulated that the women applicants would be eligible for employment only if they produce their medical report and in case of pregnant women all the details of their pregnancy would have to be submitted. Such a stipulation is a shame on our nation where we have a woman as the President of this country; where we have Your Majesty, the hon. Speaker of the Lok Sabha as a woman; where we have the Chairperson of the UPA as a woman. Such a stipulation is not only applicable for employment in the State Bank of India but also in all the other subsidiary banks. It is not only a discrimination against women, but is also a violation of the constitutional right of our citizens that our nation has enjoined on them. So, the Government should take this issue seriously. It has been mentioned that if a woman is pregnant for even a month she will lose one year salary and also all other benefits.

After three months of the delivery, they have to give a medical report again. I can understand that private banks and other banks are giving all benefits to women. The recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission appointed by the Government also assure many benefits at the time of delivery. So, the Government should take serious action in this regard.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju and Shri A. Sampath are also associating with Shri P. Karunakaran.

[Translation]

*SHRI P. LINGAM (Tenkasi): Madam Speaker, at the outset I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an urgent matter of public importance regarding

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

the sufferings faced by small scale industrial units of the match industry. In several parts of our country, we find matches manufacturing units as cottage industries in the small scale sector. Match boxes are meant for common people. In Tamil Nadu, we find these units in Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram, Dharmapuri and Vellore. This is an important industrial activity and livelihood for many people living over there. Several lakh families are dependent on these units to earn their livelihood. Potassium Chlorate is an important chemical that is used in the making of matches. There is a huge scarcity of this chemical associated with Potassium Chloride which is in short supply. About 20 industrial units that were manufacturing Potassium Chlorate have been closed due to many reasons like power cuts and so on. The alternate arrangement of obtaining this chemical from Puducherry has also met with problem due to the ban on moving this chemical from there. The manufacturing of matches in small units have been hit in a big way due to the short supply and scarcity of these chemicals. In about 3,500 units, more than 2,000 units have been already closed and many more are facing closure. All the workers employed by these units have been rendered jobless and their families have been hit hard.

Hence I urge upon the Union Government to ensure the supply of Potassium Chlorate even by importing, in adequate measure to help save this industry and thousands of people who have been left high and dry. I also urge upon the Union Government to provide adequate financial compensation as special allowance for the workers who have been rendered jobless because of the closure of these units.

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Central Government to an important matter of urgent public importance. The issue is the navigability of the port of Haldia. We are all aware that this year is a year of near-drought; the rate of rainfall is extremely low; the ground water table is going down speedily. Therefore, there is no tide in the sea and the navigability of Haldia port has gone down

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

drastically. The smaller ships only are somehow entering the port. We all know that flow tide and ebb depend on the change of season. During the monsoon, there is high tide and high navigability; during the winter months, both tide and navigability become low. Thus I request the Government to undertake the work of dredging immediately and save the port. Not only in West Bengal, but in the entire Eastern India, this port is very important in as far as export-import are concerned. Starting from edible oil, petroleum, diesel, cooking gas, raw materials for industries are transported through the port and also exported to foreign countries. So the entire economic activities of West Bengal and Eastern India are on the verge of collapse. If the port does not function properly then there will be huge loss and the economy will suffer tremendously. This is matter of national concern and through you, madam, I request the Government to take good care of Haldia port and take concrete steps to increase its navigability. With these words, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and conclude.

[English]

SHRI P. KUMAR (Tiruchirappalli): Madam, the BHEL is one of the best nine public sector companies, out of 234 public sector organisations in India. Thirty-three per cent of the shares of the BHEL has already been disinvested. Twenty-one per cent of this 33 per cent shares has been bought by foreign companies. Presently, the Central Government has decided to disinvest another ten per cent of shares. The BHEL has been making continuous profit and has earned a record profit of Rs. 4,530 crore in 2008-09. The BHEL has, in hand, orders to the tune of Rs. 1,25,000 crore amidst stiff global competition. It has been planning to provide 20,000 mw electricity manufacturing equipment in the current year. At this juncture, the sale of ten per cent of shares to the private companies will affect immensely the growth of this giant organisation.

Therefore, I request the Government to re-consider the decision of disinvesting ten per cent of the shares of the BHEL in the public interest.

12.51 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 will be laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) **Need to set up a Seed Production Farm of Chillies and Turmeric at the Lam Agricultural Research Farm of the Acharya Ranga Agricultural University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh and provide necessary funds for the same**

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): It is a known fact that Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh is producing large quantity of spices like turmeric and chillies which has a huge export market. In April, 2009, 40177 tonnes of spices were exported, out of which 13,500 tonnes of chillies were produced in Andhra Pradesh. Farmers of Guntur are contributing in a big way in strengthening the economy but the facilities being provided to them by the Government for production of quality seeds are not significant. There is no Research Centre or Institute for supplying quality seeds and pest-free seeds to the farmers of Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. The non-availability of high yielding quality seeds of chillies and turmeric is a major stumbling block in increasing the production of these products.

Under the circumstances, I would strongly urge the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, through you, to establish a Seed Production Farm of Chillies and Turmeric at the Lam Agricultural Research Farm of the Acharya Ranga Agricultural University which has requisite land so that farmers of Guntur get the quality and pest-free seeds which would pave way for increased production.

Considering the huge export potential, I hope the Hon'ble Minister would accede to my above request to set up a Seed Production Farm of Chillies and Turmeric and also provide funds for the Research Institute.

*Treated as laid on the table.

(ii) Need to procure stocks of imported pulses lying at Kolkata Port

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Fifteen lakh tonne pulses imported with a view to check the prices of pulses in the country are lying in the Khidirpur dock of Kolkata port for the last two months. Whereas the price of pulses have sky rocketed to Rs. 100 in the market across the country. These pulses have begun to rot. The Government has this premonition three years back that the prices of pulses were likely to sky rocket owing to lesser production of pulses. So, a decision to import fifteen lakh tonne pulses had been taken in the April, 2007 and Arhar, Matar Dal, Black Urad were imported for several crores of rupees. However, the pulses which were supposed to reach the common man one and a half month before is still lying at the ports of the country. The Government entrusted the task of procurement to four companies S.T.C., M.M.T.C., NAFED and P.E.C. The Government suffered a loss owing to the non procurement and the public is also facing a lot of difficulty. So, necessary action should be taken.

(iii) Need to take steps for the revival and growth of pineapple industry in Kerala

[English]

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki): Kerala produces 3.25 lakh tonnes of pineapple worth Rs. 325 crores approximately annually. More than 50 per cent of total area under cultivation falls in my Parliamentary Constituency Idukki. About 60 thousand people get direct livelihood and more than one lakh people are indirectly associated with pineapple sector. For the betterment of this sector the interest rate on pineapple loan may be brought down to 6%. Presently, more than 3 lakh farmers pay much higher rate of interest. Farmers suffered heavy losses during last May-June. Therefore, one year moratorium on reimbursement of loans may be given. National Horticulture Board's norms for assistance may be amended so as to suit financial conditions of pineapple growers in Kerala. Further, Area limitation for State Horticultural Mission's assistance (4 hectare) may be removed since small areas are not

economical. Financial support to the Pineapple Research Station of Kerala Agricultural University at Vazhakulam be considered. An agency for pineapple cultivation may be set up for co-ordinating production, processing and marketing of pineapple.

(iv) Need to expedite award of work for construction of railway wagons to the lowest bidder i.e. M/s CIMMCO BIRLA Limited, Bharatpur, Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI RATAN SINGH (Bharatpur): CIMMCO BIRLA Limited is a private sector company located in Bharatpur (Rajasthan) the company has primarily been manufacturing railway wagons. Approximately 500 wagons are manufactured per month. Most of these wagons are supplied to the Indian Railways. These wagons are manufactured in compliance with the R.D.S.O. norms. Tenders were invited by the Railway Board for the purchase of wagons in December 2008. CIMMCO BIRLA Limited has given tender for the bidding. As per the information received CIMMCO BIRLA Limited is the lowest bidder. The manufacturing of wagons could begin and factory could be revived as soon as the purchase order is received from the Railway Board.

The Railway Board is under the Ministry of Railways. It is justified to place order to the lowest bidder which could lead the factory to be revived on getting the order of wagons and consequently the worker, farmer, traders could get employment. This could facilitate employment to approximately 5000 workers and officers.

(v) Need to review the Extra-Ordinary Gazette Notification dated 09-07-2009 detailing new Minimum Business conditions for LIC Agents

[English]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (Alappuzha): An extra ordinary Gazette notification dated 09-07-2009 and LIC of India circular dated 24-07-2009 insists to change Minimum business conditions of LIC agents. At present Minimum business condition for a year is 12 different lives and a minimum sum assured of Rupees one lakh.

But the current amendments insist agents to complete 12 life policies with rupees one lakh first year premium income. Thereby insisting an exorbitant increase in premium to be garnered by the agent to survive in the industry. Almost an increase of 33 times which is a very difficult task in the present economic scenario when there is a recessionary trend over the world. LIC itself found it difficult to maintain its previous years' business and has shown a negative growth. Such an amendment in the agency rule will lead to termination of services of the agents. This amendment will deprive lacs of agents of their livelihood. So the Finance Ministry should review the present order and maintain status quo in agency conditions.

(vi) Need to make the Jogulamba Railway Halt in Alampoor, Andhra Pradesh as a full-fledged railway station

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool): In the block section of Gadwal and Alampoor Railway Station of South Central Railway between Manopad and Alampoor railway stations of Hyderabad division there is a Jogulamba halt station which has only booking room without any facilities like platforms, waiting halls, covered shed and other public amenities.

There is a demand from the local public from the villages adjoining the Jogulamba halt station to make Jogulamba halt station a full-fledged railway station with all facilities, waiting halls, toilets, platforms and other public amenities as large number of passengers are using the Jogulamba halt station to go to and come back from Alampoor pilgrimage centres.

I request the Hon. Railway Minister through you Madam to sanction and develop the Jogulamba halt station into full-fledged railway station for the facility of passengers and take necessary action to provide stoppage of some express trains at Jogulamba railway station.

(vii) Need to allow plying of vehicular traffic during night time on NH-212 between Kerala and Karnataka

SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS (Wayanad): Wayanad is one of the most beautiful districts in Kerala and a serene

tourist destination. Yet it is one of the most backward districts in South India. It is a tribal district and one among the ninety minority districts recognised by the Government of India. Wayanad is surviving on tourism and trading of spices and other agricultural produces. NH 212 is the most important road connecting Kozhikode district to Karnataka. Tens of thousands of students and employees in the Information Technology sector use this road.

The NH 212 which is called Calicut-Kollayil road is the most important route for commuters as well as for travellers. Thousands of buses ply on this road every night and it is an arterial road for logistical transport. Numerous goods carriers ply on this road. The most convenient time for vehicular traffic on this road is at night. When this road is blocked the vehicles will have to take alternate roads that are very poor and dangerous to travel and it takes at least 125-400 kms extra distance on different routes.

The Hon'ble Karnataka High Court stayed the night traffic on this route from August 6th onwards. People are agitated and all political parties, social organizations and Chamber of Commerce have decided to jointly launch an agitation from the 6th August, 2009. The entire economy of two districts would be affected and hence the Government should undertake necessary steps to resolve this issue at the earliest.

(viii) Need to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya, Engineering College, Medical College and ITI in Lohardaga Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand

[Translation]

SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT (Lohardaga): My parliamentary constituency Lohardaga is a tribal dominated area where no infrastructure for education has been provided by the Government. There is no Kendriya Vidyalaya, however, being the special focus district, Kendriya Vidyalaya can be established here. There is neither an 'I.T.I.'—technical institute nor Medical or Engineering college in the district due to which the students have to go to other cities for higher education.

Through the House, it is requested that a Kendriya

[Shri Sudarshan Bhagar]

Vidyalaya, Engineering College, Medical College and an I.T.I. should be provided in Lohardaga for the social development of this area.

(ix) Need to develop Taregna near Patna, Bihar as a Centre for Research and Study in Astronomy

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (East Champaran): I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards Taregna, the Centre of activities of Aryabhatta. Aryabhatta was born in 476 A.D. in Patliputra. It is said that he had a laboratory in Taregna where he used to count the stars and study the pace and progress of celestial bodies. This is the place where he wrote his famous book Aryabhattya which discusses mathematics and Astrology in detail. He discovered zero which is considered today, the foundation of science. This is the reason the first satellite launched by the country on 19th April 1975 was named Aryabhatta in his honour. It is not a mere coincidence that after 1500 years, Taregna is again in the news for astronomical movements. Recently, Taregna was thronged by scientists, astrologers and astronomers from across the country during solar eclipse. As per the official sources this place was being thronged by astro tourists in large numbers and approximately more than two lakh people gathered there. During this time, scientists did several kinds of research and experiments. All kinds of study and research, the scientists had come to the conclusion that Taregna near Patna could serve as the best centre to observe Solar eclipse.

The Union Government is requested to develop Taregna as a Centre for Research and study in Astronomy.

(x) Need to open Indian Institute of Information Technology and Indian Institute of Management in Himachal Pradesh

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (Hamirpur): Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development that an Indian Institute of Information Technology is proposed to be set up by the Union Government in District Una, Himachal Pradesh. 132 acre land in UP Mohal Sam

Laihri has been identified by the Deputy Commissioner of Una, information in regard to which has been sent by the State Government to the Ministry of Human Resource Development. In principle approval by the Government of India for the setting up of the said institute is awaited.

Sir, it is submitted that Himachal Pradesh has achieved double high enrolment rate in comparison to the national average in the field of higher education which has made it imperative to set up an I.I.M. institute over there.

So, it is requested that all necessary actions should be taken at the earliest to set up both the above mentioned institutes by granting immediate approval in principle in this regard.

(xi) Need to enhance the financial grant provided to Beedi workers for construction of houses

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Tikamgarh): Beedi workers form a part of the unorganized sector workers. A large number of beedi workers across the country are engaged in making beedis to earn their livelihood. The Government has evolved many welfare schemes for them, however, even today a large number of workers are not registered with the Government so how would the benefit of the schemes accrue to them. Rs. 40,000 grant is given by the Department of Labour under the Beedi Workers Housing Scheme. This amount is meager in this era of price rise. So, the amount under the housing scheme should be increased from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. one lakh or the Department should take initiative to construct houses for Beedi workers.

(xii) Need to undertake repair works of National Highway between Saiyedraja and Zamania in Chandauli district, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli): National Highway 97 located in Chandauli of Uttar Pradesh is a route to Ghazipur-Gorakhpur from national highway 2 to Saiyedraja and Zamania. The stretch of national highway from Saiyedraja to Zamania is in decrepit state. The Union Government has given funds also for the construction of this route. This route is also to be

widened and strengthened. Tender for the route has also been passed. This route is damaged and unmotorable for the last several years. This route is approximately 90 per cent in poor condition. This route is not even walkable what to call it motorable. It is taking a toll on the condition of vehicles resulting in maximizing petrol and diesel consumption. Construction work is going at a very slow pace. It takes approximately 3 to 4 hours to cross only 25 to 30 kilometres stretch from Saiyedraja to Zamania.

So, the Union Government is requested to get this route constructed immediately in view of the difficulties faced by the public.

(xiii) Need to allow Members of Lok Sabha who do not have Kendriya Vidyalayas in their Parliamentary Constituencies to recommend admission of children in Kendriya Vidyalayas outside their constituencies

DR. SHAFIQUK RAHMAN BARQ (Sambhal): I would like to draw your attention to such hon. Members of Lok Sabha who are deprived of recommending admission of 2 children in Kendriya Vidyalayas owing to non existence/availability of Kendriya Vidyalayas in their respective Lok Sabha constituencies. I am also one of them since the Kendriya Vidyalaya in Sambhal, District Moradabad sanctioned 3 years back has not been opened till date which is regrettable.

It is requested that the hon. Members of Lok Sabha who do not have a Kendriya Vidyalaya in their constituency, be allowed to recommend admission of two children from their quota in any Kendriya Vidyalaya of the country.

(xiv) Need to release funds for construction of a building for Navodaya Vidyalaya in Khagaria district, Bihar

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Khagaria): The Navodaya Vidyalaya under Khagaria district of Bihar lacks a building of its own which is hampering the education of students in a proper manner. The Government of Bihar has allotted land free of cost for the construction of building for Navodaya Vidyalaya Khagaria, however, the building cannot be constructed due to non allocation of funds by the Union Government.

So, the Government should provide amount allocated for the construction of Navodaya Vidyalaya Khagaria building at the earliest.

(xv) Need to include Sea Erosion under the definition of National Disaster/Natural Calamity for providing relief to the affected fishermen community living along coastal areas

[English]

SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON (Kanyakumari): In my constituency of Kanyakumari, there are 42 villages inhabited by fishermen within the length of 82 kilometres. The main source of income in my district is from fisheries. Fisheries and fishermen in our district are facing lot of problems throughout the year because of Sea Erosion, especially after Tsunami. These fishermen often lose their catamarans, nets and other belongings in the sea. Also, number of houses have got damaged due to Sea Erosion.

The Government of India has included Landslide in the list of Natural Calamity besides the already existing Cyclone, Earthquake, Fire, Tsunami and hailstorm in the list.

I request the Union Government to take immediate and necessary steps for the inclusion of Sea Erosion in the definition of National Disaster for the safety and betterment of fishermen community all over India living along coastal areas.

Also, I request the Government to take suitable actions for sanctioning fund for putting up protective walls along the seashore of the villages of fishermen, wherever it has not been put up in Kanyakumari district.

(xvi) Need to set up additional Anganwadi centres in Kandhamal district of Orissa

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY (Kandhamal): The Kandhamal district in Orissa is one of the most backward districts of Orissa. As per the report of UN World Food Programme published in the year 2008, this district is placed at the lowest position in Orissa so far as food security is concerned. This report also reveals

[Shri Rudramadhab Ray]

that infant mortality rate (IMR) in this district is 119 as compared to national average of 57. This district is considered to be the lowest in all parameters of poverty. Out of the total population, 53% of the population belongs to STs and 65% of the total land is covered by forest lands and as such the agricultural production is very low. This district is at the bottom compared to KBK districts of Orissa so far as its economic condition, education, health-care, food security and connectivity are concerned.

To overcome this food insecurity, imbalances and especially to decrease IMR, the Union Government should rise to the occasion. The total revenue villages of this district are 2,500 out of which only 1350 villages have been covered by Anganwadi centres and 250 are covered under mini Anganwadi centres. As this district is mostly under forest cover and villages are separated by rivers and natural barriers, 50% of the population are not benefited by ICDS programme. Hence, I urge upon the Government to kindly sanction 900 additional Anganwadi centres so that tribal and down-trodden people of the district are benefited.

12.52 hrs.

METRO RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up item no. 9, which is Metro Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

Hon. Members, the Metro Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2009 is being taken up for consideration and passing. As there is little time left to hold the meeting of Business Advisory Committee for allocation of time on this Bill, if the House agrees, one hour may be allotted for discussion on this Bill.

I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister to speak.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Madam Speaker, the issue of price rise is listed for discussion on the List of Business for today. I am not alleging anyone, however, it is being postponed for some reason or the other. The entire country is witnessing that discussion is not being held in Lok Sabha on price rise. The Government is giving priority to some or the other legislative business every time. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam Speaker, this I would have to object to.

[Translation]

It is not proper to say that priority is accorded to some other matter. Time was allotted for discussion two times, the entire House knows that, the people outside know it why it was not taken up for discussion. You allotted time for discussion two times. All the hon. Members would agree with me that priority has to be accorded to the legislative business. No other matter has been placed above it. As pointed out by her why this matter was not taken up for discussion. I do not wish to comment upon that, however, everyone knows why it was not taken up. We agreed to take it up for discussion the very first day, when it was raised initially. Even today after disposing of these two bills, we can take it up for discussion, although it is slightly difficult for the hon. Minister because he has to go to Rajya Sabha, however, if they are ready, the discussion would continue here if the chair permits, thereafter whenever the time allows, he will give its reply today or tomorrow.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I simply went to state that the matter of price rise should be taken up for discussion immediately after the passing of these Bills. *(Interruptions)* I want that the Government should accept it.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It is not correct to say that the Government does not want a discussion on price rise and is simply putting other issues on priority. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The Government should agree to it. That day if he had given reply on Bundelkhand, the discussion would have taken place. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: You know what had happened, still a measure was adopted that the House should not be allowed to run. ...*(Interruptions)* That day also we had no problem. ...*(Interruptions)* Your point was baseless. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not talk among yourselves. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please be silent. The time of the House is precious. Two days are left. We have to pass two bills, thereafter everyone is concerned about price rise, it has to be discussed. So, please allow the House to be run properly and peacefully.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978 and to amend the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002, be taken into consideration."

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to say something?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, I will make a very brief statement.

Presently there are three Acts governing, development, construction, operation and maintenance of Metro Railways, namely:

- (i) The Metro Railway (Construction of Works) Act, 1978 for governing construction of Metro Railway in the metropolitan city of Kolkata and Delhi with provisions for extension to metropolitan cities of Mumbai and Chennai through Notification;
- (ii) The Kolkata Metro Railway (Operation and

Maintenance) Temporary Provision Act, 1985 for governing operation and maintenance of Metro Railway in the metropolitan city of Kolkata; and

- (iii) The Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002 for governing operation and maintenance of Metro Railway in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

The Central Government proposes to extend the Delhi Metro to area under the control of the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA) in the State of Uttar Pradesh and to Gurgaon in the State of Haryana. The construction work has already begun by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. In view of the Commonwealth Games being held in October, 2010, these extensions are required to be completed before that period. In fact, Metro extension to NOIDA is scheduled for commissioning by 30-8-2009.

The Metro Rail System has been approved by the Central Government for Bangalore and Chennai and the construction work has already begun at these places also. Other cities, where such system is under different stages of consideration and implementation are Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Kochi and Mumbai. There are no statutory provisions at present which may provide a legal cover for development, construction, operation and maintenance of Metro Railways in these cities.

Therefore, it has become necessary to make suitable amendments in the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978 and the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002, so as to make the provisions of both these Acts applicable to the Metro Railways in the National Capital Region, Metropolitan cities and other Metropolitan areas for development, construction, operation and maintenance of Metro Railways. The provisions of the Delhi Metro (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002 are not being made applicable to the Metropolitan city of Kolkata because the operation and maintenance of Kolkata Metro Railway is at present being regulated in accordance with the provisions of the Kolkata Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Temporary Provisions Act, 1985.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above objects.

MADAM SPEAKER: Before I call the other hon. Member to speak, we have very little time for this particular Bill. So, I would request, if the House agrees, we may skip the 'lunch hour'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Madam.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, could I make one additional request? Since the Bill is very urgent, and since the Bill is intended to usher in Metro transport revolution in the country, it is totally non-controversial. I suggest, we could do without discussion and have the Bill passed because this Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha earlier also.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Mdhepura): Madam Speaker, it is a non controversial Bill. Please get it passed...(Interruptions). I fully agree with the hon'ble Minister that this Bill does not call for much discussion, therefore, it may be passed. We want that the discussion on price-rise be held as early as possible.

...(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ (Sambhal): Madam, there is no need to hold discussion on it, let it be passed. Discussion on price rise may be taken up.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): Madam, please listen to me for a minute.

MADAM SPEAKER: I will give you one minute to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: I think, if the House agrees, we can pass this Bill without discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (North East Delhi): This is not proper. If they are being heard, we too should be heard...(Interruptions). Today, Gandhiji's dream is being realized...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The sense of the House is that we should pass it without discussion.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978 and to amend the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MADAM SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 16 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 16 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MADAM SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: You will also be given a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (Jabalpur): I too should be given an opportunity to speak...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I will give an opportunity to speak to all of you before the third reading. Please sit

down now. Hon'ble Members, you will be called before the third reading, you may please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I am not opposing it, but when I was the Minister of Railways, at that time also, I had raised the issue that this is a subject of the railways and not a state subject. The staff working for the metro rail, right from the engineer to technical expert, belong to the Railways, not to the state. I am not opposed to the expansion of metro rail network. I support it. But a consideration should be paid to the way metro rail is being expanded parallel to the Indian Railways. I think that, though engineers and experts belong to the Railways, but the Indian Railways is getting nothing in return, therefore, in my opinion, it is not right to run two parallel organizations in this country. The work of Metro should be done within the ambit of the Indian Railways. In Kolkatta and Mumbai, this work comes under the purview of Indian Railways. But it is being constructed in all the cities and you must have seen the condition over there. Therefore, I would like to suggest to the hon'ble Minister, since it is an important subject and as I had said earlier too, he must be remembering that broad gauge line should be laid, but instead standard gauge line was laid. The Standing Committee had also made recommendations and I would like to draw his attention towards the fact that it should be in the hands of the Indian Railways. It was the recommendation and also the concern of the Standing Committee. In every city it is being observed that the material is being imported from the foreign countries and the country's wealth is being drained out, the coaches and engines are being imported from foreign countries. I understand that this facility should be given, I do not oppose it.

I am not opposing it, but this is the subject of the railways. It should be in the hands of the Railways and not in the hands of the city administration.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Madam, Rajiv Gandhiji wanted to bring metro rail to Delhi first Metro has spread its network in Delhi. I am happy that metro has done a good work in Delhi and its fame has reached to other States also. Its network is going to be extended beyond Delhi as well. I would like to draw

the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the fact that it is right to extend the metro services to other states also but some changes must be carried out in the metro map prepared for Delhi as per the population of capital. No advisory Board or Committee has been set up in this regard, it should be constituted, so that the views of the People's Representatives can be kept in mind. It is being extended in some parts of Delhi only. Only three lines have been laid in 3/4th of Delhi, though 70 per cent of Delhi's population lives in the areas where metro facility has not been extended. The metro may be extended to Gurgaon, Faridabad, Noida, but metro should also be extended to the poverty ridden areas like North-East Delhi.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Madam, you have given opportunity to Laluji to speak for more time. Kindly give me also an opportunity to speak.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please be brief.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Metro is not an organization which is meant to earn money alone. At the time of launching the Metro Service, the Government said that parking will be provided with every metro station, but now a change has been made. The metro is using the space, which was to be provided for parking, for commercial purposes. This is very wrong. It will put metro's prestige at stake. Our aim is not to earn money from the metro, but to provide facility to the people. The commercialization of metro is being done at the behest of the builders, who have not invested a single penny in the metro. The parking, restaurants may be constructed there so that the passengers may be able to reap the maximum benefit. New stations may be constructed or the existing stations may be extended. I hope that the hon'ble Minister will keep this in mind while giving the reply.

Secondly, I would like to say that the frequency of metro is very low, due to which the passengers have to wait for long in the peak hours. A study in regard to frequency on lines going from rajiv Chowk and Central Secretariat should be conducted so that the passenger's problems may be redressed. Metro is doing a good job in Delhi. Government of Delhi and Union Government

[Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal]

both extended their support towards extension of Metro. I want that the hon'ble Minister may kindly extend the Metro in rural area also.

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Madam, like other Members of the House, I also rise to support the same. It is a fact that today Metro has become a necessity for the country. Besides, I would like to say to hon'ble Minister that Railways is not only a mode of transport, but it has become an instrument to increase the pace of development of the country. Today we are living in the 21st century, but we cannot restrict development to certain selected cities only. Increasing population of the country is generating the kind of pressure which will result in creating strange transport situation in future. I urge upon the hon'ble Minister not to confine Metro rail to limited cities only. I would like to say that I agree with the fact that the Metro should be started keeping in view the population of the areas, but but how can we ignore those cities and states which have remained backward and neglected since independence. I would like to mention particularly Madhya Pradesh which has remained backward from development view point and it has been neglected constantly since independence. The concept to start Metro in Madhya Pradesh should be considered. Today he is considering to start the Metro in other cities also. Therefore, I request him that population of my Lok Sabha constituency Jabalpur which I represent is more than 15 lac. Apart from Jabalpur, there are cities like Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, Indore and Gwalior which should be considered for Metro rail. I would also like to say that the adjoining two areas may be considered to provide Metro Rail Services. I believe that he will consider to start the Metro Rail in backward areas keeping in view the pressure of increasing population of the country. I extend my thanks to you for allowing me to speak.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar): Madam Speaker, Kolkata Metro Railway is the only Metro Railway operated by the Indian Railways.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mumbai Metro also.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Mumbai Metro also is there. ...*(Interruptions)* There is a proposal for East-West Metro in the city of Kolkata by an investment of Rs. 5400 crore in collaboration with Japan. What I would rather mention is that in the passages and the areas which have been selected for the Metro Railway, thousands of houses will be collapsed; thousands of people will be evicted from this area; and the city of Kolkata will really be in a paralyzed condition.

What I would like to propose is that when Indian Railways have a better infrastructure—it is a huge affair, they have everything in their possession—better Metro Railway in the city of Kolkata be allowed to be handed over to Indian Railway itself, which can easily be implemented in a better manner. I cannot understand as to why the Urban Development Ministry should perform in such a manner in the Government, with the State Government, for implementation of this Railway in the city of Kolkata causing damages to the people of the city of Kolkata. So, as such, it is the area which falls totally under the jurisdiction of my Parliamentary constituency in the city of Kolkata which I represent. Even as a Member of Parliament, it has never been discussed with me, and I have never been called, as to how this project is going to be implemented. So, it is my humble submission before you, for the interest of the people of the State, for the interest of the people of Kolkata, that let this Metro Railway Project be implemented but be implemented through Indian Railways only.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Speaker, Sir, everybody knows that Department of Railways is the best performing organisation in India then, why Metro work has been awarded to another agency? When we have everything, then why things are being imported from abroad. I do not understand the reason behind this. Hon'ble Minister of Railways is quite competent in her work. But, what is the need to import equipments from abroad? When everything is available in the country, I do not understand why people are attracted toward foreign items? It is a fact that there is everything in the country...*(Interruptions)* our engineers are quite competent, able, but even though I advise

you to appoint engineers of the Railways for the task since they are the best and actually they are doing the task, then, why foreign agencies are being paid? What is the use of giving commission to foreign people? We have competent and able personnel in Railways and I am actually saying that performance of Railway department is the best in the country.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Hon'ble Madam Speaker, the matter has lots of scope for discussion, but the issue of price rise is important. Hence, it needs to be taken up urgently. I would like to request that we have started system of standing committee through Lok Sabha. I would like to say that it is the matter related to you that detailed discussion on each matter was not be possible in the House. Hence, mini parliament was constituted and thus, a system was evolved for detailed discussion. I submit that all recommendations of the standing committee are not brought into force. Hon'ble Mulayam Singh Yadav was rightly saying that broad gauge was constructed in Kolkata. In Delhi four types of gauges—meter gauge, broad gauge and standard gauge—are constructed, but the fourth one is neither metre gauge, broad gauge nor standard gauge. The matter has been discussed at length before standing committee, but the same cannot be discussed today. If you allow discussion in the matter, then, it would be better, because there are number of parties. I would like to say that Members sitting on the other side had found new and better ways and debates used to be held in detail, but the Government does not implement the recommendations of the standing committee. This is the real question because all kinds of preparation are done since members get allowance and officers, concerned persons and Ministers come fully prepared and attend the meetings. Through you, I would like to say to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that it is a big task. The Government does not pay need to the reports of the standing committee rather, it works on its own.

Madam, the Metro Rail Bill has been introduced. The Railways is fully competent equipped with all facilities. We should have extended our capacity, whereas we have opened the door to import foreign items. I am not saying that their intention is bad, it is

prevalent practice and they have made ways to import foreign items whether it is engine or coaches, everything is being imported. They had all competency, they have competent department like Railways but they did not utilize it properly all over the country. I would like to say one more thing, I request that it should be extended in small cities also. I would also like to say that mistakes committed in Delhi should not be repeated in other cities. Its expansion should be as per broad-gauge parameter which has been implemented in Kolkata. It would be better if they follow the same in other cities also. It would be better for the country also. It is not good to run the same through different method and institutions. I request that efficiency and man power involved in holding discussion through standing committee is going in vain. Hence, it should be revived so that parliament could play its pivotal role.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Shri Shridharan is the engineer of Railways...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Madam, I would like to be very short because the House has agreed to bypass the discussion on this Bill.

Madam, I would just like to bring two things to your notice as the common person of this country or rather I would say, as *hoi polloi*. I have travelled by the Delhi Metro. I think, most of the hon. Members have not travelled much by the Delhi Metro; I doubt if the Minister, except for inauguration or special festivals, would have ever travelled by the Metro.

Madam, I have noticed two things which I would like to bring to your notice. The first one is that a terror accident is just about to happen in the Delhi Metro. I am not predicting it. I am not a soothsayer like most politicians are soothsayers. I am not like that. I am incapable of that. But, Madam, if you go to a metro station and you board the coaches, you will realize yourself that something could go wrong at any time; and there is absolutely no care being taken. This is our peculiar Indian mentality. When something happens, then we go on with green alert, red alert and blue alert. After that, within three-four days, everything is back to normal. This is one thing.

[Shri Tathagata Satpathy]

Second thing that I would like to bring to your notice is that everybody heard about the Zamrudpur accident in Delhi. Even today, the people around that area are not getting water. But the interesting fact is about the main engineer responsible for that, who had been deputed from the Indian Railways to work for the DMRC. The moment the accident happened, this gentleman was so smart that he sent a letter to the Chief of the DMRC and said: "This fault is mine. Therefore, I may be sent back to my parent cadre." Now, is that a punishment? If somebody does that, is the Government not responsible? If an accident has happened, if lives have been lost, will that person be put to task or not? It is because, gradually the Government and the establishment in India are forthrightly and openly projecting an image that human lives do not hold any meaning for them. If two-three persons die or if 60 people die, it does not matter to them! We are a huge country of one billion, 100 million people.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Yes, Madam.

So, I would just like to say that these two things should be taken into account by the Ministry.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Sriperumbudur): Madam Speaker, I am sorry; I have to totally differ with the views of some of my friends and leaders here. They have suggested that this project should be invariably executed by the Ministry of Railways only. I was of the same view. But at the same time, in my own Constituency, in Chennai itself, the Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS), the foundation stone of which was laid during 1980s, has been completed only in 2007 up to Velacherry from Beach. For that matter, the sharing pattern was 33 per cent by the Central Government and 67 per cent by the State Government. For this particular project, it took 27 years to complete up to Velacherry!

Madam, this particular system of Metro Railways, MRTS, is handled by the State Government with sharing of the Central Government and the State Government.

But because of the paucity of funds, many railway schemes, whose foundation stones had already been laid, are not seeing the light of the day. Thousands of such foundation stones have been laid. Mr. Basu Deb Acharia was the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways. He himself has mentioned about it many times.

So, first of all, I would like to submit that the Minister in-charge should be asked to complete the schemes, whose foundation stones have already been laid. The new schemes with Centre-State sharing (CSS), the Chennai Metro projects should be extended up to Ambattur in first phase and completed. I support the hon. Minister and request him to see that these projects, which are of utmost importance, are completed by sharing of State Government and the Central Government in time. Thank you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Madam, although the world over, the urban transport system is under the Ministry of Urban Development...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Madam, all over the world urban transport system is under the Ministry of Urban Development except in our country. In our country, particularly for Kolkata Metro, efforts had been made sometime back to bring it under the Ministry of Urban Development dissociating it from the Ministry of Railways, but it could not be materialized. We had also opposed the proposal that

[English]

Kolkata Metro is part and parcel of Indian Railways.

[Translation]

Therefore it has a separate system. The matter was discussed before the standing committee in all seriousness and we had made certain recommendations at that time. The recommendations were meant for the Ministry of Railways and not for the Ministry of Urban Development, and Lalaji was the Minister of Railways at that time. I do not know what action he took on them. The first recommendation was in regard to the safety. There is a safety commissioner for conducting enquiry of the accidents that are occurring, who is under

the Ministry of Civil Aviation; instead of being under the Ministry of Railways. As far as the Delhi Metro is concerned, there is no such system regarding its safety. It should be put in place. The second recommendation was in regard to gauge. Kolkata Metro Rail is running on broad gauge. In our country, we get rolling stocks from all the production units of the Railways, whether it is the I.C.F., the R.C.F., the C.L.W. or D.L.W. Therefore, need to import broad gauge rolling stock does not arise. The same were imported prior to the commissioning of these units, but not after that. As far as Delhi Metro is concerned, rolling stocks are being imported for which crores of rupees are being spent. In this way, we will have to rely on imported items. I want to say that Metro Rail should be on broad gauge. Debate in this regard was held when Laluji was the Minister of Railways and when Nitishji was the Minister of Railways and at that time unilaterally it was decided that the Delhi Metro would be on standard gauge. However, it has been done, but in other cities, it should be on broad gauge.

Madam Speaker, the plan of Kolkata Metro Rail was prepared in 1970, foundation was laid in 1972 for which construction work was started in 1978 and 10 km stretch was made operational in 1985. How many years did it take? The plan that was formulated at that time covered not only Tollyganj-Damdam but also Ramraja talab-salt lake, but the Ministry of Railways did not pursue the same at that time. The work was done on only 15 km stretch from Tollyganj to Damdam. Later Nitish Kumarji had decided to extend it upto Gudia. Laluji announced in the interim budget that State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

[English]

You just have to give the point

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I know, I was in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Do not disturb me.
...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It was the principle of Shri Nitish Kumarji that the ...*(Interruptions)* State Government has 33 per cent share. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Please conclude. Please sit down. You have taken too much time.

Now, Shri Deepender Singh Hooda.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Deepender Singh Hooda says.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now you conclude. Basu Debji your speech is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MADAM SPEAKER: You have completed. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You have spoken. Now you please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Bolpur): Madam, what is this? They cannot disturb the House like this.
...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GOBINDA CHANDRA NASKAR (Bangaon): Madam, please allow us. What is being said is not right.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We will not allow when you speak. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Hooda speaks.

(Interruptions)...

MADAM SPEAKER: It is a very important Bill. Let it be passed.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let this Bill be passed. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, this is my last point. ... (Interruptions) What is this, Madam? I am here for the last 29 years. I have never seen such behaviour from the Members of this House. ... (Interruptions) The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should control these Members. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Whenever I stand, they disturb like this. It is happening every time. ... (Interruptions) I want to know whether I have a right to speak or not. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Basu Deb Achariaji, please take your seat. You have spoken. Now you please conclude and sit down. I have called the name of Shri Hooda. You please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, this is my question to the hon. Minister. He has not mentioned about the East-West Corridor of Kolkata. The detailed project report has been approved. There will not be any large scale damage. Most of the portion will be on elevated structure. What will be the role of the Ministry of Urban Development? He has not mentioned it in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. He should also mention or tell about the East-West Corridor of Kolkata. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (Rohtak): Thank you Madam Speaker. I welcome the introduction of the Bill and I thank the hon. Minister for introducing such an important Bill. I specifically thank the hon. Minister for including the extension of Metro to Gurgaon and consideration of Metro in the city of Chandigarh. I think these two are very important for the area that I belong to.

[Translation]

Madam, besides I would like to put forth four suggestions before the hon'ble Minister regarding

extension of Metro. My first suggestion is that survey for metro has been completed upto Faridabad and the project is likely to be started soon. Extension of Metro upto Faridabad should be taken up at the earliest. Second, Bahadurgarh falling under Rohtak, Jhajhjar is emerging as an economic centre. Bahadurgarh connects Jind, Sonapat, Bhiwani, Rohtak and the entire Haryana to Delhi. Proposal of extension of Metro upto Bahadurgarh should be taken up immediately.

I would like to submit my third suggestion. Hon'ble Member from West Delhi Shri Mahabal Mishra is also present here. Metro should be extended upto Najafgarh which is a rural area of the outer Delhi. Alongwith it, metro should be extended upto Badli via Dhansa border. My fourth suggestion is that metro should be extended upto Kundli, because commuters from Punjab come to Delhi via Sonapat, Panipat and Kundli border. Therefore, Metro should be extended upto Kundli.

[English]

I have a couple of other suggestions to make. In Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, Delhi Government is a stakeholder and shareholder. Now, the Metro is getting extended to places in other States—Noida in Uttar Pradesh and Gurgaon in Haryana—and other areas. I think, these State Governments should also be considered stakeholders and shareholders. They do not have any share. What happens is that most of the expenses for extension of Metro to Gurgaon, Noida or any other place are borne by the respective State Government. So, this suggestion should also be taken into consideration. The Centre's grant-in-share in extension of Metro to the areas outside Delhi should be enhanced to compensate for that.

Finally, my last suggestion is that wherever there are terminal Metro stations, they should be very well integrated with the railway stations because a lot of traffic is coming through the Railways. The EMU system is very well established not only in the National Capital Region but across all the neighbouring States of Delhi. So, wherever the Metro is terminating on the extremities of Delhi, these terminal stations of Metro should be connected with the railway stations in a seamless manner so that we can carry forward that traffic.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA (West Delhi): Hon'ble Madam Speaker, I extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important bill. I rise to support the bill. I would like to give three-four suggestions while supporting the bill. Sheila Dixit Government is doing an excellent and historic work with the assistance of the Union Government to make the dream of Rajiv Gandhi come true. While supporting three-four suggestions given by Deepender Hoodaji, I would like to say that the whole Delhi Dehat is deprived of Metro-facility as on date; be it adjoining Gurgaon, Bahadurgarh, Kundli, or Faridabad. Today people of the rural areas of Delhi want metro facility, I would like to give three four suggestion in regard to which I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister Shri Jaipal Reddyji that these are also covered under the Master plan 2021. There are 28 lakh registered vehicles in Delhi which are likely to increase to 65 lakhs within 10 years. Today, Delhi is facing pressure. Today, people prefer to travel in metro instead of their own vehicles. Just now, the hon'ble Member said that he preferred to travel in metro and he thanked Jaipal Reddy for this. But the people residing in the rural areas of Delhi from Nangloi to Najafgarh via Kapasheda-Jaipur Road and Kakrola Mod to Dhansa border are deprived of Metro facility. Today, Bahadurgarh has emerged as a commercial city along with Guragaon. I welcome the step for extending the metro to Noida and Gurgaon. NCR is spread in a 30 km radius. I want the metro to be extended upto 30 kms in the NCR. I welcome the step. But today the rural Delhi is deprived of metro facility, so it should be extended further before covering it. Keeping in view the Common Wealth Games. too, it would be a good facility. I will welcome the step. if you extend the metro towards the NCR after getting the metro work completed covering the rural Delhi.

*DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI (Ahmedabad West): Madam Speaker, I extend my thanks to you and my party BJP for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Metro Railways (Amendment) Bill 2009.

Our country India is a developing country and our aim is to achieve the status of a developed country at

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki]

the earliest. To achieve this aim we have to work hard in various fields. As far as the issue of urban expansion, particularly of metro cities of the country, is concerned, we will have to make drastic reforms in their infrastructures. Traffic is a major issue in metro cities and the way the number of vehicles is increasing leading to traffic problems, we will have to think about it and in my view mass transportation is the only option for this. There is an urgent need to develop an international level mass transportation.

I would like to congratulate for the Delhi Metro which is an excellent example of it. It is commendable that today Delhi Metro is being extended on a large scale.

The Union Government has started the work of metro rail in Bangalore and Chennai apart from Delhi. I welcome the proposal of the Union Government to start metro rail in other metro cities like Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Kozikode and Mumbai.

Ahmedabad city which is the part of my parliamentary constituency is developing very fast due to the development policies of the Government of Gujarat. I am happy to say that a large number of people from other parts of the country are getting settled over there permanently due to the development policies of the State Government and the positive attitude of the local people. I mean to say that the population of Ahmedabad is increasing on a large scale and the city is expanding all around.

I feel happy to say that the Central Government has declared Ahmedabad as a metro city. Gandhinagar, the capital of Gujarat has been set up at a distance of 24-30 kms from Ahmedabad. The population over there is also increasing rapidly and Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar are coming closer to each other. The issue of transport relating to the twin city of Ahmedabad and capital Gandhinagar is really grave. Hence, there is an urgent need for a transport system.

Through the hon'ble Speaker, I would like to submit to the Union Government and the Minister of Urban Development, that it is high time that metro train facility was provided to the twin-city of Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar.

The State Government of Gujarat is considering over this issue seriously and is keen as well in this regard. I propose that metro train facility be provided for the twin city of Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar.

[English]

*DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar): Relating to the Bill on Metro is highly debated. I like to draw your kind attention that the metro work is started in the country at Delhi after Kolkata is highly commendable that the government initiated the work perfectly. Country needs more metros should be worked out immediately in Mumbai and also most of the important cities of the country including capitals of all the States. In abroad the metro work is so successfully implemented by those government, three tiers of metros under beneath the earth is so successfully which is working there to avoid the traffic congestion. The Delhi Metro work should be properly guided and inspected to protect the human life as two incidents already occurred in Delhi. The poor labourers are dying. To save their life, the consultation with foreign experts should be consulted and the compensation should be given to poor people those have sacrificed their life and at the same time I solicit your kind help to impose on the Central Government for allocation of grants in the next budget to start the metro works of Bhubaneswar, the capital of Orissa. I have been proposing that it should be immediately metro including Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Khurda to avoid the traffic congestion and the road accidents. Both are the big cities—Cuttack and Bhubaneswar and Khurda the ex-capital of Orissa having high historical heritage and all these metro work should be started immediately to survey the areas and the project work may please be taken through you Madam to apply your holy order to the concerned departmental minister.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Speaker, I may be given two minutes time as I have to mention an important matter....(Interruptions)

*Speech was laid on the Table.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, let the hon'ble Minister give his reply.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Madam, please allow me to speak. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO (Khammam): Madam, I also want to speak. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please start.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: No, it was to be a very short discussion.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please listen to him carefully.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please begin.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please start your reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, at the very outset...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Only the hon. Minister's reply will go on record.

(Interruptions)...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, at the very outset, I would like to place on record my sense of profound gratitude to all the Parties in the House for lending such unqualified and wholehearted support to

this Bill. It is because we are all together to usher in urban metro transport revolution. ...(Interruptions) We all recognize that urbanization is growing apace and the need for increasing reliance on public transportation. Even in regard to public transportation, nothing may be considered as good; as modern; as quick; and as comfortable as the Metro rail. Therefore, you find this kind of exemplary unanimity in the House.

Secondly, I would like to refer to this piece of legislation, which facilitates extension of Metro rail facility to all the cities in India if there is a political will, that is, if you have the will to mobilize the funds with a population of just one million and above. Metropolitan areas would mean all cities in India, and not merely the cities that I have referred to in my introduction.

Shri Lalu Prasad has been a special friend of mine for decades. He has lot of affection for me, and I reciprocate the affection. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Now Laluji is an ordinary ally in the Government.

(Interruptions)...

MADAM SPEAKER: Please address the chair.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: This statement will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: But, Madam, I would like to tell Shri Lalu Prasad that he has gone back to his original slogan that all Metro transport should be handled by the Railway Ministry. I would like to tell him and all the friends in all humility that we need Metro

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

rail whether it is done by the Railway Ministry, by the Urban Development Ministry or through cooperation with the State Governments. It is a matter of detail. But as regards this issue, this was discussed for many years—when Shri Lalu was the Railway Minister—and a decision was taken in the Cabinet that the Metro rail facility should be done through Special Purpose Vehicles, and this particular activity was entrusted to the Urban Development Ministry. I do not like to say more, but the important thing is that we are all trying to expedite the process of extension of Metro rail.

Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal had said that we should not commercialize the land available near Metro stations. I would not be able to agree with him for the simple reason that Metro rail is not an affordable mode of transport. It is a capital intensive project. Governments not only need to subsidize heavily, the operations need to be subsidized through sources of non-metro revenue. However, I would like to assure him that parking facilities, such other facilities, will never be sacrificed for the sake of commercialization. Whether it is airport or metro, non-core revenue is a very important source for such gigantic projects, therefore, let us not labour under outdated notions.

He also referred to the problem of peak hours. This is the problem with the public transport. During peak hours, we always witness overcrowding. During lean hours, there is a problem of lack of enough number of commuters. This is a phenomenon experienced all over the world; it is not only confined to Delhi or any city in India. However, we will address this problem to the extent possible.

Both Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal and Shri Mahabal Mishra sought more extensions. We will have to look at the viability aspects of these extension proposals. Rakesh Singhji wanted metro rail facility to be extended to many major cities in Madhya Pradesh, like Bhopal, Jabalpur and other cities. I would like to state here that the initiative has to be taken by the State Governments. I would like to tell Mulayam Singh Yadavji that we can go in for a metro rail transport in Lucknow also. We are prepared to mobilize our part of the fund. The Government of India is prepared to organize 50 per cent

equity provided the State Governments come forward to organize the remaining part of equity. Wherever it is possible, some State Governments are choosing to go in for PPP model, as in Mumbai, and as in Hyderabad. Therefore, I request the State Government concerned to take initiative in the matter, and Government of India will never be found lacking in response in this regard.

Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay has raised the question of East-West Corridor. Well, I have received representations from Members of their Party. We are looking into that. He has raised the questions in regard to large-scale displacement. We are in correspondence with the Government of West Bengal. I can only tell you today that we will not allow more displacement than is absolutely warranted. I think the fears of large-scale displacement need to be checked. I will look into that. I do not like to contradict or confirm. We are talking to the Government of West Bengal as to whether the facts mentioned by you are correct. When I get an authentic report, I will be able to respond to that.

Mulayam Singhji said that we are going in for foreign equipment; we should rely on indigenous equipment. I would agree with him in principle. But metro rail is a new area where new technologies globally are emerging. We need to tap the state-of-art technology. However, while utilizing the state-of-art technology from various parts of the world, we are not relaxing in regard to the need to indigenize. We are roping in Bharat Earth Movers to indigenize every possible thing in India. Now that we are thinking of metro extensions in various parts of the country, indigenization is a must; I agree with him. I assure him that we will focus on indigenisation. I must thank Shri Sharad Yadavji for the support he lent to this Bill. About whether it should be a standard gauge or a broad gauge is a question that has been settled. I do not think we should be re-opening such issues all the time. Fundamental issues should not be re-opened. The need of the hour is action, development and progress. There could be an unending argument on this question. I am sure Shri Lalu Prasad ji and all others would be able to produce a number of arguments in favour of broad gauge, but the question has been closed. In Delhi, for example, in extensions, we are going in for standard gauge. Will that mean any difference? The question whether you have a same

broad gauge or a standard gauge, you will have to change the train. What is important is not the gauge. The train interchange is something which is unavoidable.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is not possible in Delhi. But what about other cities?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Everywhere you have to keep changing the train. It is not going to bother commuters whether a particular train is in broad gauge or whether the next train is in standard gauge. That is a case all over the world. I would like to say another thing. Standard gauge is being adopted in most parts of the world. Therefore, when we need enough parts on emergency occasions, we need to be aligned to the international practices. That does not mean we should keep importing, we should keep indigenizing. But we cannot also be divorced from the emerging global pattern.

Shri Sharad Yadavji has referred to the need to take the recommendations of the Standing Committee seriously. I can assure him and all the Members of the House including the Members of my own Party that the recommendations of the Standing Committee are given due weight. We will come back to the House with the Action Taken Report on Standing Committee's recommendations.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Madam Speaker, it has turned out to be a big malaise. We had constituted the Standing Committees to make it function as a mini-parliament, but I regret to say that the recommendations of the Standing Committees are not accepted by the Government. Even 20 or 30% recommendations of the Standing Committees are not accepted by the Government. You are a parliamentarian and a responsible Minister. You know very well that the matter relating to the Standing Committees is of a serious nature. Discussions on such matters are not held in the House. Discussions are properly held in the Standing Committees only and a lot of time and money is spent for that purpose.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please address the Chair. I

think, hon. Members should address the Chair. Personal dialogue should not go on in the House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I agree with him in regard to the importance of the Standing Committee.

Hon. Member Satpathyji talked about the possibility of terrorist attacks. Such possibilities, thanks to the volatile global situation, are inherent situations. But I would like to assure him that safety precautions, security precautions of the highest standards have been taken. There are all possible security precautions in place. But incidents happen, that is a different matter. We are not going to lower our guard. He referred to the recent accident. I would like to tell him with some degree of pardonable plight that in respect of accidents that take place at the construction stage, we are not doing badly. There is a global benchmark. And going by the global benchmark, I can tell you that we are way ahead of Singapore and slightly behind London.

In the last seven years when the Delhi Phase-I operated happily, I should say, not even one accident has taken place. There is a need to distinguish between unfortunate accidents that take place during the construction phase and operation stage. So far we have been able to avoid accidents. Let me tell you Delhi Metro Rail has been functioning with admirable regularity. It has been noted by everybody including international experts.

I thank Baluji for his wholehearted support. Basu Deb Achariaji has referred to East-West Metro. I am talking to all the Members of Parliament belonging to all parties; I am talking to the Government of West Bengal, and all the stakeholders. This is a matter to be ironed out through a process of talks.

Deepender Hoodaji has pleaded for further extensions—he referred to a number of towns—which again goes to prove the immense popularity of Metro Rail. He has also stressed the need for multi-modal integration in a seamless fashion. That is what we are aiming at. Metro Rail cannot function successfully in a vacuum. It has to be integrated with bus rapid transport system, with railway system, with all other modes of transport. That is what we are working for and aiming at.

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

Mahabal Mishraji also sought extensions. I would like to tell Mishraji that all extensions mean money. Therefore, one of the important criteria for approving of extensions is the viability. I am not saying absolute viability. We are getting very cheap loan from JAICO; we are pledging our money from the Budget; State Governments are raising money from their Budgets. Even so, Metro Rail operations are expensive. If they are found viable, they will be taken up.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: You are extending it upto Gurgaon and Faridabad. Will you not extend it upto Delhi? Are the people residing in Delhi not giving money?...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please let him give the reply.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: We want him to give the reply, however, the reply which he is giving is not proper. Is he saying that the people here do not pay for tickets. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA: You can extend it upto anywhere, however, I would like to say that 70 per cent people of Delhi are still deprived of metro facility and you are talking about its extension to other areas ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: You should say that yes we will extend it upto that place also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please let him give the reply. Please take your seat. You also please take your seat.

SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA: Today, people residing in the rural areas of Delhi are unable to go everywhere. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please let him give the reply. You please take your seat

SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA: You are talking about its extension from here whereas 70 per cent of people residing in the rural areas of Delhi are deprived of the facility of metro services. There poor people belonging

to the labour class reside who want that this service should be extended to them also. Today the people of Purvanchal. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please let him complete the reply.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mahabal Mishraji, please note that when we are going in for extensions to Gurgaon or Noida the respective State Governments are also chipping in to make the extensions viable. If your extensions are found to be viable...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA: We have welcomed its extension to Gurgaon, however Najafgarh in Delhi is one such place where there is traffic jams for 8 hours at a stretch. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let him express his view point.

SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA: If you feel that extension of metro facility from Kakrola Mor to Najafgarh is not viable then you are requested to get the survey conducted, as it is viable. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let him complete his point.

SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA: His view point that people residing in rural areas do not pay is wrong.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: What the Minister's says only will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I have not said that there is no viability. I have said that if there is viability, then, extensions will be considered.

[English]

Therefore, without getting into details I cannot on the floor of the House give an assurance.

14.00 hrs.

This House is powerful; I am accountable to it.

Therefore, I can give an assurance only when I get into the details. All the proposals referred to in regard to Delhi will be looked into. With this, I request that the Bill be passed.

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14:02 hrs.

RUBBER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Item no. 12, Shri Prithviraj Chavan.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Madam Speaker, on behalf of Shri Anand Sharma, I beg to move:*

"That the Bill further to amend the Rubber Act, 1947 be taken into consideration."

Natural Rubber plays an important role in the industrial and economic development of the country. Rubber plantations provide the principal raw material required for manufacture of around 35,000 different items.

14:02½ hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The Indian rubber plantation industry provides direct employment to over four lakh persons and offers large opportunities of employment in allied activities.

*Moved with the Recommendations of the President.

Rubber is grown in about 6.5 lakh hectares. There are more than one million small and marginal farmers with an average size of holding of 0.50 hectare engaged in rubber cultivation. ...*(Interruptions)* The small-holding sector accounts for 89 per cent of rubber planted area. India now holds first rank in productivity and fourth in Production of Natural Rubber in the world.

Development and control of Rubber is regulated under the Rubber Act, 1947. This Act of 1947 is being amended in the light of the 159th Report of the Law Commission of India. This Act was earlier amended in 1994. However, in view of the developments, suitable amendments in the provisions of the Rubber Act, 1947 are needed.

The main amendments that we are bringing are these; the first one relates to the definition of small growers which is being changed from the existing limit of 20 hectares to 10 hectares. This will enable the Rubber Board to utilize the available funds fruitfully for improvement of small holdings. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on point of order. Is he an M.O.S. of commerce? He is neither an M.O.S. of commerce nor a Cabinet Minister. When a Bill relating to the Ministry of Commerce is being moved, neither the Cabinet Minister nor. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam Speaker has given him the permission.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Permission has been given, however, I would like to know as to whether there is any provision for moving a bill when neither a State Minister nor a cabinet Minister of that Department is present? If the papers have to be laid, then in that case permission can be given, however, in case of passing a bill in the absence of both the State Minister and the Cabinet Minister, I feel, that perhaps this is the first time when such a thing is happening. Till today, such a thing has never happened in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister is giving the reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: What is the hurry? If the bill is so important, then the Government should have shown its importance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have expressed your view point, now, you please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The Government is not serious towards this Bill. This is my allegation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister is giving the reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Both the Ministers have gone abroad and the Bill is being passed here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is giving reply, please listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): The visit of the Cabinet Minister to an important international conference was already scheduled. The Bill was expected to be introduced earlier, however, due to several reasons it had to be introduced today. It is not that. ...*(Interruptions)* Please let me complete. We wanted to bring this Bill in the House for the last several days. It is a coincidence that today it is being introduced in the Lok Sabha and the hon. Minister is not here. So, before the M.O.S. introduces the Bill I would like to tell you that due permission for introducing this Bill was taken from Madam Speaker. I seek your cooperation for it. It is just a coincidence. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Is the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce also away?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He is also away.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: However, it has never happened that the Bill was passed in the absence of both the Ministers. We have certain questions which would remain unanswered. Our questions are related to ASEAN, Rubber plantation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: You ask questions and they will be answered. I am not saying that the questions will be passed as it is. You ask question and it will be answered. ...*(Interruptions)* As stated, there would be due discussion. ...*(Interruptions)* Two hours were allotted for it, what to talk of one hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would only like to know from the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs if today has been the deadline fixed for the Bill. If the deadline is not today then the Bill can be passed during the next session in November when either of the hon. Ministers would be here. Why it important to pass this Bill today in the absence of both the Ministers? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Listen to the hon. Minister as well.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: As the hon. Minister would tell the House that small growers have one tree each in their houses, they will be benefited by it. They are deprived of this benefit for so many days. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: There is no rubber tree. As far as growers are concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Tree is there. You have picked up my words...*(Interruptions)*. Latex is obtained by cutting those trees. I know what is latex, but it is grown. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Yes, it is grown...*(Interruptions)*. However, there is difference between a tree and a plant. There are creepers, too ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: However by making a cut mark on those trees...*(Interruptions)*. I do not have to learn it. If the need be I ask you like so

many other things. I think I know what I am saying
 ...*(Interruptions)*. People who live in very small jhuggis
 would also benefit from it, they benefit from its plantation
 ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the hon. Speaker
 has given some direction, we cannot stop it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): How
 both the Ministers can go abroad?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: We are saying
 so only with reference to the direction given by the
 hon. Speaker that it is unprecedented that the Bill is
 being passed in the absence of both the Ministers
 ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is collective
 responsibility of the cabinet and no single responsibility.
 The cabinet is collectively responsible.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It should not be
 withheld for three months. That is why we have
 introduced it in the House and permission has also been
 given for it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We will not allow it. It is
 neither a convention nor propriety.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We cannot do anything.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: The Government should
 think about it. ...*(Interruptions)* It is an important issue
 for the entire South India...*(Interruptions)*. Both the
 Ministers would go abroad...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: It is an old commit-
 ment...*(Interruptions)*. It is in the interest of the
 country...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

It is very important for the country to sign the
 agreement.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: If the Government had
 any commitment, one of the Ministers would have been
 here...*(Interruptions)*. How both the Ministers could be
 away...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy
 Speaker, Sir, please get the discussion on price rise
 started, leave this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: This is not fair
 ...*(Interruptions)*. Sushmaji had stated earlier that this
 Bill could be passed without discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*
 You were getting it passed without discussion and now
 you are saying that you have questions...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I had never agreed
 to it without discussion...*(Interruptions)*. I told him that
 it would be passed in two hours...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: When Metro Rail
 Bill was introduced then Members of her party and from
 the other side said that the Bill could be passed without
 discussion...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: He never said that
 the Minister has not been here...*(Interruptions)*. When I
 saw Mr. Chavan then I said that...*(Interruptions)*. Kindly
 hold the discussion on price rise...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Rubber is in the
 negative list, ASEAN will make no difference
 ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands
 adjourned to meet again at 3.00 p.m.

14.10 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
 Fifteen of the Clock.*

15.00 hrs.

*(The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fifteen of
 the clock)*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the chair]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, taking cognizance of the reservations expressed by some hon. Members in the morning, I would like to postpone this Bill. However, I would raise two-three points with reference to it to put the record straight. First of all, I would refer to Rule 76 here.

[English]

Rule 76 says:

"provided that if the member in charge of a Bill is unable, for reasons which the Speaker considers adequate,..."

Not that the Members consider adequate in the House,

"to move the next motion in regard to his Bill at any subsequent stage after introduction, he may authorize another Member to move that particular motion with the approval of the Speaker."

[Translation]

Secondly, it was pointed out that there was no such precedence and that it was unprecedented, it is not so. It has happened also in the past. I have two examples to cite. With your permission, I would quote them here. It is being quoted from the record that it has been done also in the past with the approval of the House. The House would agree to the collective responsibility of the Government. The legislation has been framed in keeping with this principle that if at a time the Minister is not present he may authorize another Minister to introduce that Bill with the approval of the Speaker. With these words I would come to this very point, since objection has been raised on this matter. A letter has also been forwarded to this effect seeking clarification of the rule under which it has happened, however, in view of the reservation expressed I would clear the air that we have no such intention of going ahead against the intention of the hon. Members. Undoubtedly, I believe that this Bill was being introduced in the interest of the small growers. It involved very small amount of excise duty and the Comptroller and

Auditor General had raised objections in this regard. So, we were of the opinion that it should not be delayed. The growers could be benefited by the passing of this Bill. However, taking cognizance of the reservation expressed by the hon. Members we will take up this Bill for discussion next time.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, first of all I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Parliamentary affairs who has decided to postpone this Bill taking cognizance of the sentiments of the Members. He has raised two points, although it would have been better if he had not annexed any observation and directly postponed the Bill, however, he has pointed out two things so it becomes necessary for me to give a reply. As far as the approval of the hon. Speaker is concerned, we all know that no motion can be moved without the approval of the Speaker. However, when the motions are moved in the House with the approval of the Speaker, then objections are raised in the House by the Members only. As far as the precedence is concerned, if the opposition in the past has not been quick to react or has not been alert, it does not mean that the Opposition of the day would also not be alert or vigilant and not claim their rights. It is very clear that both the Ministers are not here and it is not fair to pass the Bill in their absence. However, I thank the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that he has postponed this Bill taking cognizance of the sentiments of the hon. Members. When he brings this Bill in the next session, we will pass it. The discussion on the issue of price rise is hanging fire for a fairly longtime, please get it started. (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright.

15.02 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities (Contd.)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia

ji, please be brief. There are several other Members speaking on this issue. You have already spoken on this issue.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to raise a point in regard to price rise. The hon. Minister of Agriculture is busy in the other House. There also the discussion on price rise is going on. No one knows how much time it will take there. The other Minister of State is not well. He is hospitalized for quite some time. So, both the Ministers cannot come here at present. However, the Members want to hold discussion in absentia. I am bringing it to the notice lest it should be alleged that the Minister is also not here. So, the discussion on the issue should begin. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): The hon. Minister may give his reply today or tomorrow, but this issue should be discussed today itself.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Alright, the hon. Minister would reply today or tomorrow.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): There is difference between Bill and discussion. We expressed reservation on the Bill, the discussion on price rise should be started. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here, he may please take notes on this issue...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): How can I be brief. I was not allowed to speak that day. There was so much disturbance and interruptions that day that I could not speak.

[English]

Sir, we have been hearing about inflation and inflation. Now, the new economic phenomenon is foodflation. It is because of the steep rise in the prices of food articles. I have mentioned, when I initiated the debate, about the percentage of increase of prices these days, when this Government has come to power. This has never happened before. I have seen in *The Financial Express* that in the case of potatoes, in the city of Bangalore, the increase of prices over the last year is 96 per cent which is almost 100 per cent. In the capital city of Delhi, you cannot get them less than

Rs. 30. It is not available for less than Rs. 30. In the case of edible oil, it is not less than Rs. 80. It is not less than Rs. 80. As regards the pulses, which are called the poor man's proud proteins the poor man gets protein only in Dal and Roti. The price of pulses, maybe it is arhar, is more than Rs. 80 to Rs. 90. The same is the case with musoor, tur, moong, etc. It is because of the delayed monsoon, delayed cultivation and less production. There will be further reduction in production and the crisis will be accentuated next year. This year, it is Rs. 80 to Rs. 95 and next year, it will reach Rs. 150.

Another reason for abrupt and steep rise in food articles is the reduction in the supply of vegetables, cereals and pulses. It is because the cultivated area of pulses has been reduced by half and production is stagnating. It is 13.5 million tonnes for the last ten years. There has not been any increase in the production of pulses. Population is increasing; supply is decreasing and prices are increasing. The steep rise in prices is also because of large scale encouragement being given to speculative trading in commodity exchanges, through future trading in essential commodities.

This issue was discussed in this House in the Fourteenth Lok Sabha also a number of times. Today, Shri Sharad Yadav was raising the issue regarding how the Ministries are ignoring the recommendations of the Standing Committee. Here we find a glaring example of this. The Standing Committee is a mini Parliament. The Standing Committee on Food and Civil Supplies unanimously recommended withdrawal of future trading in commodities. Shri P. Chidambaram, when he was the Finance Minister, withdrew future trading or forward trading in the case of some five or six commodities. But subsequently, that order of withdrawal was also withdrawn or rather rescinded.

You will be surprised to know how the net value in the case of commodity exchanges has increased suddenly. In the period from 1st June to 15th June this year, the net value of the commodity exchange was Rs. 15,64,114.96 crore. During the same period in 2007, the figure was Rs. 2,21,880.06 crore. There is seven times increase within two years. Is not the Government aware of it? This is the Report of the Forward Market

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Commission of India. According to the Report of the Forward Market Commission of India, the net value of commodity exchange has increased by seven times. The Government is aware of it. But the Government is ineffective. The Government has not taken any action or any measure to contain or control the price rise.

This Government has no concern for the common people of our country. See how the Government has remained indifferent. You cannot find a single word in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister or in the reply of the Finance Minister or in the reply of the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies on the debate on Demands for Grants of his Ministry regarding price rise. We have raised many questions in regard to price rise. But he has not said anything. There was not even one sentence about it.

What is the contingency plan of this Government to contain and control the price rise? He has not mentioned it. Even the Finance Minister did not say anything while replying to the debate on the Finance Bill, 2009. They have no concern for the plight of the common people. People are dying. Every fourth Indian is hungry today. Starvation deaths are occurring in a number of States. What are they saying? They are passing the buck to the State Governments, as if the Federal Government or the Union Government or the Central Government has no responsibility in regard to increase in the prices of essential commodities. It has happened with regard to not one or two essential commodities, but it has happened with almost all the essential commodities.

But they will say that they have increased the food subsidy. They have, indeed, been increased by Rs. 6,000 crore over R.E. of 2008-09. Rs. 46,000 crore was the R.E. and it increased to Rs. 52,000 crore. It was because of the increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP). We are for increasing the MSP, rather we are in favour of remunerative price to the agriculture, to the cultivators and to the farmers. The MSP is much less than the remunerative price. The Government never considered remunerative prices. But for increasing the MSP, they have to increase the food subsidy and deprive the large section of poor people. What they have

done? I am not talking of this Government. It was started from the NDA Government in 2001. Shri Shah Nawaz Hussain, we have to mention the facts. You have to admit that also. Why the poor are divided here with Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)? They have divided the poor of our country. All sections of this House are complaining about BPL lists as to how the BPL lists have been manipulated. Now, the Government will say that they are following the guidelines of the Planning Commission. If they are to follow only the guidelines of the Planning Commission, why the Abhijit Sen Committee was appointed by the NDA Government to determine the National Grain Policy? What was the recommendation of the Abhijit Sen Committee?

As you know, Abhijit Sen was the member of the Planning Commission and he is a member of the current Planning Commission also. Most importantly, this should bring back many of the poor. I would like to quote what the Committee has said:

"The Committee endorses an immediate shift to a unified PDS as recommended for the long run. Although this would be another change in a system that has seen frequent changes over the last few years, we believe there are significant benefits."

He has also recommended for the universalisation of the Public Distribution System (PDS). To the UPA Government in its first tenure, we extended our outside support. That same UPA Government now has no Common Minimum Programme, as they are not to depend on the Left support. If it was because of our support, they have to have the Common Minimum Programme. So, they appointed the High-Powered Committee headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, an eminent agricultural scientist, to recommend on the problems of the agriculture. He also recommended for universal Public Distribution System. What was there in the Common Minimum Programme on the food security Chapter? That Public Distribution System should be strengthened. Strengthen means more and more poorer sections of the people should be included.

Now, this Government is for exclusive growth whereas in PDS it is just the opposite, excluding a sizeable section of the population who are really

vulnerable. We go to the rural areas because we represent the rural people, agricultural labourers. When there is a drought, particularly in my district Purulia, ten per cent plantation has not been done. So, the most affected is the agriculture.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: What about Arjun Sengupta Committee Report?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Arjun Sengupta Committee in its last report which was submitted one year back in August 2008, as I remember, stated that 77 per cent of our population depend on Rs. 20 per day.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): It was clarified by the Minister that that report was not correct.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, 77 per cent of our population depends on Rs. 20 per day. If they are to depend on Rs. 20 a day and if the price of one kilo of rice reaches Rs. 30...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV (Madhuban): The dog of the rich eats food worth Rs. 50 per day.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be silent, let the hon. Member speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We all know, there is hardly any vegetable, which is cooked without potato. Most of the vegetables dishes are prepared using potato. Five to six per cent people suffering from diabetes do not eat potatoes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I am addressing you.

[English]

It is Rs. 16 to Rs. 20 as last year the production of potato was less. West Bengal used to export potatoes. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Where would the fish come from, there is no water.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Fish is so costly, how a poor man can afford it? So the poor need pulses, chapatti, rice, sugar. Rice, pulses, salt, sugar are very costly. Sugar is Rs. 30 a kg, Jaggery is costlier than sugar i.e. Rs. 35 a kg. Wouldn't they think of price rise?

[English]

What is the contingency plan of this Government; whether the Essential Commodities Act is used to check the hoarding? The main reason for the rise in prices of cereal, pulses, vegetables, etc. is because of hording, future and forward trading of commodities. Instead of providing more and more food subsidy to the poor people, the hon. Finance Minister has abolished commodity transaction tax to encourage speculation and because of speculation prices are rising.

I would like to know from the Government what steps the Government is proposing to take to contain this speculation in the market. I would also like to know whether the Government would consider withdrawing future and forward trading in commodities in order to include 77 per cent of our population as stated by Dr. Arjun Sengupta Committee to universalize Public Distribution System. I would urge upon them not to divide the poor.

I do not know why Mr. Nitish Kumar has requested for direct subsidy to the people. I would like to draw the attention of Mr. Sharad Yadav as to why Mr. Nitish Kumar is not asking for universalisation of Public Distribution System in Bihar.

I would request the Central Government to abolish TPDS and to introduce Universal Public Distribution System so as to cover 80 per cent population of our country. Not only rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene, but also vegetables, potato and other essential commodities have to be sold through fair price shops.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Sir, the situation is very grave and very grave. This is a very serious situation in the country. Starvation deaths are taking place in a number of States. Crores of people have to sleep with empty stomach. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Kindly do not mislead the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Government is not concerned at all. The Government is not concerned about the condition of 80 per cent people that is why it took so long for discussion about this in the House. Neither the reply of the hon. Minister of Finance nor that of the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution contained a single word in regard to price rise. The Government is not bothered about them. Would the Government put a check on commodity trading?

[English]

For de-hoarding, I would like to know whether the Government will amend the Essential Commodities Act. This Act was diluted during the NDA regime. ...*(Interruptions)* The then NDA Government diluted this Act. We also demand that the Union Government should undo what the then NDA Government had done. During the period of four years and two months when we extended our support to the then UPA Government, we had been continuously demanding for amending the Essential Commodities Act in order to give more teeth to the Act so that de-hoarding and speculation, which are now taking place, can be stopped.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak on a very important issue. I am aware that this issue of price rise is very important for this country. I also thank Shri Basu Deb Acharia for

raising this issue for discussion under Rule 193. It is in the fitness of things to hold discussion on this issue. The CPM party Members wake up a bit late. Out of the five year term of UPA Government they continued to extend their support to them for 4 and a half years and several times made statements outside and at times they were invited to the Prime Minister office for dinner and breakfast...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I was invited not even once for dinner...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the chair.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: But we have such information only...*(Interruptions)*. Basu Deb Dada was not invited there, however, he made statements and after Dinner and Lunch he used to extend them support in the House...*(Interruptions)*. The prices have not shot up today. These prices have risen during the four and a half years tenure of the UPA Government during which the CPM colleagues extended them their strong support. They became very adamant on the nuclear deal. If they had withdrawn their support on the price rise issue neither their condition nor that of the common man have been such. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No, that was also one of the issues.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: No, he is linking the two issues, however, no one in the country knows that they withdraw support on the issue of price rise. They did not withdraw support on the issue of price rise. This is the honeymoon period of this Government. I have seen it for the first time that this Government has started eating into its own roots. This Government brought hundred days' agenda. And I thought as if they got mandate for five years. However, they are not bothered about five years. They have prepared 100 days' agenda and two-third period means 75 days have elapsed and today is 76th day. They had made lofty promises through the President's Address. However, they did not utter a single word on price rise. Through you, I would like to submit that the promises they had made and the slogan they gave that 'Congress ka haath aam admi ke saath', on the basis of which they got the people's mandate that very hand has now reached the

common man's neck in 76 days. They have made the common man's life miserable. The people would have hardly imagined that the hand, which was getting their mandate, would throttle them one day. The party formed the government with such a huge mandate. Their self-assurance at times makes me feel that perhaps they are counting 205 as 410. The people's mandate has given so much boost to their confidence that they feel that they can do anything...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be silent. Let him speak.

SHRI SYED SHAHNA WAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they are not prepared to listen a single word from the Opposition. Vanity has made the Government deaf to the voice of the Opposition. They are day dreamers. Here I would remind them that when they got three fourth majority under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, they could not form Government in the next term. This is history and one should learn from history. Their number was lesser than that. However, their body language and attitude shows if they had won 405 seats...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be silent. Let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the more they disturb me...(Interruptions). Whenever I make any submission, my colleagues from the Congress who adore me so much, disturb me a lot and the time wasted while they disturb me, should be deducted from time allotted to their party.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Please stick yourself to the issue of price rise.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I am discussing price rise issue only...(Interruptions). As soon as their party formed Government, the first gift they gave to the common man in the vanity of their power on 2nd June, 2009 was that the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG were increased by Rs. 5, Rs. 3 and Rs. 50 respectively. They have come in power for doing all this. Price rise is directly proportional to the rise in prices of petrol, diesel and LPG and this Government was giving

invitation to the price rise since they have come to power, there was nothing to worry for agents propelling price rise.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Shri Basu Deb Achariaji was quoting the rates of certain items. One can go to market. We seldom go to market as we are busy in Parliament. I enquired my wife about the rates of various vegetables as she goes to purchase these items.

Potatoes are from Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 per kg, Tomatoes from Rs. 35 to 40 per kg, bottlegourd from Rs. 35 to Rs. 40, Cauliflower Rs. 60, peas have become Rs. 80 per kg during the Congress regime. The Government boasts of poor people's concern, but they have snatched morsel from the people's mouth. Bread and butter has become costly. Poor people used to say that they make their both ends meet by eating pulses and roti but see the rate of pulses. Moong Dal has become Rs. 70 per kg, Urad Dal Rs. 100 per kg. Kirtiji's wife went to buy pulses in the market and perhaps she fell short of some money. The shopkeepers told her that she should bring as much amount with her to grocery shop as much she carried to a jewellery shop. This is the condition. Rice is more than Rs. 100 per kg. The Congress Government is making comparison with the NDA Government. When Basu Deb Dada was speaking, who has recently parted ways from the UPA it appears he is showing withdrawal symptoms? He was supposed to criticise the Congress Government, because they are causing harm, however, he was looking at us that NDA party did this and that. It is true that the Congress is not giving so much importance to Dada yet he is not fully disenchanted. I would like to compare the year 2004 with the year 2009 when Atal Bihariji's Government was in power. When we went out of power, the rate of flour was Rs. 10 per kg, which is now Rs. 16-20 per kg Price of 'Parmal' rice rose from Rs. 14 to Rs. 25, wheat from Rs. 6 to Rs. 11 per kg, pulse from Rs. 26 to Rs. 100-120 per kg and sugar from Rs. 14 to Rs 28 per kg.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the day Shri Sharad Pawar gave the statement in Rajya Sabha that the production of sugar would be less this time, the same day prices of sugar went up. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the statement given by him was meant to reduce the pain of the common man or

[Shri Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain]

or to increase the same. He gave a statement that the production of sugar would be reduced by half and as such rate of sugar might increase. After his such a statement, the prices of sugar rose by Rs. 3.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Government...(Interruptions) Gram and jaggery (Chana-Ghud) is not available. Prices of jaggery has gone up. Dada was talking about the NDA. I was thinking that he should agree to my view points, but he has got his seat near Sharad Bhai. We were expecting him to attack that side more...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please keep quiet.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request both sides that it is a serious discussion. I would say that the prices of foodgrains have gone beyond expectations. If they continue to interrupt, serious discussion will not be possible. We have to find out a solution for this. Therefore, please let the Members speak. I urge upon all of you to keep patience. Only then this discussion will be meaningful. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please keep quiet. Nothing will go on record except the speech of the Member who is allowed to speak.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Sir, they are interrupting repeatedly. They have made mockery of the issue of price rise. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Sir, the Members of the Congress Party do not want to have discussion on the issue of price rise. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Speak when your turn comes. This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Sir, these people...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: You have been elected for the first time, do not be in such a hurry to speak...(Interruptions). You may listen. It is not proper to have so much ego for being in power. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All of you, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Sir, the prices of commodities have gone up from 50 per cent to 500 per cent in comparison to wheat they were during the NDA regime. Therefore, the common man of the country still remembers these things. Today, what is the price of pulses? Today, the Government of Delhi has published and advertised in the newspaper that it is selling pulses? The Government is selling pulses and saying that it will sell it at Rs. 5 less than the market rate. It means first you raise the price by Rs. 200 and then claim that it would be sold at Rs. 1 less. This is cheating with the people. Pulse was sold out within an hour of the opening of the counter.

Sir, people had great expectations from this Government that the Prime Minister being an economist would lead the country out of the global recession. Today, despite having an economist Prime Minister, the country is facing high price rise and the people are very much concerned about it. The Government has taken up the issue of price rise very late, we do not want to politicize the matter, however, we do not want that the Government pays heed to this matter seriously. If they have to reply, then, the authorized Member from your party will do so. First you note down the points and then give reply accordingly.

Sir, the Government is not serious to check the spiralling prices and is trying to confuse the common people with the jugglery of figures. The Government is saying that as per news reports prices are declining.

What is inflation rate? When we in UP, Bihar read that inflation rate is declining, we understand that the prices of commodities would come down. Assessment of the data in regard to inflation is based on the whole sale price index, whereas the price-rise related with the common man is based on the consumer price index.

Sir, the Government is claiming that the wholesale price index has come down to minus 1.6 per cent. Whereas it is only an eyewash and paradoxically, the consumer price index has risen from 10 to 20 per cent.

Sir, through you I wish to inform the House that among 157 countries of the world, consumer price index is considered to be the base for determining the prices which include countries like the US and Great Britain. And India happens to be among those handful 24 countries which consider whole sale price index as base to determine the prices. I would like to know from the Government as to when we follow the model of the US and Britain in every other matter, why cannot we follow their model for the consumer price index base. The UPA Government should not increase the sufferings of the people.

Sir, through you I wish to submit that the issue of food stock is very important and whenever we talk of efforts to put check on the price rise in the last 5 years, they blame it on us that the concept of future market was evolved during the NDA Government when we were in the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please stick to the subject. Do not give him any reply.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Sir, they talk of future market. During the NDA Government we tried to exclude certain edible items from the future markets. The Standing Committee on Agriculture referred to by hon. Dada also recommended that inflationary trends should be separated from the futuristic market. Today, through you I want to raise this issue since prices are rising, people indulge in stocking of products and the private players buy the stock on computer much before the farmer produces the yield.

The Government has not taken any measures to stock foodgrains. The existing warehouses have become

age old. Certain big warehouses were constructed during NDA regime by the then hon. Minister Shri Sharad Yadav. These were constructed even in the Kosi belt and these were constructed upon my request. When I visit my constituency, Mr. Deputy Speaker even you would have noticed it during your visit that the farmer approaches the leaders and seeks their intervention in the procurement of his products. But the Government fails to do so. This Government compels the farmer to sell his products to the hoarders and middlemen. If small godowns had been constructed for farmers within the village his food grains would have remained secured with him. With the rising prices, the future market players procure their yield which results in future price rise. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a National level Commission for determination of prices should be set up. It should enjoy autonomy for fixing the cost and prices. The industries determine the price of their goods produced whereas the price of agriculture produce is not fixed by its grower but by middlemen.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today there is a need to strike a balance between the prices of agriculture produce and that of industrial produce. Today, the prices go up by 20 per cent. Urbanization is taking place on the cultivable land, the land of the farmers is reducing so is their produce. The entire country is reeling under drought like condition. This time the country is cursed with such acute drought situation. This situation has further increased the prices. Through you, I request the Government not to make it a subject of debate. We should not be divided on this issue. The concern raised on price rise should be supported by all parties because this issue is not a political issue, it is related with the life of common man. Today rice is an important issue. It was raised by Shri Gopinath Munde during Zero Hour that rice worth Rs. 2500 crore was sold in foreign countries by a private company name Ameera Food. Today, 21 countries have been listed by the Government in Rice Export list. What was the criterion to identify those countries? Whereas certain countries among them were exporters themselves? Why a private company like Ameera Food instead of a Government Agency was roped in to export rice? Through you, I request the Government not to bite the morsel of the poor. We were also in power not once but two times under the

[Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain]

leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. In politics the role reversal of the opposition and the Government is a common feature, it is people's mandate. However, the Government should make efforts not to increase the sufferings of the people, and not to bite the morsel of the common man. I saw it on Aaj Tak news channel that lentils were lying on the port and there was no agency to lift it. Today, 40 thousand tonne pulses are lying and putrefying on the port. Paradoxically, the people are not getting pulses. After inquiry it was found that the Government agency importing those pulses was not having an inspector to test their quality so these were not lifted. Due to this reason a huge amount has gone down the drain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while I was returning I asked about the achievements of the Government. I am from Bihar, pulses and chapatti, litti-chokha are our staple diet. These items have become costly. My son was having burger, I asked him its price and whether it became costlier in the last three four months? I was told it remained unchanged at Rs. 22. The happy meal at McDonald remained consistent at Rs. 88. Pulses and chapatti became costlier but burger remained consistent during their Government.

I inquired about the rate of pasta at Barrista. It is unchanged at Rs. 162. Ever since the formation of their Government the rate of burger, pizza, pasta and happy meal of McDonald is consistent and the Government should be applauded for it, however, the life of common man has become miserable.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has no time to discuss the issue of price rise. Today, the issue is being discussed in the House, however, the Minister of Agriculture is busy in the other House, is the issue of price rise not a serious one? The people are dying because of starvation in country. They are suffering from malnutrition. According to a report 15 thousand children in Jharkhand are suffering from malnutrition. That State is governed by them. Through you, I would request the Government to stop indulging in politics on the issue of price rise. You are not here to add to the woes of the common man. If mandate has been given by the people,

then the Government should mitigate the sufferings of the people, otherwise it is a known fact that the curses and tears of poor can destabilize even the strongest Government. Don't take success to the head and start working for the poor. There is no Government, which enjoys permanent mandate. The UPA Party has won elections in the Centre, however, in the by-elections in Punjab, Akali Dal has won all the three seats. Wheat was your fate in Punjab? The elections in Maharashtra are pending, they will have to bear its repercussions. There is no scope in Jharkhand. My colleagues from Trinamul congress are sitting with me, they may continue to fight with Dada, they have no common minimum programme and they have not prepared any common minimum programme to tackle price rise. I urge upon them to exercise your influence on the Government since this Government is not under the control of people and not under any ones control. There is a need to exercise control on the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request the Government not to deprive people of their livelihood. It is the responsibility of the Government to mitigate the sufferings of the people. I urge upon the Government to roll back the prices of petrol and diesel since the responsibility of rising prices lies squarely with the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these people are quite happy that they are giving ample amount under NREGA. The Government has increased the wages to Rs. 100 whereas the price of pulse is Rs. 100. A large family can either afford to buy pulse or chapati. The Government has not obliged anybody by increasing the wage rates as it has simultaneously increased the prices. This Government is responsible for rising prices but are they prepared to give dearness allowance to the poor across the country? The responsibility squarely lies on the Government. This party has formed the Government after winning elections but I am not sure about their commitments, however, they are deliberately increasing the prices. Every time, whenever the congress party forms the Government, the result is back breaking price rise. Since the socialist movement, we have been raising this slogan and they have proved the slogan right. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you may please conclude your speech.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: If you are no longer Shiv Sainik. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please don't give any reply to him.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they are no longer shiv sainik and they are raising objection to my being a socialist.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I request the Government not to indulge in mere rhetoric and take steps to check price rise. We will extend our full co-operation to check the price-rise. With this, I conclude my speech.

[English]

DR. K.S. RAO (Eluru): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I heard our hon. Member, Shri Acharia, complaining about the failure of this Government with regard to controlling the price rise. He was telling one good thing, namely, that during the period when the Leftists were supporting the UPA—in the first five years—it was good, and it has become bad the moment they withdrew support. Similarly, hon. Member, Shri Shah Nawaz Hussain, was pointing out to the Leftist that they withdrew support on the issue of civil nuclear power, but not on the issue of price rise.

Two-and-a-half years back, in my constituency, when a meeting of all the parties was called for—BJP, Communists, and everybody else—by the farmers demanding an increase in the Minimum Support Price for paddy, besides other farm products, which is grown in my area, I told them that when a particular party sits in the Opposition, they criticize tooth and nail, and they resort to *dharnas* all over, burn the buses and do everything else possible to say that the farmer's produce, who is the backbone of the country, was not valued properly. The Minimum Support Price has to be increased. That is an excellent thing to say. But the moment they become the ruling party, they forget about it. They do not speak about any farm products, Minimum

Support Price, remunerative price, or any of that kind. The reason why they speak about those things only when they are in the Opposition is that it attracts everybody, and it creates an impression in the minds of the general public that they are fighting for the poor, for the common man, for the poor.

15.56 hrs.

[SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA in the Chair]

The moment the Minimum Support Price of the food products, particularly food grains, of essential commodities, is increased, price rise will be there in the market. Then the very people whose Government was there earlier and who sat on this side of the House, when they go to the Opposition Benches, they say that this Government is useless, incompetent. They, my colleagues, have said that *dal* price has gone up from Rs. 20 to Rs. 40; the price of edible oil has gone up from Rs. 60 to Rs. 120. They do not have anything to say to help the common man; they never think about the common man; they never think about the farmer. This is the attitude of various parties for quite a long time.

In that above-mentioned meeting, what I said was that whatever party might be in power, if they were to think that they do not have to come to power in the next elections, and if they were to take a decision that the farm produced was not to be valued on the same pattern or same principle as the industrial goods were being valued, and if they were ready to take the blame from the Opposition, if they were ready for defeat in the elections, then only they would be able to do justice to the farmers; otherwise, they would not.

I said that the Minimum Support Price for paddy must be not less than Rs. 1,000 per quintal. The same thing is happening even today. When they are in Opposition today, the issue of price rise has come. I will give you one of the reasons as to why it came up now. I will tell you how the Minimum Support Price has been increased by the UPA Government, particularly last year, that is, 2008-09. The Minimum Support Price for paddy has gone up, in one year, by 31 per cent; and the Minimum Support Price for Jowar has gone up by 30.4 per cent in one year. I can give you the examples of this position during the tenure of the NDA Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please address the Chair.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH (Munger): He wants to justify the price rise. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You keep your ears open. Hon. Member, please continue.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: He is giving the factual position.

DR. K.S. RAO: The paddy price, during NDA Government, in 2003-04, was Rs. 450, and today, it is Rs. 930. The price of wheat, during the NDA Government, in a similar way, was Rs. 630, and now it is Rs. 1,080. We must understand that when they were in the Government, they never thought about the wealth of the rural areas.

16.00 hrs.

All of us are aware that not less than 70 per cent people are living in the rural areas. There was concentration of urban wealth. Wealth is not being passed on to the rural areas. It is only during the UPA Government that the wealth is transferred to the rural areas from the urban. I will tell you how it has been done. Under the loan waiver scheme Rs. 70,000 crore was sent to the rural areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: What is he talking? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You continue please. Nothing should go on record other than what the hon. Member Shri K.S. Rao is speaking.

*(Interruptions)...**

DR. K.S. RAO: Under the NREGA, thousands of crores were sent to the rural areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will have your chance. You can refute later.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Why are they disturbing now? ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please do not disturb the Member who is speaking. You will have your chance, you can refute at that time.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: He should speak something relevant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You note down. You can speak also that so-called relevant.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Do you mean to say that he should speak whatever you want? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. K.S. RAO: We have increased the allocations for the rural development in a substantial manner. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record except what the Member is speaking.

*(Interruptions)...**

DR. K.S. RAO: We have allotted thousands of crores in the name of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. We have increased the purchasing power of the people belonging to both the poor sections and the farming community in the rural areas. This was not the case during their time. Neither the poor nor the farmer had got the purchasing capacity to purchase even essential commodities during their period. Today, the purchasing capacity in the rural areas has gone up substantially. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble member is mentioning about NREGA Programme. I would like to bring to his notice that under this scheme digging work is discontinued during monsoon. Therefore, due to rain, this programme has been discontinued for the time being. Poor people in

*Not recorded.

the country are facing problems, as they are not getting employment under this scheme. I would like to know as to what steps the Government is taking in this regard? Since you are in the ruling party, I request you to tell all details so that we are able to give our suggestions. The whole day we discuss Bharat Nirman, NREGA etc....*(Interruptions)* The BJP members always level allegations that during their tenure the condition was like this and during our tenure the condition is like this. I would like to say that mere allegations and counter allegations will not do. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please behave yourself and do not disturb the hon. Member. Let him continue.

DR. K.S. RAO: We have increased the credit to the farmers from Rs. 80,000 crore to Rs. 3,30,000 crore. Obviously, today lakhs of crores of rupees are transferred from urban areas to the rural areas. Now my hon. Friends have said so many things that were connected only with the urban areas. Most of us are coming from the rural areas. If the prices of food grains have gone up for the farmers, the wage of the farm labourer has also gone up substantially. So, the effect of this increase in the Minimum Support Price will not be there on the farm labourers in the village. I will come to the price of the essential vegetables and fruits which are perishable subsequently. I am now talking of the food grains. The impact of what they have spoken is in the urban areas. I agree with that.

On what percentage of people? On 28 to 30 per cent of people living in the urban areas. Out of them, the richer class and the upper middle class people are not bothered about it. It does not affect them because the component of expenditure on essential commodities from their income is minimal. Then, what percentage of the population is being affected by this? I am not supporting the price rise, not at all. But, the Opposition's concentration is entirely on those 15 per cent of the people who are living in the urban areas. They make noise every time. ...*(Interruptions)* We are discussing all the time. ...*(Interruptions)* Have you ever thought of ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please sit down. I will give you time later. Do not disturb him now. You can refute him later when your turn comes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, in this august House everybody has a right to express his viewpoint.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is exactly what I have told them. Mr. Rajiv, please sit down now. Nothing should go on record. Shri Rao, you continue.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please do not disturb him. You can refute him later. Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

DR. K.S. RAO: During NDA regime, did they ever think of the poor man; did they ever speak about the common man; did they ever think of the rural areas? They used to speak about the share price index; they used to speak about export promotion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, if you do not like what is being said, you can go out. But do not disturb the House.

DR. K.S. RAO: Today, we are providing pension to the poor man; we are providing free education to thousands of poor children; we are providing insurance to the poor people in the villages. Because of all this, not only their purchasing power has gone up but the consumption also has gone up. Naturally, the poorer sections of the society will consume more of these essential commodities when they can afford them—be it food grains, be it vegetables, be it meat, be it egg. Yes, there was increase in price. It was agreed to not only by us but by international politicians that consumption of food articles has gone up in this country.

As regards perishables, we all know that Rs. 50,000 crore worth of perishables are getting wasted every year. So, it is time for the Government ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please do not take cognizance of that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Nothing should go on record. Please behave yourself. Of course, you can refute. Who stops you from refuting? Please sit down.

DR. K.S. RAO: This is the reason why the hon. Prime Minister and the Finance Minister have announced that it is time for us to use the latest technology to preserve all these perishables. They gave enough incentives. They encouraged setting up of cold storages. Not only that, cold storage vans are being provided to the farmers to move the perishables to the people who need them so that on the one hand the farmer can get the right price for his produce and on the other the consumer can get his goods for a reasonable price.

With regard to pulses and oilseeds, we all know that 70 lakh tonnes of oil seeds are being imported even today. We are short of food grains. The Government is encouraging palmolein gardens wherever possible by giving a remunerative price. In fact, production of palmolein has gone down from 6300 to 4000. It is time the Government had come to the rescue of the farmer and at least support him through various market intervention schemes. By doing this we can avoid importing thousands of crores of rupees worth edible oils, and our own farmers can produce that quantity after being given incentives. It is not that we support the Government in every way irrespective of the mistakes committed by it. However, the Opposition also should realize that its duty is not just to criticize the Government of the day irrespective of the merits of its policies.

They must also find solutions or give suggestions. What suggestions did Mr. Acharia give? His entire concentration was only on future trading. Was there any other suggestion?

One of the reasons why the prices have gone up substantially is because of black-marketing and hoarding, and it is not because of terrible shortage. It is compounded by the traders more, who have to regulate

the prices. Who has diluted that? It is the NDA Government which did it. At one stage, the Act had a provision which said that if a trader commits a black-marketing or hoarding, it is a non-bailable offence and not even the Prime Minister can save the trader. When that Act is diluted, they are prompted to do black-marketing. Who is authorized now? It is the State Governments which are authorized to control black-marketing. Several State Governments are in the hands of the BJP and what is the control that they are making? Who came on their way from stopping black-marketing and stop smuggling? It is not the Government of India that is to be blamed for hoarding and black-marketing; it is the State Government that is to be blamed—be it Congress Government or BJP. They do not do that; they put the blame, as the Members of Parliament; so, we criticize.

I certainly agree that the Government has to take certain measures to control these things – but they are not to be on short-term basis. If there is a shortage of food grains, import of two million tonnes of wheat today or import of edible oil tomorrow is not a permanent solution. We have to find a permanent solution.

Linking of rivers is to be done. The cultivable land is to be increased. There must be remunerative price to the farmer. There must be technology to store all these things; the technology is available internationally; it is not difficult to get it now. When the Western world can do it, can we not do this? We can.

So, it is the Government that has to do these things; we agree; it is not you who could do it. I am not denying that. Now, the Government is doing everything possible. It has done to increase the purchasing power of the rural people. This is the first point. It is done.

So, in the transit period, there would be increase in the prices; that has to be controlled. I have got solutions for that and I will give them.

Unless production goes up in edible oils, seeds or pulses, we will not be able to control prices on a temporary basis; this will be a routine affair to discuss about 'price rise' year after year, no matter which party sits on this side of the House.

Similarly, technology has to be improved for perishables. We must be able to store all the perishables, purchase at a price which is remunerative for the farmer, keep them at a cold storage; transfer it to a place where prices have gone up or preserve them; and sell at a time when they fetch a proper price.

I agree that the TPDS is to be strengthened; I do not deny that. Time and again, when surveys are made, it is found in some of the State Governments that 100 per cent of the grains that are taken from the Government of India are diverted to the black-market. It is a pathetic condition. What actions the State Governments are taking in this regard? They do not control these things.

We also suggested, as my friend suggested, this TPDS must not only be strengthened, but also most of the essential commodities are to be supplied through PDS. When that is done, when bulk of the people, particularly the poorer sections of the people, are given all the requirements including perishables—be it tamarind, be it salt, be it sugar or anything that is required—we will be able to control prices. I am also of the opinion—it is unfortunate to say this—the PDS is plagued with corruption everywhere. That has to be checked. It is not the Government; it is not the party; the whole system has to be improved.

Now, we have started social audit—not just for NREGA, but for all the schemes of the Government that are being implemented with lakhs of crores of rupees in the rural areas. We started social audit. It is not just the employees. There are always good people in the villages; there are always good people in the villages; there are always people with character; you have to choose them irrespective of parties, above party lines. You can choose 3-4 people; they could audit and say that this is bad or that is good, or something else had happened there.

If this were to be the way to deal with this matter with transparency and accountability, we can certainly bring the prices down.

As regards future trading, my friend, Shri Acharia said that the entire yield is put on the future trading and the hon. Member from BJP said that it is they who

introduced the future trading. The Standing Committee said that at least for the essential commodities, it should not be applied. I am also of the opinion that essential commodities should not be put to speculative trade. That is not good and it does not help. So, we have to regulate and see what is to be done and what is not to be done. That is not a permanent solution because the production has to go up.

Sir, I am not supporting the price rise but what they are showing that the increase is in multiples of 100 times and 200 times is not a phenomenon in this country but it is a global phenomenon. The day global market comes to know that there is a shortage of wheat, if the first consignment is purchased at 160 dollars per tonne, the next day the price will shoot up. China and India are the biggest consumers in the world of the food grains, particularly of the essential commodities. If either from China or from India a word were to come out in the global market that there is a shortage of a particular commodity, the price will shoot up and go double in one week. We have experienced this. When the first consignment was purchased by this Government, the price was 160 dollars initially but when they went into the market, it became 300 dollars. So, we have to see what is the global phenomenon in this regard.

As regards sugar, the global price rise in sugar is 17.15 per cent in the month of May over April, while in India, it is 0.9; for soyabean, the global prices increase in May over April is 14.1 per cent and in India, it is 1.9; and for cotton, 8.8 per cent is global and in India, it is 1.8. But still I would say that it has to be controlled. There should not be mere criticism. Let them come out with some suggestions or let them find out some mistakes. So, that is not the way.

My friend said that in 1950, if the price of a particular thing was Re. 1, today it is Rs. 4. But what is the GDP growth rate? When the GDP growth rate goes up, naturally, there will be a tendency for the increase in prices. During their time, what was the GDP growth rate? It never crossed five and odd on an average and now it is more than 8.7 on an average for all the five years. So, when there is a growth, there is a likelihood of price increase. But even that has to be

[Dr. K.S. Rao]

checked. In that respect, I agree with all of you. This can be done when all of us think above party lines. We have to take decisions unitedly particularly in regard to fixing the prices for the farm produce, increasing the purchasing power of the rural poor and then controlling the prices. All these things are necessary. I am with them in this regard and I would also say that this UPA Government has made an experiment and has taken a bold decision of increasing the price of farm produce in a substantial manner which was never done earlier during their regime. That can be one of the reasons for this immediate phenomenon. But that also will be controlled. The Government has already taken action to control the prices.

My friend was talking about WPI. When it was told that the inflation is negative, I took it as a surprise and I even thought that it is a farce.

But we all know that the prices of core items, major items like steel, cement and such other commodities have come down substantially. The steel prices which were around Rs. 54,000 is now at Rs. 27,000.

Sir, some Members referred to the Wholesale Price Index. WPI is an index of price inflation. That is right. But here today we are discussing the issue of rise in prices of essential commodities and not WPI. It is not about the total price index. We have poor people, particularly those residing in the rural areas, in this country. So, we must have to put a check on the prices. But let it not be limited only to around 15 per cent poor people residing in the urban areas. We must find a way to check prices in order to help the poor people in the rural areas. If we can take care of their interests by reducing the price of essential commodities, then the interest of the urban poor would automatically be taken care of and the prices will be regulated in the entire country.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on rise in prices of essential commodities

under rule 193. The discussion on the price rise has begun after much persuasion. I was listening to the views of both the ruling party and the opposition party. The issue of price rise is in a way a national calamity, however, I found that both the ruling party and the opposition party were leveling allegation against each other. Concrete suggestions were not made for controlling the prices of essential commodities. All were expressing their own views. ...*(Interruptions)* I will speak on the issue of price rise. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please address the chair, otherwise I will not allow you to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Every year we discuss the issues whether it is drought, flood or price rise in the House. However, the UPA Government had promised to reduce the prices of essential commodities within hundred days, but it is unfortunate to say that the day session has started, prices of petrol and diesel have increased. This is the reason that drought situation is prevailing in the country which resulted in lesser production of Kharif crop or coarse grain. This is also one of the main reason for price rise. Secondly, the prices have also increased due to increase in the prices of petrol and diesel. The UPA Government stated in its Budget and in the President's Address that it will provide 25 kgs of rice and wheat to the BPL people at the rate of Rs. 3 per kg in the coming days. I don't understand as to how the Government will achieve this target? On the other hand, pulses have vanished from the market. When the prices of pulses increased, the Delhi Government opened centres for selling pulses at 80 places for name sake since the session of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha was going on at that time. First day, people queued up at 8.00 a.m. but could get pulses only at few centres. No matter how many centres are opened, today the situation is such that the middlemen, hoarders and black-marketeers purchase pulses from these centres and dump them. Hence, we should keep a watch on the activities of such people also.

I would like to mention about the transportation charges. The transportation charges have also increased

considerably due to increase in the prices of petrol and diesel. If we see the transportation charges of commercial Metro cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Andhra Pradesh, Kolkata etc. we will find that the transportation charges have increased from Rs. 2000 to Rs. 5000. This is also one of the main reason for price rise.

I would quote the rates of some of the pulses primarily of those four which are consumed by the poor people. It is true that the poor man says that he can sustain on namak roti or dal roti. He also says "dal roti khao, Prabhu ke gun gao", eat dal roti and sing the praises of Lord. It is an old saying. However, taking into consideration the price of dal, then a month ago, the price of Arhar dal has increased from Rs. 62-64 a kg to Rs. 70-80 a kg at present. Similarly, a month ago the price of Moong dal was Rs. 52 to 54 per kg which has now become Rs. 56-57 a kg, Urad Dal at Rs. 40-42 a kg has increased from Rs. 45 to Rs. 55 a kg. The Price of Masoor Dal has increased from Rs. 50-54 a kg to Rs. 60 per kilogram ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Cite the rate of Chana dal also.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: You may tell that I have quoted some rates, some you may quote.

Prices of all commodities have gone up. Prices of salt, sugar, chana dal have increased. Today inflationary trends in the retail market have shown 45 per cent increase within a month. Talking of potatoes, the current prices are at least Rs. 15 to 20 per kg in the market. Last year approximately four lakh metric tonne potatoes were produced in my district Allahabad. Potatoes perished in godowns and cold storages which were then thrown away and dumped again after the second sowing. This is the condition. We are not able to distribute them. Even today 50 per cent foodgrain stocks, fruits and vegetables perish owing to lack of adequate cold storage facilities. In addition to it, the effect of price rise is telling upon our education. As pointed out by certain colleagues about 15 lakh tonne pulses imported are putrefying at Kolkata port, even today. It is lying only because the quality of pulses has not been scientifically tested. The Government is not concerned about making quick arrangements and using

it wherever required. I would like to tell you in detail the cost of dumping it and the cost of saving it. In education sector, private educational institutions are being seen in an arbitrary manner. The State Government run universities are not few in number. The education of students pursuing MBA in University of Lucknow has become Rs. 37,000 costlier, education of MJMC course has become Rs. 20,000 costlier. People and their children for education. This way the fee has increased upto 30 per cent which is one and a half two times higher. Thus, price rise has had its effects on education. Today, the middle class and lower income group people cannot afford education of their children.

Less than 50 per cent paddy has been sown this time and Kharif crop is 25-30 per cent lesser. The prices of vegetables have already been referred to. I bought seeds of green peas, spinach and beans recently. Earlier its price was Rs. 25, now it is Rs. 60. The price of spinach was Rs. 5 earlier, now it is Rs. 10. The price of beans was Rs. 20, it is Rs. 40 now. The price of every commodity has increased one and a half to two times. No commodity is actually available at a reasonable price in the market. As per a recent report of the World Health Organisation even today more than 50 per cent children in India are victims of malnutrition, for whom we have not made any arrangements. The prices have risen to such a magnitude that the condition of the people has become miserable. How the common man is managing two square meals is a point to be reflected upon. The condition of FCI godowns was just now pointed out by one of the colleagues that during one decade at least ten lakh tonne foodgrain has perished. Approximately 6.19 lakh tonne of imported pulses and raw sugar is putrefying at ports owing to red tapism in making arrangements. 15 lakh tonne imported sugar and pulses are putrefying at Khidirpur, Kolkata port. It is worth Rs. 1600 crore which putrefied at the port. Taking into consideration the statistics from the year 1997 to 2007, excluding the year 2008-2009, 83 lakh tonne wheat, 3.95 lakh tonne rice, 22,000 tonne paddy and 110 tonne corn has putrefied. If figures of 2008-2009 are also added this percentage would increase further. Similarly, 60 lakh tonne foodgrain has putrefied in only Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu-Kashmir, Rajasthan and Delhi. Rs. 8,615

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

crore have been spent on saving the stock of foodgrains stored in godown and Rs. 60 lakh have been spent on disposing of the rotten grain. Besides, 5 lakh tonne foodgrain has putrefied in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Orissa and Jharkhand. At least Rs. 122 crore have been spent on saving that food grain from rotting. Similarly, at least Rs. 65 crore have been spent on disposing of the rotten foodgrain. Besides, 43,063 tonne foodgrain has rotten in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala. Rs. 25 crore have been spent on saving this foodgrain and Rs. 34,867 have been spent on disposing of the rotten foodgrain. This is state-wise statistics which I am quoting before the House. In reality, we could have fed one and a half crore people in a year from the foodgrain which has rotten, however, the entire foodgrain stock putrefied. It should be reflected upon seriously. Besides, 20 per cent foodgrain in our country rots the absence of proper storage and maintenance. We have not been able to solve this problem whereas it was also referred to during discussion on the budget.

Fruits and Vegetables worth Rs. 1085 crore get destroyed in our cold storages. As per the report of the United Nations 63 per cent children in our country are victims of malnutrition. This has also been pointed out by my earlier speakers. One would find such children roaming around hungry on footpaths, jhuggis and everywhere and feed themselves on anything they get or sleep without eating anything. The prices have risen to such extent that every year 10.5 lakh children die due to starvation in the country. We are not prepared to sell the foodgrain to the poor in our country at the rate on which the Government has exported 1.2 crore tonne. So we will have to evolve a suitable system.

So far as the 1.3 lakh tones of pulse and 4.83 lakh tones of raw sugar is concerned, it is lying unattended and is perishing at Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai, Kandla and Kocchi ports for the last two months and the Government has not made any proper arrangement for its storage so far. These foodgrains are perishing for want of permission of Central Food laboratory.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, please conclude.

[Translation]

SURI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman Sir, I had some more points to mention on the issue of price rise but cannot take up those points for want of time. Earlier, many hon. Members have also raised issues about perishing foodgrains. The Government should at least make some arrangements for their preservation. I would like to demand that import and export of foodgrain should be banned. The Minister claims we have sufficient storage of foodgrains and no one will die of starvation and the prices will not increase further, why don't he bring that foodgrain out and put a check on price rise. The Government should deal with this problem as a national calamity cutting across the party lines. Apart from this, Government instead of playing blame game with other political parties should consider the suggestions made by other parties in respect of checking price rise. With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: A lot of hon. Members are there to speak on this subject. If some of the hon. Members want to lay their speeches on the Table of the House, they may please do so.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Chairman Sir, the issue of price rise is a serious matter. It is not concerned with a particular party or a Member. It is a matter of each and every family of the country. Whether it is a poor family or a rich family, it concerns all. The number of poor is more than rich. Almost each and every family is making a hue and cry about price rise. I do not blame that Government or a particular person is responsible for this situation, we also do not want to level charges against one another just to remain in the news. The situation is very dangerous and will deteriorate further in near future. The MPs particularly the MPs of ruling parties or the people in State Government and even we will have to face the music when we will go among the people tomorrow after the House is over. I am afraid people will beat us. We cannot escape our responsibility by merely quoting data here or by leveling charges against each other. We all should collectively think and try to find the way out to overcome this

problem. How can we get the poor people out of this problem? The rich people have no effect of price rise. But the large part of the country is dominated by lower middle class, middle class, BPL and the farmers. We should seriously consider the factors responsible for making the situation bad to worse. Food including garlic, chillies, coriander, pulses and vegetables along with garments and medicines all have been effected badly by price rise and people are reeling under the impact of price rise. They have no way out. On other day hon. Sharad Pawarji was presenting grant after grant of his department. He forecasted the reality before us that there is Global warming and Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar will have its impact. It will have a bad impact on our rabi crops also. Paddy season is over and everyone has accepted this fact. Everyone knows the fact that even 15 per cent of the sowing could not be completed and now there is almost no chance of further sowing. On other day, hon. Minister had admitted in the House that he was watching the situation and expecting good rainfall in the month of August, but it is August and there is no sign of rainfall. It is the effect of Global warming. Hathiya Nakshatra is remaining. It is a saying that if rain falls from the foot of Elephant one and a quarter part or one part of gold falls with it. It not only help paddy crops but also flourishes the rabi crops of wheat, barley or the vegetables like tomato, cauliflower, potato, coriander after dushahra, but we think it will not rain this time. When I was in UPA Government and the election of Parliament was taking place, then at that time, we were campaigning in the country that we have become self reliant in respect of rice and wheat. It is true and when the hon. Minister will come he would tell the fact. Therefore, we said that we had enhanced minimum support price for the farmers of the country for wheat and rice and in turn the farmers have filled up our godowns. Today, the prices of flour and bread are increasing we admit the fact that the production of "Toor Dal" which is called Arhar pulse always remain low. But, when we forecast about them, we should see the speculation of Mumbai or its gambling should be stopped. The pulses had also been exported at that time. The pulses were also kept in forward market. When profiteers and hoarders know that the rates are going to rise then they hoard the stock as every trader

want to earn maximum profit. Our colleagues have rightly stated that in the absence of adequate number of FCI godowns they feel happy by keeping the stock of foodgrains in the open because later on they make an excuse that the wheat has been eaten up by the mice. If something goes wrong in godown they simply write on records that the mice have eaten up foodgrains or grains have rotten. Foodgrain is spoiled in less quantity but they supply the same so called spoiled foodgrain at the rates lower than the prescribed rates in the name of cattle feed. Why are the rates of wheat, flour and pulses rising? The rates of pulses have increased from Rs. 6 to Rs. 80. The Government should know that they can't escape by providing data and blaming each other. We live in a country where the Government changes over the prices of onion only. If onion disappear from the market it means the Government will go out of power. The Government should think seriously about the price rise. The present position of our old stock is that we have all items like pulses, wheat in sufficient quantity but they are being hoarded and there is no one to check this hoarding.

Sir, you know that besides it now we are facing the problem of adulteration. Adulterated ghee is being produced in the country. You might be seeing in the electronic media that large quantities of adulterated ghee is being produced from bones or other such things. We do not know whether the Amul butter which we consume is being produced from harmful items. Even milk is adulterated and is being made from urea. Is it a light issue for the country? Khoya is also adulterated. We discuss that the rate of sugar has increased. Today, everyone having apprehension about sweets and avoiding it. Government should deal strictly with the problem of hoarding and adulteration.

What steps are required to be taken since this crop has been lost and the next crop is also likely to meet the same fate and there is no hope in the future as well. The Government will take a year in setting its feet firmly on the ground and if it is marred by in action in the next year, it should ready itself to face an agitation. Pranab Da should have done a mammoth work in addressing core issues while preparing his budget but I had forewarned him to stop export of essential commodities with immediate effect. There is

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

need to convene a conference of the heads of all the state Governments, irrespective of the fact whether it is the Congress Government, the B.J.P. Government or the one headed by the Leftists or other regional parties, in order to thrash out, discuss and find a solution to this grave crisis—the crisis of hunger. This crisis is further aggravated by another crisis of ever increasing scarcity of water. Water table is also fast depleting. There is no water for drinking. Wells and tubewells have gone dry leaving little scope for irrigation and adding to the plight of the farmers. Therefore, the need of the hour is to assess the estimated need of edible items like rice, wheat, pulses, vegetables and non-veg items to cater to our population. Andhra Pradesh supplies mutton, fish and eggs etc, for the people of Bihar that too on credit. Absence of scant rainfall makes the matter worse because there are no flash-floods and no water supplement to the existing rivers, thus adding to our woes. Given this scenario the imminent danger of starvation looms large. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the Government should conduct an assessment of its existing foodstock and see for how many months the current stock of rice and wheat would last. The point to be noted is that in near future we will not be able to produce foodgrains since the moisture and water, the sine qua non for production of grains will remain absent from the fields hindering germination of seeds. The danger of global warming will further aggravate the situation and affect production on a large-scale particularly in Northern India. Consequently, we will reach a stage where thefts, dacoity, loot and murders will be order of the day. Hence, we cannot turn a blind eye to this approaching catastrophe. The absence of law and order and the reign of anarchy will rule the roost. That is why I am alerting the Government, particularly, Pranab Da and other reasonable and responsible people who are at the helm of affairs.

That is why I want to say that there is a need to put everything in order. Perhaps, hon. Prime Minister has convened a meeting of all state secretaries tomorrow. We should prepare ourselves to tackle the looming crisis. The threat of global warming is looming large and as pointed out by Shri Pawar Saheb, our

scientists are developing such a variety of foods grain which could have minimum effects of global warming. The hon. Minister is requested to cover the suggestions given by the scientists to the farmers so that we could pacify the anxieties of people as there is a popular misconception, among people regarding global warming that when the westerlies blow, they dry up the milk in the entire region. So, the threat of hunger is looming large. The innocent people do not know they do not understand, but, I am forewarning the Government to prepare itself to face the wrath of people because if their anger precipitates they would start pelting stones at us when we visit our constituency. ...*(Interruptions)*

Please do not take my words lightly. Either the Member will not visit his constituency and if he does, he would be thrashed by the people. ...*(Interruptions)* So, the Government should make adequate arrangements of edible items like rice, wheat, meat, fish, eggs, cloths medicines etc., to cater to the needs of the people. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: But you have stopped eating all these things. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I am eating them still. Nothing is going to change whether I eat or not. All commodities like wheat, rice, sugar should be dehoarded. I wonder how the prices of commodities sky rocketed after this Government came into power. An inquiry should be held into the artificial shortage created by the hoarders. These items should be dehoarded and all the state Chief Ministers should be given a list and asked to carry out dehoarding in their respective States within a specified time, the hoarded stock should be seized and the culprits should be humiliated publicly ...*(Interruptions)* They should be punished using non-violent means and not violent means. Every Collector is responsible as per law...*(Interruptions)*. If he would go in a jeep there would be expenditure on petrol. ...*(Interruptions)*

An urgent meeting of all concerned should be convened to assign responsibility. What are the expectations of the Government from the Members? The situation is quite grim.

Sir, starved stomach would definitely create law

and order situation. I was a Minister in the UPA-I government. However, there seems to be absolutely no coordination in UPA-2 Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH (Hamirpur): What is number two?

SHRI LALU PRASAD: The UPA which has formed Government for the second time. Number two means the UPA Government which again got the opportunity. I see no coordination in this Government. No satisfactory reply was given by the Government to all the queries raised. This does not mean that we should tolerate it and rather they should take all Members and the opposition in confidence. We should be told what is to be done. What are the expectations of the Government. We can forego our salaries. This condition is pretty precarious. What measures should be taken to save middle class and lower middle class people from starvation. The increase in prices of diesel resulted in the increase in prices of all commodities. That is a different issue. Who will pay for the transportation of commodities by truck after the hike in diesel prices. The increase in prices of petrol will increase the burden on exchequer.

Sir, now onion would disappear. Potato is Rs. 16-17 per kg and it is tasteless. No one knows from where it has been procured. Prices of all vegetables have gone up. I saw on t.v. how substandard and adulterated things are being sold these days. The hon. Minister of the concerned department should see how oranges are painted and given injection. Isn't it the responsibility of the Government to exercise control on the market? The Government should see to it that the citizen get pure and quality goods in the market. This is not a situation to blame the Government. We should try to find a way to tackle the natural calamity that is about to happen.

Sir, it also affected the journalists who used to eat dal, roti, moong, toor and dal fry. They were saying quite right. They are also worried as we are. They are saying that such important issue is not being discussed in the Parliament. I thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Laluji, please conclude.

MR. LALU PRASAD: Whether this will solve the problem? Besides, our hon'ble colleagues and leaders

of other parties will speak and give their suggestions. I think the Government should not take it otherwise. We expect this from the Government and we are ready to help the Government. What we have to do and what are you doing and your preparedness in this regard. You should take the people of the country into confidence and the Government should make an arrangement to provide food for Rs. 2 at every block and Panchayat level. People should get adequate food. Though they get dal in once a week, but they get good food having roti and sabzi. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH (Hamirpur): Say something about milk also

SHRI LALU PRASAD: From where can milk be provided.

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: The cost of buffalo has increased.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: The cost of buffalo has also increased and is breathing heavily as she is not getting water to drink.

Sir, therefore, I would like to say that it is a very important issue. The country is facing a big crisis today. Therefore we should try to solve this problem so that food, pure water and medicine should be provided to the people of the country. Today, diarrhoea is spreading due to contaminated water. Dehydration is taking place. People are suffering from dehydration. Villages are in the grip of cholera and malaria. People are drinking contaminated water which deteriorated the situation further. The Government should look into it and we are also with the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Others also have to give their suggestions.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: There is no work under NREGA today. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Other are also waiting to give their suggestions.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Shri Narayansamiji and Bansalji both remain punctual in treasury benches. Besides, all other important members are absent. I don't know where they have gone?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): There is a Cabinet meeting at 5 PM.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Narayansamiji and Bansalji think that they are running the Government and they are managing. Both are honest. They think that they are running the Government.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, so many other hon. Members are also waiting to make their suggestions. Please allow them also. I will give you some time. Please stick to that time.

[Translation]

*SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Purvi Champaran): The discussion regarding price rise of essential commodities is going on today. On this occasion, I recall the words said by the Hon'ble Minister of Finance at the end of his budget speech. He said that "I would like to quote the words of Mahatma Gandhi:— Democracy is an art and science to mobilise all physical, economical and spiritual resources of various classes of people in which the welfare of all is there".

The kind of Swaraj and democracy, which Mahatma Gandhi has dreamt about has the objective of the prosperity of common man of the country. From the time of Mahatma Gandhi to the seventies the common man used to say "Dal Roti Khao, Prabhu Ke Gun Gaao". After that everybody used to say. We are living just by eating dal-roti.

Sir, there was a time when we were in colleges. When we used to go hotels for food, dal was served

free of cost. There was no mention of dal even in the menu card of big hotels.

Sir, the result of how much the present UPA Government is concern about the physical and economical interests of various categories, is that the prices of pulse has gone more than two times. In February, 2008 the price of Arhar Dal, was Rs. 44 per kg which has become Rs. 80 to 90 per kg. The prices of Moong, Masoor, Gram and Urad Dal are also high. The drama of the Government of Delhi to provide subsidized dal could not gain its ground in the capital. The price of Rajma has reached from Rs. 45 per kg. to Rs. 60-70 per kg. The prices of rice and flour which were Rs. 10 and Rs. 8 per kg. respectively in NDA regime have become costly and now the price of sugar has so much that the common man has to think how much it should be added in tea. The people have just recovered from the jolt, they got from the price rise of dal that the price of sugar has started to show its effect. The days are not so far when the price of sugar will touch Rs. 40 per kg mark. It is already Rs. 30 per kg. There is no sign that the price of sugar will decrease. If we see the figures of sugar production, it has registered a decline of 113 lakh tones during this year. No initiative has been taken by the Government to increase its production. The rising prices of edible oil also has put the life of common man in difficulty. The UPA Government has breached all precious record in regard to price rise of diesel and petrol and now Government proposes to limit the distribution of kerosene oil only to the BPL families through PDS, as a result the kerosene oil is going to be costlier for the crores of people of the country.

Sir, today the position of the common house during the period of UPA Government, who is closing eye towards the interest of common man, is that the family members as the day begins, starts thinking as to what they have to eat, either pulses or vegetables. Sir, the cheapest vegetable potato is going out of the reach of the common man. Today, the rates of potatoes are equal to that of mangoes. Today, in the open market of Delhi, where the common man goes to buy the vegetables, pumpkin, to on and bitterguard which were being sold at the rate of Rs. 10 per kilogram, today their prices are sky rocketing. Today, beans is being

*Speech was laid on the Table.

sold at the rate of Rs. 40-48 per kg, ladyfinger is being sold at the rate of Rs. 32-40, pumpkin is being sold at the rate of Rs. 40-42, bitterguard is being sold at the rate of Rs. 30-35, Brinjal is being sold at the rate of Rs. 20-24, chilly Rs. 40-45, Cauliflower is being sold at the rate of Rs. 60-65 per kg. Every person is affected from the price rise. The budget of the household has been disturbed.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Prime Minister and hon'ble Minister of Finance that I do not draw any objection if your hand is not with the common man. Even the common man has forgotten the slogan of "Congress hand with common man" but kindly at least, do not polish off the pocket of common man.

Sir, fluctuation is natural phenomenon in every economy but the problem starts when the market control the economy. The Government favours the market and the common man just stare at the Government. The manner in which the price of essential commodities has been increasing in the country, it has broken the back bone of the common man.

The Economist of the country, Shri Anand Pradhanji in his article published in Rastriya Sahara dated 25th July has written that "it appears that the Government have closed their eyes and see no problem but the fact is that price is increasing". It appears that inflation rate for the agricultural labours has reached to 10.5 per cent as per the consumer price index and for the industrial labourers it is 8.7 per cent. It clearly shows that how much the common man has been suffering from inflation. The Government should be active in place of sitting idle. The UPA Government has to bear in mind that whenever there has been a Congress or Congress led Government in the country, the inflation increased automatically because the doors are opened for the scams. The middleman became prosper and the action against the hoarding, the black marketing become very tardy.

I though you would like to request the Government to make sincere efforts to check the rising prices in the country.

SHRI BHUDEO CHOUDHARY (Jamui): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important matter.

Several learned and experienced Members have expressed their views on the problem like price rise. I do not like to go into figures but it is a fact that when this House is in session, the faith, belief hope and expectation of 120 crores of people stay upon the House. I came from such a remote area where the situation is very pitiable. The issue which we are discussing here today affects the poor and labourer in the villages as well. Today, where is an animated discussion on the price rise but at the same time I feel that there is no solution of this problem through this discussion and arguments.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you are aware that when there was NDA Government, at the Centre, the prices of only vegetable and onion were increased and many hon'ble Member of Parliament are here who had criticized the then Government so much that the Governments in certain states were voted out of power. It is a fact that experienced and learned economists are sitting among us but they are unable to find out a solution of this problem. There is a need of serious consideration on the issue. As and when the prices of petrol and diesel are increased, they often give an argument that as the price of crude oil has increased in the international market, therefore, they do not have any option but to increase the price of the same as a result the prices of other commodities also increase. I would like to tell you that most of the people are unaware about the same. On behalf of farmers, I would like to tell you that the farmers of the country want to know the reasons why the prices of Arhar, gram, wheat and rice is low at the time of harvesting. For example price of rice is Rs. 1200-1800 per quintal but it has been sold at the rate of Rs. 2000-3000 per quintal in the market.

17.00 hrs.

The farmers sell Arhar to the trader at the rate of Rs. 3000 to 3500 per quintal but the same has been sold in the market at the rate of Rs. 8000-9000 per quintal. The farmers sell wheat at the rate of Rs. 900-1200 per quintal but the same has been sold at the price of Rs. 2000-2500 per quintal. Similarly, the traders procure gram at the rate of Rs. 2000 to 2500 per quintal from the farmer but they sell the same at the rate of Rs. 4000-4500 per quintal.

[Shri Bhudeo Choudhary]

17.01 hrs.

[Dr. M. THAMBIDURAI *in the Chair*]

Sir, where does this huge amount go? It is true that this money goes into the pocket of profiteers or big money lenders. I would like to ask the Government that the price of wheat, Rice and paddy is fixed at Rs. 900 per quintal, but the traders procure it at Rs. 600 to 700 per quintal. Whether any tax is levied in between, or any transport charge is collected? This is the position.

Sir, the farmers purchase a bag of DAP for Rs. 900. Government says that we are providing subsidy on this, but the effect of subsidy is not felt by farmers neither they are benefited out of this. There are middle men and, the profiteers who would control them? It is the responsibility of the Government to control them. It is a fact that our economy is based on agriculture but the Government have never paid attention towards agriculture.

Sir, Industrial production has always been taken care of and as a result there of the commodities were being exported in the world, funds were deposited in the world bank, but crops of farmers and the price of foodgrain was never fixed. Everybody know that if a soap is sold at Rs. 13 in the shops of Delhi at the same time it is also sold at the same price in the far-flung areas of Bihar. There is no uniformity in prices of crop and foodgrain produced by farmers with their hard work.

Sir, as you are aware that in rural small scale industries, people who works as potters, cobblers, carpenters, they work very hard, whatever capital they invest, is not recorded. Their investment is not taken into account and their products are not sold at remunerative prices.

Sir, in the democracy, in the parliamentary system, the opposition is also a part of the Government. Therefore, the suggestion received from opposition should be welcomed. I would like to mention about the agriculture. The agricultural inputs have become ten times costlier. The inputs which are used in agriculture such as pick axe scrapper, 'Kechhia' have become 10

to 15 times costlier. You shall be aware that the prices of pesticides have increased by ten times, therefore, the farmers are not able to use the pesticides. The prices of agriculture equipments have also risen by 10 to 20 times.

Sir, as you know, there is a provision of community action in the country and future trading is being carried out. I urge upon the Government that the food items should be excluded from this so that the people might get relief. As you are aware during the discussion it has been mentioned that the children are suffering from malnutrition. You can see the condition of villages. The children of poor people do not get medicines in the villages, they are not able to purchase the medicines, they are unable to purchase clothes, they are not able to purchase eatables. This is leading to malnutrition and children are falling ill and they are not getting proper treatment.

Sir, unless and until agriculture policy is formulated and effective measures are taken in the interest of farmers, I do not think that price rise could be controlled. With these words, I thank you for allowing me to speak.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar):
Hon. Chairman, Sir, we are all deeply concerned with the price rise in the country. Hungry people are fighting with hunger and so, we are all deeply concerned with the problem. The present discussion is on 'rise in prices of essential commodities'. We are yet to find out how this price rise can be checked or how this problem can be sorted out. I must agree with few of the speakers who very categorically mentioned that undertaking de-hoarding operations is utmost necessary. Unscrupulous and dishonest hoarders and black marketeers take massive advantage of this odd situation. Hoarders and black marketeers are being arrested, but within the next 10, 15 or 30 days, they are being bailed out from the prison. There is a need for us to establish precedence where exemplary punishment is given to at least few people belonging to such section, who have been arrested. These people have good access either to the administration or to the police officials or even to the politicians. At some stage or at some level, they are

getting bailed out. So, exemplary punishment in none of such cases has yet been broadly provided to this section of people.

According to our feeling, a regular monitoring system is to be applied in the markets. The Enforcement Departments of the State Governments are to be activated. They will keep a regular watch on how the prices are going beyond control. If the price of any article is Rs. 5 per kilogram today, there is no control over it being Rs. 7 per kilogram tomorrow or Rs. 10 per kilogram on the second alternative day. As such, there is no control. So, a monitoring system through the Enforcement Departments is to be made compulsory by issuing directives from the Central Government to the State Governments. The Central Government has issued a circular to the State Governments to go in for de-hoarding operations, but it is my firm faith and belief that few of the States have not yet proceeded in this direction. They have neither gone out for any de-hoarding operation nor have they raided black marketeers' godowns. For this reason, prices are gradually going high.

I would request you to make it compulsory that the Government of India should interact with the recognised trade organisations in the country. There are federations of trade organisations and there are federations of trade associations. In different States, they are operating in different ways. Actually, they control retail markets. If we have a regular course of interaction with these organisations or associations, they can provide us with a new light on this aspect. If necessary, one Ministry of Trade can be set up to look after this angle. I propose to this House or to the Prime Minister or to the Government that we can think over whether a Ministry of Trade can be set up to look after this issue.

Production in this country is decreasing gradually, according to the *Economic Survey*. The *Economic Survey* report also says that the question of the appropriate index to track inflation assumes importance following the noticeable differences between the inflation measured by the Wholesale Price Index *versus* Consumer Price Indices.

Farmers are producing more, but ultimately even they had to go for distress sale. In West Bengal, potato farmers produced huge quantity of potatoes over the

last three or four years, but ultimately, they had to go for distress sale. There are no cold storages where they could keep their products. So, they had to go for distress sale at the rate of rupee one per kilogram.

Therefore, the things are going on in both ways. The middle-men are exploiting the whole situation. They are going at the grass-root level, that is, to the level of farmers; collecting these food grain materials; bring them nearer or in and around the city; hoard them; and afterwards sell them at higher prices.

Therefore, I would request you that the price policy for agriculture produce, which is fixed by the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and they also recommend the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 24 important crops, this number can be increased. Further, the essential commodities can be distributed by sending a list in consultation with all the Members on the floor of the House of the Parliament to distribute through PDS or through rationing system. I think that some such positive steps can only lower the rise in prices. The Government should remain cautious and take this issue as the most top priority issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. The next speaker is Shri B. Mahtab. Please be very brief while making your speech.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, price rise has been going on for the last one year. The time that has been allotted here is around four hours, and I would request you to allot us ample time to deliberate on this issue.

First of all, I would like to remind this House that the Government agreed to a debate on the issue of price rise in this House after a sit-in organized by the Left Front and other non-Congress and non-BJP Parties. It seems that the Government has been caught off guard with regard to our concern on the rise in prices, particularly, of pulses, sugar, vegetables and food grains. The Government could have shown foresight to import food items—which were in short supply—on a large scale to keep prices under check. Some price spurt is inevitable in the rainy season due to supply glitches, but this time the prices have shot up alarmingly all over.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

It has been there for a prolonged period, and it is still continuing.

Today, while going through a newspaper, I found that Tur dal, for instance, has shot up to Rs. 82 a kg. as against Rs. 43.50 a kg. a year ago; sugar price has also escalated to Rs. 30 per kg. as compared to Rs. 19 per kg. a year ago; loose tea has shot up to Rs. 146 a kg. as against Rs. 121 a kg. a year ago; milk price has gone up to Rs. 21 a litre as against Rs. 19 a litre a year ago; potato—about which Shri Sudip was just mentioning here—is selling at Rs. 18 a kg. as against Rs. 11.50 a kg. a year ago.

Here, I would like to say that the Government is behaving as if it has limited policy options after banning the export of wheat and non-basmati rice. It has contributed greatly to the price rise also. Today, one can say that the hefty hike in oil prices has contributed greatly to the price hike. The delayed and deficient monsoon this year is really worrisome. The Agriculture Minister has said that: "Sowing of rice has been between 19 per cent and 21 per cent below last year's level. It has come down to 11.46 million hectares from 14.52 million hectares. The full impact of this will be revealed in due course." The argument that the Government has sufficient food stocks does not quite hold. Just over a year ago, the food prices had become a matter of panic although we had reasonable stocks and foreign exchange reserves were near record levels, with which food could be imported, if needed.

While the agriculture sector accounts for just over 17 per cent of India's GDP, about 55 per cent of our population relies on farm income. The Kharif crop which depends crucially on the South-West monsoon accounts for 57 per cent of the total agricultural production of the country. In that event, there are more grounds for concern than for complacency. It is useful to keep in mind that while overall inflation is a mere 1.54 per cent, the food prices inflation is a hefty 11.7 per cent. This has been a strong trend for many months now badly affecting the availability of basic food for the poor. In a recent report, a top environmental activist, Vandana Shiva, has been moved to call India, "the hungry Capital of the world with 214 million people suffering from lack

of food security". This is a figure higher than that of the Sub-Saharan Africa.

Yes, the continuing story of rise of food prices is that of the population that is growing faster than the grain output. Added to this is a coy monsoon, and food inflation is rising at an alarming one per cent a week. Rising vegetable prices have made many cry, but we are asked to blame the weather very callously by the Government. If you say that our economy is dependent on monsoon, now the answer to that is to take up long-term measures. When we are discussing about price rise, we are concerned today about the short-term measures. What is the Government doing? The Chief Economist of the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange Limited said that the prices would not fall before September. Does the Government subscribe to that view? Is the Government keeping a tab on wholesalers so that they do not indulge in black-marketing and hoarding?

Now, I come to another aspect that concerns the Mid-Day Meals Scheme. The Mid-Day Meals given in schools is a programme of national importance. It is particularly important for the poorer regions of the country where the Mid-Day Meal at school is a major meal for the students in the entire day. It is, therefore, necessary that this meal is provided to the students in adequate quantity and without interruption. It is, however, observed that the per child cost norm under this programme is far too meagre at a time when the prices of essential commodities have increased manifold in recent months. This allocation was fixed in the year 2006 when the price of *arhar dal* was around Rs. 32 per kilogram. The price rise of such a magnitude of an essential component of the meal has severely impacted the programme in many States, including Orissa. I would, therefore, urge upon this Government to revise the cost norms per child suitably upwards so that the basic purpose of the programme is achieved.

When I am dealing with *Arhar dal* or lentil *dal*, I would like to remind this House and also this Government that how it is that lentil *dal* which is selling in the retail market at Rs. 100 a kilogram is actually lying in sea ports across the country. Lakhs of tonnes of pulses, as also sugar, worth Rs. 1600 crore has been

lying unclaimed at major ports. It is not clear whether they are fit for human consumption or not. We are informed through media that as much as 6.19 lakh tonnes of imported pulses and raw sugar are lying at a number of ports as the public sector undertaking concerned have not lifted the quantities assigned to them. I would like to get an answer from the Government. Is this so or is it for want of quality clearance inspectors? Are they not certifying it, or are they not available to certify it? The prices of pulses have risen over 40 per cent in the last one month. What is the Government doing? At least, 1.36 lakh tonnes of pulses and 4.83 lakh tonnes of raw sugar imported from countries like Myanmar are lying at various ports for above two months at Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai, Kandla and Kochi. Why have NAFED, MMTC, and PEC failed to lift the stock? The Cabinet Secretary had enquired about this on the 22nd of July last month.

What happens then? Two weeks have already passed. Is the Shipping Ministry going to auction it as per Section 62 of the Major Ports Trust Act, 1963? And the question still rings in the mind: Is it still fit for human consumption?

The next question is, these pulses were purchased from international market with tax-payers' money. How much is the loss of the three PSUs? It is a huge scam. I challenge the Government to come clean out of this. Some sources have accounted it to be around Rs. 700 crore. Will the Government come out clean on this? There is criminal negligence. Those who are responsible for this criminal waste of food should be punished. There is complete inertia of the Government in restoring some semblance of order amidst chaos. The reasoning about recent price rise does not cut much ice. They may send advisories, which they have done, I think, two weeks back to different States to check hoarders. But it has a limited role. It is a piquant situation now. We are not in a position to take individually, what we want, but what we can afford. How long will this go on? I would like to get an answer from the Minister.

[Translation]

*SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman,

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Sir, while participating in the discussion under rule 193 on the rising prices of essential commodities, I, through you, would like to tell the centre Government that price rise is the most important issue in the country. Whole population of the country in general and 80 per cent population in particular is affected due to it.

In democracy the utmost failure of the Government is its inability to check price rise. Today the price of every commodity has already increased by more than 500 per cent and the trend has not stopped yet. The Government remains a silent spectator. The country is in grip of severe drought and famine which will directly affect the 80 per cent population of the country. There is an apprehension of severe starvation in the country. Today the pockets of the people are empty. In villages people have nothing to eat except Roti. They have no money to buy medicines, people are falling ill. For years they have no clothing and no shoes to wear. This year children of crores and crores of families have been deprived of education as they are not able to deposit school fee due to increasing poverty. There are crores of families which do not have capacity to spend even rupees five per day, how anybody can purchase anything from market? Today the prices of flour, pulses, oil, speices, vegetables, jaggery, sugar, medicine, clothese are sky rocketing. Not only the poor people but development work is also being affected. Government has totally lost control over the market. Profiteers have made a monopoly in the market, is it not a failure of the Government? Whether the Union Government cannot control the market with the assistance of the state governments. If it is possible than an action plan should be formulated immediately. It should be compulsory to the stockist to display the list of commodities available with him. In this way the government can fix the rate of essential commodities for the entire weak on the bases of availability and thus provide relief to the people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, while providing the information in regard to availability of foodgrains, its security aspect should abslo be ensured, the situation in regard to oilseeds and pulses is becoming worse, some serious steps will have to be taken. The Government should take over the control of essential items like milk, vegetables immediately and should open the fair price

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

shops at the town level on the lines of Reliance and others. By opening such shops people can be protected from the price-rise. Today, the centre Government will have to implement a special programme to keep the prices stable.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am confident that the Government will take it seriously and save the people from grare situation. I do not want to go into the details of the prices of essential items as many hon'ble Members have already mentioned here the prices of all the commodities.

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude towards you for providing me an opportunity to participate in an important discussion. Both the Ruling Party and the Opposition have been discussing seriously the issue of price rise in the country for the last several days. It is the responsibility of the Union Government to check the price rise in the country. I feel that the Government is not at all serious to check the rising price in the country. If we see the ruling party in the House, we find that the Government is not at all serious on the issue of price rise.

Sir, today poor people in the country are struggling for two square meals. We should find out the reasons behind the price rise in the country. I am of the view that the main reason for the price rise in the country is the nexus between the Government and the hoarders ...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to bring to their notice that despite the commitment made by their leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, this Government is not at all serious to contain the price rise in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the UPA Government, when came to power, made several commitments not only to the people but also, indirectly to those who have always cooperated in running the Government of this country.

This is the reason that the prices of diesel and petrol were increased all of a sudden to benefit the hoarders and capitalists. It has certainly increased the sufferings of the common man. All hon'ble Members have expressed their concern in this regard. The prices have also increased due to increasing cost of transportation.

Today pulses, the prices of which were Rs. 40-45 per kg in the month of May, are being sold at Rs. 80-100 per kg. You were saying that potato should be exported however I would like to say that today the poor is unable to buy even potatoes. Today, whether it is onion, vegetable, salt, pulses, or sugar etc. the prices of all commodities are skyrocketing, I feel that the poor, labourers, farmers and weavers in the country, who eke out living with limited resources are not able to get even two square meals. Similarly, more than 60 per cent poor people who depend on agriculture and the labourers working in unorganized sector are struggling hard to meet their basic needs. Keeping in view the price rise, I can say that a large section of society in the country is compelled to sleep hungry due to price rise.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, certainly you should bring to the notice of the Government that today it is the main reason for price rise. Two days ago, I was listening to the speech of a responsible Minister of our country. He was giving the example of other countries regarding right to education and was saying that the level of education in our country is low as compared to other developed countries. I would like to say that the Government should tell this thing in the House also that in other countries the prices of essential commodities are determined keeping in view the interests of the consumers but in our country these are determined keeping in view the interests of the hoarders and those who directly or indirectly contribute in the formation of Government as a consequence of which today the prices have increased in the entire country.

The issue of adulteration has been discussed in the House. Today the prices of cement have increased three times. Whether there is an increase in the prices of cement, iron or any other essential commodities, the hike affects each and everybody. They have imposed tax on weaving yarn which has resulted in robbing of

the livelihood of the weavers. I would like to bring to your notice that as a result, the cheap cloth has become dearer for the poor. Hon'ble Minister is sitting here, he had made a big publicity in regard to NREGA and loan waiver before and after the constitution of the Government.

I feel that the Government, though it had waived off the loans of poor people in the country, is taking revenge by increasing the prices of essential commodities and that it is recovering the same amount from the people. Today prices of all commodities are increasing in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that poverty is a national problem. Whether it is a member of ruling party or the opposition, all Members of Parliament are present here. I would like to say that poverty is prevailing everywhere. Today all poor people are facing lot of problem. Today the issue of adulteration has been discussed in the House. Yesterday was the festival of 'Rakshabandhan, many people could not purchase sweets from the shops apprehending adulteration. The Electronic Media and print media reported about adulteration in 'Mawa' thereby making the people desist from purchasing sweets. Therefore, I feel that the Government should hold talks with all the parties and take concrete steps to check this price rise so as to fulfill the commitment that the poor can make both ends meet and the farmers can have a sigh of relief. This is what want from the Government.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Raigad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the prices of essential items are rising tremendously. The common man of the country is facing its brunt. The common man is upset. Therefore, Shri Basu Deb Acharia started this discussion in the House to express concern on the price rise and rising prices of the essential items. Every party is expressing its concern here on the rising prices but we will not be able to control it merely by expressing our concern. I would like to say that first of all, the Government should admit this fact that the prices have risen in the country. If the Government admits this fact, then certainly some steps can be taken to control the price rise. But first of

all there is a need on the part of the Government to accept the fact that the prices have gone up in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is not present in the House, right now. Last week in the same House, he told in one of his replies that the production of sugar has been low in the country. We have to import sugar due to its low production. On that occasion, he had raised his apprehension that the sugar which is being sold at the rate of Rs. 30-35 per kilo may go up to the level of Rs. 50 per kilo.

Sir, I would like to remind the House about one of his statement. I would like you to remember the statement of Hon'ble Agriculture Minister. Two months back, he made a statement that the production of sugar in our country has increased to such an extent that we have surpassed even Brazil, who used to be number one in the world. This statement has come from the same Agriculture Minister who gave the statement that we have left Brazil behind and India is number one in the production of sugar. The same Agriculture Minister gave a statement before the elections that our farmers in this country have produced the maximum quantity of foodgrains in the year 2008-09 during the last ten years of foodgrain production over the years. Whatever he stated continuously before the elections, you must have seen it in the television and you must have noticed our Agriculture Minister a number of times in the big posters thanking the farmers.

Our farmers produced the maximum quantity of foodgrains in the country in the year 2008-09. I would like to ask the Government as to why should we have to import, if the farmers produced the maximum quantity of foodgrains? Why this problem exist? Why there is shortage of foodgrains in our country? Why should we have to import wheat? Why should we have to think about importing the sugar? When the issue of sugar came up here and the statement of Agriculture Minister came, then media asked me a question as to what was my opinion in this regard. I said that there is no shortage of sugar in our country. The sugarcane producing farmers are capable enough to fulfill the demand of the whole country. But there is a need to address the problems of those sugarcane farmers. We

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

have been witnessing continuously for a long time that last year and before the elections also when the wheat was imported, the Government adopted a simple way out of importing the foodgrains and sugar in case of their shortage of foodgrains in our country, then import is the only solution. This mentality of the Government is totally wrong. Import is not the solution. The right solution is to increase the quantity of foodgrains being produced by the farmers. Through you, I would like to bring another point to the notice of the House and the Government today, maximum price for wheat has been fixed at Rs. 1000 or Rs. 1050. On the one hand we are giving Rs. 1050 per quintal to our farmers, on the other we have imported wheat at the rate of Rs. 1900 per quintal...*(Interruptions)*. The Government is not concerned about the farmers but it is more concerned about the middlemen involved in importing the sugar. I have to say in the House that the Government is more concerned about the middlemen importing the foodgrains than the farmers of our country. The farmers of Punjab and Haryana fulfilled the whole country's need of foodgrains. There was a time, when we used to import cent per cent wheat but today we are self sufficient in this regard. The maximum credit in this regard goes to Punjab and Haryana who made this country self-sufficient in terms of wheat. Today also, the farmers of Punjab are capable enough to make this country self sufficient forever in terms of foodgrains. We don't give much to the farmers but we are importing at twice the rate. today, the same is going to happen in case of sugar. If we import the sugar tomorrow, it will be Rs. 50 per kg. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the day is perhaps not far off when the poor man has to purchase salt also at Rs. 50 per kilo during the UPA regime. This is today's plight of the poor fellows of this country. By holding discussion in the House and making a reply by the concerned Minister to the discussion taking place under the rule 193, the prices in the country will not come down. If the Government really wants to bring the prices down, it should admit the fact and the Hon'ble Prime Minister should give a statement that the prices have really gone up and we are concerned and our Government would make effort to control the price rise.

This statement should come from the Hon'ble Prime Minister. But only discussion takes place under Rule 193 and the Minister gives a reply. The Members speaking from congress and UPA talk about global price rise and say that the prices have gone up not only in India but in the whole world the consequences of which we are facing. The world is not responsible for the price rise in India. Its accountability lies on the Government of the day ruling in India. Therefore, the mentality of the Government is to first accept this fact.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Laluji has just spoken here. He rightly pointed out that profiteering is taking place on a large scale. Today, our BSP leader also pointed out the fact that profiteering takes place on a large scale in the country. Our JDU Member of Parliament, Choudharyji also stated that four BJP Governments fell on the prices of onion only. Those four Governments were Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh. At that time, the prices of onion had gone up to Rs. 40 per kg. Apple was Rs. 20 per kg, whereas the prices of onion went upto 4 to 5 times.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, perhaps you would have been in Delhi, when elections were going to take place there. The Congress party did not use its election symbol 'hand' during election campaign. A big onion was put on their campaign vehicle. They told the people that price of onion has increased. Four Governments fell on the issue relating to price rise of onion. Today, price rise has sky-rocketed but the Government is not concerned at all in this regard. Thereafter, a hoarder was arrested in Delhi who was prosecuted. Three-lakh tonne onion was recovered from his godown. Today, such type of large-scale hoarding is taking place in every state. I admit that it is also the responsibility of the states to check hoarding but the Government of India can not pass this responsibility on the states. It is the responsibility of the Government of India to check hoarding of foodgrain. The Government should provide facilities to the farmers ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would conclude by giving two suggestions. I am giving this suggestion because the common man is suffering from price rise today. Earlier pulses were very cheap, now these have become costly. Today, the poor is not in a position to eat pulse and

bread. Arhar dal is available at Rs. 100 per kg whereas the remaining dals are available at more than Rs. 80 per kg. Vegetables are available at more than Rs. 60 per kg. Edible oil has become costly and the sugar is also going to be costly. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the Government of India should introduce a scheme on the lines of scheme introduced by Shiv Sena-BJP coalition Government in Maharashtra under which the Government of Maharashtra had maintained the prices of wheat, rice, sugar, edible oil and pulse at PDS rate for five years. All these things were provided under PDS. Our Government maintained the prices of these five things for a period of five years. The Government of Maharashtra suffered the loss which was caused by maintaining the prices of the above five things. The State Government suffered annual loss of approximately Rs. 6-7 thousand crore. The Government of India should also introduce such scheme. The Government should maintain the prices of five things such as wheat, rice, sugar, edible oil and pulse atleast for five years which are provided to the poor and the people living below poverty line under PDS. If the Government maintain the prices of these five things during its five year tenure, the common man would definitely get relief. I would like to say that the Government should seriously consider in this regard.

I would like to give my last suggestion. Recently, Laluji has said that roti and sabzi should be available at Rs. 2. In this context I would like to say that when we were in power in Maharashtra, then we introduced a scheme of providing Jhunka-Bhakhar at the rate of Rs. 1. Bhakhar means roti and Jhunka means gram-flour. Thick flour of gram pulse is called Jhunka in Marathi. We introduced scheme of providing Jhunka-Bhakhar at the rate of Rs. 1. Four roti and Jhunka was provided at the rate of Rs. 1. Jhunka Bhakhar of Rs. 1 definitely satisfied the hunger of the poor follow. If the Government wants to provide a relief to the common man from price rise, it should also introduce such scheme throughout the country so that the poor get one time food.

[English]

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (Salem): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this subject.

Last week, the House discussed at length the

current situation arising out of drought and flood in the country. Then the House took up the problem of drinking water. Today, we are discussing the rise in the prices of essential commodities. It is unfortunate but this is the situation now.

The UPA Government is now showing greater interest in evolving an agreement between Pakistan and India and holding dialogue with Pakistan. The UPA Government is not taking the same interest in controlling the prices. However, the common man is suffering a lot due to this price rise. The *aam admi* has become a mere slogan. The States disown their responsibility in controlling the prices.

I want to quote some figures here. One in four Indians goes hungry. Although the Centre spends more than Rs. 32,600 crore in food subsidy, *per capita* food consumption has reduced from 186 kilogram per person annually in 1991 to 152 per kilogram in 2001. It may even reduce at present. If cultivation does not go up substantially, then price rise will continue. Indian agriculture is a gamble in monsoon. Farmers are keeping their fingers crossed. While the common man has been grappling with the price rise, the Central Government says that it is a global phenomenon. No effective price control mechanism is available. Wage revision of Rs. 100 under NREGA Scheme leads to a five-fold increase in the prices of commodities.

In Tamil Nadu, the prices of pulses have gone up to Rs. 100 per kilogram. This unprecedented price rise is due to speculative trading and futures trading in essential commodities. So, I want to say that the UPA Government must ban all future and speculative trading in essential commodities. The hike in prices of diesel and petrol plays a vital role in price rise. So, the Government has to control it. Priority of the Government must be the welfare of the people. Government should not be a profit-making body. In the middle, the poor man is caught. No effective price control mechanism is available now. So, I suggest that a High Power empowered Committee of Cabinet Ministers should be formed immediately to monitor the price situation on a weekly basis and take corrective measures to control the situation.

Before things go out of hands, the Government

[Shri S. Semmalai]

should act immediately. Do not take shelter under one reason or the other. So, I would urge the Government, through you, to put an end to this burning issue very quickly. The prices of essential commodities are rising like poison. Poison affects only the person who consumes it, but the price rise affects everybody. Due to price rise, the one who is not able to get food is forced to indulge in unlawful activities. The statistics shows that due to price rise, there is considerable increase in criminal activities. So, it affects not only the individual but also the whole society.

So, the Government should not be careless. It should be cautious. I remind the Government that we all know that prevention is better than cure. Do the right thing in right time, that too very quickly.

[Transaltion]

*SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): I, through you, would like to give some suggestions to control price rise.

Everybody knows that price rise has taken place, common man is suffering and the people living below poverty line are suffering more. The following are my suggestions to check the price rise.

1. Forward trading is the main cause of price rise. Hoarders purchase edible items through forward trading as a result of which price rise takes place. Essential commodities should not be sold through forward trading and for this purpose Forward Trade Act should be amended.
2. The Essential Commodities Act should be strictly enforced. There should be arrangement for short trial of cases relating to violation of the Essential Commodities Act and provision should be made for speedy disposal of cases so that the offenders could be punished.
3. Exim policy should be reviewed. Due to poor monsoon, there is food crisis in the country and under such circumstances it is not justified

to export rice. So, the export of rice should be stopped immediately.

4. A mechanism under the chairmanship of the District Collector should also be evolved by the Chief Ministers of the concerned state to get the report on essential commodities on daily basis. Such report should be sent through e-mail to the Government of India on daily basis until the situation improves in this regard.
5. Prices have gone higher due to uncertainty of monsoon. Stern action should be taken against the persons involved in adulteration and hoarding. The Government of India should get report from the Chief Ministers of the concerned states in this regard on daily basis.
6. Hike in the prices of petrol and diesel is also a cause of price rise. Hence, the above hike should be rolled back so that the impact of price rise could also be reduced.
7. There is a fear for price rise due to uncertainty of monsoon and drought. The scientists of Indian Council of Agricultural Research should be directed to make suggestions regarding optional arrangements to save it from uncertainty of drought and Monsoon. There may be some suggestions like excess use of organic manure, drip and micro irrigation to encourage organic farming and efforts should be made to produce maximum green grains by using new techniques in the area of grains production so that cattles also be saved and it could be possible to produce more grains through alternate arrangements.
8. There should be a review of public distribution system, all facilities to be given to people should be abolished immediately except BPL families because persons engaged in hoardings are getting more benefit than the common man particularly immediate action should be taken in Kerosene sector. The money saved from this should be used for controlling price rise.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Guwahati): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, you have given me an opportunity to express myself on this important issue. I am not judging it whether I could see it as my fortune or misfortune because the present session of the Parliament is going to an end and the people of the country has sent here by electing us so that we can express their problems here. But a very Short span of time has been given to discuss the matter and I got an opportunity to express here, so I could assume myself fortunate also. An Hon'ble Member belonging to Congress Party has said that the Governemnt has done everything but price rise could not be controlled soon. I did not understand this. I am reminding the saying by Merry Queen, the Queen of France when the prices of bread were gone very high in the country and people were not in a position to buy bread then she had said if you could not buy bread then buy cake. Today the price of bread has increased much but prices of Pizza and Burger has not increased. I think the Hon'ble Member might say in the same way that if you could buy Pizzas instead of Dal Roti. Today, the price rise has reached such an stage that there could not be a situation more pathetic than this.

[English]

The soaring prices of basic and essential commodities, mainly the food items, have hit the common men of the country in such a manner that it is simply extracting and sucking away the very life force of the people. All kinds of talks that the Government indulges in about the Wholesale Price Index or about the relative data or about the numbers, are simply of no use for the common men, who are going towards death due to starvation.

Did the Department concerned collect all the data regarding rise in prices of essential commodities from the metro towns to right kinds of rural areas? The data collected from the select areas will not give the realistic view or realistic picture. That is what has happened. The Government, when it collects data from the select areas, identifies those families who are benefited from the subsidies and the Government does not take into account those unfortunate people who are deprived of the benefit of its schemes. How much realistic approach

did the Government make to have a proper assessment of the food crisis that the people are facing today? Did the Government care to assess the crisis in the remote areas, in the hill areas, small towns, among the unemployed and marginalised people? The price rise has hit not only the people living below the poverty line or in the line of poverty but it also has hit everybody, who are living in different strata of the society. Apart from people living in the poverty line, it has hit the middle-class and the retired people, who are suffering from malnutrition. They cannot afford to have their regular meal, which they are used to. Since the prices are so high, they cannot afford it.

The general condition has the telling effect not only on the lives of the people but also on every department because it is a chain system. So, everything will suffer. When people starve and when people cannot afford to have minimum food for survival, it affects the very basic feature of life. So, through you, Sir, I want to appeal to the hon. Minister concerned in the Government that he should take care of this problem. If food is dearer, how will poor people in the country survive? For whom this welfare State will work? What is the use of all the lofty sayings and doings if the Government cannot afford to offer a morsel of food to the poor people at a minimum price?

Sir, the growth momentum is lost. Citing international crisis or rise of price in a global picture will not help because ours is a country of difference. We have got our own system. Did the Government care to improve the agricultural production by modernising the entire system? Does the hon. Minister know that nearly 78 per cent of the people who are living in the countryside earn simply Rs. 20 per day? Then, what is the use of *aam aadmi*? This phrase has remained a political gimmick.

Sir, suicide or eating non-eatable are regular features in recent days. During the NDA Government's rule, under the leadership of hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the then hon. Prime Minister, prices of essential commodities were kept under strict control. When the UPA Government came to power, just after four months, prices of all the essential commodities like food, etc. have risen like anything and they reached

[Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty]

the sky high. There is no limit of soaring of the prices. I do not want to bring a comparative note. My previous speaker, Shri Shahnawaz Hussain, has given a detailed account of it.

I just want to refer one item, namely, cement. The ex-factory price of cement is simply Rs. 68. During Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government, cement has been given to the people at the rate of Rs. 120. Now, the price of cement in the rural areas is nearly Rs. 300 per bag. What is the reason behind it? The cost of production is the same, but why this astounding rise of the prices? There is no answer at all.

Moreover, potato is the only vegetable for the poor people. Now, the price of potato is Rs. 20 per kilo and the price of dal is much more. In the countryside or in the rural area, a mother cannot give dal to her children.

[Translation]

My constituency comprises of villages and I have seen there that when a child ask his mother for pulse then mother gives a mixture of turmeric and salt in water. Today, mother is giving this in the name of pulse to her child but when the price rise would escalate more then what she would give?

[English]

So, this is the condition. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government had a talk with the trading community or not. Why has the Government no control over the trading community? What about the PDS? It is in doldrums. There is no control over it. Did the Government care to see what is the price in the food producing area? When the agriculturists produce their own item, what is the price of it in the food producing area? Did the Government take care of it? So, Sir, I want to mention only one point. In the primitive days, it is said that it was the habit of the primitive people that they used to eat human flesh. Are we going to take recourse to it? Are we going to take the same route that we were doing earlier?

18.00 hrs.

So, clearly it is the failure of the Central Government, it is the failure on the part of the hon. Minister to have control over the market.

Did the Government take care to see how the price reacts at the very source? It is very essential. If the Government can control the price at the source, then admitting will be controlled. I would like to know whether the Government cared to control smuggling, hoarding and black-marketing. When it is a rolling movement in India, what about the consumer movement?

It is high time that the Central Government woke up from its deep slumber and try to phase out a positive solution for this problem. I think it is not difficult. The Government must take care of it.

[Translation]

The Government has got full majority, it does not mean that the Government do whatsoever they likes to. If the Government will not take care of those people who are hungry

[English]

they can do anything,

[Translation]

like it had happened in france. The kingship were ruined.

[English]

So, I would request the hon. Minister and the Central Government that they should take care of it. They should not play a passive role, but they should play active role. It is not that the Central Government cannot control State Governments. They can very well control them. If there is a political will, the Government can do anything. So, I would urge upon the Government and the hon. Minister to take some positive and realistic steps to control the price rise and to give relief and fillip to the poor and down trodden people, the *aam aadmi*, who are suffering a lot.

Aam aadmi should not be in the hoarding, *aam aadmi* should not be in the electronic media, *aam aadmi* should not be on the newspapers, but the Government should have got the real concern for the *aam aadmi* in the real terms of planning. I expect that only from the Central Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have a list of some more speakers who are yet to speak. If the House agrees we can extend the time of the House by one more hour so that we can accommodate more speakers by giving them two three minutes and try to complete the discussion today itself? The hon. Minister will reply tomorrow.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, the time of the House is extended by one more hour. I would request the hon. Members to cooperate, be brief and make points only. Those hon. Members who wish to lay their speeches may do so, those will form part of the proceedings.

[Translation]

*SHRI K. NARAYAN RAO (Machili-patnam): Hon. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to take part in this important discussion on price rise of essential commodities. Today, prices of essential commodities are out of reach of common man and he is clueless about how to lead his life. Sir, responsibility of controlling prices lies with both state as well as Central Governments. Though the prices have increased the salaries and daily wages of common man did not increase in proportion. As per statistics, in last five years, there is four fold increase in prices of various commodities. The purchasing power has been decreased and as a result common people are compromising with their health by buying sub-standard commodities. In such a situation, the Government should take appropriate steps.

In 2004, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, convened a meeting with the Chief Ministers of all states and asked them to take steps to control price rise. After that meeting, there was no review on that issue. It is Government's

responsibility to make a follow up of such crucial meetings. The main reason behind price rise is insufficient supplies against demand. Taking this as an opportunity hoarders and black marketers are creating artificial demand, thus, selling commodities at higher prices and pocketing the profits.

Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government to convene a meeting with the Chief Ministers of all the states, and discuss steps to be taken to control price rise. Some commodities were taken out of the purview of Essential Commodities Act. Such commodities may be brought under this Act and raids should be conducted to unearth illegal storages of essential commodities. Stringent action should be taken against defaulters, so that, no one dares to indulge in black marketing. Black marketing is the only reason behind price rise.

The Government should provide for a revolving fund to civil supplies and market federations to buy essential commodities. By doing so, whenever there is price rise, these commodities can be supplied to people. Prior to 2004, under the governance of Telugu Desam Party in Andhra Pradesh, 'Rythu Bazaars' (Farmers' market) were organised, which ensured benefits to both farmers and consumers, as there was no room for middlemen. Some states followed 'Rythu Bazaar' model. In 2008, the Congress Government has allocated only Rs. 30 crores in the Budget for Civil Supplies and Mark Feds, which were not even released. In this year's Budget of Andhra Pradesh, there is no mention of this fund. By allocating adequate funds for civil supplies and mark feds, essential commodities can be bought and stored by these agencies. So that, when required these commodities can be made available to people. In this manner, we can control prices of essential commodities. With these suggestions, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

*SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA (West Delhi): Madam Speaker, it might have not been a single session for the last many sessions when we could not discuss price rise. The Government has taken several concrete measures to curb price rise but those benefits could not reach the poor, farmer and labour 100 per cent

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Mahabal Mishra]

due to redtapism. The Government has enacted an act to provide 100 days employment under NAREGA but the Government accepts that the employment upto 50 days only is being provided now-a-days. The issue of price rise is related to the poor, it does not have an impact on the rich. The rich person is buying a car having prices ranging from 5 lacs to 5 crores but the poor man is struggling hard to enable them to make both their ends meet. He is not getting employment over the year. Whenever the issue of price rise arises then it arises for the poor who are lacking resources and money, whose livelihood is difficult. On the other hand, about 30 to 35 families in the country are billionaire for whom price rise is not a problem at all, for them, it is economic growth, but price rise is brunt for 30 to 35 crore poor families. For them it is a matter of concern to maintain their self respect and standard of living or whether they will have to make moral compromise now and then because of economic weaknesses and helplessness. It is a matter of grave concern. Today, newspaper and Magazines are bringing out that prices of food items whether it be vegetables, wheat, pulse, rice, sugar, spices, cements or steel, prices of all the items are on rise. Now-a-days, the expenses towards kitchen of common man has increased two-three times. The question is now the common man can afford the price rise. Dr. C.P. Joshi, the Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has told answering a question in the present session itself that the average of employment provided during the year 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009 in West Bengal under NAREGA has been 14 days, 25 days and 26 days respectively. Now since it is a state subject, therefore, it is a responsibility of State Governments to make all the efforts to provide employment to the poor. Further, the Government is talking about a bill, relating to national food security, which guarantees right to food. By this, there could be as good as the Employment Guarantee Act which was the most important step taken by the last Government. I appreciate this thinking of the Government and congratulate to Hon'ble Prime Minister and Chairperson of UPA Hon'ble Soniaji but there is a burning question what should be the legal format of the national act relating to food security, who should be the beneficiaries of the act and how an act like this

can be implemented. The Government has said in this regard that the Government would provide 25 kg of grain to each family living below poverty line at the rate of Rs. 3 per kg. The objective of the Government is to cater the needs of balanced diet, pure water, childcare and other needs to beneficiaries of BPL. I appreciate the sentiments of the Government and want to say thanks by heart to Hon'ble Prime Minister and UPA Chairperson Soniaji. But to provide grains at cheap rate is a component only to provide good and complete diet. My first submission is that the Government should get right number of BPL persons estimated first because there are so much Mazdoor-farmers who are not included in BPL.

I am a Member of Parliament from Delhi and I represent the mixed population of West Delhi which comprises of rickshaw puller, hawkers, pan-beedi seller, casual labourers working in factories in Mayapuri and Mangolpuri areas for which inflation is a burning issue. Today, the poor labourers of my Parliamentary constituency are getting the electricity bill of Rs. 2000-2500 per month whereas their total monthly income is hardly Rs. 2500 as such how will they pay their bills. Therefore, there should be a electricity policy for the people living below poverty line so that these people may have to pay Rs. 300 to 350 per month as electricity charges. The Government should formulate such a policy.

My second request is that 6 items namely wheat, pulse, rice, sugar, edible oil and kerosene should be supplied through public distribution system and their prices should not be increased during the next five years and the Government must be ready to provide the subsidy required for this purpose. If it is done then these poor people would get some sort of relief, it is my opinion but at the same time the Government should keep in mind that there should not be corrupt in it. Everyone knows that middle class people do not buy anything from fair price shops and the corrupt shopkeepers and inspectors are misusing their ration cards. The Government should take stern action against the shopkeepers and middlemen, who are caught selling fair price items meant for poor people in black market. According to a projection, the poor people of the country have to pay the bribe to the tune of Rs. 30,000 crores

to sustain. The people of our country have to pay the bribe for the petty things such as admission of their wards, to get the ration card, to get the token for the rickshaw, to lodge an FIR, to get the license or to get the loan from the bank etc. They have to pay the bribe for such petty things. On the other hand, the rich, who have all resources, need not to pay any bribe; they manage to get their work done without paying any bribe. For the poor people every single penny is important and they have to pay the bribe of Rs. 30000 crore to dishonest officials and inspectors. The Government should enact a stringent law to check this.

My third request is that today a billionaire is using Metro Rail to go to their shops at Cannought Place, Khari Bawli, Chandni Chowk, at the same time the labourer who is working on the shops also uses the same mode of transport. The Government needs to provide the facility of Pass to the BPL people and their fare should be reduced to half of than the fare of normal passenger so that the poor will get some sort of relief.

In my parliamentary constituency there are around 30-35 thousand rickshaw pullers but more than half of them do not have the token for rickshaw. The Government issues limited tokens to rickshaw in Delhi. So, double and triple numbers of rickshaws for which tokens have been issued are plying without token. Moreover they are not the owner of the rickshaws mostly rich people are the owner of the rickshaws. These poor people have been badly affected by the inflation. If families of these persons are able to get the roti and salt even then all the family members are happy. My fourth request is that tokens should be issued to these people and the rickshaws should be registered in the name of rickshaw pullers and they should get the ownership of the same. If it is done only then we shall be able to increase their income.

My fifth request is that proper arrangements is required to be made in regard to storage and distribution of essential commodities. You need to strictly control hoarding and black-marketing otherwise all schemes of the Government won't serve any purpose. Wheat, pulses, rice, sugar, edible oil, kerosene and essential commodities should be kept out from the purview of future trading. There should be more stringent law

against the hoarders and corrupt persons by reviewing the existing Essential Commodities Act and Consumer laws so that puritive action can be initiated against the hoarders and the persons indulging in black marketing. If it is done then only we would be able to control the inflation and provide some sort of relief to poors. Yes, it is true that some raids have been conducted at certain places but these kinds of raids should be conducted on large-scale across the country.

Whenever there is talk about Petrol and Diesel, it has been said that international prices are increasing hence we cannot do anything. It is a fact that when the price of petrol and diesel had come down in the international market, the Government did reduce the prices of the same but what is going on at present. The fuel price in our neighbour countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal is less than our country. To link the price of petrol and diesel alongwith the International price won't serve any purpose. We need to give a thought to overhaul the current tax structure.

My sixth request is that India belongs to the common man and their population is 70 % and they are living in villages. They are on one side and on the other side there is a class that has all sorts of facilities and comforts. The percentage of these kinds of people is 3 per cent to 4 per cent and we are providing them all sorts of facilities. We are providing them SEZ but the 70 per cent population working in farms are facing problems and their condition is pitiable. This is not a good sign. The middle class families are facing hardships. They are facing all sorts of problems due to inflation and their condition is very pitiable. If you do not provide employment to these people in villages and do not provide seeds, manure, fertilizers and adequate water for irrigation then these people will not have any option but to migrate to the cities. All schemes launched by you will not serve any purpose. You should provide high yielding seeds, agricultural equipments and pesticides to the farmers at subsidized rates. The farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produces. Therefore, they are not keen to continue the farming and our production capacity is also decreasing. I am from the treasury bench, we have form the Government but I am expressing the pain of common man.

[Shri Mahabal Mishra]

I hope the Government will take into account the suggestions I have given so that poor and weaker section of the society is less affected by inflation and they can provide bread, cloth and shelter to their children in future. With these words I conclude.

*SHRI RAKESH SINGH (Jabalpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, today the country is passing through a critical phase. This problem has come from nowhere but it is developed here only. It is the result of the economic policy of UPA Government. This is the problem of steep price rise.

Sir, the common man, the poor people of the country is suffering a lot. Earlier it was said the Dal-Roti is the food of poors. But it is unfortunate for the country that now the poor are unable to arrange dal-roti as the price of dal is skyrocketing. Even the cheap food items like liquid of dal are inaccessible for poor and it is not less than sweets for them as the pulses are being sold in market at the rate of Rs. 60 to 100 per kg. The vegetables have become out of the budget for common man. Flour, rice, salt, oil, ghee, sugar and even gur are becoming out of the buying capacity of common man.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this situation arise not in a single day. The prices are soaring since the last tenure of UPA Government. The Congress has advertised that the hand of Congress is with common man but the fact is that the hand of Congress today is burdening on common man. The BJP has stated in the House as well as out of the House that the price rise is disturbing the budget of common man of the country and if it is not checked the anarchy will prevail in the country. But the UPA Government under the leadership of Congress did not take any effective steps in this respect and as a result of it the black marketers and speculators are calling the shorts in the market and it seems today that Government have no control over market. Therefore, the prices are rising day by day.

Sir, it is most unfortunate situation that the farmers are not getting any benefits from the price rise. Farmers

are feeling cheated. They have to satisfy themselves with the general prices on which he had sold his produce in the market but the middlemen have taken benefits of the situation and the Union Government instead of controlling the situation just watching the game quietly.

Sir, the worst thing is the problem of drought, which is knocking at the doors of the country. Be it the result of global warming or anything else, most parts of the country are facing the problem of low rain fall as well as drought like situation. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is the signal of dangers tomorrow for entire country. Because there is strong possibility of low production of all food items including foodgrain and it seems that the Government is not doing any preparation to face the situation rather the Union Government is frequently trying to prove that the prices have not raised so much by giving figures time and again. But, Sir, the Government assess dearness on the basis of wholesale price index whereas the common man have nothing to do with wholesale price index. If the Government really want to assess the rate of inflation then the assessment should be based on Consumer Price Index, on which the Government is not agree. Sir, it is the need of the day that the Government should come out from the illusion of figures and should face the fact so that concrete measures could be taken to provide relief to common man at Government level.

Mr. Chairman Sir, first of all Government should put a control on future market. Especially the future trading of food articles, through which the middlemen and black marketers are exploiting the poors, should be stopped immediately.

If the Government have a will and be sensitive towards masses everything is possible and Sir, the hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee led Government has proved it, wherein the Government has controlled inflation by putting a check over speculators and black marketers in the interest of common man.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government through some data. During the NDA regime the rate of pulse was around Rs. 26 per kg, which it is around Rs. 60 to Rs. 100 per kg, now a days. Flour was available at the rate of Rs. 10

*Speech was laid on the Table.

per kg and it is being sold today between Rs. 20-25 per kg. The rice was for Rs. 15 per kg and now it is Rs. 50 per kg. The sugar was available at the rate of Rs. 12 per kg and now it is around Rs. 26 per kg. The rates of almost all the items have revised manifold but the farmer did not get any benefit of it as they are still bound to sell their produce at cheaper rate in wholesale markets and it is the only reason for their indebtedness despite the soaring prices of food items. Not only this, but even the cement, cloth, medicines, iron all such items are going beyond the reach of common man.

I would like to state before the Government that entire country is unanimous. We all agree to come with you in respect of the issue of price rise. To check the price rise, Government should understand the pain of common man and should take stringent steps to curb the price rise.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I extend my thanks to you as you have provided me an opportunity to speak on such a serious issue.

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Khadoor Sahib): I thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak on this very important subject of rise in the prices of essential commodities. Sixty-two years have passed since we attained independence, but are problems are increasing manifold instead of decreasing. Today, India is plagued by several problems. There is the problem of dearth of potable water. Air-pollution is on the rise in India. Adulteration in milk and milk-products like 'ghee' is rampant. But the most serious problem being faced by us is the problem of price-rise.

Chairman Sir, if a person falls ill, the doctor must make the correct diagnosis. Only then can he treat the patient correctly. If the patient is suffering from cramps in the stomach and the doctor gives him medicines that are used for treating headaches, the patient will not be cured. How should we tackle the menace of price-rise? The farmer is at the epicentre of this issue. It is the farmer who produces food-grains. Until we bail out the farmer from the mess that he finds himself in, we will not be able to find a solution to this problem.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

I reside in a village. Suppose, a farmer produces cauliflowers. He takes his produce to the market where he sells it at five rupees per kg. However, after two hours, the same cauliflowers are sold in a shop at Rs. 20 per kg. The farmer gets a paltry sum Rs. 5 whereas the consumer has to pay Rs. 20 for the same item. The middleman has a field day as he gobbles up Rs. 15 on the same item. Until we do away with greedy middlemen and fix the percentage of profit, we cannot find a solution to this problem. The Government must ensure that the grower gets back at least the cost of production. The farmer must be adequately compensated.

Nowadays, a five hundred rupee note does not seem enough when you go to the market to purchase items. It is because prices of essential commodities have gone through the roof. Prices of all vegetables have shot up. Whether it is peas or tomatoes or onions, the sky-rocketing prices have made life difficult for the common man. Shopkeepers are fleecing the consumers by charging exorbitant rates for all items. The consumer finds himself totally helpless. He is at the mercy of the shopkeepers. Similarly, the farmers are the losers. The interests of both, farmers and consumers have to be protected. Only then can we rein in the soaring prices.

In recent days, the prices of wheat, lentils and pulses have increased manifold. However, the producers of these food-grains lead a miserable life of poverty and deprivation as they get a measly sum for their produce in the market. The need of the hour is to bail out the farmers.

Sir, in this august House, we keep on discussing issues like global warming. But our friends from the treasury benches reel out global data about the prices of foodstuffs in other countries. The condition of farmers in USA is different from the condition of farmers in India. To compare the prices of food-grains in India with that of USA is a futile step.

Sir, the rates of diesel and petrol have been increased time and again by the government. Ever since we attained Independence, the prices of petrol and diesel have been reduced by the government only once or twice. After every few months, their price is increased by the government. When the UPA

[Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala]

government came to power at the centre, people had high expectations as the leaders had promised the moon to the common man. But instead of giving some relief to the masses, the government chose to pile agony on them by increasing the rates of petrol and diesel. It had a cascading effect. The prices of all items increased correspondingly due to increase in their transportation cost. Hence, the government must check its urge to increase the rates of diesel and petrol. Only then can it rein in the galloping prices.

Chairman Sir, I appeal to the Government to adequately compensate the farmers for the distress-sale done by them. The rate that the farmer gets for his produce should be pegged to the price-index. It is agonizing that the Indian farmer gets only Rs. 1000 per quintal for the wheat sold by him to the government procurement agencies whereas the government merrily imports wheat from foreign countries at Rs. 1900 per quintal. If the government agrees to purchase wheat from the farmers of Punjab at even Rs. 1600 per quintal, I assure you that there will be no need to import wheat as the farmers of Punjab will be more than happy to produce surplus wheat to feed the entire country. By importing wheat from foreign farmers at an exorbitant rate, the government is enriching them and spreading poverty among Indian farmers. This is a disastrous policy. ...*(Interruptions)* Lalu ji, you have rightly said that both global warming and soaring prices will hit the common man hard. ...*(Interruptions)*

So, Chairman Sir, I appeal to all sections of this august House to rise above party considerations. We must ensure that the interest of the farmer is protected and greedy middlemen are punished. It is high time, government takes some concrete steps in this direction.

Sir, in Punjab, sugarcane farmers were ruined. They did not get the payment of their produce for 4 to 5 years. Hence, the farmers of Punjab decided against growing sugarcane. This is bound to have an adverse impact on the prices of sugar. However, the government has not woken up from its deep slumber. Its policies are myopic. The only solution government knows of is to import items from foreign countries. But, this is a knee-jerk reaction. The real solution to this problem is

that we pay the farmers handsomely for their produce. Then, the farmers will feel encouraged to produce more food-grains. Only by protecting the interest of the farmers can we check the menace of price-rise. The mere ritual of giving speeches in this august House will not solve this problem. I totally agree with the views expressed by Lalu ji that the future seems bleak. Let us put our heads together and let the government take some concrete steps to rein in the galloping prices as it has hit the common man hard.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Chairman Sir, the issue of price rise should be given paramount importance. We had given the notice for discussion under Rule 193 on this issue in the very beginning of the Session, but this matter is being taken up at the fag end of this Session. So, it shows the attitude of the Government of the day towards this paramount important issue. We had staged a *dharna* outside this House with the Left, and non-Congress and non-BJP Members. I think, the UPA Government has taken up this matter after our *dharna* as otherwise it would have given a wrong message to the country.

I do not know how far this sort of discussion will put pressure on the Government to solve this problem. Week after week the Government of the day is releasing statistics to claim that inflation rate in the country is negative. Even then, the wallets of the people are getting slimmer. One hon. Member from the Congress side, Dr. K.S. Rao narrated so many things and said that the Government is doing its best—providing MSP, increased rural credits, Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, stimulus package, buffer stocks and so on. They are already talking about inclusive growth, involving *aam aadmi* and all these things. Some of them, in every speech, are using '*maa, mati and manush*', but what is happening everyday? I am not going into the details of the figures which have been stated by the earlier speakers very clearly and emphatically. The Government should tell why they are following inflation rate based on Wholesale Price Index. Why is India not taking the Consumer Price Index for assessing the inflation rate? Even though the Consumer Price Index varies in terms of workers and in terms of

rural areas, the actual price is also different. The retail price is very much different.

They have said about the situation in many terms. But what is the situation? So far as the small farmer, the poor man, the agriculture labourer and the unorganized workers are concerned, one assessment if made by some agency that 58 per cent of their earnings go to meet expenditure on purchase of food materials and they spend more than 20 per cent for purchasing other essential commodities. So, almost more than 75 per cent of their earnings are spent for meeting their expenditure on the essential commodities. As per Arjun Sengupta Report, it is revealed that 77 per cent of the population have no capacity of earning Rs. 20 per day. So, this is the situation. One agency conducted a study on the condition of the farmers. It says that income of a farmer-family increased 1.5 per cent, but at the same time, his expenditure went up by 5 per cent.

This is the situation, and we are talking about the buffer stocks.

None other than the great Mr. Amartya Sen, the Nobel laureate says that during the Bengal famine, starvation was not due to shortage of stocks, but it was due to the non-purchasing capacity of the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please wind up your speech.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Here, the basic reason for the unprecedented rise in the retail prices is the introduction of forward trading in agricultural produce, particularly, the food products along with the removal of the clauses from the Essential Commodities Act restricting the stock limits one can hold.

Mr. Rao from the Congress has accused NDA. Yes, we also accuse NDA for amendment of the Essential Commodities Act. But why is the Government of the day, namely, the UPA Government not trying to correct it? I am asking this because only accusing the NDA Government will not solve the problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up your speech. There are many speakers yet to speak on this issue.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, I will conclude in

one minute. This concession is being used by the hoarders and speculators to first dupe the producers by offering them very low prices, and later, through speculation, the prices are gradually raised without moving the stock.

I have got some concrete proposals regarding this issue. Firstly, provide 15 items or essential commodities, particularly, rice, wheat, edible oil, sugar and daals at subsidized rates through the PDS. Secondly, revamp the PDS by expanding BPL category, and restore the allocation for APL as an interim measure towards universalization of the PDS. Thirdly, increase in the prices of petrol and diesel should be recalled, and they should review it. Fourthly, prohibit future trading and amend the Essential Commodities Act. Lastly, call a meeting of the State Ministers and take necessary steps. At the same time, call an urgent meeting of all political Leaders, so that we can take a common and firm stand to solve this urgent problem that is being faced by our country.

18.23 hrs.

[DR. GIRIJA VYAS *in the Chair*]

With these words, I express my gratitude to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this issue.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (Tirunelveli): Madam, it is really an important problem, namely, rise in prices of essential commodities. Almost all the Members from the Opposition as well as the ruling Parties have mentioned the facts and figures relating to this issue.

The rise in prices of essential commodities is really a common problem for all the people. Actually, it is a world-level problem. Nowadays, the global recession and climate change has brought some rise in prices of essential commodities not only in India, but in all the capitalist countries or developing countries. Almost all the countries are affected by this problem.

But the UPA Government is taking various steps to control these prices; to give the essential commodities; and trying to reduce the prices in almost all the ways. Nowadays, we have the import policy to reduce the prices. The import policy is that we see as to what is the amount of domestic production of pulses, cereals,

[Shri S.S. Ramasubbu]

etc. in our country, and then decide about the import of commodities from other countries.

Now-a-days, even in Australia, the wheat production has been reduced, and they are not producing it enormously. The importing countries are now curtailing their imports. We have to improve our domestic production. We have to find out some solution to this and that is very important.

Now-a-days, the UPA Government is responsible for increasing the purchasing power of the people. We have to see the current problem in the context of the condition of the world economy. We are in "poverty amidst scarcity" and that is how one can put the current problem in economic terms. The commodities have become scarce, and they have become scarce at the world level. We have to manage it in these difficult circumstances. The UPA Government has increased the purchasing power of the poor people in the rural areas, as was mentioned already by Dr. K.S. Rao earlier in this House. Under NREGS, poor people are getting Rs. 100 per day; earlier they were getting Rs. 80 and now it has been increased to Rs. 100 per day. Most of the poor people are getting benefited by these schemes.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramasubbu, please wind up because only three minutes are being given to each Member to speak.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: They are getting benefited and it is now easy for them to purchase these commodities. The purchasing power of the poor people has been increased. Our UPA Government is an *aam aadmi* Government. Now, we have to give more importance to agriculture and that is very important because if we increase the Minimum Support Price for agricultural products being produced by them, then the agriculturalists in rural areas will come forward to produce more commodities. When they produce, cereals, pulses, vegetables and fruits in enormous quantities, then the prices will be reduced drastically.

We have to also provide water sources to the agriculturalists in the villages for producing these commodities. We have to depend more on domestic production and that is very important. The domestic

production can be improved not only with the support of the Government, but also by strengthening the distribution system. The Central Government is increasing its buffer stock and also releasing enough cereals and pulses to the States, but the proper functioning of the distribution system is very important, particularly the State Governments have to distribute these commodities equally to all the people, and then only the prices of essential commodities can be reduced.

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Hon. Chairperson Madam, every man has come on this earth to live and in order to survive, one has to eat food. Prices of essential commodities are sky rocketing. Prices of rice, wheat, pulses, sugar, potato are shooting through the roof. But once, during congress regime itself the public distribution system was introduced for all—modified rationing and statutory rationing were in vogue at the time. But today, the Congress Party is not talking about food for all, it is absolutely silent on price rise. Congress is saying that rate of inflation has come down, prices have also been lowered. But reality is something different. When we go to the market we find prices to be quite high. The main reason for this is the policy of disinvestment and privatization adopted by the party which led to hoarding and in turn collapse of public distribution system. In 1994 the WTO agreement was signed and 1429 items were deregulated. Since then various national and international traders have resorted to hoarding and the Essential Commodities Act has become toothless resulting in the collapse of the PDS. Rationing system has also become a victim of petty politics. The State Governments had distributed rice and wheat at rates which were cheaper than those stipulated by the Central Government. This also adversely affected the public distribution system.

Names of several thousand poor people do not figure in the BPL list. Therefore they are deprived of the facilities provided by the Government. On the other hand due to the drought-like situation, oil price has shot up along with the prices of other essential commodities.

If common People do not survive then who will remain in this country? For whom shall we fight political

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

battles? Therefore, I wish to put forth certain proposals before the Government—the public distribution system should be universalised; hoarding should be stopped; essential commodities should be made available to the ordinary people at regulated price; BPL list should be revised; the Essential Commodities Act should be properly implemented—only then the prices will gradually come down. The State Governments and the Central Government should work in tandem to achieve this goal.

With these few words, I thank you for allowing me to speak on this issue and I conclude.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Prashantji you please lay your remaining speech.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam Chairman, how long will the House run? The Minister will not reply today, he will reply tomorrow only.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Today, the House will continue upto 7 o' clock and the Minister will reply tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

*SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY (Cooch Behar): Hon. Madam Chairperson, the House has been discussing threadbare the issue of price rise under Rule 193. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in this august House. Madam, we are leftists and we follow a particular principle. We fought the election and got elected to the Parliament. Every party comes in the poll fray with its own agenda. During the election campaign, various leaders of the present UPA Government had put up their own posters with the slogan that Congress is with the common people that means that the political parties work in the interest of the teeming millions and when we win the elections, we come to this sacred forum to air their grievances. All the Hon. Members here are talking about the plight of the countrymen sincerely. The UPA Government, before coming to power had loads of promises to offer. Hundred days have not yet passed. Congress had promised that within hundred days, black marketing will be done away with. It had also assured that jobs will be provided to the poor, downtrodden people, the farm

labourers, workers, daily wagers and prices of essential commodities will be kept under regulation for the benefit of the poverty-stricken countrymen. It had promised to revamp the entire public distribution system in the interest of the farmers and workers. But the reality is something different. The 'Hand' symbol of Congress Party is not with the ordinary people anymore. The hand is there to choke the masses to death.

In April and May, just before the election, prices of essential commodities were much lower. My previous Speakers have put forth facts and figures. So many days have passed since the UPA's coming to power. But the prices are steadily going northward. If a child of a poor family falls ill and if the doctor prescribes little bit of sugar in his diet along with medicine and barley, even then his parents will not be able to afford the sugar due to its high price. But the UPA Government is saying that it is with the people.

Madam, I don't want to give a lengthy speech. Here, members from both the treasury benches and the opposition benches are present. I only want to say that the prices of 14 essential commodities identified by the leftists, viz rice, pulses, sugar, coarse flour, barley etc. should not be allowed to rise. These are mostly used by the poor, marginal farmers, labourers and workers of the society. We should not level allegations against each other. This is a collective responsibility of all state governments, central government and all the political parties. However, in a federal structure, the central government is more accountable. In this democratic set up, people should be given their due. More and more poor, underprivileged people should be included in the BPL list so that their children can grow up in a healthy atmosphere; so that they become noble citizens of the country; so that the future becomes bright and shining. We need to strengthen the public distribution system and introduce a legislation to this effect.

With these few words I end my speech.

SHRI BANSA GOPAL CHOWDHURY (Asansol): Madam Chairman today we are participating on the discussion initiated by our leader Shri Basudev Acharya under rule 193 on curbing price rise. It has become an important issue across the country, because when there

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Bansa Gopal Chowdhury]

was a discussion on budget turned as budget of the common man, then we have said that

[English]

It has been stated that this Budget is a Budget for *aam aadmi*. This is not the Budget of *aam aadmi*; this is the Budget of *khaas aadmi*.

[Translation]

Now, when we are discussing the issue of price rise, the Government has said that food price inflation is 8 per cent and foodgrain price inflation is 11 per cent. I would like to say that there is an increased of 47 per cent in the prices of sugar in retail market. There is maximum 111 per cent increase in the price of onion. Now everywhere 'Jai Ho' slogan of the Government is doing the rounds, but I would like to ask who is being praised? Whatever we discuss about the common man in the House, but no position action is expected from the Government.

[English]

We cannot expect any positive action from this Government. This Government is totally inactive in taking steps against price rise, not just from the point of view of its economic policies but also from the point of view of the interests of the capitalists and the big landlords of the country.

[Translation]

The Government is saying that during NDA regime the Essential commodities Act was amended. Now we have UPA Government at the helm, so why no step has been taken to amend the Act? The UPA Government should ponder over the issue, and it should work in the interest of people by again making amendments in the Act which was amended by the NDA.

Madam Chairman, it is a matter of grave concern that there is 84 per cent reduction in the food grains provided to the States by the Union Government. This reduction is done at BPL and APL level. Import of 5.5 million tonnes of rotten wheat is the worst thing this

Government has done. I would like Hon'ble Minister to explain while replying to the discussion on price rise as to why substandard wheat was imported by the Government? This kind of wheat is not consumable for our people. Agro Business Houses are being promoted by the Government. I would like to urge that the policy for promoting Agro Business Houses should be discontinued.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acharya have spoken for half an hour from your side.

SHRI BANSA GOPAL CHOWDHURY: I will conclude in a minute.

Madam, only meetings and having discussion in the House are not enough for taking concrete steps against hoarders, a policy should be formulated for the purpose and on the other hand, there is a greater need to supply essential commodities through PDS.

Now, after expressing my views on the motion moved under rule 193, I conclude my speech.

[English]

*SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (Chennai North): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I am happy that the Government has agreed for a detailed discussion on the issue of rising prices of essential commodities.

Sir, it is time that the prices of various commodities have increased manifold. Many of our honourable members were giving a list of commodities and their current prices along with the prices earlier.

All I know is that my wife demands two thousand rupees more for monthly grocery budget, and about a little more than one thousand rupees for vegetables. This does not include rice and milk, because we purchase milk from the Government supply, and rice comes from my village.

Sir, various suggestions were made from our honourable members for controlling the prices of essential commodities.

Our Honourable Shri Basudeb Acharya was stating

*Speech was laid on the Table.

that the Government, instead of giving minimum support price for the farmers, should give remunerative price.

He along with some other members, were even discussed about strengthening of the Public Distribution System, and distribute important cereals also through PDS, along with rice, sugar, kerosene etc.

Sir, in Tamil Nadu, the Honourable Chief Minister and our leader Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi has implemented the scheme of supplying rice through PDS at the cost of Re. 1 per kg. He has also implemented the scheme of supplying about 10 items of cereals which are used normally for cooking, at a cost of Rs. 50 through PDS in Tamil Nadu.

There are laudable schemes, and many State Governments have already announced these schemes in their States also. Even the Government of India has decided to supply rice at Rs. 3 per kg for the families below poverty line through PDS.

Sir, these are all measures taken to save the poor and middle income people from the escalating cost of food grains. This would mean that people pay less price for a commodity and the Government bears the rest of the price.

How long would the Government bear the burden of subsidy? There may come a time when the subsidies would eat away the financial positions of the country and like what is happening in Petroleum subsidy, the Government would be left with no options than to withdraw subsidy or reduce the same.

Sir, my suggestion would be that the Essential Commodities Act should be redrawn. The present Act should be withdrawn and a new Act which would also have an effective price control mechanism, and severe penal measures for hoarders, should be enacted with immediate effect.

Only this measure would effectively control the prices of essential commodities. Otherwise, the Government and the consumers have to share the spiraling prices and the market would go scot-free.

With these words, I conclude, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY (Alipurduar): Madam Chairman, I would like to say two or three points in support of the Motion moved today under Rule 193. Several members have expressed their views on the matter.

It is quite right that today we are thinking about the basic problems such as how our country will progress, how we can take our country forward. But at the same time the Government is not concerned about the people as to how they will survive, how they will make their both ends meet. The Government has tried its best in moving ahead but nothing concrete has been done so far with regard to three most important needs of people i.e. food, cloth and shelter. Prices are rising and the Government is also playing a role in price rise by increasing prices of diesel and petrol. This Government has not only increased the prices of items, but prices of every item has reached to a level, where life has become difficult for common man. The Government should make such an arrangement, take such steps, which would enable common man to move forward and participate in Government's, success, because if they keep facing the problems of food and accommodation, we would not be able to move forward. It is Government's duty to make the things in order administrative system is affected due to this.

Today, we know that there are problems of insurgency, Naxalism of Maoism, but why such problems are cropping up now? This is the reason, why people are supporting them, why police force, military is being defeated by them? It is pertinent to find a solution to this serious problem. Now, we are not bothering about providing items of daily use. I would like to say that an arrangement should be made in this regard from our state at the national level. We would like the Government to provide 14 kind of essential commodities at cheaper rates to all the people and there should have been a special arrangement for retailers, so that these items could be made available easily at cheaper rates. The Government should play a pivotal role in the selling procedure and this should be a priority issue, otherwise whatever we may achieve, we may reach to the moon but if we failed to arrange food for people, if we don't

[Shri Manohar Tirkey]

utilize available resources and commodities produced in the country and if we are unable to allocate them properly then people would never forgive us. Production is there in our country but its distribution is not being done properly. So, I have requested to the Government through you to rectify the allocation system.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, the debate on price rise is over.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up 'matters of urgent public importance'. Dr. Ram Chandra Dome.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Bolpur): Madam, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government to a very urgent matter of public importance.

In the North Eastern Region, particularly in the State of Manipur, the recent happenings are very horrible in the whole of the nation. On 23rd July this year, there was a tragic happening in the Imphal District where the Manipur Police with the armed security forces had tried to arrest allegedly an insurgent youth. But they started indiscriminate firing; due to indiscriminate firing, one youth called Ranjit was killed in broad day light. More tragic incidents have also taken place.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is a State subject.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: It is not a State subject. It is about insurgency. I am not blaming the State Government. It is really a matter of concern because one young woman, a pregnant woman—a would be mother—was also killed. Seven more persons were badly injured with bullets. Next day, it came in the media. There was Tahelka exposure and many other channels revealed the actual facts that it was a fake encounter. Now-a-days, these sort of fake encounters are taking place in many parts of the country. I demand

the actual investigation and apprehension of the culprits. Those who are responsible for this indiscriminate firing and killing of innocent people in the name of containing insurgency, should be brought to book. At the same time, insurgency should be combated by taking people into confidence. People are agitated on this issue. A mother has been killed, innocent people have been killed and a innocent person has been injured. They had to bear the brunt of this mindless activities of the security forces.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to make a statement to dispel the suspicion among the people as to what situation is prevailing there. The curfew should be withdrawn immediately to normalize the situation, due compensation should be provided to the deceased persons, and due provision of treatment should be there. This is my submission to this august House.

[Translation]

DR. BHOLA SINGH (Nawada): Madam Speaker, 2nd October is the birthday of venerable Bapu. 2nd October is not only the birthday of a person but it is the birthday of a new nation. Bapu gave a social, economic and cultural base to the national freedom. He went to dalit basti... * and did sanitation.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is an unparliamentary word. It will not go on record.

DR. BHOLA SINGH: It is not an unparliamentary word. It is a parliamentary word and I am saying this respectfully that it is not an unparliamentary word. I am saying that he spread social awareness through 'Harijan Patrika', but even after the lapse of 60 years of independence, 25 crore people are still deprived of proper toilet-facilities. They are using dry toilet and the practice of scavenging is still continuing. As per the department of urban poverty alleviation of Government of India, two lac families in Bihar use dry toilet tank. The Government of India has assured to provide Rs. 200 crore for the construction of safety toilet tank. It took initiatives to eliminate the practice of scavenging by 2nd Oct, 2009.

*Not recorded.

Madam, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government of India that 2nd October is coming and so the Government of India should pay tribute to Bapu by eliminating the practice of scavenging all over the country including Bihar.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): We are all aware that every year annual Plan size of different States of the country are fixed in Plan meetings and different yardsticks are applied for different States depending on various parameters, more particularly for the special category States of Jammu and Kashmir and the States of the North Eastern Region. These States do not have enough revenue collection to run their Governments. So, they depend on the grants that are released by the Union Government.

In a recently held such meeting on the 4th of August in a not so very cordial atmosphere, my State Manipur was refused the proposed Plan size. The State was denied even 20 per cent increase from the previous Plan size whereas other sister States of the North-Eastern region were given 30 to 35 per cent increase over the previous year's Plan size. The Commission proposed to provide only 10 per cent increase. I would like to ask as to why is this discrimination being made.

The meeting totally lost its desired cordiality. But it is, however, learnt that a 20 per cent increase over the previous year's Plan size has now been agreed upon. This type of bargaining does not speak well for the polity. No order to this effect has been issued yet.

Madam, under the circumstances, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India that the Planning Commission should consider the request of these special category States, particularly my State Manipur which is very badly affected by insurgent activities. These States should be given more humane consideration so that the developmental works of the States are implemented successfully and on time. This would go a long way towards solving the many critical problems and issues being faced by these problem-ridden special category States like Manipur.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The word spoken by Bhola Singhji should be expunged because it is an unparliamentary word.

18.53 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 7, 2009/Sravana 16, 1931 (Saka).

Annexure-I**Member-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question No.
1	2	3
1.	Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivaji	480
2.	Shri Adsul Anandrao	466
3.	Shri Anantkumar, Hegde	467
4.	Shri Ballu, T.R.	479
5.	Shri Chitthan N.S.V.	475
6.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	477
7.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	461
8.	Dr. Joshi, Mahesh	473
9.	Shri Kashyap Virender	471
10.	Shri Madam Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	475
11.	Smt. Mahajan, Sumitra	470
12.	Shri Mani Jose K.	468
13.	Dr. Naik, Sanjeev Ganesh	474
14.	Shri Nirupam Sanjay Brijkishor Lal	463
15.	Shri Panda, Baijyant	462
16.	Shri Patel Devji M.	462
17.	Shri Ramkishun	471
18.	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	465
19.	Shri Ray, Rudramadhab	464
20.	Shri Reddy M. Sreenivasulu	480
21.	Shri Saroj, Tufani	478
22.	Shri Singh Uday	476
23.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan Alias Lalan Singh	467

1	2	3
24.	Shri Sudhakaran K.	468
25.	Smt. Sule, Supriya	474
26.	Shri Tewari Manish	469
27.	Shri Yadav, Hukumdev Narayan	472
28.	Shri Yaskhi Madhu Goud	476

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question No.
1	2	3
1.	Shri Prabhakar, Ponnarn	4488, 4570, 4584, 4619, 4648
2.	Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivaji	4584, 4585, 4610, 4623
3.	Shri Adsul Anandrao	4584, 4614, 4623, 4647
4.	Shri Agarwal, Jai Prakash	4541, 4600
5.	Shri Agrawal, Rajendra	4502, 4574
6.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	4495, 4569, 4640, 4649
7.	Shri Anantkumar, Hegde	4585
8.	Shri Awale Jaywantrao	4536, 4593
9.	Shri Baalu, T.R.	4592
10.	Shri Babar Gajanan D.	4523, 4554, 4661
11.	Shri Baske, Pulin Bihari	4504, 4568
12.	Shri Bavaliya Kunvarjibhai Mohanbhai	4539, 4550, 4598, 4630, 4652

1	2	3
13.	Dr. Beg, Mehboob	4531, 4599
14.	Shri Bhagat Sudarshan	4552, 4609
15.	Shri Bhonsle Udayan Raje	4510
16.	Smt. Botcha, Jhanshi Lakshmi	4534
17.	Shri C., Sivasami	4529, 4583, 4596
18.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	4580
19.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	4517
20.	Shri Deora Milind	4509
21.	Shri Dhotre Sanjay	4531, 4550, 4604
22.	Shri Dubey Nishikant	4546, 4604, 4634, 4655, 4664
23.	Shri Dudhgaonkar, Ganeshrao Nagorao	4535
24.	Smt. Dutt Priya	4519
25.	Shri Gadhvi Mukeshy Bhaira- vadanji	4506, 4550
26.	Shri Gaikwad Eknath Mahadeo	4511, 4575, 4597, 4628
27.	Shri Gopal, L. Raja	4517
28.	Shri Gowda Chandre D.B.	4500
29.	Shri Haque, Sk. Saidul	4649
30.	Shri Hussain Syed Shahnawaz	4543
31.	Shri Jadhao, Prataprao Ganpatrao	4531, 4550
32.	Shri Jadhav Baliram	4535
33.	Shri Jakhar Badri Ram	4507, 4607
34.	Smt. Jaya Prada	4530, 4612

1	2	3
35.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	4560, 4616, 4646
36.	Dr. Joshi, Mahesh	4566, 4642, 4660
37.	Shri Joshi, Pralhad	4649
38.	Shri Khaire Chandrakant	4515
39.	Dr. Khatri, Nirmal	4547
40.	Shri Kumar Mithilesh	4489
41.	Shri Kumar, P.	4522
42.	Shri Kumar, Shailendra	4526
43.	Shri M. Krishnasswamy	4557
44.	Shri Madam Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	4605, 4636, 4656
45.	Smt. Mahajan, Sumitra	4587
46.	Shri Maharaj, Satpal	4508, 4611, 4644, 4662
47.	Shri Mahato, Narahari	4497
48.	Shri Majhi Pradeep	4516, 4597, 4628, 4661, 4666
49.	Shri Mani Jose K.	4586
50.	Shri Muttemwar Vilas	4487, 4576, 4635
51.	Shri P. Balram	4501, 4550, 4572, 4639
52.	Dr. Naik, Sanjeev Ganesh	4534, 4590
53.	Shri Nama, Nageswara Rao	4521, 4579, 4629, 4651
54.	Shri Namdhari, Inder Singh	4518
55.	Shri Naranbhai, Kachhadia	4658

1	2	3
56.	Shri O.S. Manian	4557
57.	Shri Owaisi Asaduddin	4496, 4564
58.	Shri Pal, Jagdambika	4542
59.	Shri Panda, Baijayant	4582
60.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	4544, 4602
61.	Shri Pandey Ravindra Kumar	4520, 4591
62.	Dr. Patasani, Prasanna Kumar	4525
63.	Shri Patel Devji M.	4561, 4641
64.	Smt. Patel, Jayshreeben	4538, 4595
65.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	4516, 4556, 4597, 4628, 4661
66.	Shri Patil Bhaskarrao Bapurao	4597, 4628
67.	Shri Ramkishun	4588, 4624
68.	Shri Rane, Nilesh Narayan	4505, 4550, 4571
69.	Dr. Rao, K.S.	4649
70.	Shri Rao, Sambasiva Rayapati	4523
71.	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	4622, 4649
72.	Shri Ray, Rudramadhab	4567, 4621
73.	Shri Reddy M. Sreenivasulu	4517, 4536, 4613, 4645
74.	Shri Reddy, Ananth Venkatarami	4494, 4539
75.	Shri S. Semmalai	4528
76.	Shri S.S. Ramasubbu	4490, 4562, 4617
77.	Shri Sampath, A.	4486
78.	Smt. Saroj, Sushila	4551, 4586, 4615

1	2	3
79.	Shri Saroj, Tufani	4591
80.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	4537, 4594, 4627, 4650
81.	Shri Sethi Arjun	4499, 4653
82.	Shri Shanavas M.I.	4545, 4603, 4633, 4654, 4663
83.	Shri Sharma, Madan Lal	4539, 4550, 4598, 4630, 4652
84.	Shri Shri, Anto Antony	4549
85.	Shri Shukla Balkrishna K.	4527, 4606, 4637
86.	Shri Siddeshwara, G.M.	4492, 4625
87.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	4585
88.	Smt. Singh, Meena	4540
89.	Shri Singh, Murari Lal	4503
90.	Shri Singh Pashupati Nath	4591
91.	Dr. Singh Raghuvansh Prasad	4513, 4581, 4620, 4659, 4665
92.	Shri Singh, Sushil Kumar	4558
93.	Shri Singh, Uday	4573, 4626, 4649
94.	Shri Singh, Brijbhushan Sharan	4548
95.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan Alias Lalan Singh	4585
96.	Shri Sudhakaran K.	4608
97.	Shri Sugavanam. E.G.	4491, 4563
98.	Shri Sugumar, K.	4524, 4578, 4631

1	2	3
99.	Smt. Sule, Supriya	4534, 4590, 4601, 4632
100.	Shri Suresh Kodikkunnil	4498, 4557, 4565, 4618, 4653
101.	Shri Swamy N. Cheluvaraya	4493, 4577, 4622, 4638, 4657
102.	Smt. Swaraj Sushma	4514
103.	Dr. Taviad Prabha Kishor	4532
104.	Shri Thakur Anurag Singh	4540
105.	Shri Thomas P.T.	4512, 4649

1	2	3
106.	Shri Vasava, Mansukh Bhai D.	4593
107.	Shri Verma Sajjan	4559
108.	Shri Wakchaure, Bhausahab	4533, 4589, 4625
109.	Shri Wankhede Subhash Bapurao	4550
110.	Shri Yadav Anjan Kumar M.	4593
111.	Shri Yadav Dinesh Chandra	4553, 4588, 4643
112.	Shri Yadav Om Prakash	4555
113.	Shri Yaskhi Madhu Goud	4575

Annexure-II**Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	464, 478
Civil Aviation	:	461, 463, 476
Corporate Affairs	:	
Food Processing Industries	:	465
Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	:	
Law and Justice	:	
Minority Affairs	:	
Petroleum and Natural Gas	:	466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 479
Railways	:	462, 472, 473, 477, 480
Steel	:	474, 475
Textiles	:	

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	4497, 4528, 4558, 4610, 4637, 4646, 4647
Civil Aviation	:	4486, 4508, 4517, 4521, 4523, 4542, 4555, 4563, 4568, 4575, 4576, 4580, 4582, 4599, 4613, 4626, 4651, 4652, 4666
Corporate Affairs	:	4515, 4533, 4545, 4603, 4614, 4617, 4633, 4654, 4663
Food Processing Industries	:	4516, 4572, 4623
Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	:	4487, 4488, 4491, 4494, 4511, 4527, 4556, 4566, 4597, 4616
Law and Justice	:	4495, 4498, 4522, 4537, 4540, 4579, 4581, 4600, 4641, 4649, 4660
Minority Affairs	:	4501, 4564, 4569, 4640
Petroleum and Natural Gas	:	4489, 4490, 4525, 4534, 4541, 4548, 4549, 4553, 4554, 4561, 4573, 4590, 4593, 4604, 4606, 4607, 4608, 4621, 4624, 4628, 4630, 4635, 4650, 4662

Railways	:	4496, 4500, 4502, 4503, 4504, 4505, 4506, 4507, 4509, 4510, 4512, 4513, 4514, 4518, 4519, 4520, 4526, 4532, 4535, 4536, 4538, 4543, 4544, 4547, 4550, 4551, 4552, 4559, 4560, 4562, 4567, 4570, 4571, 4574, 4577, 4583, 4585, 4586, 4587, 4588, 4589, 4591, 4592, 4594, 4598, 4602, 4609, 4611, 4612, 4615, 4618, 4620, 4627, 4629, 4642, 4643, 4644, 4648, 4657, 4658, 4661, 4665
Steel	:	4492, 4493, 4601, 4605, 4622, 4632, 4636, 4659, 4664
Textiles	:	4499, 4524, 4529, 4530, 4531, 4539, 4546, 4557, 4565, 4578, 4584, 4595, 4596, 4619, 4625, 4631, 4634, 4638, 4639, 4645, 4653, 4655, 4656.

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