

C&D

Fifteenth Series, Vol. IV No. 21

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Sravana 8, 1931 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IV contains Nos. 21 to 26)

27(211)(2)
1910/2011

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 80.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

P. D. T. Achary
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

Dr. R. K. Chadha
Joint Secretary

Pratima Srivastava
Director

Vandna Trivedi
Additional Director

U. C. Pant
Joint Director

Raakesh C. Handoo
Editor

@2009 Lok Sabha Secretariat

None of the material may be copied, reproduced, distributed, republished downloaded, displayed, posted or transmitted in any form or by any means, including but not limited to, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of Lok Sabha Secretariat. However, the material can be displayed, copied, distributed and downloaded for personal, non-commercial use only, provided the material is not modified and all copyright and other proprietary notices contained in the material are retained.

Original English proceedings included in English Versions will be treated as authoritative and not the English translation of the speeches made in Hindi and other languages included in it. For complete authoritative version please see Original Version of Lok Sabha Debates.

CONTENTS

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

No.21, Thursday, July 30, 2009/ Sravana 8, 1931 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question nos.381 to 386	1-34
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos.387 to 400	34-49
Unstarred Question Nos.3614 to 3830 and 3832 to 3843	49-259
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	259-262
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	
<p>(i) Status of implementation of the 205th Report of Standing Committee on industry on action taken on the 202nd Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to the Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh 262</p>	
<p>(ii) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 39th Report of Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants(2008-09), pertaining to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shri Salman Khursheed 262-263</p>	
<p>(iii) (a) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 35th Report of Standing Committee on Labour on "General condition of weavers in the country—A case study of concentration zone of weavers", pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles..... 263</p>	
<p>(iii) (b) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 33rd Report of Standing Committee on Labour on "Development Schemes for Handicrafts Sector", pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi 263-264</p>	
CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
<p>Situation arising due to export of non-Basmati Rice to certain countries in violation of Government Guidelines and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto. 264-283</p>	
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
<p>(i) Need to undertake repair works of N.H. 47 from Aroor to Haripad in Kerala</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shri K.C. Venugopal 293</p>	
<p>(ii) Need to re-start the construction of railway line linking Udhampur, Katra and Banihal in Jammu and Kashmir</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Chaudhary Lal Singh 294</p>	

* 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 restart excavation of coal in closed collieries in Giridih Parliamentary Constituency of Jharkhand	
	Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey	294
(iv)	Need to undertake development works in Varanasi under Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission	
	Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi	294-295
(v)	Need to provide stoppage to all the Goa-bound trains at Karmali Railway Station in Goa	
	Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	295
(vi)	Need to start production of oil from Ratna R Series oil fields	
	Shri Nishikant Dubey.....	295-296
(vii)	Need to set up a Commando and Police Training School in Himachal Pradesh	
	Shri Virender Kashyap	
(viii)	Need to provide Instrument Landing System at Srinagar Airport in Jammu and Kashmir	296
	Dr. Mirza Mehboob Beg	296

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Issues arising out of Prime Minister's recent visit to foreign countries

Shri Basu Deb Acharia	296-303-
Shri B. Mahtab	303
Shri Anant Gangaram Geete	303-307
Dr. M. Thambidurai	307-310
Shri Gurudas Dasgupta	310-311
Shri Pranab Mukherjee	311-321
Shri Digvijay Singh	321-325
Shri Asaduddin Owaisi	325-327
Shri S.M. Krishna	328-334

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5th Report	335
------------------	-----

RESOLUTION RE: STEPS TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF DRINKING WATER IN THE COUNTRY

Shri Satpal Maharaj	335-344
Shri Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav	344-348
Shri Shailendra Kumar	348-351

Chaudhary Lal Singh	351-354
Shri Jagdish Sharma	354-356
Shri Pradeep Tamta	356-359
Shri B. Mahtab	359-362
Shri Adhir Chowdhury	363-365
Shri S. Semmalai	365-366
Shri Gorakhnath Pandey	366-369
Shri Rajendra Agrawal	369-370
Shri Kamal Kishor 'Commando'	370-372
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	372-374
Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey	374-375, 382-384
Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid	375-376
Shri Bishnu Pada Ray	376-378
Shri Jagdambika Pal	379-381

ANNEXURE-I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	385
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	385-390

ANNEXURE-II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	391-392
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	393-394

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

The Speaker

Shrimati Meira Kumar

The Deputy Speaker

Shri Karia Munda

Panel of Chairmen

Shri Basu Deb Acharia

Shri P.C. Chacko

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

Shri Inder Singh Namdhari

Shri Francisco Cosme Sardinha

Shri Arjun Charan Sethi

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh

Dr. M. Thambidurai

Shri Beni Prasad Verma

Dr. Girija Vyas

Secretary General

Shri P.D.T. Achary

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 30, 2009/Sravana 8, 1931 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

(MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Madam Speaker: Q.No. 381, Shri Pradeep Majhi

Bhel Plan for Nuclear Components Business

*381. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) proposes to enter the nuclear reactor components, nuclear reactor turbine and boiler business in view of the emerging scope for expansion of nuclear power generation in the country;

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

(c) the details of the steps taken so far by BHEL for tapping this potential market with national and international firms; and

(d) the extent to which such new tie-ups will help BHEL in gaining access to new technologies?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes.

(b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has already manufactured and supplied some Nuclear reactor components like Steam Generators, Reactor Headers and Nuclear Turbine Generator Sets to Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) for their 220 MWe and 540 MWe reactors. In March '09, BHEL was awarded a contract for manufacture of Steam Generators for 700 MWe reactor.

BHEL is planning to enhance its capabilities for manufacture and supply of reactor components like Steam Generator for higher size reactors i.e. 1000 MWe and above likely to be installed in the country in future. BHEL is also planning to manufacture Nuclear Turbines of 700 MWe and above ratings.

(c) BHEL is making efforts to associate with probable/likely nuclear reactor vendors like GE-Hitachi (USA), Areva (France), Westinghouse (USA) and Atomstroyexport (Russia) for possible cooperation to manufacture the components of higher size reactors. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between BHEL and GE-Hitachi (USA) for possible cooperation in this area.

BHEL has also signed a MOU with Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) to form a Joint Venture (JV) company to carry out Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) activities on the secondary side (turbine side) of nuclear power plants of 700 MWe and above rating within India and abroad.

Further, BHEL is in discussions with probable/likely international technology providers for 700 MWe and above nuclear turbines.

(d) BHEL is in the process of taking up with the probable vendors for joining hands. The extent of gaining access to the new technologies would depend upon the negotiations in this regard.

SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Madam, the public sector undertaking, BHEL is reportedly tying up with private sector L&T and LTD to set up nuclear reactor component business in future. As it is a nuclear based programme, what measures the Government of India are planning to take to regulate and to maintain secrecy and confidentiality of this matter?

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Madam Speaker, the hon. Member has rightly asked this very important question. The BHEL has already signed an agreement with GE-Hitachi (USA) and is also in the process of having some understanding with different foreign companies like Areva, Westinghouse and Atomstroyexport (Russia).

As regards the matter regarding maintaining secrecy, we will follow all the instructions given by the Department.

SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: In a sensitive matter like nuclear power, what measures are the Government planning for not allowing private players to hold majority stake and management control in nuclear related production?

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: As per the Government guidelines, I think all those measures will be properly taken by the Company because we are bound by the decision and the instructions issued by the concerned Department. This being a very sensitive matter whatever secrecy and whatever important steps are to be taken, those will be taken by the Company.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Madam Speaker, today we have become capable of meeting the increasing demand of energy of the country with nuclear energy. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the quantum of orders for nuclear projects booked in respect of the BHEL and the status of these orders. I would also like to know the target of capacity enhancement of nuclear energy viz-a-viz the existing unit capacity of BHEL till the end of 2009.

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Madam Speaker, as far the question of generation of nuclear energy is concerned, BHEL has signed an agreement with Nuclear Power Corporation of India limited. BHEL has supplied several machines for the plants that have been set up till now by them and plans to enhance 3107 MWE capacity in coming days for all the nuclear power plants which are under construction. We have a joint venture with NPCIL and as per the agreement, BHEL will supply all the necessary machines to them for their projects and the supply will be made in time..

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, BHEL is a very powerful Navratna CPSU of the country. They are overloaded with so many Central and State Government orders for supplying equipment to repair the units of different States.

BHEL has signed agreements with, USA, Russia and other countries. I would like to know if these agreements with other countries will hamper the progress and delay the execution and implementation of Government orders. Now, they have an agreement for a nuclear power project also. Would it affect and delay the implementation of Government orders?

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Madam, Speaker, I would like to clarify one position here. First of all, BHEL will remain committed to all Government orders. Our first duty is to ensure an assured supply to all Government projects. All these companies that are now in the process of coming

here, all those are in the initial stages and no company has yet started their manufacturing unit in India. It is at a very early stage to say anything on that. But our commitment is first the Government projects and then if there is any scope we will take care of the private players.

[Translation]

Production of Crude oil/Gas by oil companies

†*382. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

SHRI. ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

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

- (a) the total capacity of oil and gas reserves in the country;
- (b) the quantity of crude oil and gas produced by public sector oil companies during the last three years, company-wise and location-wise;
- (c) the average cost of crude oil and gas produced by the said companies during each of the last three years; and
- (d) the steps being taken to boost production by adopting cost-effective techniques?

[English]

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

Statement

- (a) Total quantity of Oil and Gas reserves in the country as on 1.4.2009 is 1840.07 Million Metric Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE).
- (b) The quantity of Crude Oil and Gas produced by public sector oil companies viz., Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) during the last three years, company -wise and location-wise is given in the enclosed Annexure.
- (c) The average cost of crude oil and natural gas produced by ONGC and OIL during each of last three years are given below:

Company	Oil/Gas	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
ONGC	Crude Oil (Rs./MT)	9235	10053	10328*
	Natural Gas (Rs./thousand standard cubic metre SCM)	3490	3426	4689*
OIL	Crude Oil (Rs./MT)	8026.21	9501.12	8854.90
	Natural Gas (Rs./thousand SCM)	1822.57	1887.73	2463.14

*Provisional Cost of Production

(d) The steps taken by ONGC and OIL to boost production inter alia include application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields, faster development of discovered reserves etc.

Annexure

Location-wise crude oil and natural gas production for last three Years i.e. 2006-07 to 2008-09 is as under :

ONGC

Crude Oil Production		Million Metric Tonne (in MMT)		
Area	Location	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Offshore	Mumbai Offshore	17.993	18.020	17.801
Onshore	Gujarat	6.122	6.055	5.788
	Assam	1.331	1.290	1.223
	Tamil Nadu	0.354	0.299	0.265
	Andhra Pradesh	0.251	0.280	0.289
Sub Total		8.058	7.924	7.565
Total		2605	35.945	25.366

Natural Gas Production Million Metric Standard Cubic Metre (in MMSCM)

Area	Location	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
Offshore	Mumbai Offshore	16567	16457	16733
Onshore	Gujarat	2185	2092	1950

1	2	3	4	5
	Rajasthan	17	16	13
	Assam	498	499	471
	Tamil Nadu	1130	1169	1242
	Andhra Pradesh	1525	1567	1524
	Tripura	520	534	553
	Sub Total	5875	5877	5753
	Total	22442	22334	22486

OIL

Crude Oil Production (in MMT)

Area	Location	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Crude Oil MMT				
Onshore	Assam	3.061	3.060	3.432
	Arunachal Pradesh	0.046	0.041	0.036
Total		3.107	3.101	3.468

Natural Gas Production (in MMSCM)

Area	Location	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Onshore	Assam	2011.18	2076.54	2042.62
	Arunachal Pradesh	28.44	24.54	22.18
	Rajasthan	224.95	239.38	203.58
Total		2264.57	2340.46	2268.38

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the quantum of year-wise investment made for exploration of oil and natural gas during 2004 to 2009 in order to increase the production thereof and the relative increase in the production in proportion to the total cost of investment made.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): Madam Speaker, as far the production of crude oil especially by Public Sector Undertakings during 2004 to 2009 is concerned, there has been a little decline in it. The wells the property and blocks of public sector undertaking are very old. The life of a well is nearly 15 years. Our largest oil-producing centre is located in Bombay High. Its well is 30

year old. Gradually we are making efforts, however, no large scale commercial production of oil has been made by the Public Sector Undertakings, nor was any new well been explored by them. Only investment is being made.

Madam, as far as the oil production is concerned, it has been observed that as the production capacity of oil well decreases, more amount is required to be spent to increase its production. The reason for more investment in it is that new technology is needed to extract more oil. As far as the Ministry of Petroleum, ONGC and other Public Sector Undertakings are concerned, our effort is to minimize decline in the production of oil and extract more oil so that production may increase.

SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA: Madam Speaker, though hon'ble Minister has tried to give reply, however, my specific question regarding the quantum of investment made remained unanswered. The hon'ble Minister has replied that there has been a decline in the production of oil and natural gas in the public sector. My question was about the quantum of investment made but the hon'ble Minister did not give reply to that. Though the hon'ble Minister has accepted that there has been decline in the production, however, I want to know how much amount has been invested in it during the years 2004 to 2009. Madam, it is public money. People want to know as to how much amount has been invested. It is my first supplementary. Madam, I have yet to ask my second supplementary.

MADAM SPEAKER: You may put your second supplementary as well. This is not the way. It is the rule. Now you please ask your second question as well.

...(Interruptions)...

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is not the way that you ask first question, then ask second and third question. You please ask your second supplementary as well.

SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA: Madam, I would like to submit that the hon'ble Minister has accepted that there is a decline in the production. He also said that ONGC is Public Sector Undertakings.

As per the policy of the Government, ONGC was assigned the task of exploring the oil reserves in the country. When it was assigned the task of exploring oil reserves in Godawari basin, it said that there is no oil reserve there. But when a private company was assigned the same task, they discovered huge oil reserves in the Godawari basin. Now, it

has been renamed as ONGC, Videsh. However, it did not work in the country, but, now it is operating in foreign countries. It did not work as per the Government policy and after survey, it declared that there was no oil reserve in Godawari basin. When they left, a private company discovered huge reserve of oil in that basin. Who is responsible for the losses suffered by the Government? Public money was wasted. Through you, I would like to know from the Government who is responsible for this wastage.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, as far the first question is concerned, I was giving its reply. He had asked about the expenditure between 2004 and 2009 whereas the expenditure has been made not only from 2004 itself. Since decline in the production, we have introduced two schemes - Improved Oil Recovery and Enhanced Oil Recovery and Rs. 14,550 crore have been spent on this. We have introduced 18 schemes for those wells; so that production may continue there.

As far your second question is concerned, that ONGC has given it to some private company. ...(Interruptions) You please listen to me. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please address the chair.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: I would like to submit that transparency has been introduced in exploration licensing policy which has been in force for many years. The objective of this scheme is to invite competent persons from the country and abroad to come to India and. ...(Interruptions) Please listen to me. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please allow him to reply.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let him give his reply. Please listen to his reply calmly...

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, he will give clear reply only. Let him complete. You may please sit down and listen to his reply.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Do not interrupt.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Please listen. As far as new exploration licencing policy is concerned, its purpose is to produce and explore more and more oil in the country. Under this new Exploration Licencing Policy opportunity is given

to foreign as well as to the P.S.U. companies of the country and it is done under absolute transparent bidding. It has maximum rate and production capacity and in the case of Godavari basin also which is being mentioned here, blocks were allocated under the new exploration policy on the basis of bidding in a transparent manner. ...*(Interruptions)* You may please listen for at least a minute. Now listen please.

ONGC has also got one block over there, it is in very deep water. Oil may be found there but at present ONGC is not equipped with the requisite technology to explore oil from such a deep water, but it can be possible in the coming years. The policy being applied over there is completely transparent.

SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA: Madam, this is not a reply to that question. If you do not give us protection, then who else will give us. The hon'ble Minister should give a satisfying reply, I would like to request this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Madam, my question is that the Government have not clarified in their reply as to is cost of production? They have given provisional cost of production, not the exact cost of production. Hon'ble Minister just now stated that whenever oil and gas exploration is done, it is done on the basis of bidding. On one side, they say it is done on the basis of bidding on the other side, whenever they want, they fix the price it has no logic, no criterion in principle.

There is no transparency. It has never been done keeping in view the interest of the common people or the development the country. Some days back, at the time of fixing the price of aviation fuel, the Government had stated in the floor of this House that as far as the price of aviation fuel is concerned, it is fixed by the oil marketing companies whereas the domestic fuel prices are fixed by the Government. Keeping in view the condition of the common man and with a humane approach, I would clearly like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the price of gas or oil is fixed keeping in view the cost of production.

Secondly, the criteria on which its price. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Ask only one question.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Madam, I am asking the question only, I am not giving a speech.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ask one question only.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: I am asking question only, but a question has another part also.

MADAM SPEAKER: By dividing it in parts, you are asking so many questions. Ask only one question.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Whether the price of gas is fixed on the basis of the cost of production or some other criterion?

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please give the reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Your question is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Whether keeping in view the cost of production, the Government will review it in the coming days; if so, the details thereof? If not, the reasons therefore?

MADAM SPEAKER: Give reply to only one question.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, as far as the cost of production is concerned about which he has stated that only provisional figures have been given in the reply, it has been so given because we would be able to give the exact figures only after audit. Due to this reason, we have given the provisional figures. As far as costing is concerned, as it stated earlier, pricing has been separated under the New Exploration Licencing Policy. It is done on market rate under profit sharing contract. Under the earlier pricing system, the Government of India used to give blocks of ONGC or other oil PSUs on nomination basis and used to fix the price because any bidding process was not envisaged nor any expenditure in this regard had to be incurred. The Government would allocate them and as such it would fix keeping in view the interest of the country and prices were kept at the minimum so that people may not bear the brunt of it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Madam, the reply to the question has not been given. If such kind of reply would be given in the House, then. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Ask one question. You have gradually asked many questions.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Madam, if the reply to the question will not be given ...(Interruptions) A reply to the question has to be given ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please keep silent. I am requesting him.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please keep quiet, let me speak.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please keep silent, let me talk to the hon'ble Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA: Madam, he should come prepared. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I can speak only if you keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: It will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: I will be able to request the hon'ble Minister only if you keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please be quiet, only then I would say something. First, please be quiet.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please keep quiet, then only I would be able to say something to him. Do not get so much agitated.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to respond because they are asking something? Would you like to elaborate?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: What point does he want me to elaborate? I will elaborate on that point. He has asked four questions in one go.

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Ask one question only.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: I had asked to the point question, but he has not replied ...(Interruptions) Whether the prices are fixed on the basis of cost of production, or on the basis of some other criteria?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, I have just told him that before the introduction of new exploration licencing policy, blocks were allocated on nomination basis, under which no bidding was done.

The cost plus method was adopted under it. The Government used to fix prices by taking into account the expenditure incurred and also interests of the people. Since the introduction of bidding system and new exploration licencing policy the general prices are implemented taking into account international rates, cost of exploration, surveys etc. I think now the hon'ble Member might be satisfied.

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: It is our national concern that the major expenditure of our country is on account of import of crude oil. The hon. Minister in his reply has given that the expected reserve of gas and crude oil in our country is 1840.07 Million Metric Tonnes of Oil Equivalent. If we see the achievement part of the year, it is below the level, it is only 29 million. The Government has rightly taken the decision of giving the blocks under their New Licensing Policy. But I think the gap between the achievement and the reserve is very much. I would like to know whether the Government is thinking of expediting the process because we are draining out our foreign exchange by importing a large quantity of crude oil. I would also like to know whether the Government will review, see and give more thrust to exploration of crude oil in our country so that we can save our foreign exchange. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: From what the hon. Member asked, if I understand his question rightly, he is primarily going to the point of increase in production. For increase in production, the Ministry and our PSUs have taken a lot of steps like, as I said, the New Exploration Licensing Policy. Since it has come into force, 203 new blocks have been given for exploration after bidding. In the next month, 70 more blocks will come up for bidding so that people from across the world, the best people can come, explore the sedimentary basin in India, try and get the best reserves which are in our country. We have already found oil in

Rajasthan, in Barmar which will be producing 25 per cent of the existing production. There is also gas that has come in the KG Basin. That is also going to double the existing production of gas of what is now produced today. We are very much concerned about the import costs that are involved. All efforts are being made to see that we get maximum reserves within the country so that the burden of cost of importing these products becomes less.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: The hon. Minister, in the concluding part of his Statement, has stated about boosting up production of oil and natural gas. Here, he has stated that faster development of discovered areas are going on. So, my supplementary to the hon. Minister, through you, Madam, is this. What are the discovered areas? What are the areas under exploration in the Bengal Basin of West Bengal? If any positive result has so accrued by the efforts of the explorer, would the Government be in a position to produce crude oil in the Bengal Basin in this Plan Period?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: The topic is for production of crude oil and gas. The hon. Member is very much concerned about exploration. I can get back to him in detail - whether in the West Bengal Basin or wherever he is interested in - to say what the PSUs are doing in regard to that and what steps have been taken.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, you do that.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: I will give him a detailed answer to that.

MADAM SPEAKER: All right. Thank you.

Q. 383 — Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, please ask your question.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please be silent.

Unutilised railway land

*383. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the unutilized land at the disposal of Railways, as on 31 March, 2009 zone-wise;

(b) whether the Railways had given land for use to any other authority/agency after 2004:

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total revenue earned by the Railways therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per announcement in Railway Budget 2009-10, an exercise has been undertaken by Indian Railways to create land bank for its utilization by setting up industrial hubs, commercial development of railway land and other purposes connected with railway working/public purposes, etc. As of now, Railway-wise details of approximate vacant land area is as under:

S.No.	Railway Zone	Details of Vacant land (Area in Acre)
1.	Central	6188
2.	Eastern	3792
3.	East Central	8620
4.	East Coast	4707
5.	Northern	9489
6.	North Central	1079
7.	North Eastern	14352
8.	Northeast Frontier	11718
9.	North Western	5953
10.	Southern	5673
11.	South Central	5557
12.	South Eastern	4467
13.	South Western	2255
14.	South East Central	9659
15.	Western	17970
16.	West Central	1458
Total		112937

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) The details of such land are as under :

S.No.	Authority/Agency	Area (In Acre)
1.	Land entrusted to Government agencies/ semi government agencies, other authorities, etc. for public purpose	510
2.	Land entrusted to Rail Land Development Authority for commercial development of land which is not required immediately for railways operational needs	3568
3.	Land licensed for purposes connected with railway working	497

(d) Total revenue earned by the Railway from land given to other authority/agency is as under :

S.No.	Year	Revenue earned (In crore of Rupees)
1.	2004-05	200.80
2.	2005-06	201.45
3.	2006-07	356.00
4.	2007-08	476.51
5.	2008-09	541.95

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Madam Speaker, in reply to the question, many such facts have come to light, in regard to which I would like to know the policy of railways. In reply to the question, it has been stated that 1,12,937 acres of railways land is lying vacant. The hon'ble Minister of Railways had stated in her reply that the Government want to create land bank for its utilization. I would like to know whether the farmers too will get some share in this land bank or not, because the Railway Minister had fought for this land, which was being acquired from farmers for industrial development. We had supported her in this fight. But now, will she reserve some of part of this land for the farmers, because the area of this land is 1,12,937 acres. At some places even 14,352, 11,718, 17,970 acres of land is available. Big builders are eyeing some of these places, to build complexes on the Railway land. The Government had acquired this land from the farmers. If the Government is not able to utilize this land, as per rule it should return it to the farmers.

I would like to know the criterion on which land bank has been created merely for the industrial houses or whether farmers will also get something out of it? If the

farmers get some share, the details of conditions entailed therefore and if not, whether the land would be returned to the farmers? This is a very important question, because this land is lying vacant for many years.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Murli Manohar Joshi, because he has asked a very good question. I had made a mention about the land bank in the budget.

[English]

We said that we would set up a Land Bank. As of now

[Translation]

except the land required from operational angle, laying of tracks and developing infrastructure from safety and security angle, we have taken the rest of the land under land Bank. 1,12,937 acres of railway land is free of encroachment.

[English]

It is not that we have taken this land from anyone right now. No.

[Translation]

The Railways is having 1.12 lakh acres of vacant land, which is infrastructure land which means that

[English]

it is part of about 10 lakh acres total land and includes land for creating infrastructure and for works like new tracks, gauge conversion, doubling etc. Now we have decided to have Dedicated Freight Corridors. You will be happy to know that after the Western and Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridors, there will be such a corridor for the South also. These corridors will create some employment, infrastructure, industrial hubs etc. For this purpose we need it. There is no doubt about it and we announced it in the Budget. But we have the policy in place where even the Group 'C' and Group 'D' staff of the Railways are sometimes allowed to cultivate or grow plantations. We already have this policy. There are some places where we give licences for growing plantations. Now that you have raised this question, I will certainly take care of that. It is not that we capture land from the farmers. It is not our policy.

We want to utilise the Railway land for commercial purposes through the Land Bank. If we are not to increase

the fare and if we do not want to put burden on the people, then there should be some option for raising alternative income. Through this we can generate more revenue. Instead of raising the tariff, we can go in for commercial utilisation of land and air space. We are not selling the land. Land will be the asset of the Railways. But we can utilise it from a commercial angle which will increase infrastructure, employment etc. As you mentioned about kisans, if you have any specific suggestions, you may please give it to us, we will try to accommodate them.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Thank you very much. But one part of my question has been left unanswered. The Government had acquired the land from the farmers, not purchased it.

[English]

This has been acquired from the farmers.

[Translation]

This should be done as per as the acquired land rule.

[English]

You cannot change the land use like this arbitrarily.

[Translation]

The land use cannot be changed suddenly.

First of all, I would like to know what will be done with the acquired land? Whether it will be returned to farmers or not? Whether farmers will get maximum stake in it or not? This should be replied in first question only. After this reply, I will ask the second question.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Madam, presently no land has been acquired from the farmers. We acquire land only for laying new lines.

[English]

Only for new projects or new lines and that too with compensation. But for this Land bank, it is not from the 'Kisans'. For this Land Bank,

[Translation]

No land has been acquired from the farmers. I do not have any such information. If he is having any such information, he should certainly apprise us about it.(Interruptions)

[English]

No land grabbing. This was there during the British period

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: During the past years, some land and buildings that the Railways possessed earlier have been handed over to others. My second question is whether she will get the matter investigated to ascertain that these lands and buildings are used for the purpose for which they were given. For example, there were BNR buildings in Ranchi and Orissa which were being used by the department of Railways in public interest, but now they have been given to some individuals likewise in various zones, railways' assets have been given to individuals at some places without any bidding or license; and instead of their public use, some individuals are making use of them to make money. I do not know whether they are paying anything to the Railways or not. It is not clear from this reply. I, therefore, request her to give details of the lands and buildings that have been given to any agency from the year 2004 to 2009. I would also like to know whether she will get the matter investigated if these are being used properly and whether these have been given under some policy.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: So far as my knowledge goes in about four Railway Zones, about 497 acre land at few sites have been licensed for different purposes, like commercial plots of land, etc. But if the hon. Member has any specific complaint against anybody

[Translation]

who has acquired license from the Railways and is using Railways' building to further his individual interest, the hon. Members can give us the details and we will get the matter investigated.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Madam, while speaking on budget for 2009-10, the hon. Minister has mentioned about setting up a land bank. I would like to point out that the land was given by the farmers in Katra. They acquired the desired areas of land, barricaded that by constructing a wall over there and did all that was required to be done. Now, after that they are going to those farmers again, though they have taken the entire land. But as you know, the land bears particular numbers.(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Ask your question.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Madam, I am only asking the question. This is a very important issue. The condition of the people in our area has got worsened by this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Ask your question in brief.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Madam, infrastructural set up is already in place there. They have their houses there. They are living there, now they are being threatened. The Railway have acquired the desired area of land, but now it is being said that the rest of the land also belongs to the Railway. They say that the land that is left is theirs. The Minister of Railways is present here. That land may please be exempted. People also say that they are ready to pay back the compensation amount the Railways have given to them, but please do not dislodge them from their households. I would like to know from her as to what she will do in this regard.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: For what purpose was that land acquired?

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Her department has taken the land that they had to take, but the houses that fall in the land. ...*(Interruptions)*

Railway station was proposed there and that has been constructed.

MADAM SPEAKER: Take your seat, let the Minister reply.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Madam, Railways is a vast organization.

[Translation]

Sometimes request is received for construction of station for which land is taken from the State Government. It was the State Government through which land was acquired for setting up of infrastructure.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: That has been constructed. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Okay, that has been constructed. That was the tvery purpose for which land was taken. ...*(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: They have used the desired area of land. But the land that is left. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Let her reply. Please take your seat.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Madam, whenever a station is constructed, some area of land around it is also acquired for operations. ...*(Interruptions)*.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: That has been constructed.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please keep silent. Do not interrupt her while replying.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Madam, whenever railway lines are laid it is done keeping in view the security angle too. If the Railway station is constructed there, we have further plans to develop Katra and we will involve farmers as well in all development processes like setting up of multi functional complexes and other development works in that area.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, I am not talking about the whole railway land in the country, but that of NCR alone. The North-Central Railways have a total 1079 acres of vacant land. They want to give that land for commercial use. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Railways whether she will fix priority to earmark quotas for the BPL people, the handicapped and the ex-servicemen in it?

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: This land bank is being set up for different purposes to utilize the land and the air space commercially for earning revenue.

[Translation]

we have to run the railway.

[English]

so many projects are pending.

[Translation]

There is no money. These are lying pending for 10, 20, 30 years. How will we manage?

[English]

Of course, there is some policy to give it to the physically handicapped people or the ex-servicemen.

[Translation]

We will follow the policy fixed by the railways for giving stalls etc to small vendors as per norms in this regard.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH alias LALAN SINGH: Madam Speaker, before asking a question would like to say one thing to the hon'ble Minister. When the Minister of Railways presented the Rail Budget, I had raised the question that during the last five years large chunks of railway land have been given to private operators for commercial use. At that time, while intervening in the matter the Minister of Railways had stated that if any such complaint was brought to her notice, she would get it investigated. Today in part 'C' of her reply to a written question, it has been stated that 4575 acres of land has been given for commercial use. Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi said that the Railways had two heritage buildings-one, BNR hotel at Ranchi and another BNR hotel at Puri. These, too, were given to private operators. I do not want to say anything about it, since it is a subject of investigation.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ask your question.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH alias LALAN SINGH: But I want to know from the hon. Minister of Railways that in paragraph two of part 'C' of her written reply, she has stated about 3568 acres of land that-

[English]

'The land entrusted to Rail Land Development Authority for commercial development of land which is not required immediately for Railways operational needs'.

[Translation]

Will she get the matter investigated to ascertain whether the transparency has been maintained in this deal or not? Whenever a policy is formulated, it is done in a transparent way. Will she probe into the whole gamut of transparency?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The land of the heritage building in question has been allotted in the year 2004.

[English]

Railway is a vast organization. There are so many small pieces of land, and there are different categories of land also.

[Translation]

The complaint you have made in this regard.

[English]

When you have some grievances, and you have raised some vital issues, we will investigate the matter and we will send you the details.

Foreign Flight Crew in Indian Carriers

*384. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of foreign pilots/commanders/captains presently employed in Indian air carriers;
- (b) the details of shortage of trained pilots/commanders/captains in the country including the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the domestic airlines are reluctant to recruit Indian pilots;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Director General of Civil Aviation has laid down rules/guidelines to phase out foreign flight crews;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

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

Statement

- (a) 666 and 20 foreign pilots are working in Indian Carriers as Pilot - in Command and Co - Pilot respectively.
- (b) There is no shortage of pilots in the country. However, there is a shortage of type rated Commanders in some category of aircraft, which is primarily due to induction of new type of aircraft.

(c) to (g) All domestic airlines, have their own recruitment and training policies and normally Government does not interfere in such matters. However, guidelines have been issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in the form of Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 7, Series G, Part II dated 08.10.1999 revised on 01st November, 2006, which require the airlines to adopt

effective training programmes for their Indian pilots for endorsement of the type of aircraft operated by the airlines, to replace foreign pilots after completion of training.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Madam Speaker, we observe in India that a large number of Indian pilots trained abroad, especially in places like Philippines, are unemployed or under-employed. I would like to know whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation recognizes the eligibility of commercial pilots trained & overseas, especially in Philippines or in the less developed nations which offer courses that are not up to the international standards. What steps is the Government taking to encourage employment among Indian pilots trained in India?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Madam, as far as pilots are concerned, the DGCA will only grant an Indian licence subject to, as long as the training, wherever he or she would have got, maybe, in Philippines or in any other country, meets the stipulated guidelines as set by our own DGCA. These guidelines are broadly in line with the International Civil Aviation Organisation's requirements. So, unless and until they have a parallel training programme available in that country, then only a CPL would be granted by the DGCA in India.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI: We all know that the aviation industry is facing a big financial crisis. Most of the leading newspapers today reported that a leading Indian private airline has informed their employees that their salaries may be delayed, and also the future of this Airline is in question. So, there is every likelihood that these employees will be retrenched. In case of such an event, does the Government have any step to protect these employees?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: This question would not arise out of the current Question. The only thing I can say is that so far we have no other details except what you have read in the newspapers. So, I would not like to comment on that.

MADAM SPEAKER: All right.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Madam Speaker, through you I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that there are many types of commercial pilots. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Will you please sit down?

[Translation]

You please sit down, let the hon'ble Member ask the question.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Madam Speaker, there is no shortage of pilots in the country still foreign pilots are working in various aviation companies in our country. Our new pilots also who have taken training in foreign countries have commercial licence. However, they fail to clear a minor examination held by wireless Monitoring organisation even after five-six attempts in two years. I feel that there is something fishy in it. So, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that though they have obtained commercial licence after spending a lot of money and just on account of their failure to clear a minor exam, their licence is of no use. This examination is held in Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi and even after two rounds they fail to clear this examination. I would like to know whether the hon'ble Minister can do any thing in this regard.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Madam, we should not worry about the efficiency of the pilots who fly us. Since, it is a technical matter so if the pilots fail to clear the examination time and again then I believe that it is quite natural that the hon. Member also would be more worried than me. So, if DGCA or its authority is doing their jobs then we should allow them to do it.

[English]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Madam, there is a severe shortage of trained pilots in the country and as a result, all these companies have employed foreign pilots even sometimes paying them double the salaries of Indian pilots. I appreciate the concern that various Members would have and we must make all out efforts to have more and more Indian pilots to take up jobs as commanders and to further get training. But at the same time, I do feel that we must allow foreign pilots also because sometimes we do find them they are very, very professional and very, very experienced. In fact, that does help the Indian youngsters, Indian young pilots get more training.

Madam, my question to the hon. Minister, through you, is this. It is because I heard that after 2010 we are not going to allow foreign pilots to fly in the country. What repercussion would that have for thousands of Indians who are flying internationally?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Madam, I think the hon. Member is right that we need to have experienced pilots and,

therefore, initially when there was a shortage, yes, we did allow foreign pilots to come and operate in India with the various airlines. But, Madam, also there is equally an important fact that we need to have our own pilots also getting opportunities in our country. Therefore, the DGCA has amended the Civil Aviation Requirements, which we call as CAR, in November, 2006 which require the airlines of India to adopt effective training programmes for their Indian pilots for endorsement on the type of aircraft operated by the airlines so that they can replace foreign pilots after completion of training. So, the objective is - yes, we need experienced pilots; there was shortage in the last two-three years because of the growth of the aviation in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 which resulted in shortage of Commanders not so much of pilots. The second pilot is usually an Indian. But, many times, you could find a foreigner as main Commander. But that is sought to be replaced progressively and that is why the DGCA is fully aware and has already amended and as a result of which now the number of foreign pilots in the last four years has already coming down by almost 300. Some 260 pilots have already been reduced. Over a period of time we wish to have all our Indian young pilots to be able to fly our airlines.

Projects under BHEL

*385. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been several instances where the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) had delayed in the execution of orders placed for supply of equipment to the Government sectors, particularly relating to infrastructure like power;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has been entrusted with the installation of 43,173 MW capacity power projects in the 11th Plan which is about 55% of the total capacity addition envisaged in the 11th Plan. Of this, nearly 90% is for the Government Sector.

For 29,254 MW, BHEL's scope is limited to supply of Boiler and Turbine Generator Package only. The developer has to arrange for the Balance of Plant which includes several sub-systems. For 13,919 MW, BHEL is to set up power plants on turnkey basis.

While there are delays in execution of power projects, the delays are not solely attributable to BHEL.

The setting up of power plant is a complex process and is dependent on the performance of several players. The developer has to provide several inputs starting from making available encumbrance free land, civil work including foundations, raw water etc over which BHEL's supplied equipment is to be erected and commissioned. Several other Balance of Plant (BOP) vendors have to supply equipment like coal and ash handling systems, water systems, cooling towers etc.

Further, while executing the projects, on several occasions the specifications undergo change, leading to delays. Activities to be undertaken by BHEL are pre-approved by the customer which takes considerable time due to involvement of consultants appointed by the customers. Even qualification requirements of BHEL vendors are approved by such consultants.

Secondly, castings and forgings, pipes and fittings of alloy steel, CRGO steel are some critical inputs for manufacturing of various equipment for which there are limited number of vendors world-wide, resulting in supply bottlenecks. Further, infrastructure inadequacies coupled with shortage of skilled manpower also contribute to the delays.

In spite of delays due to various factors beyond the control of BHEL, BHEL puts in extra efforts to minimize the slippages.

(c) BHEL has enhanced its main power generating equipment manufacturing capacity from 6,000 MW per annum to 10,000 MW per annum (available from December 2007), and is further augmenting it to 15,000 MW per annum. This capacity is further proposed for expansion to 20,000 MW per annum by 2011-12. Manpower is also being ramped up in a timely and commensurate manner. This will enable BHEL to meet its ongoing commitments for 11th Plan as well as for 12th Plan power projects.

In addition to the above, a number of other steps have been taken by BHEL such as:

- Outsourcing of finished machined castings including low pressure turbine shafts.

- Enhancement of vendor base in India so as to meet the Balance of Plants (BoP) requirements. Formation of Joint Venture company with NTPC Ltd. for manufacture of Balance of Plant equipments.
- Advance material procurement for critical items.
- Upgradation/rebuilding of existing facilities through reconditioning and retrofitting in various plants of BHEL.
- Augmentation of Tools and Plants like cranes, wagons required for transportation from BHEL units and erection work at project sites.
- Reduction in erection cycle, enhanced resources etc. at site to make up for the delays in projects caused due to non-availability of fronts/foundations under project developer's scope.
- Foreign Technical Collaboration with leading manufacturers of the world for getting latest technology.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Madam, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister one thing. In an extremely comprehensive reply he said he would like to minimize the slippages in the BHEL. But, MAHAGENCO, which is a part of the Maharashtra Government has ordered equipment for 2,000 megawatt production of power. Would he please tell us the status and if there is a delay when would he address all these? Maharashtra is going through an extremely serious power crisis.

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Madam, I can understand the concern of the hon. Member. I had a meeting with the hon. Minister of Energy of Government and the BHEL officers and we reviewed the whole situation. I also know personally as to what crisis we are facing in the State of Maharashtra. Keeping that in view, I had a meeting with the concerned officers of MAHAGENCO and with top officers of BHEL. We agreed on certain terms so that whatever commitment BHEL has made to MAHAGENCO will be fulfilled within a specified period of time and there will not be any delay on our part. But, at the same time, the MAHAGENCO also has to take some effective steps so that they should also cope up with the requirements which are agreed in the agreement.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Madam, my second question is regarding Paras and Worli. These deliveries, though delayed, have been done. But there are technical snags in it. I would like the hon. Minister, who has also been

the hon. Chief Minister and has been very closely watching these delays, what would he do for the boiler turbine generations which are having technical snags. What intervention would he make?

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: We have already taken up this matter very seriously and the officers of BHEL are on the job. I think that will be rectified within, I think, a fortnight or one month.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Madam Speaker, whenever a new power plant is to be set up its execution is entrusted to BHEL. Installation work of two power plants, Chandrapura Thermal Power Station and Bokaro Thermal Power Station in Jharkhand state was assigned to BHEL.

Madam, the installation work of Chandrapura thermal Power Station should have been completed within the stipulated time limit. However, BHEL further invited tender of the work in three stages and assigned the work to other contractors and the quality of work has also been affected on account of this. Presently, BHEL is executing the installation work of Bokaro Thermal Power Station and the situation is the same there as well. The Government of India is suffering a loss on account of this. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether any inquiry will be held in this regard.

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Madam Speaker, if the hon'ble Minister has more detailed information regarding the matter that he has raised and if he can send it to me, the Government will certainly hold on inquiry in this regard and the guilty person will also be punished.

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Madam, through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that the equipments necessary for ensuring power transmission are manufactured by BHEL. There is a huge gap in demand and supply of transformers especially in rural areas of the country. I come from rural area of Poorvanchal where people feel that whenever a transformer goes out of order, it is not replaced in time because there is shortage of transformers. This is the situation not only prevailing in Uttaranchal and Bhadoi but in the entire country because it is the BHEL while supply equipments to other companies as well. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he has any plans to bridge the gap in demand and supply of the equipments. Also, I would like to submit that it is because of non-functioning transformers in rural areas farmers and small

artisans of the villages do not get power supply. I would like to know whether there's any plan to ensure its supply.

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Madam, the question that has been asked by the hon'ble Member is not concerned with BHEL because BHEL manufactures, boilers, turbines and generators, it does not manufacture transformers. However, the question that has been raised here is quite correct because in the absence of timely delivery of transformers, the farmers do not get power despite the availability of power. However, this subject is not related to this question.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, out of 78,000 mv of power generation during 11th Five Year Plan, the target that has been fixed by the Ministry of Power, generation of 43,173 mv has been entrusted to the BHEL. That constitutes 55 per cent of the total target of power generation. There had been slippages in the 10th Five Year Plan and the way the delay in supply of critical equipment, like boiler and turbine takes place, there will be slippages in the 11th Five Year Plan also. So, there is a need to increase the capacity of BHEL.

A large number of units are coming up in the eastern part of the country. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider a proposal to set up a unit of BHEL in eastern part of India - maybe in Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa or Jharkhand?

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Madam, the question asked by the hon. Member is an important question as there are already orders pending with MAHAGENCO for more than 43,000 mv. We have already started augmenting our capacities in the existing plants and by 2011-12 we will be reaching 20,000 mv of capacity. It was only 6,000 mv in 2007. Slowly, we are increasing our capacity and we are augmenting the existing plants.

I think, the hon. Member's suggestion to have a new plant in the eastern region is a matter that has to be examined.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you.

Research and Development in Food Processing Industries

*386. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate steps have been taken to promote Research and Development activities in the food processing sector;

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

(c) whether the Government is providing any investment-linked incentives for in-house R&D expenditure incurred by the companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the indigenously developed technologies which have been utilized gainfully for enhancing production and improving quality of products during the last three years; and

(f) the further action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its scheme for (i) Research and Development in Processed Food Sector, (ii) Setting up / Upgradation of Quality Control/Food Testing Laboratories, (iii) Implementation of HACCP/ISO22000, ISO14000 / GHP / GMP quality / safety management systems and (iv) Promotional activities, is providing financial assistance as grant-in-aid under the sub-component for Research & Development in Processed Food Sector to promote Research & Development in the Food Processing Sector. The Financial Assistance is given as grant-in-aid to various Universities, IITs, Central/State Government Institutions, Public Funded Organizations, R&D Laboratories and CSIR recognized R&D units in private sector, to promote and undertake demand driven R&D work in the field of Food Processing Sector for product and process development, improved packaging, value addition and leading to innovative products and processes with commercial value.

(b) During the last three years following number of projects were assisted:

S.No	Year	No. of Projects	Assistance provided (Rs. in Lakh)
1.	2006-2007	10	201.87
2.	2007-2008	09	259.35
3.	2008-2009	16	481.30
Total		35	942.52

(c) Yes, the Government is providing investment-linked tax incentives for in-house R&D expenditure incurred by companies.

(d) The details are as under:

(i) Clause (i) of section 35(1) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 allows an assessee deduction of any expenditure (not being in the nature of capital expenditure) laid out or expended on scientific research related to his business.

(ii) Clause (iv) of section 35(1) of the Income-tax Act, allows an assessee, deduction of any capital expenditure (other than any expenditure incurred on the acquisition of any land) laid out or expended on scientific research related to his business.

(iii) Section 35(2AB) of the Income-tax Act allows a company (engaged in a specific business), a weighted deduction of 150% of any expenditure incurred on scientific research (not being expenditure in the nature of cost of any land or building) on an in-house research and development facility as approved by the prescribed authority (Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research). The specified businesses are biotechnology, business of manufacture or production of any drugs, pharmaceuticals, electronic components, computers, telecommunication equipments, chemicals or any other article or thing notified by the Board.

The notified articles or things under this section are:

- Helicopter or Aircraft
- Computer software
- Automobile including automobile components.

It is proposed in the current budget (through Finance (No. 2) Bill, 2009) to extend the benefit of weighted deduction of 150% on an in-house research and development facility specified under section 35 (2AB) of the Income-tax Act, to all businesses engaged in the manufacture or production of an article or thing except a small negative list as specified in the Eleventh Schedule. This incentive would give a boost to R&D activities of all sectors.

(e) The various technologies that are developed by several institutions such as post graduate colleges, Universities, Home Science Colleges, Nutrition Oriented colleges and various R&D centers, IITs and many others assisted by Government Ministries/Departments in the area of value addition to fruits & vegetables, development of novel

food products and processes, value addition to marine, meat, fish and poultry industry such as for example chitosan from shrimp waste and more importantly the products of spices and its byproducts and value addition to oleoresins and volatile oil extraction have all been supported over a period of time. The details of the some of the indigenously developed technologies assisted by MFPI, which have been commercialized during the last three years, are: "Establishment of Demonstration plant and training centre for processing in rural area to produce and promote nutritious value added foods from locally available agriproduce", and "Development of shelf stable and ready-to-eat Indian Mini meals Thermo processed in Rertortable Plastic containers" by Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore; and " Packaging of Jeera Puri's" and "Packaging of Banana chips" by Indian Institute of Packaging, Mumbai.

(f) During the 11th plan the scheme, which is under the process of approval for continuation, envisages grant-in-aid to various universities, IITs, Central/State Government Institutions, Public Funded Organizations, R&D Laboratories and CSIR recognized R&D units in private sector. For the Government organizations, assistance to the tune of 100% as grant-in-aid has been revised to include cost of consumables and expenditure related to Junior Research Fellow (JRF)/ Senior Research Fellow (SRF)/ Research Associate (RA) specific to the project of specified duration for maximum of two years.

For Private organizations, grant to the tune of 50% of equipment cost in general areas and 70% in the difficult (*) areas. 100% Grant will be provided for the Ministry's sponsored projects, restricted only to public funded organizations of repute, in cases of cutting edge areas of research leading to development of innovative products, processes and manufacturing practices. In addition, regular interactions are held with academicians/researchers, industry representatives, and policy makers to enrich the quality implementation of research outcome.

(*) Difficult areas include J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, North-Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, and Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) area.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Madam Speaker, through you I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that the Government intend to conduct R and D projects through various universities and IIT's all over the country to

promote food processing industries, however, in 2006-07, 2008-09 only 35 such proposals have been received and Rs. 9 crore 42 lakh has been given to them as grant.

I would like to know as to how many such proposals are likely to be received in the year 2009-10 to promote food processing industry. I would also like to know as to how much grant is likely to be given in future so that food processing industries can be promoted and food parks can be set up.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Madam Speaker, basically we, entertain all the proposals that is submitted to the Government. During 10th Five Year Plan 41 proposals were cleared and during 11th Five Year Plan, 25 proposals have been cleared during the last two years and 14 proposals are pending which such are under examination. The hon'ble Minister of Finance is sitting here. I would like to congratulate Minister of Finance for promoting this industry as he has given 150 percent rebate in income tax in the budget to those companies who will invest in R and D. Earlier it was applicable for certain companies and certain sectors only. Now 150 percent income tax benefit will be given to the entire manufacturing sector including food processing sector. Thus efforts are being made to encourage manufacturing companies to invest on its own in R&D and invent new products and develop new capability. I feel that the benefit extended in this budget would encourage people to invest in it.

Madam, as far my Ministry is concerned, 100 percent grant are given to Government institutions and 50 percent grant-in-aid are given to private people who intend to do this work. In difficult areas like north east and hilly areas nearly 70 percent grant-in-aid is given. In the beginning only a small component is sanctions. During 11th Five Year Plan stipends are given to those as well who are pursuing a medical, M.A. or graduation. Thus, we are trying our best to promote the research and development work.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Madam, my next question is whether grant will be given for Food Park in Maharashtra by his department. I would like to know as to how many proposals have been received from Maharashtra.

Food processing units are closing down these days in Maharashtra. Through you, I would like to ask the Government whether any support would be provided to promote or revive these units?

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Madam, the hon. Member has referred to Maharashtra. We have provided sufficient grants in various sectors like consumers, dairy, wild milling, meat, rice milling, pulse and flour. We have provided a mega food park in Maharashtra. The Ministry received a proposal for 10 mega food parks and one food park each has been sanctioned to various states. If in future we receive any proposal for setting up of mega food park and if it is approved by the Government and the cabinet then we will try. Maharashtra is a horticulture state and we will provide maximum help to the state. I can give you that much assurance.

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Madam, there are women in the villages who are expert and have experience in conventional food whether the government intend to further provide training, to such rural women to enable them to obtain work in rural areas? A number of rural women are engaged in this profession and have a rich traditional experience, they are more experienced than a scientist or an R&D exercise. Whether the Government have any scheme to provide opportunity to such women?

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Madam, I would like to tell the hon. Member that we have prepared a roadmap for 100 days, one year and five years focusing on ways to train five lakh women working at micro level in the villages in the food processing sector. We will provide training to five lakh women entrepreneurs by utilizing the services of ITI and the institutes not having food processing sector curriculum and through training programmes of the Ministry and public private partnership.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Installation of Surveillance Cameras in Railway Premises

*387. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to strengthen security system at railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to install surveillance cameras at railway stations and coaches of trains to keep a vigilant eye on the criminal activities in the railway premises; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d) (i) Rupees 67.09 crore have been allocated for procurement of modern security related equipment for RPF personnel.

(ii) Integrated Security System is being implemented which envisages provision of:

(i) Internet protocol based CCTV system with intelligent video analysis,

(ii) Access Control, -

(iii) Personal and Baggage screening system and

(iv) Bomb detection and disposal system.

Approval has been accorded for implementation of this scheme at 195 sensitive stations of the country at an estimated cost of Rs. 344.31 crore. In addition 973 nos. of additional posts of RPF personnel have also been sanctioned to further strengthen the security system on the railway.

At present, there is no proposal to install surveillance cameras in coaches of trains.

[Translation]

Time schedule of private airlines

*388. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints against private airlines for non-adherence to the stipulated time schedules;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the Government has made any provision for imposing penalty etc. on the defaulter airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a circular to institutionalize

a mechanism at major metro airports including Delhi and Mumbai, wherein a team comprising representatives of Airports Authority of India, Airport Operator and airlines are working on daily basis to review reasons for lack of On Time Performance (OTP) in respect of flights operated the previous day. DGCA also monitors the On Time Performance of schedule airline on monthly basis.

[English]

Airports on Lease

* 389. SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN:

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given or proposes to give on lease new airports at Hyderabad, Bangalore, Delhi and Mumbai on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has ensured independent quality inspection and certification of the new infrastructure at the airports throughout the lease period;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the leaseholders have agreed to handover the airports to the Government on completion of lease in good and proper operational condition; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) IGI Airport, New Delhi and CSI Airport, Mumbai have been given to two Joint Venture Companies (JVCs) namely M/s Delhi International Airport Pvt. Ltd. (DIAL) and Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd. (MIAL) respectively on long-term lease to build, operate and transfer for a period of 30 years with a provision of extending the same for a further period of 30 years subject to satisfactory performance by the JVCs.

The Government of India has entered into a Concession Agreements with M/s Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) and Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. (HIAL) for construction, operation and maintenance of new greenfield airports at Devenahalli near Bangalore and Shamshabad near Hyderabad for a period of 30 years with effect from commissioning of the airports i.e. 24.5.2008 and 23.3.2008 respectively with a provision to extend it for a

further period of 30 years. Beyond this period the term can be further extended on mutually accepted terms and conditions.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In respect of Delhi and Mumbai airports, as per OMDA provisions, M/s. Engineers India Ltd. has been appointed as Independent Engineer who has been entrusted to review all designs, drawings & specifications to assess compliance with finalized major development plan, Development Standards & requirements and certification of commencement & completion of Mandatory Capital Projects.

In respect of Bangalore and Hyderabad airports, as per the provisions of the Concession Agreement both BIAL and HIAL have to develop, maintain and operate the Airport to high standards consistent with standards achieved at other leading international airports. A completion certificate from Independent Engineer appointed by the Lenders, certifying that the projects comply with the specifications of the Concession Agreement is required to be submitted to the Government of India (Gol).

Further, Joint Coordination Committees have also been constituted to assist the JVCs in achieving their objectives.

(e) and (f) As per OMDA provisions for DIAL & MIAL, JVC shall in accordance with Good Industry Practice ensure that all property, assets, rights and other items are vested in or transferred to AAI in good working order and in a good state of repair and that the Airport is transferred to AAI in a good operating order. In the event any of assets which are vested in as transferred to AAI are not fit for the purpose/ in good state of repair/ as would be expected of an international world class airport, as certified by an Independent Engineer, then the repair of all such assets shall be payable by the JVC to AAI and same may be deducted from any transfer payment payable by AAI to JVC.

Similarly, as per the Concession Agreement with BIAL and HIAL, there is a separate provision for the transfer of the airports elucidating the manner and conditions under which the Bangalore and Hyderabad airports are to be transferred to AAI after the expiry of the lease period.

Indo-Myanmar Gas Pipeline

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and the Gas Authority of India Limited had found huge quantity of gas in Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Myanmar had given any guarantee to supply gas for the proposed Myanmar-India pipeline;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the stake hold by the Indian firms is enough to feed the proposed pipeline;

(f) if so, the status of the Indo-Myanmar pipeline; and

(g) if not, the other sources to feed the proposed pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) and GAIL (India) Ltd. (GAIL) have 20% and 10% stakes respectively in A1 and A3 blocks in Myanmar. Together these blocks have proven gas reserves of about 4.5 trillion cubic feet (tcf).

(c) and (d) India pursued import of natural gas from Myanmar through Indo-Myanmar Gas Pipeline Project. Government of Myanmar issued a Letter of Intent on 11th February 2004, wherein GAIL was acknowledged as a preferential buyer of gas from A1 & A3 blocks. Further, an MoU to the above effect was signed between the two countries on 9th March 2006. However, in the meeting held in February 2007 between Myanmar Government and PetroChina, Myanmar Government decided that the gas from A1 & A3 blocks would be sold to China through the pipeline route. GAIL impressed upon the other partners and Myanmar Government that GAIL's pipeline offer was still the most competitive and offered optimum value for them due to proximity of India to these fields. However, Myanmar Government is going ahead with its decision to sell the gas to China.

(e) to (g): As per the Production Sharing Contract (PSC), OVL and GAIL have the right to sell domestically or export their share of profit gas of about 2 million standard cubic meters per day (mmscmd) gas. However, it would not be economically viable to bring only the mentioned quantity to India. Further, no other source of gas is available in Myanmar for import to India. Hence, presently it is not possible to take up Indo-Myanmar gas pipeline project.

Joint Venture for Power Generation

*391. SHRI BALIRAM JADHAV:

SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up a joint venture with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) or such other entities for setting up power plants for its operational usage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways would be able to meet its present and prospective demand of electricity through such captive facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. Indian Railways have already formed a joint venture company, Bhartiya Rail Bijlee Company Limited (A subsidiary company of NTPC) for setting up of a Joint Venture Captive Power Plant of 1000 Mega Watt (MW) Capacity at Nabinagar Bihar to meet a part of its present day power requirement of 2500 MW. In addition, as per announcement in Railway Budget 2009-10, Indian Railways propose to set up another 1000 MW power plant at Adra to avail traction supply at economical tariff.

Expansion of Runways

*392. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken expansion of runways of different airports in the country;

(b) if so, the status of expansion of these runways;

(c) the number of States which are yet to transfer land for expansion of these runways;

(d) the number of runways where the work has not started so far due to non-clearance of defence land;

(e) the total expenditure incurred on this work and the likely escalation in the original cost due to non-transfer of land; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for getting early clearance of land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has planned expansion of runways at Agatti, Belgaum, Cooch Behar, Coimbatore, Dibrugarh, Gaya, Hubli, Jaipur, Jammu, Khajuraho, Kota, Kullu, Madurai, Mangalore, Mysore, Pantnagar, Rajahmundry, Ranchi, Salem, Tiruchira-palli, Tirupathi and Tuticorin. The work of expansion of runway at Aurangabad, Bhopal, Vijayawada and Varanasi is in progress. At Guwahati, Indore, Pudduchery, Raipur and Udaipur airports, the expansion has been completed.

(c) Ten State Governments and two Union Territories.

(d) Two.

(e) The runway projects are being taken up when land is made available. The quantification of likely escalation in such case is not possible till the transfer of land, commencement and completion of work.

(f) The matter is followed up regularly with the concerned State Governments, Union Territories and Defence Authorities. Regular meetings are also held to resolve the issues.

[Translation]

Construction of Budget Hotels

*393. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to build budget hotels at different locations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have identified sites for the said purpose;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) to (d): Yes, Madam. The Railways have identified 64 locations for setting up of Multi-functional Complexes which may have budget hotel. The State-wise details of locations identified for Multi-functional Complexes are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) Detailed planning for execution as well as fixing up of time schedule has been taken up.

Statement		
<i>Locations identified for setting up of Multi-functional complexes</i>		
S. No.	Station	State
1	2	3
1	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
2	Guntur	Andhra Pradesh
3	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
4	Rajahmundry	Andhra Pradesh
5	Silchar	Assam
6	Rajgir	Bihar
7	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh
8	Durg	Chhattisgarh
9	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
10	Gandhidham	Gujarat
11	Rajkot	Gujarat
12	Vadodara	Gujarat
13	Kurukshetra	Haryana
14	Jammu Tawi	Jammu & Kashmir
15	Katra	Jammu & Kashmir
16	Parasnath	Jharkhand
17	Jasidih	Jharkhand
18	Ghatsila	Jharkhand
19	Ranchi	Jharkhand
20	Hubli	Karnataka
21	Mysore	Karnataka
22	Alleppey	Kerala
23	Ernakulam	Kerala
24	Kozhikkode	Kerala
25	Palakkad	Kerala

1	2	3
26	Trichur	Kerala
27	Kannur	Kerala
28	Kottayam	Kerala
29	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh
30	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh
31	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
32	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh
33	Khajuraho	Madhya Pradesh
34	Manmad	Maharashtra
35	Nasik Road	Maharashtra
36	Hajur Sahib Nanded	Maharashtra
37	Shirdi	Maharashtra
38	Cuttack	Orissa
39	Talcher	Orissa
40	Anandpur Sahib	Punjab
41	Bikaner	Rajasthan
42	Jodhpur	Rajasthan
43	Udaipur City	Rajasthan
44	Kanniyakumari	Tamil Nadu
45	Madurai	Tamil Nadu
46	Rameshwaram	Tamil Nadu
47	Tiruchirapalli Jn.	Tamil Nadu
48	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
49	Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh
50	Ayodhya	Uttar Pradesh
51	Raebareilly	Uttar Pradesh
52	Dehradun	Uttarakhand
53	Haridwar	Uttarakhand
54	Kathgodam	Uttarakhand

1	2	3
55	Nainital	Uttarakhand
56	Bansapani	West Bengal
57	Bardhaman	West Bengal
58	Tarapith Rd.	West Bengal
59	Alipurduar	West Bengal
60	Darjeeling	West Bengal
61	Digha	West Bengal
62	Haldia	West Bengal
63	Gangasagar	West Bengal
64	New Alipore	West Bengal

[English]

Pre-Flight Alcohol Test

*394. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cockpit and cabin crew members have been found/detected to be alcohol positive before proceeding for flight and during flight;

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

(c) the action taken against such erring crew members as per the prescribed procedure;

(d) whether the Government proposes to make pre-flight alco test mandatory; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) For the period 2006 till date, 196 Alco positive cases were reported to Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

(c) Any crew member found Alco - positive is immediately grounded for a period of upto six weeks as per procedures given in the Operations Manual of the concerned airlines, along with loss of pay and allowances. In cases of repetition, severe action, such as termination or withdrawal of other privileges, is also taken.

(d) and (e) Pre - flight medical test of aircrew is mandatory, which includes Alco - Sensor checks on random basis.

Replacement of Old Coaches

*395. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the shelf life of coaches fitted with passenger/express trains;

(b) whether the Railways in the recent past have assessed the status of the coaches in terms of their shelf-life and further usage in different zones of the Railways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Railways to replace the old coaches?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) to (c) The prescribed Codal life of coaches running in Passenger/Express trains is 25 years. After careful examination of their condition and overhaul in the Zonal Railway Workshops, it has been decided to extend life of 100 coaches which would be completing their codal life by December, 2009, by 18 months.

The acquisition of new coaches for replacement of over-aged stock is an on-going activity on Indian Railways.

Survey of Minorities Living below Poverty Line

*396. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA :

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct any survey to identify minorities including muslims living below the poverty line in each State including Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the schemes formulated to ameliorate the economic status of minorities including muslims;

(d) the funds allocated for the said scheme; and

(e) the role of Union and State Governments regarding implementation and monitoring of the said schemes?

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, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a Public Sector Enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, provides loans at concessional rates for self employment/ income generating activities to persons belonging to the minority communities living below double the poverty line, under its various schemes viz. Term Loan, Micro Financing, Mahila Samridhi Yojna, Vocational Training and Marketing Assistance etc. NMDFC provides loans to individuals through State Channeling Agencies (SCAs) which are nominated by the respective State/Union Territory Governments. It also provides micro-credit through Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs).

The scheme of Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) being implemented by the Government aims, inter-alia, at improving the selected socio-economic and basic amenities' parameters in the Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. The Government is also implementing coaching/scholarship schemes for students belonging to minority communities which aim to equip them for higher education and securing jobs.

(d) A plan budgetary allocation of Rs.1740 crores has been made during 2009-10 for various welfare schemes under the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the minorities which include Rs.125 crores for equity contribution to National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation, Rs.990 crores for Multi-Sectoral Development Programme and Rs.12 crores for the Coaching & Allied Scheme.

(e) The physical and financial targets for the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation schemes are laid down through Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government and NMDFC and the progress of achievements are monitored through quarterly review meetings. An Over-sight Committee at the Central level and at the State level including the District Level committees set up for implementation of the Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the welfare of minorities monitor the progress of MSDP scheme. In respect of Coaching & Scholarship schemes, which are monitored by the Centre and the State Government, scheme envisages carrying out specific studies to assess their impact.

Exploration of Oil in Cauvery Basin

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

(a) the status of the oil exploration efforts in the Cauvery offshore basin where several seismic surveys have been completed;

(b) the estimate of oil and gas reserves in the Cauvery offshore basin alongwith the constraints if any, in locating gas reserves in the areas;

(c) whether the Government has any concrete plan including deepwater drilling in the basin to tap the gas and oil potential as was done in the adjacent Krishna Godavari (KG) basin; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (d) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), as well as Pvt/JV companies, are operating in the Cauvery offshore basin. Government has awarded 14 exploration blocks, under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), in order to accelerate exploration in the country. In addition, two exploration blocks were awarded, one each in nomination and pre NELP regime. As on 1.4.2009, ONGC has acquired 41277 line km (LKM) of 2D seismic, 1963 sq. km. of 3D seismic data and drilled 55 exploratory wells in nomination regime. As a result of exploratory efforts, ONGC has made four hydrocarbon discoveries in Cauvery offshore basin. Pvt/JV companies have acquired 57819 of 2D seismic, 8892 sq. km. of 3D seismic and drilled 16 exploratory wells. Pvt/JV companies have made 2 hydrocarbon discoveries in the Cauvery offshore basin.

In-place gas reserves established by ONGC in Cauvery offshore basin are 1.71 billion cubic metre. The hydrocarbon reserves established by Pvt/JV companies in Cauvery offshore basin are 13.92 million metric tonne of oil equivalent.

Government of India has already awarded 10 deep-water exploration blocks in Cauvery offshore basin under NELP. In one of these blocks i.e. CY-DWN-2001/2, the operator has made one hydrocarbon discovery.

Captive Iron Ore Mines

*398. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether several steel plants in the country including those in the public sector do not have their own captive iron ore mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cost of production of steel is higher in these plants as compared to other plants which have captive iron ore mines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the information available with the Ministry of Steel only Tata Steel Limited and Steel Authority of India Limited are the two major steel producers who meet their full requirement of iron ore from captive sources. All other major steel producers either partially meet their requirement from captive sources or obtain the entire requirement of iron ore from the market.

(c) Cost of production of steel is dependant upon several factors such as raw material, cost of transportation, technology, manpower, energy etc. However, iron ore being one of the major raw material inputs for iron and steel making, the primary steel producers having captive iron ore mines enjoy the relative benefit of lower cost of steel production.

(d) The Government has approved National Mineral Policy' 2008 which inter- alia provides for preference to value adders in the allocation of mineral concession. The Hoda Committee's recommendations as approved by the Government also make provision for preferential allocation of captive iron ore mines to steel capacities already in existence as on 1st July, 2006.

Cross Border Merger of Companies

* 399. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review cross border merger of companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which it is likely to affect the Indian Companies;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the existing laws in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a final decision will be taken in the matter ?

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, Sir. The Government has proposed a comprehensive revision of the Companies Act, 1956. As per the proposed Companies Bill 2009, the companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and companies incorporated in the jurisdiction of such countries as may be notified from time to time by the Central Government, may merge or amalgamate. By virtue of the specific clause on Cross Border merger in the proposed Bill, an Indian company would be able to merge with a foreign company incorporated outside India and vice-versa.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The proposal for Cross Border merger was introduced in the Companies Bill, 2008. The Government introduced the Companies Bill, 2008 in the Lok Sabha on 23.10.2008, to provide for a comprehensive revision of the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. The Companies Bill, 2008, has lapsed in view of Article 107(5) of the Constitution. The Government now proposes to introduce Companies Bill, 2009 in the Parliament.

(e) The Government has already taken a decision in this respect. The Bill is likely to be introduced in the present session of the Parliament.

Losses to Oil Companies

*400. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the losses incurred by the Public Sector Petroleum Companies on account of fluctuation in the global prices of petroleum products, during the last six months;

(b) the loss incurred by the Oil Companies on the basis of actual production cost at refineries during the last six months; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to reduce the administrative expenditure and the non-production expenditure of the Public Sector Petroleum Companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) Due to the rising international oil prices, the Public Sector Oil Marketing

Companies (OMCs), namely, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPC) are incurring under-recoveries on the sale of sensitive petroleum products i.e. Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG. The under-recoveries incurred by the OMCs on these petroleum products during the last six months, i.e., the period January to June 2009 was Rs.2,514 crore.

The major element of cost in the refining process is crude oil, which constitute around 95% of the total cost of production. In addition to crude oil cost, the refineries incur operating expenses towards salaries & wages, chemicals & catalysts, power & water, repairs & maintenance, depreciation and other overheads. The blending of intermediate products streams from various process units for making finished petroleum products makes it difficult to allocate the total costs to individual products, with a degree of accuracy. Therefore, under the system being followed, individual product-wise costs are not identified separately.

The OMCs' under-recoveries of Rs. 1,03,292 crore during 2008-09 were compensated by Government through issuance of Oil Bonds of Rs.71,292 crore while the upstream oil PSUs viz. ONGC, OIL and GAIL issued price discounts on crude oil and products of Rs. 32,000 crore. In addition, ONGC and OIL issued price discounts of Rs.943 crore to OMCs to compensate them for their import losses.

After even taking into account this financial assistance, the OMCs viz. IOC, BPC and HPC barely escaped going into losses, and were able to report meagre profits of Rs.2950 crore, Rs.736 crore and Rs.575 crore respectively, for 2008-09.

(c) The administrative expenditure is regulated in accordance with the guidelines issued from time to time by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. The OMCs have informed that they are strictly adhering to the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance on 'Expenditure Management-Economy Measures and Rationalization of Expenditure'.

[Translation]

Job opportunities for minorities in private sector

3614. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has constituted a committee to look into the issue of providing adequate job opportunities to minorities in private sector;

(b) if so, whether the committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) ASSOCHAM has informed that it has constituted a separate Foundation under the nomenclature "ASSOCHAM Foundation for Inclusive Growth for SC & ST". According to ASSOCHAM, under this Foundation they have undertaken number of programmes for increasing the employability of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and minority communities. ASSOCHAM have further informed that two reports have been brought out highlighting various activities, and that the reports suggest to scale-up affirmative action for skill development as well as skill up-gradation of the Minorities, SCs, STs and OBCs. Government gives due weightage to such external inputs.

[English]

New Steel Projects

3615. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new greenfield steel projects where State Governments are involved have come to a standstill and for the brownfield expansions the steel companies are delaying implementation as most of them are being compelled to re-negotiate with the lenders;

(b) if so, whether the steel companies are unable to raise funds for the said projects;

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

(d) the steps taken/being taken to help the steel industry to achieve its production and expansion targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) to (c) The mechanism for procurement of equipment, award of contracts and commercial borrowing of funds for investment and expansion of steel plants are decided by the individual steel investors, in terms of the policies of the respective companies. Since, these are commercial dealings of the respect companies, Ministry of Steel does not have any information on these issues.

However, no matter regarding difficulty in raising of funds for steel capacity projects has been brought to the notice of Ministry of Steel.

(d) Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) to monitor and coordinate issues concerning major steel investments in the country. The Inter Ministerial Group functions under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Steel) with members from various Central Ministries / Departments, such as Railways, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Industrial Policy & Promotion, Mines, Environment & Forest and the concerned State Governments. Apart from this, the position of progress of Public Sector Units (PSUs) are periodically monitored in the Ministry of Steel for appropriate and directives.

[Translation]

MSP of Cotton

3616. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cotton fixed for the current year;
- (b) whether the current MSP of cotton is far below the MSP during the last two years; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Government of India has fixed msp for two basic varieties of raw cotton viz. F-414/H-777/J-34 and H-4 varieties (i.e Medium staple and Long staple) at Rs. 2500 and Rs. 3000 for current cotton season 2008-09 (Oct-Sept).

- (b) No Madam.
- (c) Does not arise.

Inclusion of Nanded division into Central Zone

3617. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra to include Nanded Division into Central Railway Zone;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

- (c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Proposal has been received from Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

(c) The decision to place a particular division under a particular zone is taken based on the operational/ administrative requirements without any regional considerations. The proposal, when seen in the light of the above criterion, has not been found feasible.

[English]

Plight of Jute Growers

3618. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by the Union Government to deal with the problems of jute growers in the country including Karnataka;
- (b) whether Union Government has entrusted the Jute Corporation of India the work of procuring jute from the jute growers without stipulating any ceiling;
- (c) if so, whether the Union Government compensates the losses incurred by the Jute Corporation of India in its operations of purchasing jute on minimum support prices; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the minimum support price of jute fixed by the Union Government for the year 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) The Government has launched the Jute Technology Mission (JTM) in major jute growing States in February 2007 for holistic growth and development of Jute and Diversified Jute Products at an estimated cost of Rs. 355.55 crore. The Mission is to be implemented by 2012. The Mission has four Mini-Missions of which Mini-Missions-I and II are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation and Mini-Missions-III & IV are being implemented by the Ministry of Textiles. In addition, Government provides price support to farmers through Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations.

(b) Yes, Madam. The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has been entrusted with the work of procuring jute from the jute growers under operations. There is no ceiling on JCI for procurement under MSP.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The losses incurred by JCI under the MSP operations are being compensated by Ministry of Textiles. The details of which are as under:

(Rs. in crore)	
Year	Amount
2006-07	28.00
2007-08	30.00
2008-09	36.59

The Government has fixed Rs. 1,375 per quintal as Minimum Support Price (MSP) for TD-5 grade jute (ex-Assam) for the jute year 2009-10 (July-June).

Change of Brand Names of Same Pharmaceutical Ingredients

3619. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of pharmaceutical companies are marketing different brands based on the same active pharmaceutical ingredients to escape the provisions of drug price control;

(b) if so, the names of the companies which have changed the brand names of the same active pharmaceutical ingredients, in order to avoid monitoring of their sales by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority during each of the last three years and the current year; and

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

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

(a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) the prices of 74 bulk drugs, specified in its First Schedule, and the formulations containing any of these Scheduled drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)/ Government fixes or revises prices of Scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any scheduled drugs/formulations at a price higher than that fixed by NPPA/Government. Scheduled formulations marketed in different brand names based on same active pharmaceutical ingredients are subject to price control and

cannot escape the provisions of DPCO, 1995. Wherever NPPA notices such violations, appropriate action is taken against the concerned companies.

In respect of non-Scheduled drugs, NPPA regularly monitors the movement in prices of non-Scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum (20% before 01.04.2007) is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

Railway Over-Bridge at Soro Level Crossing Gate

3620. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have been receiving demands for construction of an over-bridge at the Soro level crossing gate of South Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the State Government of Orissa has also agreed to bear the 50 per cent of the cost of its construction; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereof?

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

(b) and (c) No, Madam. The level crossing at Km. 264/33-35 between Soro-Markona qualifies for replacement by Road over/under bridge on cost sharing basis. State Govt. has been requested to accept construction of work on 50:50 cost sharing basis but there has been no response from State Govt.

Baroda Airport

3621. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to upgrade Baroda airport for international flights and cargo operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee has submitted recommendations in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has proposed to construct a new integrated passenger terminal building to cater for 500 domestic as well as 200 international passengers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Superfast train between Howrah and Rajkot

3622. SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request from the Government of Chhattisgarh to introduce a new superfast Howrah-Rajkot-Howrah train to decongest the heavy rush of passenger on Howrah-Rajkot rail line; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Representations from Government functionaries are received at the Divisional, Zonal and Board levels and is a continuous process.

(b) It has been announced in Railway Budget 2009-2010 to increase the frequency of 2905/2906 Howrah-Porbander Express, which is routed via Raipur and Rajkot from bi-weekly to tri-weekly.

[English]

Aircraft Operating Under Various Airlines

3623. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) the total number of various types of aircrafts under National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) and other Private Sector Airlines operating daily in the country;

(b) whether the number of passengers being carried by NACIL has dropped gradually in the recent past;

(c) if so; the details thereof, alongwith the main reasons for the same; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make national carrier more attractive and competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) The total number of aircraft in National Aviation Company of India Limited's fleet and other Private Sector Airlines operating in the country are 157 and 248 respectively.

(b) and (c) The passengers carried by National Aviation Company of India Limited had dropped by 22% during 2008-09 as compared to 2007-08 and has increased by 2.9% during April-June 2009 as compared to the same period during 2008.

(d) Government has approved the proposal of Air India for purchase of new Boeing and Airbus aircraft to boost its capacity and to replace the old aircraft. Air India has also introduced a number of schemes to attract more passengers like (i) Special Super saver scheme for Executive class passengers for short term sale; (ii) Spouse Free scheme on market fares on international and domestic sectors in Business class; and (iii) Special offer for passengers booking tickets online through the website etc.

Grant in Aid for Food Processing Units

3624. SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total budget outlay for grant in aid to various Food Processing Units during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total number of proposals received in this regard;

(c) the number out of them cleared so far till date; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken on remaining proposals?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% subject to a

maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/ Modernization/ Expansion of food processing industries.

Earlier all the applications for such grants were received by the Ministry through the State Nodal Agencies. These applications were then Centrally processed and grants disbursed directly by the Ministry. From 2007-08, the receipt of applications, their appraisal, calculation of grant eligibility as well as disbursement of funds has been completely decentralized. Under the new procedure, an entrepreneur/applicant can file application with the neighborhood Bank branch/Financial Institution (FI). The Bank/ FI would then appraise the application and calculate the eligible grant amount as per the detailed guideline given to them by the Ministry. The Banks/FIs appraisal report and its recommendation for the release of grant is transmitted to

the Ministry through e-portal established for this purpose. After the recommendation is received from the Bank/FI, the Ministry sanctions the grant and transfer the funds through the e-portal. The State-wise details of proposal sanctioned and funds released from 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Under the decentralized procedure, the applications are received directly by the Banks/FIs. As such, the data for receipt of the applications for 2007-08 onwards is not maintained centrally by the Ministry. The Ministry releases the funds in the shape of grant in aid to the agencies/ entrepreneurs depending upon the availability of funds within the budget provision from year to year basis. However, the Ministry is taking required steps to ensure expeditious disposal of pending cases.

Statement

Number of project applications received/approved/financial assistance provided during the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, State-wise

Name of State	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Approved	Amount released	Approved	Amount released	Approved	Amount released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	47	966.353	43	947.49	48	908.999
Andman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	1	17.67
Assam	19	964.400	12	442.17	17	176.79
Bihar	6	38.165	5	83.915	2	42.3
Chandigarh	1	4.339	6	138.08	0	0
Chhattisgarh	9	119.890	0	0	10	163.725
Delhi	28	524.601	0	0	7	160.65
Goa	0	30.845	1	17.00	1	24.57
Gujarat	21	615.857	32	544.06	39	714.81
Haryana	31	684.210	19	418.72	23	349.415
Himachal Pradesh	12	210.465	12	325.09	5	152.745
Jammu & Kashmir	8	69.900	9	109.855	3	22.05
Jharkhand	4	52.110	2	9.09	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Karnataka	39	614.290	34	529.62	35	629.895
Kerala	36	674.140	47	876.8	32	545.37
Madhya Pradesh	23	339,998	10	172.32	14	201.87
Maharashtra	118	2174.380	95	1696.805	121	1802.633
Manipur	4	76.655	3	61.74	3	45.51
Meghalaya	2	21.850	1	8.19	2	159.57
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	2	155.585	1	27.485	4	178.205
Orissa	13	114.048	6	129.41	2	38.68
Pondicherry	2	16.300	2	31.3	0	0
Punjab	26	519.539	32	481.45	61	841.36
Rajasthan	33	506.160	35	566.075	44	551.975
Sikkim	1	0.150	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	52	745.127	53	951.79	36	594.355
Tripura	1	0	2	39.98	1	13.86
Uttar Pradesh	56	840.948	63	1123.425	43	875.475
Uttarakhand	17	437.392	9	339.78	6	163.15
West Bengal	47	963.430	35	653.56	19	390.135
Total	658	12481.128	569	10725.2	579	9765.767

Rail Line in Ladakh

3625. SHRI HASSAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan for laying a new Railway line in Ladakh to connect other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Survey for construction of new broad gauge line from Bilaspur to Leh has been sanctioned and the survey work has been taken up.

Setting up of Power Projects by GAIL

3626. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has any proposal to set up power projects in the southern States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated power generation capacity of each project; and

(c) the title by which the new power projects are likely to be set up?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Railway Projects in Orissa

3627. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of new, ongoing/pending projects, doubling of rail lines/gauge conversion of rail lines, survey/proposals for laying new rail lines and RoB/RuB in Orissa alongwith target fixed for their completion;

(b) the amount allocated and spent thereon during the last three years till date, project-wise;

(c) whether some of these projects are behind their schedule; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the said work?

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

Gauge Conversion of Naupada-Gunupur Rail Line

3628. SHRI AMARNATH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated for gauge conversion of Naupada-Gunupur and Baripada-Bangiriposi railway line during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the gauge conversion work on these lines has been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure incurred on these projects so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to link Gunupur railway station to Therubali railway station and Bangiriposi to Gorumhisani railway station with broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The total funds allocated for gauge conversion of Naupada-Gunupur and Rupsa-Bangiriposi during the last three years and current year are Rs.83.41 crore and Rs.112.23 crore respectively.

(b) and (c) The gauge conversion of Naupada-Parlakimidi (39 km.) of Naupada-Gunupur (90 km.) and Rupsa-Bhanjpur (56 km.) of Rupsa-Bangiriposi has been completed. An expenditure of Rs.149.08 crore has been incurred on Naupada-Gunupur gauge conversion and Rs.114.42 crore on Rupsa-Bangiriposi gauge conversion

upto 31.3.2009. The balance portions of these two projects are planned for completion in 2009-10.

(d) Updating survey for extension of Naupada-Gunupur line upto Theruvali (76 km.) has been taken up. The survey for extension of Rupsa-Bangiriposi upto Gorumhisani (42 km.) has been completed.

Common Code of Conduct for Marketing of Medicines

3629. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has directed the drug manufacturers to have a common code of conduct for marketing their medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/likely to be taken by the Government against those drug manufacturers who have violated the code of conduct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) to (c) There were some reports in the newspapers in the recent past regarding promotional expenses being made by the Pharma Companies. The reports suggest that these are some unethical marketing practices being followed by certain pharma companies. Keeping in view the seriousness of the allegations made in the media reports, this Department felt the need to take up the matter in the interest of the consumers/patients as such promotional expenses being extended to doctors had direct implications on the pricing of drugs and its affordability. After discussing the issues with the Pharma Associations/ Industry, this Department has been able to persuade most of the associations to have Code of ethics.

Setting up of High Court Benches

3630. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from various State Governments for setting up a High Court Benches in their respective States including Meerut, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) to (c) Setting up of benches of High Courts away from their principal seats is considered by the Central Government on receipt of a complete proposal from the State Government which has the consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. The Central Government has not received any such proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

MMTS Projects in Andhra Pradesh

3631. SHRI P. BALRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the status of Multi Model Transport System (MMTS) projects in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the amount incurred on each project in the State during the last two years;
- (c) the number of such projects which are in pipeline and the details of projects for which survey to be conducted during the current year;
- (d) the number of project proposals pending with the Railways for clearance alongwith the funding pattern thereof; and
- (e) the time by which pending projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (e) Multi Model Transport System (MMTS) has been introduced in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Under the 1st phase of work, MMTS has been made operational in Hyderabad-Secunderabad-Lingampalli and Secunderabad-Falaknuma. The projects under 2nd phase of MMTS is under consideration.

The following six works under MMTS phase-II are in the process of evaluation and consideration:

- (i) Secunderabad-Medchel-Manoharabad
- (ii) Secunderabad-Ghatkesar-Bhongir
- (iii) Falaknuma-Shamshabad International Airport
- (iv) Lingampally-Patancheru
- (v) Maula Ali-Sanatnagar
- (vi) Maula Ali-Malkajgiri-Sitaphal Mandi-Kachiguda

Tentatively, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has indicated to bear two-thirds of the cost of the project. However, this cost sharing arrangements is yet to be confirmed between the two parties, i.e., Ministry of Railways and Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

Train between Mysore And Bangaluru

3632. SHRI R. DHIRUVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to introduce more trains between Mysore and Bangaluru keeping in view of the heavy passengers rush on this route; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Introduction of Mysore-Yesvantpur Express has been announced in the Railway Budget for 2009-10.

Road Show for 8th Round of NELP

3633. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is conducting the road shows for the 8th round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the aims and objectives of such road shows;
- (d) whether it would be useful to the State of Andhra Pradesh; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) Yes, Madam. With a view to showcase the potential of Indian Exploration & Production sector, and to attract investment, Promotional Road show for eighth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII) and fourth round of Coal Bed Methane Policy (CBM-IV) is scheduled to be held at Mumbai on 8th August, 2009.

The aims and objectives of Road shows are to make promotional presentations on New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII) & Coal Bed Methane Policy (CBM-IV) and to attract investment in the critical exploration and production sector from prospective bidders from all over the world, including all States and Union Territories of India.

Underweight LPG Cylinders

3634. SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG Distributors of Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) found involved in using underweight cylinders during the last three years and the current years;

(b) the action taken on all those LPG distributors by PSU OMCs; and

(c) the number of LPG distributors whose licences had been suspended by PSUs, OMCs during the last three years and the current year for using underweight cylinders?

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

(a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported 154 cases of supply of underweight domestic LPG cylinders to consumers by the LPG distributors in the country during the last three years and April-June, 2009. Action against all the erring distributors was taken as per the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) including termination of one LPG distributor during the same period.

Inspection of PSUs

3635. SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Registrar of Companies have the authority to carry out inspection of Public Sector Companies under Section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) if so, whether the Registrar of Companies has conducted any inspection of PSUs in the recent past;

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

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED) : (a) Yes, Sir. The inspections under Section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956 are carried out by the field offices of the Ministry which include inspection wing in the Regional Offices and Registrars of Companies. Inspections are generally conducted on the basis of investor complaints, irregularities noticed during the scrutiny of documents, adverse comments in the auditor's report and references

received from other Government departments/agencies pointing out violations of the provisions of Companies Act, 1956.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Shortage of LPG

3636. SHRIMATI USHA VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of LPG in Uttar Pradesh including Lucknow, Hardoi district;

(b) if so, whether the lack of LPG distributors is the main cause of irregular supply of LPG;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any action plan to streamline its supply; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the State of Uttar Pradesh. However at times it is possible that temporary shortages may arise in local areas including Lucknow and Hardoi Districts which are promptly taken care of by OMCs. LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

(b) to (d) OMCs have finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 144 locations in the State of Uttar Pradesh including 4 in Lucknow district and 1 location in Hardoi district for setting up of new LPG distributorships, mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations. The advertisements for all the locations have been released and selection for the same is in progress as per policy.

[English]

Mumbai Airport

3637. SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision for widening of 3 under-bridges from 40 to 100 meters at Mumbai Airport;

(b) if so, the present status, the allocation made so far and the total estimated cost of this project;

(c) the time by which the remaining required funds are likely to be sanctioned and released; and

(d) the targeted date fix for the commissioning of this project?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana

3638. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether funds has been arranged to complete projects under Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana (RARSY);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures taken to complete those projects within stipulated time; and

(c) the details of areas which are likely to be benefited from RARSY?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pending Representations of Small Scale Pharma Units

3639. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations containing various issues from the small scale Pharmaceutical units during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for their pendency;

(c) the present status of the representations alongwith the action taken by the Government on each of them; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken on the pending representations?

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

(a) to (d) Certain Small Scale Pharmaceuticals Industry Associations/Units have been representing to the Department in the past on various issues like difficulties in implementing DPCO, 1995, difficulties being faced in complying with Schedule M of Drugs & Cosmetics Rules because of funds, raising the abatement and excise turnover limit, issues relating to Bank Loans/repayment schedule, anti-dumping duty, IPR issues, Government Tenders, training programmes being imparted at National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research, SAS Nagar, Mohali etc. Most of the issues raised in these representations pertain to other Ministries/Departments/Institutions with whom the matter has been taken up for appropriate action.

Laying of Railway Line

3640. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work for laying of rail line at platform No. 2 of Delhi Cantt. is pending for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to start new passenger trains between Rewari and Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) The platform No. 2 of Delhi Cantt. is not operational. The yard work was initially entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. However, considering the complexities of working in yard, the work has been decided to be done by Railway organization. The target for completion has been fixed as March, 2010.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The following services announced in Railway Budget 2009-10, will connect Rewari and Delhi:-

1) Introduction of Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Sadulpur (Tri-weekly) Express and

2) Extension of 2993/2994 Mumbai-Jaipur Express to Delhi (Tri-weekly)

(e) Does not arise.

Flight Delays

3641. SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken serious note of flight delays and has asked Mumbai and Delhi airports to set up a Committee to analyze on time performance of airlines on a daily-basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the committee is likely to be formed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Yes, sir. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a circular to institutionalize a mechanism at major metro airports including Delhi and Mumbai, wherein a team comprising representatives of Airports Authority of India, Airport Operator and airlines are working on daily basis to review reasons for lack of On Time Performance (OTP) in respect of flights operated the previous day.

Free Legal Help to Undertrial Kids

3642. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides free legal help to kids facing trial in juvenile courts in the country;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it will help in rehabilitation of children who had strayed from normal social life?

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

(b) All State Legal Services Authorities, District Legal Services Authorities and Taluka Legal Services Committees provide free legal services to all categories of persons as specified under the provisions of Section 12 (c) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 which includes amongst others children (kids) in juvenile Courts. Free legal services includes payment of court fees, providing advocate and preparation of paper book etc.

(c) The State Legal Services Authorities and District Legal Services Authorities all over the country visit the Juvenile Homes and make efforts to trace out the parents/relatives of the children lodged there, with the help of the Legal Services Authorities in other States. This could go a long way in helping rehabilitation of children who had strayed from normal social life.

Dahej-Vijaipur Pipeline Project

3643. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL (India) Limited has cancelled tenders for Dahej-Vijaipur pipelines projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether GAIL (India) Limited has awarded the contract to Jindal Saw; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) GAIL (India) Ltd. floated a tender for line pipes for Dahej-Vijaipur pipeline (DVPL) Phase II Project for purchase of 3 items of steel pipes with different specifications, viz., Item No. 1, 2 & 3. Purchase order for Item No. 1 has been placed on M/s Jindal Saw Ltd. on L1 basis as the price was found reasonable. However, the tender pertaining to Items No. 2 & No. 3 of this tender was discharged/cancelled, since the prices quoted by the L1 bidder for these items were not found by GAIL to be reasonable.

[Translation]

Empanelment as Government Advocate

3644. SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure adopted by the Government regarding empanelling as Government Advocates;

(b) the departments of the Government which has the power to empanel as Government Advocates and the departments for which these Advocates are empanelled;

(c) the details of Government Advocates empanelled during the last three years in Bihar;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to extend their term or making fresh empanelment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) A Law Graduate, registered with any State Bar Council and having sufficient experience in handling Central Government Litigation, is empanelled as Government Advocate to look after the Government Litigation before various Judicial Authorities.

(b) Ministry of Law and Justice has the power to empanel Government Advocates for all the Ministries/Departments of Central Government. However, in case of Ministry of Railways, Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Advocates are empanelled by these Ministries/Departments with the concurrence of this Ministry.

(c) 136 Advocates were empanelled/got their term extended for handling Government litigations before the Patna High Court/Patna Bench of the CAT and various District Courts in Bihar.

(d) and (e) Any extension of the term of the counsel or fresh empanelment is being done on case to case basis. Hence, it is not feasible to confirm whether the term of all these advocates will be extended or not.

[English]

CNG Facility in Vehicles

3645. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning for CNG facility in all types of two wheeler scooters, motorcycles and different type of cars; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV) : (a) and (b) As per the information from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the use of CNG as automotive fuel in motor vehicles is already permitted under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Conversion of any vehicle to CNG mode and production of the dedicated CNG vehicles will depend upon the choice of consumer/manufacturer.

[Translation]

Road under-bridge at Morena Railway Station

3646. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has granted a fund of Rs. 1.77 crore to the Railways for constructing a road under bridge at Morena Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Rs.3.66 lakh were deposited on 23/1/68 as Plan & Estimate charges and Rs. 173.46 lakh were deposited on 24.3.08 based on Abstract cost of work.

(c) Detailed Estimate for the work amounting to Rs.4.72cr has been sanctioned. Completion of work will take 18 months after the balance amount is deposited by State Govt.

[English]

Strengthening of Railway Corridor

3647. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the proposal of Haryana Government for strengthening of Railway corridor and Rail transport clearance for 2 x 600 MW Rajeev Gandhi Thermal Power Project, Hissar; and

(b) the reason for delay in according approval to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) At present there is no proposal from Haryana State Government for strengthening of Railway corridor. However, the status of rail connectivity to the Rajiv Gandhi Thermal Power Project, near Hissar is given below:

The Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term) has already accorded a coal linkage of 2.31 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) from Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for the above power project on 20.12.2006. Once the linkage has been accorded, no separate rail transport clearance is required from the Ministry of Railways. In-Principle approval to the project (of developing the siding and its connectivity) was granted on 20.02.2008, and the Detailed Project Report was approved by the railways on 19.11.2008. The railway's portion for the 1st leg of Y-connection for the project is targeted to be completed by 31st August 2009 for the placement of coal rakes into the plant. Accordingly, it is seen that there is no delay on the part of Railways and connectivity is planned to be provided before the synchronization of unit 1 of this plant (reportedly scheduled for September 2009).

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts

3648. SHRI K. SUGUMAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) has demanded an immediate ban on import of Chinese Handicrafts products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes Madam. The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has requested Ministry of Commerce for imposing ban on import of Chinese Handicrafts as it is posing a threat to the legacy of Indian culture and heritage.

(c) Government has advised Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts to present a case to Directorate General of Safeguards for preliminary investigation.

[Translation]

Credit Facilities by NMDFC

3649. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of credit facilities provided by National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the time frame set up by NMDFC for the disposal of any proposal; and

(c) the mechanism evolved or being evolved by the Government for speedy disposal of any proposal?

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 Statement showing State/UT wise funds disbursed by NMDFC during the last three years and the current financial year (upto 30.06.2009) is enclosed.

(b) and (c) NMDFC provides loans through the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) and Non Government Organizations (NGOs). In order to ensure speedy disposal of applications from beneficiaries, NMDFC has delegated sanction powers to the SCAs for loans up to Rs. one lakh. The SCAs have been instructed to utilize the funds released by NMDFC within three months.

Statement

National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation Funds disbursed during the last three years and the current financial year (upto 30.06.2009)

(Amounts in Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
		Amount Disbursed	Amount Disbursed	Amount Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	756.7	888.7	47.25	22.5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	100	134	0	5.67
4	Bihar	304.5	204.51	904.5	0
5	Chandigarh	3	5	2	3
6	Chhattisgarh	100	0	0	0
7	Delhi	4.5	21.25	17	17
8	Gujarat	295	200	300	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
9	Himachal Pradesh	115	150	75	50
10	Haryana	415	450	359	0
11	Jammu and Kashmir	370	387.72	420	0
12	Jharkhand	6.75	54.44	110	0
13	Kerala	3275	3150	4229.5	1000
14	Karnataka	0	525	450	0
15	Maharashtra	75	800	500	500
16	Manipur	0	1.8	1.8	0
17	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0
18	Meghalaya	0	3.6	0	0
19	Mizoram	200	400	300	0
20	Nagaland	500	713	500	0
21	Orissa	4.5	0	27	0
22	Pondicherry	10	23	100	0
23	Punjab	525	750	400	0
24	Rajasthan	154.72	252.25	100	2.25
25	Tamilnadu	952.45	1516	965.25	36.9
26	Tripura	25	30	50	0
27	Uttar Pradesh	0	45	0	0
28	Uttaranchal	265	0	0	0
29	West Bengal	2818	3707.74	3214.49	1502.25
		11275.12	14413.01	13072.79	3139.57

[English]

Hike in Prices of Medicines

3650. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some pharmaceutical companies are allegedly engaged in hiking prices of some medicines by mixing components in existing formulae of such medicines which are not enlisted under the Drugs and Pharmaceutical Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of companies engaged in such unfair trade practices including the names of the medicines being adulterated;

(d) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has find out these irregularities and taken any steps to plug the loopholes in this existing regulatory mechanism; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) to (e) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has noticed that certain companies shifted manufacturing of certain drugs to food and nutrition supplements under the license issued under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) of 1954. For example, Evion 400mg was manufactured by M/s Merck as a drug containing vitamin E 400mg. The ceiling price of this drug, which is under price control, was notified by NPPA as Rs. 11 per strip of 10 capsules excluding Excise Duty/Local Taxes. Without changing the brand name, i.e. Evion 400, the product with a composition of vitamin E 400 I.U., wheat germ oil 100mg, omega 3 fatty acid 300mg is now being manufactured as a food and nutrition supplement under the PFA Act by Softech Pharma and marketed by Merck Ltd. at a price of Rs. 60/- per strip of 10 capsules. Similar practice has been adopted for some other vitamin products like 'Revital' (M/s Ranbaxy), 'Recharge plus' (M/s Trikio), 'Soft Z gold' (M/s Indochem) etc. NPPA has taken up the matter with M/o Health & Family Welfare for appropriate action in the matter as the composition of drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act as well as adulteration of drugs is under the Drug Controller General of India under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Compulsory Voting

3651. SHRI C. SIVASAMI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make voting compulsory for all voters in the country; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Pudukottai Railway Station

3652. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to upgrade/modernize Pudukottai Railway Station in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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) Pudukottai is a "D" category station. Three works of upgradation of passenger amenities i.e. (i) provision of four bays of additional shelter on Platform No.1, (ii) provision of additional seats and (iii) provision of "Pay & Use" toilets for ladies/gents have been taken up and are planned for completion by 31st March, 2010.

Extension of Broad Gauge

3653. SHRI JOSEPH TOPPO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to extend broad gauge from Rangia to Junai in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) There is no such proposal at present.

[Translation]

Superfast train between Kolkata-Gorakhpur

3654. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken on the proposal/representation received by the Railways for introducing a Super Fast express train between Gorakhpur and Kolkata; and

(b) the time by which decision will be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) 3019/3020 Howrah-Kathgodam Bagh Express via Gorakhpur, 5047/5048 Kolkata-Gorakhpur Purvanchal Express (4 days a week), 5049/5050 Kolkata-Gorakhpur Express (Bi-weekly) and 5051/5052 Kolkata-Gorakhpur Express (Weekly) provide direct service between Kolkata and Gorakhpur. Introduction of new train between Kolkata and Gorakhpur has been examined but not found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

[English]

MEMU and DEMU Trains

3655. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce any intercity Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) or Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) trains from Surat via Ahmedabad-Mehsana-Palanpur and Patan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposed trains are likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) There is no such proposal at present.

Increase in Speed of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express

3656. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to increase the speed of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any plan has been made to train the drivers for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (d) Presently, the Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains are running at the maximum permissible speed of the sections on which they are operating, subject to other local speed restrictions in force. Raising of speeds of these trains cannot be considered till the existing maximum sectional speeds are enhanced.

[Translation]

Repairing of Railway Flyover

3657. SHRIMATI DARSHANA JARDOSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to repair the Railway flyover amidst Surat city;

(b) if so, whether the Surat Municipal Council has contributed its share of funds for the repair of the rail flyover; and

(c) if so, the time by which work on the said flyover is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. However, there is a proposal to replace the existing Steel girders with RCC slab of three Road under bridges (RUBs) of Municipal Corporation in Surat city for which they had deposited funds and the work has already been taken up at two RUBs Nos. 447 & 449 which are likely to be completed by April 2010. At the third RUB location, lowering of road level is involved, which is under consideration with Surat Municipal Corporation.

Reservation of quota for STs in Railways

3658. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies filled by the Railway under reservation scheme meant for Scheduled Tribes during the last three years;

(b) the number of posts lying vacant under this category;

(c) whether the Railways propose to fill up these vacancies through special recruitment drive; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) 17758 vacancies were filled by the Railways during the last three years under reservation scheme meant for Scheduled Tribes.

(b) 6859 posts are lying vacant under this category.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) A Special Recruitment Drive is underway to clear the backlog vacancies of Scheduled Tribes as on 01/11/2008 both in Recruitment and Promotion Categories.

Beggars in running trains

3659. SHRI PRATAPRAO GANPATRAO JADHAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Railways authorities has been drawn to the mess and nuisance created by the beggars in running trains is causing a lot of inconvenience to the passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Railways against the officials who allow these beggars to enter in the Railway platforms and trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Some cases of passengers facing problems due to entry of beggars in trains have come to notice. However, no separate train-wise statistics are maintained.

(c) No beggars are permitted to operate on railway platforms and in trains. The railway staff at stations and in trains have been instructed to ensure this,

(d) Regular drives are conducted by the ticket checking staff in association with Railway Protection Force/ Government Railway Police to prevent the entry of beggars in trains and railway premises. Any beggars, if found, are removed from the stations and trains.

[English]

Import of Railway Material

3660. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure incurred by the Railways on import of railway spare parts, coaches and other related materials, during the last three years; and

(b) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to manufacture the above material indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Year-wise total expenditure on imports is as under :

(Figures in crores of Rs.)

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Expenditure on Imports	421	594	630

(b) Indigenization is a continuous effort. To develop indigenous sources, trial/developmental orders are given to indigenous firms.

[Translation]

Unutilized railway land

3661. SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total land in hectares lying unutilized with the Railways;

(b) whether any assessment has been made in this regard;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether some of the land is being unutilized for agricultural purpose;

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

(f) whether any land has been sold out to private sector for its development during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) As per announcement in Railway budget 2009-10, an exercise has been undertaken by Indian Railways to create land bank for its utilization by setting up industrial hubs, commercial developmental of railway land and for other purposes connected with railway working/public purposes, etc.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. Some land has been licensed to Railway staff in urban areas and near Level crossing gates under Grow More Food scheme as a deterrent to encroachments. Details of such land zone-wise are given in the enclosed statement.

(f) No, Madam.

Statement

Area under cultivation (Grow More Food Campaign)

S.No.	Railway Zone	Area in Hectares under GMF
1	2	3
1.	Central	746.95
2.	Eastern	955.449
3.	East Central	38
4.	East Coast	499.63
5.	Northern	33.68
6.	North Central	380.883
7.	North Eastern	6.07

1	2	3
8.	Northeast Frontier	1663.62
9.	North Western	Nil
10.	Southern	151.18
11.	South Central	2.29
12.	South Eastern	Nil
13.	South Western	Nil
14.	South East Central	372.828
15.	Western	43.89
16.	West Central	70.668
Total		4965.138

[English]

Fire in CCI Godown

3662. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of fire incident that broke out recently into the; godowns of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of loss caused due to such fire;

(c) whether Government has conducted any enquiry into the incident;

(d) if so, the outcome of the said enquiry alongwith the remedial measures initiated to prevent such incident in future;

(e) whether serious malpractices has been committed during procurement process by CCI; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the preventive measures to check such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes Madam.

(b) There was an incidence of fire on 14th June 2009 in one of the godowns of the Central Warehousing Corporation at Guntur, (Andhra Pradesh) in which cotton

bales of CCI were stored. Stock of 3150 cotton bales was destroyed in the fire. The estimated loss is about Rs.3.75 crores, including the salvage value, as per the claim quantified by the Surveyor assigned by M/s United India Insurance Company, with whom these stocks were insured for the value.

(c) and (d) Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of CCI is investigating the fire incidence under instructions of Ministry. CCI has drawn a Standard Operating System (SOP) for fire preventive measures in cotton ginning and pressing factories, stock and transit storage. In addition the Central/State Warehousing Corporation and the State Government have been advised to strengthen fire fighting facilities in the complexes, where the cotton bales are stored.

(e) No Madam.

(f) Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

[Translation]

Construction of overbridge

3663. SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for construction of over-bridge between Orai and Vindhyachal near Madho Singh railway station is under consideration of the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be constructed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. No such proposal has been received from the State Govt, despite Railway's request to this effect.

Rail factory

3664. SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR alias KUSHAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up a rail factory in Sant Kabir Nagar, Gorakhpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing Rail Coach Factories and those already planned are adequate to meet the railways requirement.

[English]

Cost Escalation of Railways Projects

3665. SHRI C. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether execution of several on-going railway projects in the country are getting delayed resulting in huge cost overrun;

(b) if so, the details of such projects and the reasons for delay in their execution, zone-wise;

(c) the details of funds spent so far on the said projects; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the execution of these projects to check any further cost escalation?

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

Production of Steel Items

3666. DR. K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of HR Coil and other steel products by Indian steel manufacturers and its demand by different manufacturing and infrastructure sectors;

(b) the reasons for imposing import duty on steel, blocking competition from imports, and causing adverse impact on efforts directed at stimulating demand and economy especially of products of auto industry, electrical equipment, furniture etc.;

(c) whether the Government proposes to encourage increased production of steel and make it available alongwith imported steel at reasonable prices to step up investment in building, infrastructure and manufacturing industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) The details of production for sale and overall consumption of HR coil and other finished steel products in the country during the last three years i.e. 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and from April to May, 2009-10 are given in the enclosed Statement I, II, and III respectively.

(b) In November 2008, government had imposed a 5% import duty on pig iron, semi-finished and finished flat and long products of steel. This was done in order to discourage inflow of steel at un-competitive prices/rates from steel-surplus economies facing recessionary trends and thereby safeguard domestic interests.

(c) and (d) In a de-regulated, liberalized economy, production of steel is influenced primarily by demand conditions (both local and global markets) and also by availability of raw materials to achieve the required level of production. Decisions related to production are taken essentially by the steel producing units. The Government in such a market set-up has the role of a facilitator only - it 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 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.

Statement-I

Details of Production for Sale of various finished steel Products (Non-Alloy and Alloy) for the last 3 years

	Unit '000 tonnes		
Finished Non-alloy Steel Items	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-09*
1	2	3	4
(A) Non-Flat			
Bars & Rods	18811	20188	20686
Structurals	4884	5043	5145
Rly. Materials	1038	1086	1177
Total Non-Flat	24733	26317	27008
(B) Flat			
Plates	3342	4057	3993

1	2	3	4
H.R.Coils\Skelp	11181	11674	11007
H.R.Sheets	703	757	592
C.R.Sheets/coils	4322	4439	4602
GP\GC Sheets	4391	4381	4581
Elec. Sheets	143	159	163
Tinplate (incl. ww)	172	183	212
TMBP	9	6	0
Pipes (Large Dia.)	1198	1335	1362
Tin free steel	2	0	0
Total Flat	25463	26991	26512
Total: Finished Non Alloy Steel	50196	53308	53520
Total : Finished Alloy Steel	2333	2767	2896
Total Finished Steel	52529	56075	56416

Source : Joint Plant Committee; * = provisional

Statement-II

*Details of consumption of various finished steel products
(Non-Alloy and Alloy) for the last 3 years*

Unit: '000 tonnes

Finished Non-alloy Steel : Item	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-09*
1	2	3	4
(A) Non-Flat			
Bars & Rods	18782	20381	20843
Structurals	4905	4990	5060
Rly. Materials	1045	1083	1179
Total Non-Flat	24732	26454	27082
(B) Flat			
Plates	4346	5396	4718
H.R.Coils\Skelp	11232	13246	12199

1	2	3	4
H.R. Sheets	761	787	643
C.R,Sheets\coils	4519	4730	4966
GP\GC Sheets	2400	2617	3332
Elec. Sheets	393	379	376
Tinplate (incl. ww)	286	294	268
TMBP	11	9	2
Pipes (Large Dia.)	1063	1218	1215
Tin free steel	34	44	32
Total Flat	25045	28720	27751
Less : Double Counting	5449	5754	6000
Total: Finished Non Alloy Steel	44328	49420	48833
Total : Finished Alloy Steel	2455	2705	3221
Total Finished Steel	46783	52125	52054

Source: Joint Plant Committee; * = provisional

Statement-III

*Details of Production for Sale and Consumption of various
finished steel products (Non-Alloy and Alloy) for the
period from April-May 2009-10*

Unit: '000 tonnes

Finished Non-alloy Steel Items	April-May 2009-10 (provisional)	
	Production for sale	Consumption
1	2	3
(A) Non-Flat		
Bars & Rods	3439	3409
Structurals	838	821
Rly. Materials	159	152
Total Non Flat	4436	4382
(B) Flat		
Plates	618	807

1	2	3
H.R.Coils\Skelp	1834	1904
H.R.Sheets	101	103
C.R.Sheets\coils	754	722
GP\GC Sheets	776	540
Elec. Sheets	27	51
Tinplate (incl. ww)	34	54
TMBP	0	0
Pipes (Large Dia.)	220	192
Tin free steel	0	4
Total Flat	4364	4377
Less: Double Counting	-	1050
Total: Finished Non Alloy Steel	8800	7709
Total Alloy Steel	440	513
Total Finished Steel	9240	8222

Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC)

Fake Chartered Accountants

3667. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that several unqualified persons are using false registration numbers and issuing fake certificates by pretending to be Chartered Accountants;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such cases brought to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years and current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government against such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Ninety four cases of fake certificates since April, 2006 have come to the notice of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. These include issue of false certificates with fake name, registration number (membership number) address etc.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) ICAI is empowered under Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 to deal with such issues. Recognizing the fact that such instances are on the increase, section 26 of the said Act was amended in 2006, by the Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Act, 2006, whereby the offence has been made punishable on the first conviction with a fine of not less than Rs.5,000/- but which may extend to Rs.1 lakh and in the event of second or subsequent conviction, with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to one year or with fine not less than Rs.10,000/- but which may extend to Rs.2 lakhs or with both.

Statement

Details of number of cases brought to the Notice of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) during the last three years and the current year:

Description	01.04.2006 to 31.03.2007	01.04.2007 to 31.03.2008	01.04.2008 to 31.03.2009	01.04.2009 to 22.07.2009	Total
Cases under investigation with the Police	6	8	4	1	19
Cases under examination with the ICAI to enable to be referred to the Police	15	19	31	10	75
Total	21	27	35	11	94

Garib Rath from Rajkot to New Delhi

3668. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are planning to run Garib Rath daily from Rajkot to New Delhi via Viramgam-Mehsana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) No, Madam. At present, there is no such proposal to introduce Garib Rath train between Rajkot and New Delhi via Viramgam-Mahesana.

Airport Facility in Anantnag

3669. DR. MIRZA MEHBOOB BEG: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide airport facility in Anantnag to cater huge yatri and tourist rush to the area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to establish an airport at Anantnag.

[Translation]

Violation of MRTP Act

3670. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cold drink manufacturers are violating MRTP Act at large scale in the country;

(b) if so, the names of such manufacturers against whom complaints of violation of MRTP Act have been lodged during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against them during the period?

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) During the last three years two complaints for violation of Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act, 1969 have been lodged in the MRTP Commission. The complainants in both the cases belong to Andhra Pradesh. One complaint is against the Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd, Hyderabad and the other is against Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

(c) Alleged violation of provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act, 1969 is dealt with under the said Act through proceedings before the MRTP Commission.

Basic facilities for railway staff

3671. SHRI RAMKISHUN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that condition of Railway staff colony at Mughalsarai division of Central Eastern Railway is in a dilapidated condition;

(b) whether there are serious problems of sewer, water logging, roads etc. in the residential complex;

(c) if so, whether the Railways are contemplating to provide basic facilities to the people residing in Railway colony, and repair the railway quarters; and

(d) if so, the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Railway colonies in Mughalsarai division of East Central Railway are not in a dilapidated condition and all basic facilities are available. Maintenance and repair of quarters and other utilities in a railway colony as well as upgradation of basic amenities in the old type quarters is a continuous process. Suitable works in this regard are undertaken every year based on availability of funds and relative priorities. In this regard, works costing approximately Rs. 5.6 crore are already in hand for railway colonies of Mughalsarai Division. In addition, works for construction of 85 quarters in replacement of old quarters has also been sanctioned. Maintenance and repairs are carried round the year in a programmed manner.

Concession for manufacturing of petroleum products

3672. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is giving concessions to the private sector companies for manufacturing of petroleum products;

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

(c) the extent of burden likely to be increased on exchequer as a result of the above said concessions?

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

(a) to (c) Government has not given any special concession to the private sector companies for manufacturing of petroleum products for consumption within the country.

Outstanding dues of AAI

3673. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amount of Airport Authority is outstanding on the private airlines operating in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such private airlines that have to pay outstanding amount of the airport Authority;

(c) the details of the outstanding amount to be paid to AAI and time since when the amount has been outstanding alongwith reasons therefor;

(d) the reasons for not taking any action by the Authority against the airlines which have failed to pay the dues; and

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to inquire into the role of the Authority in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The total outstanding amount in respect of major private domestic airlines as on 30.06.2009 is Rs.24978.01 lacs. Details are as under: (in Rs. in lacs) GoAir-1335.82, Interglobe Aviation Ltd.- 989.91, Jet Airways- 3309.12, Jet Lite (India) Ltd.- 1418.42, Kingfisher Airlines- 14968.70, Paramount Airways- 1300.76 and Spice Jet Ltd.-1655.28.

(c) The outstanding dues are cumulative in nature and can not be attributed to a particular beginning date.

(d) and (e) Following measures have been taken to improve the situation:

(i) Persuasive action is taken through reminders and personal meetings, (ii) Dues of airlines are monitored regularly by Airports Authority of India (AAI), (iii) Interest is levied for the overdue period to defaulting airlines, (iv) The security deposit furnished in the form of Bank Guarantee/ FDs is encashed wherever necessary, (v) Security Deposit in respect of defaulting airlines is suitably increased based on their operations/dues and (vi) If necessary, airlines operations are put on Cash & Carry basis.

Production by IDPL

3674. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of production made by Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the total sales effected during 2008-09 with separate break-up of the expenses incurred on each trade commission, discounts and marketing during the said period;

(c) the expenses incurred on the advertisement, sales and promotion of four new products launched by IDPL;

(d) the value of the total volume of these four products and the sales effected therefrom;

(e) the net profit earned by the IDPL during the said period; and

(f) the sources other than its core activity from where the IDPL raised its funds?

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

(a) to (c) The information made available by IDPL in respect of production, sales, trade commission, discounts and expenditure incurred on marketing during the last three years & the current year, is as follows. This information is provisional as audited Balance Sheets are not available.

Year	Production	Sales	(Rs. in crores)	
			Trade Commission and Discounts	Expenditure on Marketing & Sales Promotion Including on four new products
2006-07	17.91	15.74	0.67	0.11
2007-08	62.13	56.63	4.32	0.18
2008-09	93.20	87.59	6.55	1.17
2009-10 (upto June, 2009)	27.88	22.15	1.90	0.23

(d) Rs. 17.00 Lakhs.

(e) Accounts are under finalization for the years 2006-07 onwards. IDPL has reported provisional information in respect of Profit before Depreciation, Interest and Tax (PBDIT) as follows:

	(Rs. in crores)
Year	PBDIT
2006-07	-13.98
2007-08	1.80
2008-09	5.60
2009-10 (upto June, 2009)	1.48

(f) IDPL has reported availability of funds, as follows:-

	(Rs. in Crores)
1) Advance from National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC)	15.00
2) Rentals & Other Income	11.29

[English]

Entry/Exit of Public and Private Sector Companies in Oil Exploration Business

3675. SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is proposing to establish a level playing field with regard to entry and exit of public and private sector companies in the Oil Exploration business as recommended by the Integrated Energy Policy, 2006 report;

(b) if so, whether public sector companies are not allowed to withdraw from exploring a field even if there is no commercial logic to continue with the same; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Production Sharing Contracts under the New Exploration Licensing Policy provide for level playing field with regard to entry and exit of public and private sector companies in

(b) No, Madam.

(c) In view of (b) above, question does not arise.

[Translation]

Local area development by BSP

3676. KUMARI SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of dividend likely to be spent for the development of local area by Bhilai Steel Plant;

(b) the amount spent by Bhilai Steel Plant for the development works during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the details of development works undertaken, during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) is a unit of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and not a separate company. Therefore no separate dividend is earmarked for the development work of local area by BSP.

(b) The amount spent by Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) on development work during the last three years and the current year is as under:

	(Amount in Rs. Crores)			
Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (till date)
	2.44	58.48*	0.80	3.96

* Including grant of Rs.50 Crores for establishing C. G. Swami Vivekananda Technical University.

(c) Some of the major development activities undertaken are:-

- Construction/peripheral development activities in peripheral villages.
- Education of tribal children, who are provided free boarding, free books/stationery/uniform/meals etc.
- Roadside tree plantations.
- Digging of bore wells for drinking water.
- Medical and health services in peripheral villages.
- Education facilities.

- Setting up of a hospital viz. Bhilai Ispat Kalyan Chikitsalaya for needy people.
- Mid-day meals for school children.
- Water Harvesting related work.
- Income Generation schemes for Rural Women and Below Poverty Line (BPL) Families.
- Sponsoring of tribal girls for nursing college.
- Development of Tribal Sports.

[English]

Catalytic Development Programme

3677. SHRI RAJU SHETTI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such districts in the country where Catalytic Development Programme is underway, State-wise; and

(b) the names of such districts in the country which are further proposed to be brought under the said programme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKALAKSHMI) : (a) The State-wise list of districts in the country, where the Catalytic Development Programme is underway, is enclosed as statement.

(b) As regards districts further proposed to be brought under the CDP, potential districts as identified by the State Governments, based on feasibility studies, are considered for inclusion in the said programme.

Statement

State-wise List of districts where Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) for Sericulture is being implemented in the country during the XI Plan period

Sl.No.	States	Districts covered
1	2	3
1.	Karnataka	Bangalore Urban & Rural, Ramanagaram, Kolar. Chikkaballapura, Tumkur, Chamarajanagar, Madakeri, Mandya, Mysore, Chickamagalur, Dakshina Kannada, Hassan, Udupi, Shimoga. Bagalkot, Belgaum, Bijapur, Davanagere, Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri, Uttara, Kannada, Billary, Bidar, Gulberga, Koppal & Raichur
2.	Tamil Nadu	Darmapuri, Krishnagiri, Salem, Erode, Coimbatore. Vellore, Dindigul, Theni, Thirunelveli. Namakkal & Trichy
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi, Dooda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Rajauri, Poonch, Anantnag, Kulgam, Baramulla, Bandipora, Pulwama, Shopian, Kupward, Budgam, Ganderbal & Srinagar
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Ananthapur, Chittoor, Vizianagaram, Prakasam, Kadapa, West Godavari, Warangal Nalgonda, M.B.Nagar, Srikakulam, Kurnool & Medak.
5.	West Bengal	Darjeeling, Coochbehar, Kaliachak. Murshidabad, Nadia & 24 Parganas, Birbhum, Bankura, Burdwan, Paschim Midnapore & Purulia
6.	Maharashtra	Pune, Beed, Osmanabad, Buldana, Sangli, Nashik. Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur & Gadchiroli.
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Betul, Harda, Sehore, Balaghat, Mandla, Dindori, Katni, Khandwa, Raisen, Vidisha, Dhar, Khargone, Ujjain, Hoshangabad, Chhindwada, Narsinghpur, Jabalpur, Panna, Shahdol, Patni, Sidhi, Damoh, Sagar Rajgarh
8.	Orissa	Baripada Bhubaneswar, Chandragiri Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Kalahandi, Keonjhar. Koraput, Phulbani, Sundergarh, Sonapur

1	2	3
9.	Bihar	Banta, Nawada, Begusarai, Purnea East, Kasba
10.	Uttar Pradesh	Kushinagar, Deoria, Gorakhpur, Maharaj Ganj, Basti, Varanasi, Jaunpur Gajipur, Mirjapur, Behraich, Shrabasti, Gonda, Balrampur, Lakhimpur, Sitapur, Pilibhit, Sahajahnpur, Saharanpur, Bijnor, Mujafarnagar, Meerut, Barabanki, Lucknow, Bareilly.
11.	Kerala	Kollam, Kottayam, Pathanamthitta, Idukki, Kozikode, Wayanad, Palakkad, Kannur & Kasaragod
12.	Punjab	Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Ropar
13.	Himachal Pradesh	Bilaspur, Mandi, Kangra
14.	Chhattisgarh	Kanker, Jagdalpur, Bilaspur, Korba, Raigarh, Jashpur, Ambikapur
15.	Jharkhand	Kharsawan, West Singhbom, East Singhbom, Dhanbad, Giridih, Godda, Dumka, Sahedgang, Pakur, Ranchi, Palamu, Garwa, Simdega & Lohardega
16.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun, Haridwar, Almora
17.	Sikkim	East Sikkim, West Sikkim, South Sikkim
18.	Assam	Goalpara, Kamrup, Nagon, Morigaon, Sibsagar, Golaghat, Silchar, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Dhemaji, North Lakhimpur, Tinsukia, Sonitpur, Barpeta Hailakandi, Karimganj, Darang, Bongaigaon, Diphu, Bokajan, Hamren, Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa & Udalgure.
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	Papumpare, Lower Dibang Valley, Changlang, West Kameng, East Siang, Lower Subansiri, East Kameng, West Siang, Lohit, Upper Subansiri Kurungkume
20.	Manipur	Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Bishenpur, Churachandrapur, Jiribam, Ukhrul, Senapati, Chandel, Temenlang
21.	Meghalaya	Jaintia Hills, Ri-Bhoi, East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, East Garao Hills & West Garao Hills
22.	Mizoram	Champhai, Aizawl, Lunglei, Kolasib
23.	Nagaland	Mokokchung, Peren, Kohima
24.	Tripura	North Tripura, West Tripura, South Tripura & Dhalai

[Translation]

Doubling of rail line in Bihar

3678. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether doubling work of Patna-Gaya Rail line and constructions work of rail bridges at Ganga Kosi and Munger in Bihar is very slow;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the said construction works; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) On Patna-Gaya section (91.75 km), doubling of 39.38 km has already been completed. Doubling of Bela-Chakhand (9.98 km) is nearing completion and balance between Bela-Taregana (42.47 km) is likely to be completed by 31.3.2011. There

has been failure of contracts and law & order problems have been faced in the area. The work of bridges over river Ganga near Patna, Munger and over river Kosi are in various stages of progress. The planning of bridge near Patna was changed at an intermediate stage from rail bridge to rail cum road bridge on the request of State Government which required re-designing the bridge. On Munger rail cum road bridge, 4 additional spans have been added due to change of course of the river. There has been delays in handing over of land by the State Government. The work of Kosi bridge is targeted for completion by March 2012 and the other two rail cum road bridges during 2012-13. Necessary steps have been taken to speed up the progress of these projects and to follow up land issues with the State Government.

[English]

Manoharabad-Kothapalli Rail Line

3679. SHRIMATI POONAM VELJIBHAI JAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have undertaken construction of Manoharabad Kothapalli railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) the amount spent so far on this project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The work of new line from Manoharabad-Kothapalli (148.90 km.) was included in the Budget 2006-07. Final Location Survey has been completed and detailed estimate prepared.

(c) An amount of Rs. 43 lakh has been incurred on the project upto 31.3.2009 and an outlay of Rs. 2 crore has been provided for 2009-10.

(d) The work will be completed in coming years as per availability of resources.

Diversion of Funds

3680. SHRI MOHD. ASRARUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that a large quantum of funds allotted for the welfare of minorities are being diverted to other heads;

(b) if so, the action plan chalked out by the Government to check this diversion of funds and ensure its utilization for the purposes for which these are sanctioned; and

(c) the funds allotted and utilized only for minority welfare purposes during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details of annual plan allocation and utilization of funds during 2006-07 to 2008-09 and the allocation for 2009-10 for the welfare of minorities for Ministry of Minority Affairs are given below :

(Rupees in crore)

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
2009-10	1740.00	-	-

[Translation]

Indo-Iran gas pipeline

3681. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract given to the German company relating to Indo-Iran gas pipeline has been cancelled; and

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) GAIL(India) Ltd. and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., the PSUs involved with the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Project from Indian side, have not awarded contract to any German Company in connection with the Project.

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

[English]

Mini Ratna Status to Chemicals, Fertilizers and Pharmaceutical companies

3682. SHRI BALKRISHNA KHANDERAO SHUKLA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) the criteria set to give mini ratna status to public sector companies;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to give mini ratna status to some chemicals, fertilizers and pharmaceutical companies in the country, including Gujarat;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time frame fixed for the purpose?

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

(a) The criteria for grant of mini ratna status to CPSEs have been laid down vide Department of Public Enterprises OM No. 11/36/97-Fin dated 9.10.1997. According to this, the mini ratna companies are classified into two categories namely category (I) and category (II). The eligibility condition and criteria are as under: -

Mini Ratna Category (I)

The CPSEs should have made profit in the last 3 years continuously, the pre tax profit should have been Rs.30 crores or more in at least one of the 3 years and the companies should have a positive net-worth.

Mini Ratna Category (II)

The CPSEs should have made profit in the last 3 years continuously and should have a positive net-worth.

Criteria

- (i) The CPSEs shall be eligible for the enhanced delegated powers, provided they have not defaulted in the repayment of loan/interest payment on any loan due to the Government.
- (ii) These CPSEs shall not depend upon budgetary support or Government guarantees.
- (iii) The boards of these CPSEs should be restructured by inducting at least 3 non-official Directors as the first step before the exercise of enhanced delegation of authority.

(b) At present, there is no proposal pending with the Government, which is satisfying the criterion mentioned in (a) above, in respect of Chemicals, Fertilizers and Pharmaceutical public sector companies.

(c) and (d) Not applicable in view of the (b) above.

[Translation]

Railway projects in Bihar

3683. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various railway projects which have been approved by the Railways in Bihar during the last three years;
- (b) whether the construction work of various approved projects have not been started yet while work on some of them is going on at a slow pace and several have been cancelled in the financial year 2009-10; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) During the last three years i.e. from 2006-07, 2007-08 & 2008-09, 4, 3 and 10 new line projects respectively falling fully/partly in Bihar were included in the various Budgets. Electrification of Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati section has also been included during this period.

(b) to (d) The projects are being progressed as per availability of resources. Also, progress depends on many other factors. After sanction of the projects, considerable time is taken in preliminary activities of Final Location Survey, preparation of plan and estimate, land acquisition, etc. No project has been cancelled during 2009-10.

[English]

Delayed Arrival Airports

3684. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Forbes has listed Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport and Bengaluru International Airport of India among the ten most delayed-arrival airports in the world for 2008;

(b) if so, whether the Government has identified the reasons for these long delays;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Forbes in its story titled 'The World's Most Delayed Airports' published in Jan-08, 2009 has mentioned the names of CSI Airport, Muimbai; IGI Airport, New Delhi and Bengaluru International Airport, Devenahalli among other airports across the world as having delyed arrivals in the year 2008..

(b) and (c) The reasons for delays are due to Air Traffic Management, Airlines internal/external factors and airport infrastructure. Major reason for delayed arrival of flights is the bunching of flights during specific hours of the day, due non-adherence of their schedule of operations, low visibility conditions due to foggy weather prevalent in Northern India, etc.

(d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Airport Operators have taken the following measures:

- (i) Improved ATC procedures have been framed.
- (ii) Clearance Delivery Position has been established at Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru airports.
- (iii) Simultaneous use of two runway operations at Delhi airport and cross runway operations at Mumbai have been implemented during the congestion period.
- (iv) ATC Automation System at Delhi and Mumbai have been upgraded.
- (v) Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System (ASMGCS) along with Surface Movement Radar are in operation at Delhi & Bengaluru airports & planned at Mumbai airport.
- (vi) Ban on general aviation aircraft during peak period at Mumbai airport has been imposed.

In addition, Directorate General of Civil Aviation has constituted a Task Force to monitor on time performance on monthly basis.

With the operationalisation of third runway at Dëlhi airport and completion of other infrstructure projects at other airports, the situation has improved considerably.

[Translation]

Development of Indore station

3685. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated by Western Railway for the development of Indore railway station in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount allocated by the Railways for the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Indore railway station has been selected for development as modern station. The station has also been selected as model station for providing upgraded passenger amenities. Passenger amenity works like extension of platform No.5 to accommodate 24 coaches train, improvement to waiting room, conversion of dormitory in AC etc., have already been completed at this station, for which funds of Rs.396.90 lakh were allocated.

Further, passenger amenity works like extension of covering of shed on Platform Nos.3/4 and 5, improvement to retiring room, Improvement to circulating area, provision of new waiting hall, ladies waiting room etc., have been taken up at this station and planned for completion by 31st March, 2011. Funds of Rs.297.27 lakh have been allocated for these works.

[English]

Stoppage of Trains at Tiruvallur and Avadi Railway Station

3686. DR. P. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal to stop all trains at Tiruvallur and Avadi Railway Station in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) There is no

such proposal at present. Provision of stoppage of all trains at Tiruvallur and Avadi Railway stations is neither operationally feasible nor commercially justified.

Setting up of Airport at Pathanamthitta

3687. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for setting up of an airport in Pathanamthitta, Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No, Sir. However, nearest airport are Trivandrum International Airport (85 Km.) and Cochin International Airport (94 Km.)

(b) Does not arise.

15 Point Programme

3688. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated and disbursed under various schemes of the Government earmarked for 15 point programme during each of the last three years, State-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of utilisation of funds under said schemes earmarked for 15 point programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the further measures to be taken to improve the said performance;

(d) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding non-release of funds allocated for scholarship schemes for minorities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the corrective measures adopted by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The details of funds earmarked for

minorities under various schemes included in the Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities considered amenable to earmarking and the achievements made during the last three years, State-wise and scheme-wise, including under the schemes meant exclusively for minority communities, is in the website of the Ministry www.minorityaffairs.gov.in

(b) and (c) The various existing schemes of different Ministries/Departments included in the programme have their separate monitoring mechanism at the Centre, State/ Union Territory (UT) and district levels. State/UT-wise targets for minorities are earmarked every year under various schemes of different Ministries/Departments included in the programme, which are considered amenable to earmarking, and are monitored through their separate monitoring mechanism. Implementation of the 15 Point Programme is monitored at the State/UT and district levels by the State/ district level committees for implementation of the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities. At the Centre, the progress of implementation of programme, monitored and reported by the various Ministries/Departments concerned, is reviewed on half yearly basis by a Committee of Secretaries and by the Cabinet. In addition to this, quarterly review meetings are held in the Ministry of Minority Affairs with the nodal officers of the Ministries/Departments concerned.

(d) No, Sir,

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Works carried out by HSCL

3689. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the work carried out by Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd. (HSCL) in each field during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the total turnover and operating profit of HSCL have increased during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the contracts awarded to HSCL by various companies during the said period were sublet by it to other contractors;

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

(f) whether a consultant has been appointed for revival-cum-reorganisation of the said company in view of the improvement in the recent performance of HSCL and increased construction related activities in the steel sector; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) HSCL carries out its business operations in steel as well as in Infrastructure sector. There is a gradual improvement in turnover and operational profits of the company. The break up of turnover/ value of work executed and operational profits in last three years and the current year is as under:

Sectors	(Rs. in crore)			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09*	2009-10 (upto 30.6.09)*
Turnover Steel	114	150	230	48
Infrastructure	319	376	465	124
Total	433	526	695	172
Operational Profit	30.17	40.21	51.32	10.19

*Provisional

(d) and (e) HSCL executes its orders with departmental resources as well as through sub-agencies with departmental inputs. Most of the workers of the company are posted at three steel plants Bokaro, Bhilai and Vizag. These workers are engaged in execution of repair, maintenance and operational jobs of the respective steel plants. Besides this, the departmental construction equipment of the company are also operated and maintained by the departmental workers. The workers posted for steel plant jobs are not possible to be shifted in large numbers for execution of short duration projects in infrastructure sector for socio economic reasons and mismatch of skill set. Medium and high value project jobs in steel as well as in Infrastructure sector are executed through sub agencies with departmental inputs like deployment of construction equipment, providing quality control facility, infrastructure for survey, technical supervision and project monitoring. Small value jobs in steel plants are mainly

executed through engaging Piece Rated Workers (PRWs) with full departmental inputs.

(f) and (g) The work of Viability Study for restructuring of the company was assigned to M/s Ferguson & Co. The Consultant has since submitted their final report indicating inter alia cash/non cash support for financial & organizational restructuring of the company.

[English]

Acquisition of Land from Harmutty to Itanagar Rail Line

3690. SHRI SANJOY TAKAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land acquisition process for the entire length of 11.5 km of railway track from Harmutty to Itanagar has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the North Eastern Frontier Railway authority does not agree with the rate of compensation proposed by District Administration against properties/assets damaged due to land acquisition; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Possession of 56.6 hectare land out of total 150 hectare has been taken over so far by Railways. The land acquisition is under process from Km 0 to 20 both in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The rate of compensation fixed by Arunachal Pradesh District Administration for assets/ properties falling in the proposed land is under discussion with State Government officials for early finalization of rate.

[Translation]

Setting up of new steel factory

3691. SHRI PREMCHAND GUDDU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up a steel factory in Bandhka village in Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the project cost thereof; and

(c) the status of construction work alongwith the stipulated time frame for completion of the said factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has a proposal to set up a Steel Processing Unit (SPU) at Bandhka village in the Ujjain District, in Madhya Pradesh. Land for the project has been acquired. Site survey and soil testing have been completed. At present the tendering activities for various packages are in progress. The project cost and time frame shall be firmed up after completion of the tendering process.

[English]

Acquisition of Oil and Gas Assets from African Nations

3692. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had decided to turn its focus from the OPEC countries to the African nations for acquisition of oil and gas assets to meet surging requirements;

(b) if so, whether any dialogue has been held with the African nations in this regard; and

(c) if so, the success has been achieved in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) In order to strengthen energy security of our country, Government of India is making efforts for acquisition of equity abroad wherever suitable opportunities are available. Dialogues have been held periodically with countries in Africa in this regard. At present, Indian Oil PSUs have their presence in several African countries, particularly, Sudan, Libya, Egypt and Nigeria.

Reform in Oil Sector

3693. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to bring about reform in the oil sector;

(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) In order to enable the oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to emerge as efficient and competitive entities in the globalized hydrocarbon sector, Government has delegated enhanced decision making powers to them, to provide them a high degree of functional autonomy. Accordingly, following Oil PSUs have been granted Navratna status:

- (i) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited
- (ii) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- (iii) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- (iv) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
- (v) Gas Authority of India Limited

With the dismantling of the Administrative Price regime with effect from 01.04.2002, pricing of all petroleum products except PDS kerosene and domestic LPG are to be market determined. However, to protect the common man from the inflationary impact of high international oil prices, Government has been modulating retail prices of the four sensitive petroleum products namely; petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG.

Private sector participation has been allowed in upstream, midstream and downstream sectors of oil industry including the retail sale of fuels.

[Translation]

Stoppage at Deoria railway station

3694. SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to give stoppage of Bihar Sampark Kranti Express at Deoria railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. Stoppage of 2565/2566 Darbhanga-New Delhi Bihar Sampark Kranti Express at Deoria Sadar station is not commercially justified.

[English]

Funding to NGOs by HPCL and CCI

3695. SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIYA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the NGOs in Assam receiving funds from Hindustan Paper Corporation and Cement Corporation of India during the last three years;

(b) the details of schemes alongwith the amount sanctioned against each of the schemes during the same period;

(c) whether there are cases of irregularities reported regarding misuse of funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b): As per enclosed statement.

(c) No such irregularities have been reported by HPC and CCI.

(d) Not applicable.

Statement

Details of the NGOs in Assam receiving funds from Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC)

Financial year	Beneficiary	Name of scheme/Event	Amount (Rs.)
2006-07	Asom Madhyamik Sikshak aru Karamchari Santha, Silchar	Celebration of 45 th Biennial Conference	50,000.00
	Aashiyani, Silchar	Cultural Event	10,00,000.00
	Kristi Vivek Sangskritik Sangstha, Silchar	Sponsorship of Folk Festival for Silver Jubilee year	25,000.00
	Silchar Friends' Club, Silchar	Barak Valley Rural Sports Meet	5,000.00
2007-08	Secretary General, Asian Athletic Grand Prix	Asian Athletic Grand Prix, Guwahati	10,00,000.00
	Nagaon Sports Association Nagaon	59 th Independence Day Cup Football Tournament, Nagaon	1,00,000.00
	Assam Badminton Association, Guwahati	India International Challenge Badminton Championship	2,00,000.00
	Assam Sahitya Sabha, Nagaon	5 th Special Annual Conference	1,00,000.00
2008-09	District Advocates Bar Association, Karimganj	Construction of new building of the Bar Association at Karimganj	10,00,000.00
	Lala Town Committee, Hailakandi	Developmental work	10,00,000.00
	Assam Hockey Association, Nagaon	Financial assistance towards 2 nd NE challenge Hockey Tournament	1,00,000.00
	Nagaon Sports Association, Nagaon	60 th All India independence Day Cub Football Tournament, Nagaon.	3,00,000.00
	Assam Sahitya Sabha, Dhemaji	Celebration of 70 th Biennial Conference	1,77,000.00

Details of the NGOs in Assam receiving funds from Cement Corporation of India (CCI)

Financial Year	Beneficiary	Name of scheme/Event	Amount (Rs.)
2006-07	Nil	Nil	Nil
2007-08	Ashiyen, Assam	1000 bags of cement from Bokajan cement Factory (Assam) were given for rescue of flood affected people of Barak Vally.	2,47,725.00
2008-09	Nil	Nil	Nil

Modernisation of Railways System

3696. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

SHRI PRATAPRAO GANPATRAO JADHAO:

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA:

SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have drawn up any plan to modernise the Railway system and to improve safety in signalling and telecom system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which offset bad track, track fractures, technically failed components and human errors are likely to be detected; and

(d) the progress made in respect of modernisation of railway track and telecommunication during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Modernization and technological up-gradation of the railway system is an ongoing process and is one of the thrust areas of the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012). Various modernization activities covering passenger business, freight business and other areas were identified for implementation in the Integrated Railway Modernization Plan (IRMP) for the period 2005-2010. The plan to improve safety in signalling system include provision of route relay interlocking/panel interlocking/electronic interlocking, colour light signalling, LED Signals, axle counters, track circuiting, data loggers, onboard train protection system and interlocking of level crossing gates. To improve telecom infrastructure, it is planned to provide Optic Fibre and Quad Cables and Mobile Train Radio Communication, Satellite Communication and Voice Recorders.

(c) and (d) Modern technology and systems not only prevent failures including human errors, they enable detection of failures like rail fractures, other equipment failures and obstruction of track etc. During the last 3 years 12,530 Kilometers of track renewals have been done; 20,200 route kilometers of Optic Fibre and Quad Cable laid, Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) commissioned on 700 route kilometers, 230 remote locations connected through V-Set Network and Voice Recorders provided in all Control Offices.

*[Translation]***LPG Gas Distributors**

3697. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of LPG Gas distributors in Madhya Pradesh as on date;

(b) the company-wise and district-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints against LPG Gas distributors during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the district-wise details of the action taken by the Government against such distributors during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) As on 01.07.2009, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are operating 562 LPG distributors in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The Company-wise/ district-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) During last three years, OMCs have detected 242 established cases of various malpractices against the

LPG distributors in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Action against the erring distributors was taken as per the provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/Distributorship Agreement. The district-wise details are available with the Directors (Marketing) of the OMCs concerned.

Statement

Company-wise District-wise number of LPG distributors in Madhya Pradesh as 01.07.2009

(Figs in nos.)

District	IOC	BPC	HPC	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Alirajpur	1	0	0	1
Anupur	5	0	0	5
Ashok Nagar	3	0	0	3
Badwani	4	0	3	7
Balaghat	5	1	4	10
Betul	5	3	2	10
Bhind	4	2	2	8
Bhopal	19	7	9	35
Burhanpur	2	0	3	5
Chhatarpur	13	2	1	16
Chhindwara	10	4	4	18
Damoh	3	3	2	8
Datia	3	1	1	5
Dewas	2	5	5	12
Dhar	2	5	4	11
Dindori	2	0	0	2
East Nimar	0	0	2	2
Guna	8	3	1	12
Gwalior	22	6	3	31
Harda	0	2	2	4
Hoshangabad	11	1	3	15

1	2	3	4	5
Indore	19	11	18	48
Jabalpur	17	9	11	37
Jahbua	4	1	1	6
Katni	2	1	4	7
Khandwa	2	5	0	7
Khargone	4	2	0	6
Mandla	2	1	1	4
Mandsaur	7	1	2	10
Morena	7	0	1	8
Narsimhapur	3	2	0	5
Neemuch	8	1	1	10
Panna	4	1	1	6
Raisen	4	1	1	6
Rajgarh	3	2	2	7
Ratlam	6	6	4	16
Rewa	7	3	6	16
Sagar	12	4	6	22
Satna	12	2	3	17
Sehore	2	2	4	8
Seoni	2	2	2	6
Shahdol	4	1	5	10
Shajapur	5	4	2	11
Sheopur	2	1	0	3
Shivpuri	6	1	2	9
Sidhi	2	6	0	8
Singroli	5	0	0	5
Tikamgarh	4	2	2	8
Ujjain	8	7	7	22
Umaria	2	2	2	6
Vidisha	3	2	3	8
ALL INDIA	292	128	142	562

[English]

Railways Lines in Uttar Pradesh

3698. PROF. RAMSHANKAR:

SHRI MITHILESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to lay rail lines between Agra and Etawah, Mailani, Punwaya, Shahjahanpur to Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the targeted date for completion of said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Construction of a 110 km long rail line from Agra to Etawah has been sanctioned and work is in progress. Survey was completed in 1999-2000 for construction of Farukhabad-Shahjahanpur-Gola Gokarnath new line but the project was not taken up due to its unremunerative nature.

(c) The work of Agra-Etawah new line is being progressed as per availability of resources. The work would be completed in the coming years as per resource availability.

Train Accidents

3699. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large extent, the train accidents could be attributed to obsolete railway equipment;

(b) if so, the fact thereof;

(c) whether there is a need for automation of railway signalling and monitoring of train movement to minimize accidents due to oversight/negligence of staff;

(d) if so, the automation of railway signalling and monitoring of train movement work projected for the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(e) the work completed during the first four years of the Tenth Five Year Plan and expenditure incurred thereon; and

(f) the extent to which the said automation work has reduced the accident rates ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Projected signalling works during Tenth Five Year Plan included provision of panel/electronic interlocking at stations, complete yard track circuiting and automatic clearance of block section.

(e) Important signalling works completed during the first four years of the Tenth Five Year Plan were:

Provision of Panel Interlocking/ Electronic Interlocking	1346 Stations
Track Circuiting works	6043 Locations
Provision of Axle Counter for auto clearance of Block Section	533 Block Sections

Total expenditure incurred on various signal and telecommunication works during the first four years of Tenth Five Year Plan was Rs. 3102 crores.

(f) Automation and monitoring of train movement has reduced human dependence on manual verification of track occupation and block clearance. The consequential train accidents attributable to failure of railway staff declined from 186 in 2002-03 to 80 in 2008-09.

Construction of Overbridge in Chhattisgarh

3700. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) under construction in Chhattisgarh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) There are 12 works of Road over/under bridges falling in Chhattisgarh State sanctioned on cost sharing basis. Out of these 7 works are in progress, 5 are in Planning stage.

(b) Railways construct bridge proper across tracks and approaches are constructed by State Govt. Hence, final completion depends upon completion of approaches. However, Railway make all out effort to complete their portion of work before or concurrently with the work of approaches.

Management of Airports*[Translation]*

3701. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private companies taking over the management of important airports have been improving the conditions of such airports as per the schedule fixed;

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

(c) whether the Government has asked such private companies to make expeditious improvement in the conditions of such airports in view of the ensuring Commonwealth Games-2010 in the country;

(d) if so, the details of the various works so far completed; and

(e) the details of the arrangements the Government proposes to make before the commencement of Commonwealth Games- 2010 at each of such important airports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (e) Airports Authority of India has entered into an Operation, Management and Development Agreement (OMDA) with M/s Delhi International Airport Pvt Ltd. (DIAL) and Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd. (MIAL) for modernisation and development of Delhi and Mumbai airports respectively. As per Schedule 7 of OMDA, DIAL and MIAL has to complete 33 & 32 Mandatory Capital Projects (MCPs) respectively before 31st March 2010. Out of which 26 MCPs have been completed at Delhi airport and 29 MCPs have been completed at Mumbai airport.

The progress of work of these MCPs is monitored regularly by a High Level Oversight Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation. Concerted efforts are underway to complete the work as per schedule and make necessary facility available prior to the ensuing Commonwealth Games.

In addition to above, two new greenfield international airports at Shamshabad near Hyderabad and Devenahalli near Bangalore have become operational w.e.f. 24.03.2008 & 24.05.2008 respectively under Public Private Partnership mode. These airports meet the service standards/ratings as per Airport Council International.

Law on Euthanasia

3702. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has made any recommendation to the Government to enact a law on euthanasia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has taken or propose to take any steps to make legal provision for euthanasia; and

(d) if so, whether any time limit has been fixed for the same?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Costly Medicines of Cancer**

3703. SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medicines for cancer in the country are costlier; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to control/minimize the prices of such medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) and (b) Cancer Medicines are the non-Scheduled medicines and prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc.

In the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006, it has been proposed to exempt all the anti-cancer medicines from all types of Central taxes in order to minimize the prices of such medicines. Further, it has also been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the National List of Essential Medicines 2003

(subject to certain conditions and exemptions) in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drug (Price Control) Order, 1995. The draft Policy was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007. It was decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). The GOM had held four meetings but did not make recommendations to the Cabinet.

Mysore Airport

3704. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from the Government of Karnataka for the construction of a modern international terminal at Mysore International Airport;

(b) if so, whether the Government has accorded sanction for the proposal;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the work on this project is likely to start; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, Airports Authority of India has undertaken the work of construction of runway, new integrated terminal building for handling 200 passengers at a time with all associated facilities and construction of control tower cum technical block cum fire station and associated navigational aids, ground lightning facilities, visual aids etc. at a cost of Rs. 69.30 crores at Mysore airport. The works are likely to be completed by mid September, 2009.

(e) Does not arise.

Poultry Processing Plants

3705. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for assistance to set up poultry processing plants in different parts of the country;

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

(c) the number of proposals pending with the Government for setting up of such units; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for speedy clearance/assistance to these units?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Details of number of cases and grant in aid disbursed during 2007-08 & 2008-09 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (d) As on 29.07.2009, six proposals are pending with the Ministry. Apart from this, details of proposals pending with the Banks are not centrally maintained. However, to expedite speedy disbursement of financial assistance, the Ministry has decentralized the disbursement procedure through banks via an e-portal under the Scheme of Setting up / Modernization/ Expansion of food processing industries with effect from 01.04.2007. Under the decentralized procedure, the applications are received directly by the Banks/ FIs, hence the data for receipt of the applications for 2007-08 & 2008-09 is not maintained centrally by the Ministry. The Ministry releases the funds in the shape of grants in aid to the agencies/ entrepreneurs depending upon the availability of funds within the budget provision from year to year basis.

Statement

State wise details of Grant in aid disbursed to Poultry sector during F.Y. 2007-08 & 2008-09

State	FY 2007-08		FY 2008-09	
	No. of cases	Amount disbursed (Rs Lakh)	No. of cases	Amount disbursed (Rs Lakh)
Karnataka	2	50.00	—	—
Maharashtra	1	25.00	1	25.00
Haryana	1	25.00	—	—
Kerala	2	48.16	—	—
Punjab	1	17.04	—	—
Manipur	1	31.06	—	—

ROB at Vadodara and Rajkot

3706. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail over bridges sanctioned by the Railways at Vadodra and Rajkot;

(b) whether a rail under bridge has been constructed at Mahila College crossing despite an initial sanction of a rail over bridge;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the status of Amrapali cinema railway crossing rail over bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Road over bridge between Vadodara-Savli in lieu of level crossing (LC) No.9-B at Km. 13/4 to 13/8..

(b) No, Madam. Railway has not sanctioned any work, instead an under bridge at Km. 4/6-7 between Rajkot-Bhaktinagar near Mahila College crossing has been constructed by Rajkot Municipal Corporation as deposit work.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no work sanctioned by Railway at the location of Amrapali cinema Railway crossing.

Installation of Pollution Control Devices in Steel Plants

3707. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether many steel plants in the country including those in the public sector do not have proper pollution control measures and pollution control devices have not been installed in the plants;

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

(c) whether any action is proposed to be taken by the Government to direct these Steel Plants to have efficient pollution control measures particularly in view of the fact that heavy pollution from these steel plants would hamper the health of the people living nearby the plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) and (b) According to the information available at Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), majority of the Integrated Iron & Steel Plants have installed Pollution Control Measures/devices. There is no

major violation by the Integrated Iron & Steel Plants to the environment norms. However, one coke oven battery (No.3) of Tata Steel is exceeding the stack emission norms of particulate matter. CPCB has asked Tata Steel to submit the closure schedule of the battery at the earliest.

(c) and (d) One coke oven battery (No.3) of Tata Steel is exceeding the stack emission norms of particulate matter. It is an old battery and the matter was discussed by the Task Force for Iron & Steel Sector (set up by CPCB) during its meeting on July 08, 2009 and CPCB has asked Tata Steel to submit the closure schedule of the battery at the earliest.

Construction of Gas Pipeline

3708. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State-owned GAIL India Ltd. and Gujarat State Petronet Corporation have submitted a proposal to build a 1,500 km. pipeline connecting Krishna Godawari basin in Eastern cost to Central India;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been sent to Ministry Regulatory Board;

(c) the total expenditure to be incurred on the pipeline; and

(d) the time by which this project is likely to be completed and the extent to which it will be beneficial?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Following two Expressions of Interest (EOIs) have been submitted to the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) for natural gas pipelines initiating from Krishna Godavari basin in Eastern India:-

i. GAIL's proposal for Central India Pipeline (CIPL) of length 1550 km (including spur-lines of 500 km) from Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh) to Vijaipur (Madhya Pradesh).

ii. GSPL's proposal for pipeline of length 2277 km (including spur-line of 817 km) from Mallavaram (Andhra Pradesh) to Bhilwara (Rajasthan) with connectivity to Godhra (Gujarat).

(c) and (d) After the route is finalized by PNGRB, it will be put under bidding process.

Increase in Subsidy on Fertilizers

3709. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the subsidy on fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) and (b) Fertilizer subsidy is the difference between the normative delivered cost of fertilizers and the notified Maximum Retail Price (MRP) at which they are required to be sold to the farmers. The Quantum of fertilizer subsidy depends on the increase in domestic/international prices of fertilizer inputs/finished products.

Unused Airstrips

3710. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that large number of airfields/airstrips are lying unutilized in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has chalked out any programme for the successful utilization of unutilized airfields;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these would be put into operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) The unused airfields belonging to Airports Authority of India (AAI) state-wise are as under:

Andhra Pradesh - Cuddapah, Donakonda and Warangal; Arunachal Pradesh - Along, Daparizo (CE), Passighat, Tezu (CE) and Ziro (CE); Assam - Rupsi and Sheila; Bihar - Jogbani, Muzaffarpur and Raxaul; Chhattisgarh - Bilaspur; Gujarat - Deesa (Palanpur); Jharkhand - Chakulia; Karnataka - Hassan and Mysore; Madhya Pradesh - Khandwa, Panna and Satna; Mizoram - Aizwal (Turial); Orissa - Jharsuguda; Rajasthan - Bikaner (CE); Tamil Nadu - Vellore; Tripura - Kailashahar, Kamalpur and Khowai; Uttar Pradesh - Lalitpur; and West Bengal - Asansol, Balurghat and Malda. (CE = Civil Enclave)

(c) to (e) These non-operational airports of AAI can be considered for operationalisation only if there is a firm commitment from the airlines for commencing scheduled flights to/from these airfields. Also the respective State

Governments are ready to provide additional land to AAI free of cost for renovation and operationlization of these airports wherever necessary.

Quality of Food

3711. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have eliminated many of the south Indian favourite items from the menu in North, Central and other circuits;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to restore those items in menu ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) No, Madam. Railways are continuing to provide South Indian food items such as idly, dosa, vada, upma, etc., as per standard menu as well as through a-la-carte items.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Trains through Cuttack Railway Station

3712. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received various representations from Orissa to allow more trains pass through Cuttack Railway Station; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto alongwith the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

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

(b) In last one year, 5 pairs of trains have been introduced via Cuttack and frequencies of two pairs of trains running via Cuttack have been increased.

In addition, increase the frequency of one pair of train and extension of 3 pairs of trains running via Cuttack has been announced in the Railway Budget 2009-10.

Increase in the Frequency of Trains

3713. SHRI AMARNATH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal to increase the frequency of 8311/8312 Sambalpur-Varanasi Express from two days to daily;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways thereon and also to extend this train upto Allahabad?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 8611/8612 Varanasi-Ranchi Express has been extended upto Sambalpur for two days a week from 25.02.2009 and is running as 8311/8312 Varanasi-Sambalpur Express (Bi-weekly). Increase in the frequency of the train from Bi-weekly to daily and its extension upto Allahabad is not feasible at present.

Procurement of Cotton

3714. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present system of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for procuring cotton is adversely affecting Indian Textiles Industry;

(b) if so, the corrective measures adopted by the Government to rectify the deficiency;

(c) whether Cotton Corporation of India has offered any discount scheme for bulk purchase of cotton to Textile Industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the quantity of cotton imported during each of the last three years and the current year?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes Madam. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is selling its cotton at market prices. With a view to sell the larger quantities procured under MSP faster to avoid carrying cost and fire risks and also to enable the domestic mills to cover their requirements for larger purchases, the CCI as per the directives from the Ministry of Textiles, has introduced the bulk discount scheme. The details of bulk discount scheme of CCI are as under:-

Quantity in bales	Bulk quantity discount
3000 to 5999 bales	Rs. 250/- per candy
6000 to 9999 bales	Rs. 350/- per candy
10000 to 24999 bales	Rs. 400/- per candy
25000 to 49999 bales	Rs. 450/- per candy
50000 to 199999 bales	Rs. 500/- per candy
200000 bales and above	Rs. 650/- per candy

(e) The details of cotton imports into the country during last three years and also during current year are as under :-

Year	Quantity in lakh bales	Value in (Rs. Crore)
2005-06	5.00	695.77
2006-07	5.53	752.29
2007-08	6.50	986.33
2008-09 (Estimated)	7.00	N.A.

Source for quantity as per CAB, value approx. as per DGCIS, Kolkata

Oil and Gas Exploration

3715. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government is giving thrust to oil and gas exploration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the future plan prepared for the current five year plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. At present, area under exploration is about 50% of Indian Sedimentary Basins. At the end of XI plan, it is targeted to cover 80% of total Indian Sedimentary Basins, under exploration.

With a view to enhance exploration of more oil and gas, eighth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII) and fourth round of Coal Bed Methane Policy (CBM-IV) were launched on 09th April 2009. 70 blocks (24 deepwater blocks, 28 shallow water blocks, 18 onland blocks) have been offered under NELP-VIII. 10 Blocks have been offered for exploration and production of CBM under CBM-IV.

Company Secretaries

3716. SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether appointments of company secretaries under section 383-A of the Companies Act, 1956 is compulsory for all listed or unlisted companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain Public Sector Undertakings have not appointed their company secretaries;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) As per section 383A of the Companies Act, 1956 read with Companies (Appointment and Qualifications of Secretary) Rules, 1988, every company having paid up share capital of Rs. 5 crore or more is required to appoint a whole time company secretary.

(c) and (d) As per available information 233 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have not appointed Company Secretary. Normally, PSUs are unable to appoint Company Secretary due to financial position of such PSUs and non-availability of suitable Company Secretaries.

(e) Registrars of Companies have been empowered to take suitable action against the defaulting companies.

Land on Lease in Orissa

3717. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria set for giving railway land on lease;

(b) whether the Railways have given its land on lease in Orissa;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the revenue generated therefrom in Orissa zone-wise?

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

railway land is given to Government Departments/Public Sector Undertakings on long term lease. In addition, vacant Railway land not required for immediate future Railway operational needs is entrusted to Rail Land Development Authority for commercial development by leasing Railway land on long term basis.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. Railway land measuring 0.607 hectare has been leased to the Income Tax Department at Rayagada, 0.0324 hectare to State Government of Orissa at Puri and 4.3 hectare to Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd, at Himgir.

(d) The total revenue generated is Rs. 80,62,851/- in the State of Orissa. Zone-wise details are as under:

South Eastern Railway	-	Rs. 20,35,151
South East Central Railway	-	Rs. 60,27,700

Airports in Andhra Pradesh

3718. SHRI P. BALRAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct any new airport in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the ongoing status of works at various airports in Andhra Pradesh alongwith the funds earmarked for the purpose?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The details of ongoing status of works at various airports in Andhra Pradesh is as under:

(i) Cudappah: 82% of construction of runway, taxiway, apron and new integrated terminal building has been completed with an estimated cost of Rs. 66.52 crores. (ii) Rajmundhary: 5% of construction of new integrated terminal building has been completed with an estimated cost of Rs.43.29 crores. (iii) Tirupati: Resurfacing and strengthening of existing runway, taxi-track, apron, isolation bay and extension of existing runway and construction of new integrated terminal building has been completed with an estimated cost of Rs. 17.30 crores. (iv) Vijayawada: 43% of extension of runway has been completed with an estimated cost of Rs.47.87 crores. (v) Vizag: construction of

new integrated terminal building, new runway, apron, taxi-track, isolation bay has been completed with an estimated cost of Rs.253.15 crores.

Prices of Medicines

3719. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the multi national companies are importing scheduled medicines at higher prices than that is being sold by the Indian manufacturers;

(b) if so, the comparative prices of such medicines vis-a-vis Indian prices of scheduled and non-scheduled medicines during the last three years; and

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

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

(a) The National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes/revises the prices of formulations as per the formula given in paragraph 7 under DPCO, 1995. This paragraph provides different methods of fixing the prices of indigenous and imported formulations which in turn leads to differences in their prices.

(b) and (c) Prices fixed as per provision of DPCO, 1995 in respect of the formulations imported in fully finished form are generally higher than the prices of domestic substitutes, wherever available. Prices fixed by NPPA for these formulations from time to time are available on the NPPA website www.nppaindia.nic.in. Where domestic substitutes are available in the Indian market, the prices of equivalent imported scheduled formulations are fixed by considering 35% Maximum allowable Post-Manufacturing Expenses (MAPE).

Government Officials to Travel by Air India

3720. SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has issued directives making it mandatory for all Government officials to fly by Air India while travelling on work on both domestic and international sectors;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which this decision of the M/o Finance will help M/o Civil Aviation in generating more revenues and improve its depleted financial position; and

(d) the number of domestic/international journeys undertaken by the Government officials during the last 6 months and the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since Air India is the national carrier, these instructions have been issued. This is in line with what other countries have issued to their officials in the use of their national airlines.

(c) This does not assist the Ministry of Civil Aviation generate revenues. This would however, generate some revenues for the national carrier viz. Air India in improving its load factor and revenues.

(d) Since this information is widely dispersed, this will need to be collected.

MTN-Bharti Deal

3721. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTN-Bharti deal has been finalized/ signed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the equity contribution of each Stakeholder in the project (deal); and

(d) the mechanism to monitor and control the aspects relating to national security and taxation etc. after the finalization of the deal? _

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 sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) An application from M/s. Bharti Airtel Limited (Bharti) under the Informal Guidance Scheme 2003 has been received by SEBI on its proposal to enter into a partnership with the MTN Group Limited (MTN). As and when change, if any, in the equity shareholding of the company is proposed, the applicant has to approach the Government for necessary approval, which will be examined as per relevant policy guidelines on the subject.

Supply of Generic Drugs

3722. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI :

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

(a) whether multinational drug firms have warned the Indian generic producers to stop supplying drugs to treat chronic diseases like AIDS, cancer and cardiovascular problems;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Union Government has issued compulsory licence to drug manufacturers which permits to override a patent for product and introduce a copy to protect public health; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) There are no information in the knowledge of the Department of Pharmaceuticals where multi national drug companies have warned the Indian generic drug producers to stop supplying drugs to treat chronic diseases like AIDS, cancer and cardio-vascular problems. However, while participating in one of the Global Pharma events, certain multi national companies have raised IPR issues against Indian Generic companies.

The Department in collaboration with Pharmexcil is operating a scheme of IPR Facilitation. These centers would help the domestic pharmaceutical companies particularly the small scale units to understand IPR issues.

(d) and e) The Indian Patent Office has not issued any compulsory license since 1st January, 2005, the date from which the amended Patent Act, 1970 provided for product patents in Pharmaceuticals.

[Translation]

Chartered Accountant

3723. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) proposes to prosecute the Chartered Accountants (CAs) involved in Satyam like scams in addition to impose a ban on their practice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government so far to end the unholy nexus between the companies and the Chartered Accountants;

(d) whether the Government proposes to enact any law to replace Chartered Accountants of companies after three years; and

(e) 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) The profession of Chartered Accountants is regulated under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 including disciplinary action in Satyam like cases. The Central Vigilance Commission does not have any role in such cases.

(c) Chapter V of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 has been amended in 2006 to provide more effective disciplinary mechanism to deal with professional or other misconduct mentioned in First or Second Schedule of the Act.

(d) At present, there is no such proposal to replace Chartered Accountants of Companies after three years.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Accreditation System for Law Colleges

3724. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bar Council of India had suggested introduction of an accreditation system for law colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had considered these suggestions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) to (e) The Bar Council of India, Statutory Body under the Advocates Act, 1961 has informed

that the Rules 28, 29, 30 and 31 in Part IV of the Rules of the Bar Council India relating to Standards of Legal Education and Recognition of Degrees in Law for the purpose of enrolment as advocates and inspection of Universities for recognizing its degree in law, deals with the rules for inspection, recognition, accreditation. The Legal Education Committee of the Bar Council of India has considered for revamping the legal education in India. The new Rules introduced by it inter-alia have many innovative improvements. They have also informed that it is not necessary that Rules framed by it be sent to the Government of India for their consideration.

Development of Handicrafts Industry

3725. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in association with Export Promotion Councils is launching a special purpose vehicle to help beleaguered handicrafts industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to develop handicraft clusters and provide onshore and offshore marketing linkages to these units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes Madam. A Scheme of, Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for integrated development of selected handicraft craft clusters is being implemented having one of the objectives as empowerment of artisans by making them active entrepreneurs cum primary stake holders in the process of development and bringing them to a visible platform for easy access to domestic and overseas markets. So far as providing marketing linkages are concerned these clusters through their implementing partners are provided financial assistance for holding exhibitions, establishing emporia and warehousing facilities in prominent places, carrying out publicity through print & electronic media under this scheme. In addition, these artisans of these clusters have been made eligible for participation in different national and international marketing events.

Revival of Heavy Industries Sector

3726. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring improvement in the heavy industries sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to reduce its equity in the heavy industries sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof, Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)-wise;

(e) the details of the PSUs revived/restructured during the 10th Five Year Plan period; and

(f) the target fixed by the Government in this regard for the current Five Year Plan period as well as for current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Department of Heavy Industry is concerned with the development of the engineering industry viz. machine tools, heavy electrical, industrial machinery and auto industry and administers 32 operating CPSEs. The CPSEs under the Department are engaged in manufacture of engineering/capital goods, consultancy and contracting services. The Department maintains a constant dialogue with various Industry Associations and encourages initiatives for the growth of industry. The Department also assists the industry in achievement of their growth plans through policy initiatives, suitable interventions for restructuring of tariffs and trade, promotion of technological collaboration and up-gradation, and research & development activities etc. The Department facilitates financial support to the PSEs in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission for meeting their investment needs and providing funds to the sick/loss making PSEs for implementation of restructuring plans sanctioned by the Government/BIFR. The profit making companies are being strengthened by providing greater autonomy and the loss making CPSEs are being considered for revival/closure.

(c) and (d) Government has invited Expression of Interest (EOI) for Joint Venture partner in Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd, Triveni Structural Ltd., Nepa Ltd. and Hindustan

Cables Ltd., which may have an impact on Government's equity in these PSEs. The possibility of revival of Nepa Ltd. through the Disinvestment route is under examination of the Department of Heavy Industry. Disinvestment upto 74% equity in HMT (Bearing) is also under consideration of the Government.

(e) Revival/Restructuring of 12 PSEs namely, Andrew

Yule & Co. Ltd., Bridge & Roof Co Ltd., Hindustan Salts Ltd., BBJ Construction Co. Ltd., Praga Tools Ltd., HMT (Bearings) Ltd., Heavy Engineering Corp. Ltd., Braithwaite & Co Ltd., Cement Corporation of India Ltd., HMT (MT) Ltd., Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd. and Nagaland Pulp & Paper Co Ltd has been approved by the Government during the 10th Five Year Plan. Details of cash infusion etc. are given as under:

Funds provided by the Govt. in Revival/Restructuring cases

(Rupees in Crore)

S.No.	PSE	Fresh GOI funds		Waivers/ conversions	GOI guarantee	Total
		Capital Investment	Others			
1.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	4.28	Nil	66.32	Nil	70.60
2.	Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd.	60.00	Nil	42.92	Nil	102.92
3.	BBJ Constrn. Co. Ltd.	Nil	Nil	54.61	Nil	54.61
4.	Praga Tools Ltd.	5.00	Nil	177.12	32.59	214.71
5.	Heavy Engg. Corpn.	102.00	Nil	1116.30	150.00	1368.30
6.	HMT Bearings Ltd.	7.40	Nil	26.57	17.40	51.37
7.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	4.00	Nil	112.91	Nil	116.91
8.	Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.	30.67	153.62	1252.25	15.70	1452.24
9.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	Nil	Nil	153.15	3.37	156.52
10.	HMT (MT) Ltd.	180.00	543.00	157.80	Nil	880.80
11.	Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.	29.56	87.06	154.75	111.96	383.33
12.	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Co, Ltd.*	251.26	38.19	126.98	252.99	669.42
Total		674.17	821.87	3441.68	584.01	5521.73

* Rs.108.18 crore for setting off the Capital reduction fund on account of reduction of existing paid up capital from Rs.120.20 crore to Rs. 12.02 crore by way of reduction of the face value of the share from Rs. 1000 per share to Rs. 100 per share.

(f) There is no such target fixed by the Government. However, the Department undertakes restructuring of CPSEs under its administrative control in line with the overall Public Sector Policy of the Government. The profit making companies are being strengthened by providing greater autonomy and the loss making CPSEs are being considered for revival/closure. So far 27 loss making PSEs have been submitted to Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) and BRPSE has given their recommendations in all cases. Out of 27, Government has

approved revival/restructuring of 15 PSEs and Joint Venture/ closure in respect of 4 PSEs.

[Translation]

Production capacity of oil refineries

3727. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:

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

(a) the details of annual production capacity of Public Sector oil refineries in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the domestic demand of petro products has been fully met during the said period;

(c) if not, the details of shortfall in production and measures taken including imports to meet the domestic consumption; and

(d) the extent to which capacity expansion of oil refineries through upgradation will help reducing import bill of the country?

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

(a) Annual installed Refining Capacity of Public Sector Undertaking refineries for the last three years and the current year is as under:

Year*	Installed Capacity (MMTPA)
2006-07	99.5
2007-08	105.47
2008-09	105.47
2009-10	105.47

* Capacity as on 1st April of the financial year

(b) and (c) Overall, the country has been surplus in petroleum products during the last three years. However, wherever there has been shortfall in products, namely, LPG, Kerosene (SKO), Lubes and other minor products, the same has been met through imports. The figures of product wise consumption, production, surplus/deficit for the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The Public Sector Oil Companies have been undertaking refinery upgradation projects for capacity expansion and to optimize the production of value added products. The value added products optimization will result in increase in distillate yield and hence, reduction in import bill.

Statement

Consumption/Production/Import & Export

(Quantity in TMT)

Products	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09 (Provisional)*		
	Consumption	Production	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Consumption	Production	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Consumption	Production	Surplus/ (Deficit)
LPG	10849	8454	(2395)	12165	8868	(3297)	12193	9170	(3023)
Naphtha/NGL	13886	18176	4290	13294	17978	4684	13875	16453	2578
MS	9286	12536	3250	10332	14174	3842	11257	16021	4764
ATF	3983	7850	3867	4543	9120	4577	4455	8092	3637
SKO	9505	8621	(884)	9365	8025	(1340)	9303	8461	(842)
HSD	42897	53676	10779	47669	58482	10813	51668	63031	11363
LDO	720	803	83	667	713	46	552	609	57
LUBES	1900	967	(933)	2290	882	(1408)	2149	870	(1279)
FO/LSHS	12618	15524	2906	12717	15957	3240	12437	17760	5323
Bitumen	3883	3838	(45)	4506	4450	(56)	4705	4620	(85)
Others	11274	9624	(1650)	11399	11245	(154)	10806	9569	(1237)
Total	120801	140069	19268	128947	149894	20947	133400	154656	21256

*Reliance Industries Limited (SEZ), Jamnagar Refinery data not available, hence not included.

*[English]***ROB at Manjathidal**

3728. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand for construction of road over bridge at Manjathidal Railway Station in Tamil Nadu is pending with the Railways for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision taken by the Railways thereon; and

(d) the time by which the said over bridge is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) No, Madam. No firm proposal, neither on cost sharing basis nor on deposit terms has been received from State Govt.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Taxes on Infrastructure Projects

3729. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to remove the various taxes levied on infrastructural projects under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas;

(b) if so, the details of such percentage of taxes so levied;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to make such infrastructural projects more economical and friendly to the investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) to (d) The Government has given fiscal concessions to various projects under the purview of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Some of these projects enjoy a nil customs duty regime while others attract a concessional 5% basic customs duty. As per Finance Bill 2009, tax holiday under the Income Tax Act will be extended to natural gas from blocks which are licensed under the VIIIth round of bidding

for award of exploration contracts under the New Exploration Licencing Policy (NELP) and begin commercial production of natural gas on or after the 1st day of April 2009. This benefit will also be available for profits from natural gas produced in blocks awarded under the IVth round of bidding for coal bed methane blocks.

As the oil and gas projects have been given concessions in customs duty rates and income tax, there is no proposal to remove the various taxes on these projects at present.

*[Translation]***Security Arrangements at Airports**

3730. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy in regard to strengthening safety and security arrangements at the airports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Government have taken following measures to strengthen safety and security arrangements at the airports:

(i) NAKAS are put by CISF/State Police at the approach roads to airports for random checking of vehicles/persons/articles;

(ii) All unattended articles are being reported and checked for Improvised Explosive Detector (IED) etc.;

(iii) Surveillance/watch both on City side and airside of the airports has been enhanced.

(iv) Perimeter Patrolling and guarding of funnel area during operational hours are intensified.

(v) All access control points are reinforced.

(vi) QRTs/Striking Reserve at airports are strengthened.

(vii) Secondary Security Checks at ladder point of aircraft has been introduced at all airports.

(viii) A thorough and complete screening of both hold and hand baggage is being carried out.

[English]

**Global Distribution System
of Air India**

3731. SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether after the merger, the Air India has engaged vendors for its Global Distribution System (GDS);

(b) if so, the names of CGDS vendors;

(c) the quantum of commission paid by Air India to its GDS vendors during the last one year and also per booking done on the system;

(d) whether such payments of commission to GDS vendors are based on bookings done in the the system or actual travel effected; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The names of Global Distribution System Vendors (GDSs) are Amadeus, Abacus, Sabra, Travelsky, Infiniti, Topas, Axess, Galileo, Worldspan and Apollo.

(c) and (d) Air India does not pay any commission to fine GDSs. However, there is a fixed charge per segment, for bookings made by agents of Air India. Such charges are paid on monthly basis to GDSs through IATA clearing house.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Introduction of new trains

3732. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL:

SHRI BALIRAM JADHAV:

SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR:

SHRI BALKRISHNA KHANDERAO SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for introduction of new trains;

(b) the details of the requests sent by various State Governments including Gujarat and Maharashtra for introduction of new trains during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) New trains are introduced taking into account various factors like , availability of resources, operational feasibility, traffic justification, public demand etc.

(b) and (c) Requests for introduction of new train services are received at various levels viz. station level, division level, headquarter level and Railway Board level. These requests, including from Rajasthan & Maharashtra, are received throughout the year. Action as feasible is taken after examination of various issues.

Turnover of Medicines

3733. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual turnover of medicines in the country;

(b) the average annual increase in the turnover of medicines during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the manufacture of medicines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANTJENA): (a) and (b) As per the information available with this Department through ORG-IMS, April MAT value of Indian pharmaceutical market is Rs. 55,454 crores. This includes retail pharmaceutical market at MRP, generic plus companies not tracked by ORG, hospitals and institutional sales (except Government procurement), direct doctor purchase, Pharmaceutical OTC products and diagnostics. ORG-IMS has calculated detailed market at MRP from retail market at PTR (SSAAudit) and rest of all components are derived. In addition to this, Indian pharma industry has made an export of around Rs. 38433 crores in 2008-09.

The average MAT value for the last three years is as under :

April 2007 MAT	April 2008 MAT	April 2009 MAT
Rs. 43,904 Crore	Rs. 50,410 Crore	Rs. 55,454 Crore

(c) The Government provides various fiscal and non-fiscal measures to help the manufacturers to increase their production.

Unmanned level crossings

3734. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned Railway level crossings in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) the number of accidents taken place on the said crossing during the last three years; and

(c) whether the Government proposes to arrange for regular manning of the said crossings during the current year to check accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) As on 01.04.2009 there are 2538 unmanned level crossings in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) State-wise accident data is not maintained. However, on All India basis, a table showing the number of accidents on unmanned level crossings taken place in last three years is as under:-

Year	No. of Accidents
2006-07	72
2007-08	65
2008-09	62

(c) Yes, Madam. Railways make continuous efforts to take up manning of unmanned level crossings qualifying for manning as per the laid down criteria.

[English]

Rail Route Length in Andhra Pradesh

3735. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway route length in Andhra Pradesh for per 100 square miles is less in comparison to other States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to bring Andhra Pradesh at par with the other States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) As on 31.3.2008, the Railway route length (route kilometre) per 100 square kilometre of area in Andhra Pradesh is 1.88

kilometre which is very close to the all India average of 1.92 route kilometre per 100 square kilometre.

There is no policy of constructing new lines based on this criteria.

Upgradation of Kharagpur Railway Station

3736. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal for upgradation of Kharagpur Railway Station as a World Class Railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) No such proposal has been received.

Allocation of Gas for Gas based plants

3737. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

SHRI P.C. MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the demand of gas has increased during the last three years due to construction of various gas based projects in the country;

(b) if so, the demand of gas made by these projects during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any request from the State Government of Haryana for allocation of gas for its gas based power plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the percentage of gas allocated by the Union Government to fertilizers, power, steel and other sector projects during the said period, State-wise including Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The estimated total demand of natural gas in the country during the last three years has increased as below-

(in mmscmd)		
2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
130	179.17	196.64

However, the demand is not maintained State-wise.

(c) and (d) The Government of Haryana has requested for allocation of 7.5 mmscmd gas for proposed 1500 MW gas based power project at Faridabad and 8.0 mmscmd for proposed 2100 MW captive power projects by Reliance Industries Ltd for setting up Special Economic zone at Jhajjar.

(e) No new APM gas allocation has been made during the last three years. However, out of the initial 40 mmscmd of natural gas to be produced from KG D6, 35%, 45%, 12.5 and 7.5% has been earmarked for fertilizer sector, power sector, City Gas Distribution and LPG plants projects respectively; allocations have been made accordingly. In addition, 3.75 mmscmd gas has been allocated to gas based steel plants on fallback basis. Presently, there are no gas-based plants in Karnataka and, hence, no gas allocation has been made to Karnataka.

Infrastructure Projects in Steel Sector

3738. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether half of the on-going projects in the steel sector that cost of Rs. 100 crore or more, are running behind the schedule at the time when the Centre is pushing for faster execution of infrastructure projects to boost the economy;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Ministry of Steel is monitoring the projects of major steel investor in the country. As per the latest information furnished by the major steel investors, the position of the project, with regard to their likely date of commissioning is given below: -

(Crude steel capacity in million tonnes)

S.No.	Company	Project / State	Existing capacity	Proposed capacity	Likely date of commissioning
1	2	3	4	5	6
i	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	(i) IISCO Steel Plant	0.47	2.50	June 2010
		(ii) Salem Steel Plant	-	0.18	June 2010
		(iii) Bokaro Steel Plant	4.07	7.00	September 2012
		(iv) Bhilai Steel Plant	4.80	7.00	October 2011
		(v) Rourkela Steel Plant	1.99	4.20	March 2012
		(vi) Durgapur Steel Plant	1.869	3.00	December 2012
ii	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	Visakhapatnam	2.9	6.3	December 2011
iii	NMDC Ltd.	Nagarnar, Chhattisgarh	-	3.0	NA
iv	Tata Steel Ltd.	Jamshedpur, Jharkhand	5.0	10.0	2011
		Kalinganagar, Orissa	-	6.0	First phase March 2013
		Bastar, Chhattisgarh	-	5.5	NA
		Saraikela, Jharkhand	-	12.0	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6
V	Essar Steel Ltd.	Hazira, Gujarat	4.6	8.5	March 2011
		Paradeep, Orissa	-	6.0	June 2012
		Dantewada, Chhattisgarh	-	3.0	June 2012
		Chaibasa, Jharkhand	-	6.0	July 2012
vi	JSW Steel Ltd.	Vijayanagar, Karnataka	3.8	10.0	March 2011
		Salboni, West Bengal		10.0	-
		Nimidihi, Jharkhand		10.0	-
vii	Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.	Raigarh, Chhattisgarh	3.0	6.0	Phase I by June 2011 and Phase II by 2014
		Angul, Orissa	-	12.5	NA
		Asboni, Jharkhand	-	5.0	September 2013
		Patratu, Jharkhand	-	6.0	December 2011
viii	Ispat Industries Ltd.	Dolvi, Maharashtra	3.0	5.0	2013
		Jharkhand	-	2.8	2013
		Karnataka	-	2.8	2013
ix	POSCO India Pvt. Ltd.	Jagatsinghpur, Orissa		12.00	NA
x	Arcelor Mittal India Ltd.	Keonjhar, Orissa	-	12.00	NA
		Jharkhand	-	12.00	NA

* NA= Not available/Not Reported

(c) Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) to monitor and coordinate issues concerning major steel investments in the country. The Inter Ministerial Group functions under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Steel) with members from various Central Ministries / Departments, such as Railways, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Industrial Policy & Promotion, Mines, Environment & Forest and the concerned State Governments.

Introduction of Inter City Express

3739. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted a feasibility study for introduction of a day time inter city express between Guntur and Chennai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to introduce a day time Intercity Express between Guntur and Chennai.

[Translation]

Stoppage at Gyanpur station

3740. SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to provide a stoppage of Shiv Ganga Express at Gyanpur Railway Station of Bhadohi district in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. Provision of stoppage of 2559/2560 Varanasi-New Delhi Shiv Ganga Express at Gyanpur Road station is not feasible at present.

[English]

Reservation facility at Udumalaipettai Railway Station

3741. SHRI K. SUGUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to open a computerized reservation centre at Udumalaipettai Railway Station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Railway has sanctioned a Passenger Reservation System-cum-Unreserved Ticketing System at Udumalaipettai Railway station. However, this will be provided after the gauge conversion work of Dingual-Pollachi section (on which this station is located) is completed.

Electrification of Rajkot-Ahmedabad Rail Line

3742. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have any plan for electrification of Rajkot-Ahmedabad rail line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to electrify Rajkot-Ahmedabad rail line.

Powerlooms of A.P.

3743. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:

SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the measures initiated/to be initiated in Andhra Pradesh particularly for the looms of Pochampalli, Venkatagiri, Gadwal, Narayanpet and Dharamvaram regions of the State;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the percentage increase in the trade of handicrafts registered during the last three years. State-wise including Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) For development of handlooms, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is implementing Central/State Schemes i.e. Integrated Handloom Development Scheme, Handloom Mark Scheme, Health Insurance Scheme, Mahatama Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, Pavala Vaddi Scheme, NABARD Refund Scheme, Registration under Geographical Indication Scheme, 10% Yarn Subsidy Scheme, modernization and replacement of looms scheme, etc.

(c) State-wise trade and export data of Handicrafts are not maintained. However, the export for handicrafts including hand knotted carpets from the country, including the State of Karnataka, during the last three years is as under:

Year	Export of Handicrafts (Rs. in crores)
2006-07	20963.00(+)-8.80%*
2007-08	17536.78(-) 16.35%*
2008-09	10891.85 (-) 37.89%*

*Percentage is with reference to previous year.

[Translation]

Training to jobless textile workers

3744. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

SHRI SANJY DHOTRE :

SHRI PRATAPRAO GANPATRAO JADHAO:

SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a policy for the rehabilitation of workers rendered jobless due to closure of textiles units in the country particularly in backward and rural areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to take help of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) for providing proper training to these workers;

(c) if so, the details thereof:

(d) the number of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) centres functioning in the country at present, location-wise;

(e) whether the Government proposes to set up more such centres in the near future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Madam. There is no direct policy formulated by the Government of India to rehabilitate workers rendered unemployed due to closure to textile units. However, the Government of India launched a Textiles Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme on 15.09.1986 to provide interim relief to textile workers rendered unemployed as a consequence of permanent closure of any particular portion or entire textile unit. Assistance under the Scheme is payable to eligible workers only for the purpose of enabling them to settle in another employment. Any worker is eligible provided he/she is engaged in a closed textile unit on the date of its closure continuously for five years or more and earning a wage equivalent of Rs.2500 per month or less for the mills closed between 6.6.1985 to 1.4.1993 and Rs.3500 or less thereafter. They should be contributing to the Provident Fund maintained by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner of the State concerned.

(b) and (c) NIFT has been organizing programmes for training/skill upgradation of artisan/craftsmen for helping them to get sustained employment.

(d) Presently 13 Centres of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) are functioning in the country as indicated below:-

Sr. No.	State	Location
1	2	3
1	Delhi	Delhi
2	Maharashtra	Mumbai
3	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
4	West Bengal	Kolkata
5	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
6	Gujarat	Gandhinagar

1	2	3
7	Karnataka	Bangalore
8	Uttar Pradesh	Rae Bareli
9	Kerala	Kannur
10	Bihar	Patna
11	Meghalaya	Shillong
12	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
13	Himachal Pradesh	Kangra

In addition to above NIFT has one overseas centre in Mauritius

(e) and (f) On assumption of office, Minister of Textiles has addressed to all Chief Ministers regarding opening of a NIFT centre in the States and Union Territories which are so far deprived of such institution pointing out NIFT policy which specifies that land and infrastructure costs for setting up new NIFT Centres need to be met by State concerned. As per policy, the State Government is to provide approximately 10 acres of land free of cost and Rs.58.65 crores for creation of infrastructure.

Improvement in services of CAs

3745. SHRI JAI PRAKASHAGARWAL: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to bring about improvement in the services of Chartered Accountants, Cost and Works Accountants and Company Secretaries as per international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend in the concerned Acts/Rules related to the said services; 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 KHURSHED): (a) Improvement in the services of Chartered Accountants, Cost and Works Accountants and Company Secretaries is a continuing process. At present, no specific proposal in this regard is under consideration of this Ministry.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[English]***LPG Distributors in Gujarat**

3746. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies dealing with LPG connection in Gujarat; and

(b) the details of the total number of distributors/dealers appointed by each company during the last three years ?

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

(a) and (b) At present, three Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) are marketing LPG in the State of Gujarat through a total of 544 LPG distributors.

The number of distributors appointed during the last three years by IOC, BPCL and HPCL are 4, 5 and 1 respectively.

ROB in Bihar

3747. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail over bridges that were planned to be constructed in Bihar during last three years;

(b) the number of ROB's constructed in Bihar during this period;

(c) the number of ROB's which remain incomplete so far;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these ROB's are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) 35 works were planned for construction in Bihar during last 3 years .

(b) Only one work by NHAI at Kishanganj was completed.

(c) 34 works are under progress. 4 works are likely to be completed in 2009-10 and 7 more during 2010-11.

(d) Approval of General Arrangement Drawings and Estimate for approaches have been delayed by State Govt. Problems are faced by the State Govt. in acquisition of land, removal of encroachments etc. due to which works could not be taken up or could not progress as planned earlier.

(e) Completion of over/under bridges depends upon completion of all formalities by State Govt. and their portion of works in case of cost sharing works. Railways make all out efforts to complete their portion before or concurrently with the work of approaches done by State Govt.

*[Translation]***Overpricing of Drugs by MNCs**

3748. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided attractive tax concessions to the multinational drug companies;

(b) if so, whether a number of drug companies despite enjoying tax benefit were found charging exorbitant prices for their drugs and formulations;

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

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to withdraw the tax concessions extended to these multinational companies in addition to recovery of penalty imposed on them; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANTJENA): (a) to (e) Some full/partial exemptions/ concessions from custom and central excise duties on specified drugs and medicines are presently in force. Besides this, the Government has exempted the payment of central excise duty on goods including medicines/drugs manufactured in certain areas for economic upliftment of the area. These exemptions/ concessions are provided to the manufacturers/importers of pharmaceutical/medicaments irrespective of their being multinational or domestic.

Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO 1995), the prices of 74 bulk drugs included in its First Schedule and the formulations containing any of these drugs are controlled. NPPA/Government fixes or revises prices of the Scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any Scheduled drug / formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA / Government.

In respect of drugs not covered under the DPCO, 1995 i.e. non-Scheduled drugs, the manufacturers are at liberty to fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed depending on the various factors like the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of excipients, cost of R&D, cost of utilities/packing material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum (20% before 01.04.2007) is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

Doubling of Lucknow-Barauni rail line

3749. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status regarding doubling of Lucknow-Barauni railway line alongwith the funds spent, thereon so far; and

(b) the time by which the doubling of this railway line is likely to be completed and the total estimated expenditure likely to be incurred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) On Lucknow-Barauni route via Barabanki, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur (513 km), doubling in 340 kms has already been completed. Further, doubling has been taken up in a length of 103 kms. Rs. 834.16 crore has been incurred on doubling of this route upto March, 2009. The project is progressing as per availability of resources.

[English]

Fraud cases under SFIO

3750. SHRI MANISH TEWARI : Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fraud cases investigated by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office between May 22, 2004 to July 1, 2009;

(b) the legal charter/act/architecture under which the Serious Fraud Investigation Office operates;

(c) the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) filed any charge sheets into matters investigated between May 22, 2004 and July 01, 2009; and

(d) the outcome of SFIO in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has completed investigation in 36 cases during the period between May 22, 2004 to July 1, 2009.

(b) SFIO operates under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 relating to investigation.

(c) SFIO has filed 574 complaints for violation of various Sections of the Companies Act, 1956 and for offences committed under the IPC, in respect of cases investigated between 22.05.2004 to 01.07.2009.

(d) The complaints filed by SFIO are at various stages of trial in different courts.

Anand Vihar Railway Terminal

3751. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the status of Anand Vihar Railway Terminal in Delhi;

(b) the time by which this project is likely to be completed and made operational; and

(c) the reasons for the delay, if any, in completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Most of the work of station building and all other service building, overhead tank, underground tank and washing line has been completed. Finishing work is in progress. Track linking is also 90% complete.

(b) The target date of completion of the work is October, 2009.

(c) Construction of Road over bridge by Box pushing across existing arterial roads for providing connectivity at Sahibabad end of the station was a very tedious work and took more time. Besides, the villagers of Maharajpur village raised the issue of new road under bridge, which took additional time to resolve the matter by State Government.

Funds for Rail Projects in Andhra Pradesh

3752. SHRIMATI POONAM VELJIBHAI JAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh is providing 50% of the funds for railway projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise;
- (c) whether there is any inordinate delay in completing the projects in time;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh is sharing 50% cost of new line between Cuddapah-Bangalore (255 km.). The latest anticipated cost of the work is Rs.1000.23 crore.

(c) to (e) The work on this project is at initial stages. Final Location Survey, preparation of plan and estimate has been taken up. Detailed estimate for Cuddapah-Pendlimarri (21.8 km.) is under process.

[Translation]

Railway workshop

3753. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of railways workshops in railway zones in the country as on date;
- (b) the names of the railway workshops which are on the verge of closure or have been closed so far till date;
- (c) the names of the workshops for which the Railways have allocated funds for their revival during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Railways to revive such railway workshops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There are 66 Railway Workshops located in different Railways zones.

(b) Nil.

(c) No Railway workshops are in a state where they need revival. However for effective functioning of workshops funds are being provided on a regular basis in a need based manner.

(d) Does not arise.

Mumbai-Vadodara-Rajkot rail line

3754. SHRI PRABHATSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to make any special provision to upgrade the existing Mumbai-Vadodara-Rajkot rail line in rail budget 2009-10; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Promotion of Textiles Exports

3755. SHRI C. SIVASAMI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to extend the admissible period of 2% Duty Credit Scrip on FOB value of exports for another three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds disbursed under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) during each of the last three years, State-wise and sector-wise; and

(d) the criteria fixed by the Government to allocate additional funds under TUFS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), the funds are released nodal agency-wise, and not State-wise and sector-wise, for disbursement among the eligible beneficiaries. During each of the last three years, the funds released under the scheme including the Capital Subsidy for decentralized powerlooms sector is as follows:-

(Rs. In crore)		
2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
823.92	1143.37	2632.00

The Government allocates additional funds under TUFS as per requirement.

[Translation]

New station between Laxmibai Nagar and Manglia

3756. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to construct any station between Laxmibai Nagar and Mangalia stations in Indore-Devas-Ujjain division of Western Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The inter section distance between Laxminagar and Mangalia (Mangaliyagaon) is only 11.02 Km. Therefore, operationally there is no justification to provide a station in between these two stations.

Utilisation of land allotted to BHEL

3757. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total land allotted by the Madhya Pradesh Government for setting up of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) plant in Bhopal;

(b) the area of land lying vacant and unutilized out of the said land;

(c) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has been requesting to return the allotted land; and

(d) if so, the time by which this vacant land is likely to be returned to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) Land measuring 6045.18 acres has been handed over by the Government of Madhya Pradesh (GOMP) for setting up of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) plant in Bhopal.

(b) 974.69 acres of land is vacant.

(c) and (d) Requests received from the GOMP for returning the allotted land have been considered and responded appropriately from time to time. 1565.98 acres of land has already been returned to GOMP over a period of time. The vacant land is already planned to be utilized by BHEL Bhopal Unit for its future business expansion/capacity addition activities, creation of additional infrastructure and employee welfare initiatives and hence not being proposed for return to State Government.

Railway land on lease

3758. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any norms/policy regarding providing Railway land on lease to the private companies and individuals;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have provided railway land on lease to the private companies in the country for developmental works and modernization of Railway Stations during the last three years and current year;

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

(d) the names of private companies and individuals who have taken railway land on lease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Railways have a plan for leveraging land around and air space above the identified stations to develop them into world class stations with international level facilities.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Special Provision for Disabled Persons

3759. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have made any provisions of easy access of Trains/Stations and facilities for the disabled persons; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) To permit easy access to the disabled persons, standard ramps, non-slippery walkways, wheel chairs, earmarked parking lots for vehicles used by disabled persons, signage etc. have been provided at 'A-1' and 'A' category Railway Stations and planned for completion at 'B' category stations by March, 2010.

Toilets and water taps suitable for needs of the disabled passengers, 'May I help you' booths etc. have also been provided at such Stations/Platforms.

Railways have also planned to provide facility of inter platform transfer and engraving on edges of Platforms. Inter platform transfer facility has been planned by way of connecting all the platforms at the stations through FOB/SUBWAY with ramps or by providing lift at each platform to connect FOB/SUBWAY. A work for provision of 50 escalator/lifts has been sanctioned for major stations of all Zonal Railways.

Indian Railways also have about 1600 passenger coaches which have a separate compartment specially designed for wheel chair borne passengers. These compartments have facilities like wider entrance door, wider aisle and knee space to permit easy movement of wheel chair, toilets adapted to need of such passengers, arrangements for securing wheel chair during the journey etc.

[Translation]

Allotment of petrol pumps/gas agencies

3760. SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV:

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government has given reservation to various categories in allotment of petrol pumps and gas agencies including women, SC/ST and backward classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details and the number of petrol pumps and gas agencies being run by the reserved categories in the country as on date, category-wise and State-wise;

(d) whether the petrol pumps and gas agencies allotted under reserved categories are being run by other people; and

(e) if so, 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) and (b) After dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) w.e.f. 1.04.2002, Based on the broad policy guidelines issued by the Ministry, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs.), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) have framed their own detailed guidelines for selection of dealership/distributorship of petroleum products.

As per the extant guidelines, the percentage of reservation to different categories is as follows:

Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	25%
Defence Category (DC)	8%
Paramilitary/ Police/ Government Personnel (PMP)	8%
Physically Handicapped Persons (PH)	5%
Freedom Fighters (FF)	2%
Outstanding Sports Persons (OSP)	2%
Open (OP)	50%

33% of the dealerships/distributorships in all categories mentioned above will be reserved for women belonging to that category.

(c) As on 01.04.2009, 6075 retail outlets (ROs) and 2710 LPG distributorships of OMCs are being run under reserved categories. The category-wise and State-wise details are available with Director (Marketing) of OMCs.

(d) and (e) The ROs and LPG distributorships allotted are expected to be run by the dealers only. If benami operation is suspected or established, dealer/distributor is served with show cause notice for termination in line with the Agreement and the reply in this regard is examined. In case satisfactory reply is not received, dealer/distributor is terminated.

[English]

Capital Expenditure by SAIL

3761. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state;

- (a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) proposes to double its capital expenditure during 2009-10;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the sources from which the funds are likely to be arranged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) to (c) The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has incurred capital expenditure of Rs.5233.12 crore during the year 2008-09 and plans to spend Rs. 10356 crores on capital expenditure during the year 2009-10. The funds for this capital expenditure will be raised by SAIL through internal accruals and external sources.

Loss of Parcels and Goods

3762. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have received complaints about loss of parcels and goods carried by goods trains involved in accidents;
- (b) if so, the details of such complaints during the last two years and the current year;
- (c) whether there is no uniform procedure for dealing with loss of goods, parcels in cases of accidents involving goods trains;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Railways propose to adopt uniform procedure for dealing with loss of goods parcels; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the Railways in this regards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Indian Railways receives complaints on lost parcel and goods carried by Goods trains/Parcel trains on account of loss and theft, pilferage, Breakage, Damage, delay in transit and other causes including trains involved in accidents. The yearwise breakup of complaints received are as under:

Year	No. of cases Registered
2007-2008	30188
2008-2009	27270
2009-2010 (April to June)	6638

(c) There is a defined and uniform procedure, as per relevant provisions of Indian Railways Act, 1989, for dealing (Filing and settlement) of all goods and parcel claims cases (also involving goods train accidents).

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Funds by ONGC to NGOs in Assam

3763. SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Assam received funds from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) during the last three years;
- (b) the details of schemes implemented by them in the State alongwith the amount sanctioned against each of the scheme during the same period;
- (c) whether there are cases of irregularities reported regarding misuse of funds; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The details of NGOs which were given funds by ONGC during the last three years are enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) The details of the schemes and the amount sanctioned against each of the scheme are enclosed as Statement-II.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) In view of (c) above, doesn't arise.

Statement-I

Details of NGOs in Assam who received Funds from ONGC in last 3 Years

S.No.	Name of the Non-Governmental Organisation
1	2
Year 2006-07	
1	Chidren's Literacy Trust Assam, Guwahati
2	Majuli Island Protection And Development Council
3	Himgiri Society, Nazira
4	Anugraha Drishtidan
5	United International Mission
6	Sundarpukhuri Milk Cooperative Society
7	Barak Valley Welfare Development Society
8	Tamses
9	Silchar District Asom Anusuchit Jati Parisad
10	Nivedita Nari Sangah
11	Disha
12	Rotary Club Silchar
Year 2007-08	
1	Indian Red Cross Society, Silchar
2	Indian Red Cross Society, Guwahati
3	Janki Mahila Sangha, Dispur
4	Ad-Hoc Pacifist Organisation, Guwahati

1

2

5	Social Cultural Educational And Sports Development Trust, Silchar
6	Anwasha, Guwahati
7	Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jorhat
8	Purbanchal Tai Sahitya Sabha, Dibrugarh
9	Anugraha Drishtidan
10	United International Mission
11	Shanti Sadhana Ashram, Guwahati
12	Sivasagar Tribal Industrial & Commercial Society Ltd.
13	Kalyan Ashram
14	Barak Valley Minority Women Welfare Samiti
15	Sahid Atabun Nessa Memorial Atimkhana Trust

Year 2008-09

1	Arohee, Guwahati
2	Indian Council For Child Welfare, ICCW, Guwahati
3	Anwasha, Guwahati
4	Children's Literacy Trust, Assam
5	Milan Jyoti Sangha
6	Indian Red Cross Society, Assam State Branch
7	Anugraha Drishtidaan
8	Shanti Sadhana Ashram, Guwahati
9	Society For Enhancement Of Welfare Activities
10	Barak Valley Medical And Social Helpline
11	Uttaran Naree Sangstha

Statement-II

Details of Schemes Implemented by NGOs from the funds provided by ONGC

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Purpose	Expenditure (Rs. In Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
Year 2006-07			
1	Chidren's Literacy Trust Assam, Guwahati	Financial Support Towards CLT's Project	5.00
2	Majuli Island Protection And Development Council	Financial Assistance for Publication of A Resource Book And Photo Album of Majuli	11.00
3	Himgiri Society, Nazira	Financial Support Towards Souvenir Him Prabha	0.50

1	2	3	4
4	Anugraha Drishtidan	Supported For Eye Screening And Cataract Operation Camps At Patsaku	2.50
5	United International Mission	Material For School For Blind Children	2.40
6	Sundarpukhuri Society Milk Cooperative	Supported For 3 Units Of Automatic Milk Collection Kit For Sundarpukhuri, Sanbecha And Nazira	2.50
7	Barak Valley Welfare Development Society	Entrepreneurship (Installation of Noodle Factory)	0.50
8	Anugraha Drishtidan	Two Eye Screening And Cataract Operation Camps Organised By The NGO At Golaghat, Jorhat, Assam	2.50
9	Tamses	Purchase of Computers	1.00
10	Silchar District Asom Anusuchit Jati Parisad	For Construction of Auditorium And Electrification Works	0.50
11	Nivedita Nari Sangah	Construction of Sishu grih for Orphan Children	11.47
12	Disha	School Bus For Mentally Retarded Children	7.03
13	Rotary Club Silchar	Installation of Echo Cardiography Machine	15.00
Year 2007-08			
1	Indian Red Cross Society, Silchar	Donation For Modernization of The Paediatric Surgery Section In Silchar	15.00
2	Indian Red Cross Society, Guwahati	Donation For Relief Activities in Assam	10.00
3	Janki Mahila Sangha, Dispur	Donation For Their Activities	0.87
4	Ad-Hoc Pacifist Organisation, Guwahati	Donation For Providing Looms To Villagers In Dibrugarh Distt in Assam	5.00
5	Social Cultural Educational and Sports Development Trust, Silchar	Construction of Multipurpose Auditorium	200.00
6	Anwesha, Guwahati	Sponsorship of Keshab Mohanta Pavillion of The 5th Spring Festival	1.56
7	Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalyaya, Jorhat	Financial Assistance For Publication of A Resource Book and Photo Album of Majuli	5.23
8	Purbanchal Tai Sahitya Sabha, Dibrugarh	Sponsorship of 3-Day 27th Purbanchal Tai Sahitya Sabha, Namrup Conference	5.00
9	Anugraha Drishtidan	Organizing Medical Camp At ONGC Oilfield In Upper Assam	2.50
10	United International Mission	For Purchase of 4 Braille Computers	1.00
11	Shanti Sadhana Ashram, Guwahati	Handloom Weaving Through Looms	5.16

1	2	3	4
12	Anugraha Drishtidan	Two Eye Screening And Cataract Operation Camps Organised By The NGO At Golaghat, Jorhat, Assam	2.50
13	Sivasagar Tribal Industrial & Commercial Society Ltd.	For Printing Press	2.00
14	Kalyan Ashram	Purchase Of Ambulance	2.50
15	Barak Valley Minority Women Welfare Samiti	Purchase Of Furniture For Nursery School	0.25
16	Sahid Atabun Nessa Memorial Atimkhana Trust	Purchase Of Computers	0.50

Year 2008-09

1	Arohee, Guwahati	Financial Support For Libraries In And Around Guwahati	5.00
2	Indian Council For Child Welfare ICCW Guwahati	Donation For Construction Of ICCW's Building In Guwahati	2.00
3	Anwesha, Guwahati	Sponsorship Of Chandra Prasad Saikia Of The 6th Spring Festival	1.79
4	Children's Literacy Trust, Assam	Financial Support For A Number Of Projects On International Year Of Planet Earth And Other Related Topics.	5.85
5	Milan Jyoti Sangha	Financial Assistance For "All Assam Prize (Day & Night) Invitation Volleyball Tournament" To Be Held On 7th & 8th Feb. 09.	2.00
6	Indian Red Cross Society, Assam State Branch	Donation For Flood Relief Activity In Assam	5.00
7	Anugraha Drishtidaan	Organizing "Netra Sibir" At Oilfield Areas Of Assam Asset	2.50
8	Shanti Sadhana Ashram, Guwahati	Handloom Weaving Training Through Improved Looms To 55 Beneficiaries For Three Months At Lakwa-I, II, Geleky-I, II, Rds-I, II, Etc.	13.44
9	Society For Enhancement Of Welfare Activities	For Entrepreneurship Development	1.00
10	Barak Valley Medical And Social Helpline	Purchase Of Furniture For School	0.50
11	Anugraha Drishtidaan	Two Eye Screening And Cataract Operation Camps Organised By The NGO At Golaghat, Jorhat, Assam	2.50
12	Uttaran Naree Sangstha	For Organizing Medical Camps	0.50

Outstanding Loans on SAIL

3764. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loans outstanding on Steel Authority of India Ltd.(SAIL) has decreased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total loans outstanding on SAIL at present;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the same; and

(e) the period by which it is likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) to (c) The details of loans outstanding on the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), for the last three years and current year are as under:-

Period	Amount [Rs. in crore]
As on 31. 03.2007	4180.52
As on 31.03.2008	3045.24
As on 31 .03.2009	7538.79
As on 30.06.2009 (Provisional)	8796.87

- (i) Loans during the year 2007-08 reduced by Rs.1135.28 crore.
- (ii) During the year 2008-09 the loans have gone up by Rs.4493.55 crore as compared to 2007-08 due to temporary mismatches in cash flows and loans for capital expenditure.
- (iii) The loans have also gone up during April - June'09 by Rs. 1258.08 crore for meeting the capital expenditure requirements of the company.

(d) SAIL has been taking loans for financing the modernization and expansion of its steel plants. The loan burden is expected to go up during the implementation of these capital intensive projects.

(e) The loans outstanding as on 30.06.2009 have been taken for various periods. The loans outstanding as on 30.06.2009 will be repaid in full by the year 2042.

National Rail Vikas Yojana

3765. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have implemented National Rail Vikas Yojana to remove capacity bottlenecks in the critical sections of the Indian Railways Network;

(b) if so, the projects proposed to be implemented under the National Railway Vikas Yojana;

(c) the projects belong to the State of Uttar Pradesh particularly North-Eastern Railways;

(d) the number of projects completed so far under the National Rail Vikas Yojana particularly in North-Eastern Railways in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) the status of the remaining projects; and

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

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

(b) A total of 65 projects of strengthening of Golden Quadrilateral & its diagonals, Port/Hinterland connectivity and mega bridges have been included in National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY) for implementation. Out of these, 45 projects have been transferred to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a PSU under the Ministry of Railways.

(c) 4 projects fall in the state of Uttar Pradesh, out of which one is on North Eastern Railway i.e. gauge conversion of Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop with Anand Nagar-Nautanwa (260 kms) .

(d) 25 projects have so far been completed. The project in North Eastern Railway in Uttar Pradesh is in progress.

(e) and (f) The works on remaining projects is in various stages of progress. 5 projects are targeted for completion during 2009-10. Completion of other projects would depend on availability of resources and other allied factors.

Safety Management System at Airports

3766. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Safety Management System has been implemented at various airports to mitigate the risk of accidents;

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

(c) whether a very few airports in the country have so far implemented the said system;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has fixed any target for implementation of said system in all airports; and

(f) if so, the details and the name of the airports likely to be identified for the said purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 4 Series B, Part I dated 31.07.2006 issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) stipulates that as part of safety management

programme, the operator of the airport shall implement a Safety Management System (SMS) acceptable to DGCA. Establishment of SMS at airport is a requirement of the licensing process. The essential component of SMS is Risk Management. It has been implemented at all the airports in the country to mitigate the risk of accidents.

(c) and (d) As per International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) requirements, SMS is required to be implemented in phases. The implementation of SMS has been initiated at five airports.

(e) and (f) Airports Authority of India has fixed four phased target for implementation of SMS. In the year 2009-10, twenty airports have been identified; namely, Amritsar, Guwahati, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Agartala, Patna, Calicut, Indore, Lucknow, Dibrugarh, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Bhopal, Varanasi, Imphal, Ranchi, Trivandrum and Aurangabad.

Opening of Small Airports

3767. SHRI G.M.SIDDESHWARA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted a survey to find possibilities of opening small airports to link local areas with State capitals;

(b) if so, the details of the survey conducted;

(c) the details of new air routes started during each of the last three years, Statewise and those proposed for 2009-10;

(d) whether food/eatables served to passengers at the airports are not of standard quality; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However study/survey are conducted by Airports Authority of India from time to time based on demand from various quarters to operationalize non-functional airports.

(c) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such airlines are free

to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, from time to time, measures are taken to improve the standard of food/eatables served to passengers by the concerned airlines/airport operators.

[Translation]

Third railway line between Nagpur-Hyderabad

3768. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for laying a third railway line between Nagpur and Hyderabad to introduce new trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Surveys for 3rd line from Itarsi-Nagpur-Balharshah, Balharshah-Kazipet and Secunderbad-Bhongir have been recently completed. The patch tripling work of Raghavpuram-Mandamari (24.47 km.) has been taken up.

[English]

Self-Sufficiency in Fertilizer Sector

3769. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort is being made by the Government to achieve self-sufficiency in the fertilizer sector; and

(b) if so, the target fixed and achievements made for the purpose during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) To achieve self sufficiency in the fertilizer sector, the Government has announced a policy for new investments in on 4th September 2008. The New Investment Policy aims at revamp, expansion, revival of existing urea units and setting up of Greenfield projects. The policy is expected to substantially bridge the gap in next five years between the consumption and domestic production subject to confirmed and adequate availability of gas at reasonable prices.

(b) Targets fixed and achievements made for fertilizer sectors during the Tenth Five Year Plan:

(000' MT)

Year	Target	Achievements
2002-03	36667.3	31999.6
2003-04	34923.6	31703.5
2004-05	35609.1	34058.1
2005-06	35571.2	35043.6
2006-07	36271.3	36217.0
Total	179042.5	169021.8

**Setting up of New Plants
by BHEL**

3770. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has any proposal to set up new plants in some parts of the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new plants are likely to be set up?

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

(b) As part of manufacturing capacity expansion programme, BHEL is in the process of setting up new manufacturing plants as follows:-

- (i) Boiler Components Plant in Tirumayam in Pudukottai district of Tamil Nadu for manufacture of boiler components at an estimated cost of Rs.250 crore, for which the land is being acquired.
- (ii) Fabrication Plant at Jagdishpur in Uttar Pradesh to meet the requirement of fabricated components and assemblies required by other major BHEL units, at an estimated cost of Rs.230.42 crore.

Investment for these new manufacturing plants are through internal accruals of BHEL.

(c) These new manufacturing plants as above are planned to be set up by December 2011.

Low Cost Carriers

3771. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of private owned low cost carriers which came into operation during the last three years and which are on the anvil;

(b) whether these low cost carriers are posing a threat to the revenue of the Government owned airlines and also put a great pressure on air traffic;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make the air travel affordable to all classes in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Government has not introduced any classification of low cost airlines and as such there is no distinction in the policy for such airlines. However, during the last three years from 2006-07 to 2008-09, following airlines have commenced air services: -

Indigo (Scheduled)

MDLR airlines (Scheduled Regional)

Government has also granted NOC to Star Aviation, Jagson Airlines, and ZAV Airways for operating scheduled regional air transport services. These airlines have yet to commence scheduled air services.

(b) and (c) The private as well as the Government owned airlines compete within the same market and hence are mutually affected. However, the competition benefits consumers.

(d) Domestic air fares are not being regulated by the Government. Domestic airlines are free to charge airfare as per the market forces. However, the Government has taken following steps for betterment of aviation sector:-

(i) Custom duty on import of ATF has been abolished.

(ii) The State Governments have been requested to reduce the sales tax on ATF. Government of Andhra Pradesh and in certain cases Government of Rajasthan have reduced the sales tax on ATF to 4%. Government of Maharashtra has also reduced sales tax on ATF from 25% to 4% for flights originating from airports other than Pune and Mumbai.

- (iii) The Oil companies have started announcing the ATF prices on a fortnightly basis rather than monthly basis.

Advisory Board for Air India

3772. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an International Advisory Board comprising prominent people including former heads of major airlines to study the state-of-affairs in the Air India (AI);

(b) if so, the details thereof and time by which this body is likely to be set up;

(c) the main functions of this board; and

(d) the extent to which this board is likely to be helpful for revival of AI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal to set up International Advisory Board comprising prominent people is under consideration.

Bailout Plan for Private Airlines

3773. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is giving any financial package and sops to bailout the private airline from financial crunch;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the losses and profits reported by each private airline during the last three years?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details of losses/profit of leading private airlines in last three years are as under:-

Airline	Profit/Loss (Rs. In Million)		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4
Kingfisher Airlines	-2337.7	-5773.13	-4089.16
Jet Airways	5387.6	279.41	-2530.63

1	2	3	4
Go Air	-584.0	-2374.72	-1747.60
Spicejet	-485.3	-721.46	-1335.07
Jetlite	-594.9	-6896.6	-4415.00
Air Deccan (now designated as Kingfisher Red)	-3223.3	-4195.70	-7983.49
Paramount Airways	-177.7	16.30	11,70
Indigo	--	-2017.94	-2347.48

Expansion of Steel PSUs

3774. SHRI P. BALRAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to focus on expansion of Public Sector Undertakings in steel sector in the current Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including the steel projects of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the funds released and spent for the steel projects infrastructure during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the financial condition of each steel project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) and (b) The Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has undertaken 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 (M.TPA) to 23.46 MTPA.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), which is located at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, is expanding its liquid steel capacity from 3 MTPA to 6.3 MTPA. The expansion is expected to be completed within the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

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 SAIL with NMDC is going to be completed soon.

and after completion of merger, NMDC 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 plant at Paloncha, Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) SAIL's actual expenditure on its modernization and expansion so far, is Rs.5,713 crore. The financing of the project is being met through internal accruals and external resources.

RINL has spent an amount of Rs.4,041 crore so far. RINL is utilizing its own internally generated funds.

NMDC Ltd. has so far spent Rs. 25 crore on its modernization project. SAIL has spent an amount of Rs.123.02 lakh during the last two years for the preparatory works for its proposed expansion plan. There is no financial problem in respect of these projects and the same are progressing satisfactorily.

Amendment in Administrative Tribunal Act

3775. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission of India has suggested an amendment in the Administrative Tribunal Act to exclude the appeal jurisdiction to High Courts against the decision of Central and State administrative tribunal and provide for direct appeal to the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) and (b) The Law Commission of India in its 215th Report on "L. Chandra Kumar be revisited by Larger Bench of Supreme Court" has recommended that the Administrative Tribunal were conceived as and constitute an effective and real substitute for the High Courts as regard service matter. Moreover, the power of judicial review of the High Courts cannot be called as inviolable as that of the Supreme Court. The very objective behind the establishment of the Administrative Tribunal is defeated if all the cases adjudicated by them have to be before the concerned High Courts. If one appeal is considered to be a must, an intra-tribunal Court by way of special leave petition under Article 136. The Law Commission was of the view that L. Chandra Kumar's case needs to be revisited by a Larger Bench of the Supreme Court or necessary and appropriate amendments may be effected in the Act in accordance with the law.

(c) No decision has been taken on above recommendations of the Law Commission.

Seizure of Drugs by USFDA

3776. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY :

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

(a) whether the US Food and Drugs Administration (USFDA) has seized the entire stocks of Drugs manufactured by Caraco Pharmaceutical Laboratories, a subsidiary of Sun Pharma citing repeated violations of manufacturing norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely impact thereof on Sun Pharma; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to resolve the issue with USFDA and efforts being made to return to good manufacturing practices compliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) to (d) M/s Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. has informed that M/s Caraco Pharmaceutical Laboratories has reported that on June 25, 2009 U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), seized drug products manufactured in Caraco's Michigan facilities in Detroit, Farmington Hills and Wixom on account of unresolved violations of eGMP requirements. M/s Caraco has informed that they are working with the FDA to resolve the concerns as effectively and expeditiously as possible.

M/s Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. has clarified that neither Sun Pharma nor Caraco have approached or made any representation to the Government for any kind of assistance for resolution of this problem.

Employment potential in Food Processing Industries

3777. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the potential for increasing the avenues of employment in the food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details about employment generated through food processing industries during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the objectives envisaged and the strategies chalked out in the Vision-2015 on food processing industries for promoting employment generation during the 11th Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) to (c) Food Processing Industry is employment intensive. It has been estimated that for every Rs.1 crore invested, it creates 18 jobs directly and 64 indirectly in the organized sector and 20 jobs in the unorganised sector across the supply chain. As per the current data available with the Ministry, a total of about 43.18 lakh workers were employed in the food processing industries sector in the year 2005-06. Of these, around 32.24 lakhs were employed in the unregistered sector.

(d) The Ministry has adopted Vision 2015, which aims to triple the size of food sector in 10 year's time by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3%. This would require making processed food affordable domestically and competitive globally.

The Ministry has developed a strategy to realize the Vision 2015, with the objective of addressing issues of taxation, organized retail, incentivising infrastructure development, a relook at varietal availability of crops, marketing interventions and regulation, strengthening of R&D and HRD infrastructure, besides issues of food safety and regulation.

Doubling of Rail Line between Thanjavour-Trichy

3778. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose for doubling of rail line between Thanjavour and Trichy in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) On Thanjavur-Trichy route, double broad gauge line already exists on

Trichy-Ponmalai section. For the balance portion i.e. Thanjavur-Ponmalai (GOC), the matter is under examination.

Dumping of Foreign Steel Products

3779. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make India a global leader in the production of steel;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government in this regard including tax reforms, if any proposed for the purpose;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to dumping of foreign steel products at cheaper cost in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the indigenous market from dumping of such products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) and (b) National Steel Policy 2005 had made the projection for a steel production capacity of 110 million tonnes per annum in India by the year 2019-20. However, based on the steel investment scenario in the country, it has been estimated that, India's steel production is likely to be 124 million tonnes by the year 2011-12. Currently, India occupies 5th position among the major world steel producing countries. The projected steel production capacity of 124 million tonnes by the year 2011-12 will place India as an important steel producing country in the world.

Steel is deregulated sector in India, where matters such as production, sale, price, import and export are free from Government control. Governments, both Central and State act as facilitators for the investors to set up their investment projects. Currently, steel investments in the country are covered under the following benefits:

- (i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment under automatic route
- (ii) Import duty benefits under 98.01 of Customs tariff.
- (iii) Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme.

Apart from these, Government initiates various fiscal measures from time to time directed at creating a level playing field for the domestic steel industry vis-a-vis the international market. The various fiscal measures currently in vogue are :-

- (i) Import Duty of 5% on import of all steel items (except iron and steel melting scrap)
- (ii) 'NIL' export duty on steel export (except iron and steel melting scrap).
- (iii) Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) benefits on steel export at approved rates.

(c) and (d) The Directorate General of Anti Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) in the Department of Commerce investigates into allegations of dumping on receiving a fully documented petition from the domestic industry with prima-facie evidence of dumping in the country, injury to domestic industry and casual link between the dumped goods and injury. Such petitions submitted by domestic industry are processed as per the procedures and within the time limits specified under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended in 1995 and the rules made thereunder, DGAD conducts investigations and recommends imposition of duty, wherever appropriate, to the Department of Revenue by issuing its preliminary/final findings. Acting upon such recommendations of the DGAD, the Department of Revenue may impose the provisional or definitive duties.

On the basis of an application filed by the domestic industry, Directorate General of Anti - dumping & allied Duties (DGAD) initiated anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of "Cold Rolled Flat Products of Stainless Steel originating in or exported from China PR, Japan, Korea, European Union, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand and USA" on 25th November 2008. Preliminary findings recommending provisional anti-dumping duties were issued on 27th March 2009 and provisional anti-dumping duties was levied by Department of Revenue on 22nd April, 2009.

On the basis of an another application filed by the domestic industry, DGAD initiated anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of "Hot Rolled Products of steel originating in or exported from China PR, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Philippines, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Korea ROK, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine" on 28th November 2008.

Foreign co-pilots in Domestic Airlines

3780. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the domestic airlines are still hiring foreign co-pilots;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

- (c) whether the guidelines issued by the Government to the domestic airlines regarding recruitment for such posts are not being followed by them;

- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government against those domestic companies which are not adhering to the Government instructions; and

- (e) the steps taken by the Government to provide advance training to the co-pilots before they join the domestic airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (e) All domestic airlines, have their own recruitment and training policies and normally Government does not interfere in such matters. However, guidelines have been issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in the form of Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 7, Series G, Part II dated 08-10-1999 revised on 01st November, 2006, which require the airlines to adopt effective training programmes for their Indian pilots for endorsement on the type of aircraft operated by the airlines, to replace foreign pilots after completion of training.

Powerloom Units

3781. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of powerloom units operating in the country at present, State-wise;

- (b) the total quantum of textile products produced annually by powerloom units in the country particularly in Karnataka;

- (c) whether the Union Government proposes to provide subsidy for technical advancement of small powerlooms; and

- (d) if so, the extent to which this subsidy for technical advancement of small powerlooms will be helpful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Total number of Powerloom units operating in the country as on 31.5.09 are 4,96,272. The State-wise breakup of powerlooms is given in the enclosed Statement.

- (b) The total fabrics production by powerloom units in the country in the last 3 years is as under:-

	(Mill. sq.mtrs)		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (P)
Cotton	9647	9923	9621
Blended	5025	4918	4764
100% Non-cotton	18207	19884	19263
Total	32874	34725	33648
Production in Karnataka (Estimated)	1352	1350	1249

(c) and (d) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched w.e.f 01.04.1999 in order to upgrade and modernize the textile and jute industries including Powerloom sector. The scheme provides an additional option to the Powerloom units to avail 20% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy/Margin Money Subsidy in lieu of 5% interest reimbursement. The Scheme helped decentralized Powerloom sector to modernize existing obsolete technology level to produce good quality fabrics in order to compete in the world market. As on 30.6.09, 11,775 shuttleless looms have been installed under the scheme since its inception.

Statement

Position of the State/Union Territory wise Installation of Powerlooms as on 31.05.2009

Sr.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Position of units / looms	
		No. of Units	No. of Looms
1	2	3	4
I. State			
1	Andhra Pradesh	10030	45138
2	Assam	261	2726
3	Bihar	1443	2894
4	Goa	18	122
5	Gujarat	32242	323339
6	Haryana	2659	9933
7	Himachal Pradesh	182	1461
8	Jammu & Kashmir	56	65
9	Karnataka	24586	81890

1	2	3	4
10	Kerala	672	2800
11	Madhya Pradesh	40454	105805
12	Maharashtra	271684	1113562
13	Orissa	792	3321
14	Punjab	3661	23620
15	Rajasthan	4034	34159
16	Tamil Nadu	77085	387498
17	Uttar Pradesh	25135	65993
18	West Bengal	988	5687
19	Delhi	124	1102
20	Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura.	0	0
II. Union Territory			
21	Chandigarh	11	42
22	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	38	962
23	Pondicherry	117	830
24	Andaman & Nicobar, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep	0	0
Total		496272	2212949

Manufacture of Electrical Equipments by BHEL

3782. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Haryana Government for location of the project for manufacture of heavy electrical equipments by BHEL for Power Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in giving clearance to it; and

(d) the constraints, if any, in implementing the above said proposal?

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

(a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Kalka-Shimla Rail Line

3783. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kalka-Shimla railway line has been declared as a world heritage site;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of the Railways for maintenance and upkeep of this unique track?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Kalka-Shimla Railway line was inscribed as a World Heritage Site, by UNESCO, in July, 2008.

(c) All efforts are made for proper maintenance and upkeep of this unique track to maintain its heritage value.

[Translation]

Export of carpets

3784. SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of exports of carpets during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the exports have been declining year after year; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKALAKSHMI): (a) State wise export data on Hand-knotted Carpets are not maintained, however, the exports of hand-knotted carpets & other floor coverings registered as per the figures compiled by Carpet Export Promotion Council, during the last three years is as under:-

Years	Exports (Rs in Crores)
2006-07	Rs. 3,674.86 Crores
2007-08	Rs. 3,524.73 Crores
2008-09	Rs. 2,708.73 Crores
2009-10	Rs. 424.15 Crores (upto June, 2009)

(b) Yes, Madam. In 2008-09, there has been a decline of (- 23.15%) in comparison to 2007-08, and in 2007-08, a decline of (-4.09%) in comparison to 2006-07 has been witnessed.

(c) Mega Clusters for Carpets will be established at two major carpet producing centres viz. Mirzapur and Srinagar. Also Government of India through its scheme provide financial assistance for participation in fairs/exhibitions abroad; organization of buyer sellers meet; Brand image promotion of Indian Hand-knotted Carpets abroad; awareness programme about technology etc. Also benefits of the scheme of Vishesh Krishi Gram Udyog Yojana has been extended to the Carpet Sector.

[English]

Parcel Booking by Computer

3785. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA:

SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to book goods-parcels by computer in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Madam. Computerization of booking of goods is already under implementation. Computerization of parcel booking has been planned for implementation.

(b) and (c) First phase of goods booking has been completed. Now more than 70% of goods loaded on Indian Railways is being booked through computer. Implementation of second phase to cover the balance goods is going to commence shortly.

A pilot project for parcel booking on New Delhi-Howrah route has been experimented. Full fledged implementation of this on Indian Railways is underway.

Fall in Demand of Steel

3786. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has projected in its study that the global steel demand in 2009 is expected to fall by as much as to 15 percent;

(b) if so, whether the Indian steel companies are going to be affected by the said fall in demand;

(c) if so, the quantum of fall in demand; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to help the steel manufacturing units to cope up with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) UNCTAD India Project Office, New Delhi has indicated that they have not estimated global demand for steel.

(b) and (c) National Steel Policy 2005 has projected India's steel production capacity at 110 million tonnes by 2019-20. However, based on the investment scenario in the steel sector, it has been further assessed that the steel production capacity in the country is likely to be 124.06 million tonnes by the year 2011-12. Though the global meltdown, beginning September 2008, had its effect of Indian steel sector and steel production and consumption during the period October to December (Q3) witnessed substantial reduction by (-) 7.8% and (-) 13.6% respectively, the sector is showing signs of strong revival due to various steps initiated by the Government along with the economic stimulation packages. During January-March period of 2009 (Q4) the production and consumption finished steel in the country grew by 1.2% and 3.8% respectively. The growth in production and consumption of finished steel has 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 & Consumption Apr-June 2009-10 vs. 2008-09

(In million tonnes)

Finished Steel	Apr-June 2008	Apr-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)

(d) Government has already prepared the National Steel Policy, 2005 which enumerates the broad policy parameters for ensuring an around growth of steel industry

in the country. With view to facilitate speedy implementation of major steel investments in the country, an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted to monitor and coordinate issues concerning major steel investments in the country. The IMG consists of representatives from Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Railways, Department of Industrial Policy, and Promotion, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Shipping and the concerned State Governments. The broad terms of reference of the IMG are to review and coordinate measures for growth of steel capacity in the country and address various problems concerning infrastructure, availability of raw materials, environmental and forest clearance and availability of other resources such as land water.

Commission to Travel Agents

3787. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has recently issued letters to foreign airlines asking them to explain reasons for not giving commission or remuneration to travel agents;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has taken up the matter with certain foreign airlines regarding the issue of reduction of agency commission by some foreign airlines to zero percent with a view to ascertain whether its adoption in India is compatible with the IATA Resolution on the subject and whether it is appropriate in the Indian context to ask travel agents to charge transaction fees from customers instead of receiving commissions from the airlines.

(c) This is a matter that the Associations of travel agents negotiate with the concerned airlines. However, Directorate General of Civil Aviation will try to facilitate early resolution of this dispute.

Rail Accidents

3788. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any expert Committee has been constituted to suggest measures to avoid the increasing number of rail accidents in the country;

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

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

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Irregularities committed by NGOs

3789. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether irregularities committed by some Non Voluntary Organizations working in Textiles Sector have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against said NGOs during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the monitoring mechanism evolved by the Government to prevent such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Madam.

- (b) The irregularities have been found in the working of the three NGOs, which are implementing the Sheep & Wool Improvement Scheme (SWIS), a component of Integrated Wool Improvement & Development Programme (IWIDP). The implementation of the Scheme is being administered by the Central Wool Development Board (CWDB), a Registered Body under the Ministry of Textiles. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is investigating the charges of malfeasance against these NGOs. The details of the NGOs are as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of Agency
1.	M/s Godwad Gramin Vikas Va Anusandhan, Sansthan, Rani District Pali (Rajasthan)
2.	M/s Sagan Kshefra Yojana Sammity, Khimel, P.O. Vidhya Wadi. Rani, District Pali (Rajasthan)
3.	M/s Flight India, Nagpur (Maharashtra)

- (c) There is a regular monitoring and evaluation process to assess, award and monitor the implementation

of the Schemes which include Physical inspection of the activity under implementation and making the Inspection Reports a pre-condition for release of subsequent grants/ reimbursement.

[English]

Leased Planes in Air India Fleet

3790. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of leased planes in Air India fleet as on date;
- (b) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Committee headed by Shri K.M. Chandrasekhar;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of abroad offices of Air India likely to be closed; and
- (e) the reasons for closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Presently, NACIL has 46 aircraft on lease which include 17 aircraft on a sale and lease back arrangements.

- (b) and (c) The Committee of Secretaries set up under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary reviews the progress made by the Airline towards operational and financial restructuring.

- (d) and (e) As part of its restructuring process, Air India is to determine the offices abroad to be closed, keeping in mind the revenue generated, strategic requirements and future plans of each office.

[Translation]

Unutilised railway land

3791. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether substantial Railway land is lying unutilised under various Railways zones particularly in backward and rural regions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof zone-wise as on date;
- (c) the total area of land lying unutilized alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Railways have any proposal to allot the unutilised land to poor people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) As per announcement in Railway Budget 2009-10, an exercise has been undertaken by Indian Railways to create land bank for its utilisation by setting up industrial hubs, commercial development of railway land and for other purposes connected with railway working/public purposes, etc.

(d) and (e) Railway land in urban areas and near level crossing gates is licensed to Railway employees working in Group 'C' and 'D' category belonging to SC/ST, OBC and the economically weaker section of the society under Grow More Food Scheme (GMF) to prevent encroachments.

[English]

Air Services from Coimbatore

3792. SHRI C. SIVASAMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government would introduce Lufthansa Airlines to operate between Coimbatore and other European countries and Emirates Airlines between Coimbatore and Dubai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Coimbatore is not available as a point of call to the designated airlines of Germany. However, Coimbatore has been granted as an additional point of call to the designated airlines of UAE (Dubai).

[Translation]

VT Code for Indian Aeroplanes

3793. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'VT code' is an International code of Indian Aeroplanes;

(b) whether it is also known as 'viceroy territory' or 'Victorian territory' which is a foreigner's name;

(c) if so, whether any efforts have been made to change this name;

(d) whether efforts are being made to register Indian Aeroplanes under an Indian name; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) An attempt was made with ICAO and after evaluating all the options, it has been decided not to replace the existing mark 'VT' notified by the International Civil Aviation Organization in accordance with Annex 7 to the Chicago Convention as no other code which distinctly identifies with India is available. All alphabets denoting India are already allotted to other countries, hence replacing VT with another code which does not denote India is not worthwhile.

[English]

Multi Functional Complexes

3794. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided for construction of multi-functional complexes in station premises for providing facilities for rail users like shopping, food stalls and restaurants, book stalls, PCO/STD/ISD/Fax booths, medicines and variety stores etc;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether any time frame programme has been fixed by the IRCON and Rail Land Development Authority for the development of these facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total amount likely to be spent by the Railways for implementation of these projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Railways have decided for construction of Multi-Functional Complexes in select station premises for providing rail users facilities like shopping, food-stalls and restaurants, book-stalls, PCO/STD/ISD/Fax booths, medicine and variety stores, budget hotels, underground parking etc.

(c) and (d) IRCON and Rail Land Development Authority are in the process of developing business models and making detailed action plan for execution of the work.

*[Translation]***Rail connectivity from Shirdi to Delhi**

3795. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to connect Shirdi Dham to Delhi direct by train;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be connected and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. At present, there is no proposal to introduce a train between Sai Nagar Shirdi and Delhi.

*[English]***Investment for Mega Steel Projects**

3796. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to expedite long-pending investment proposals for mega steel plants in the country including Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) to (c) 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 licence is, therefore, required for setting up steel plants under the Industrial (Development & 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 judgment. The Government in such a market set-up has the role of a facilitator only - it provides the overall policy environment to promote industry growth.

Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) to monitor and coordinate issues concerning major steel investments in the country. The Inter Ministerial Group

functions under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Steel) with members from various Central Ministries / Departments, such as Railways, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Industrial Policy & Promotion, Mines, Environment & Forest and the concerned State Governments.

Apart from this, the modernization and capacity expansion projects of public sector steel units such as Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) and NMDC Limited.

Impact of Price Rise of Petroleum Products

3797. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA :

SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL :

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR :

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of recent price rise in petroleum products particularly diesel on farmers of the country,
- (b) if so, whether price rise in petroleum products particularly diesel will affect the cost of agricultural production and will impose further burden on poor farmers;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide any subsidy on diesel to farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard in view of the large number of poor farmers?

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

(a) to (e) In recognition of the fact that Diesel plays a very important role in the agriculture sector. Government has been modulating its price alongwith the prices of the other sensitive petroleum products, namely, Petrol, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG, to ensure that they remain within the reach of the common man.

Based on the Refinery Gate Prices effective 1.7.2009, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs); namely, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPC) were projected to suffer heavy under-recoveries of Rs.49,266 crore during 2009-10, on the sale of the sensitive petroleum

products. To meet the under-recovery, the retail prices were required to be increased by Rs.6.94 per litre on Petrol, Rs.4.11 per litre on Diesel, Rs. 16.01 per litre on PDS Kerosene and Rs. 96.68 per 14.2 kg Domestic LPG cylinder. However, to protect the interests of the common man, the Government has increased the retail selling prices - of Petrol by Rs.4/- per litre and Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre only with effect from 2.07.2009. The retail prices of Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene, which are used by the common man for cooking and lighting needs, have not been increased.

As the retail price of Diesel is modulated by the Government, the OMCs are incurring under-recovery on Diesel. During 2008-09, the OMCs suffered under-recovery of Rs.52,286 crore on Diesel alone. These under-recoveries had to be compensated through issuance of Oil Bonds by the Government and price discounts by the upstream oil PSUs. Therefore, Government is already providing financial support to the OMCs for keeping the retail price of Diesel low, in comparison to the international oil prices, so as to benefit the common man and to protect the interest of the economy, including the agriculture sector. There is no proposal under consideration to provide any further subsidy on Diesel to farmers.

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

Exploitation of Oil from Rajasthan by Cairn Energy

3798. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the terms and conditions laid down before Cairn Energy Private Limited for exploitation of oil from Rajasthan;
- (b) the details of the areas leased out to Cairn Energy Private Limited for the purpose;
- (c) whether the Cairn Energy will pay any revenue or remuneration to Rajasthan State out of the oil proposed to be extracted;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):
(a) The terms & conditions for exploration & production are

laid down in the Production Sharing Contract between Government and the Consortium partners.

(b) Management Committee of the block has approved three development areas as under:

DA 1 Area	1859 Sq Km
DA 2 Area	430 Sq Km
DA 3 Area	822 Sq Km

(c) to (e) Royalty, on production of crude oil in the State of Rajasthan, is payable to Government of Rajasthan.

Guwahati-Jhajha Express

3799. SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have received various representation for converting Guwahati-Jhajha Express train from weekly to bi-weekly;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto; and
- (c) if not, any specific measures taken by the Railways to provide more train services for the convenience of passengers travelling to Deoghar pilgrimage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The matter is under examination.

Non-Availability of Railway Land for Railway Projects

3800. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether non-availability of land is a major problem for the development of Railways;
- (b) if so, the details of the railway projects hampered due to non-availability of land across the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;
- (c) whether the Railways have asked the State Governments to make land availability for laying new railway lines in their States;
- (d) if so, the response of State Governments thereon; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Railways for fast development of railway projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and b) Timely availability of land is one of the issues connected with execution of projects. The land acquisition and forestry clearance (in case of forest land) take considerable time which delays the project implementation. A number of projects, particularly for construction of new lines, are getting affected due to delays attributable to land acquisition including Guna-Etawa new line project in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Railways have been submitting necessary proposals for land acquisition for railway projects from time to time to the State Governments.

(d) and (e) In the recent past, amendment has been made in The Indian Railways Act, 1989 through Railway Amendment Act, 2008 for speedy acquisition of land for Special Railway Projects. A number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources through Public Private Partnership, State Sharing, funds from Ministry of Defence, additional budgetary support for National Projects to expeditiously complete the ongoing projects.

Underground Oil Storage

3801. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government is working out a plan to offer space in the upcoming underground oil storage facilities to global crude suppliers;

(b) if so, the details of the plan workout by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) the names of the countries to whom storage facilities will be provided; and

(d) the extent to which the plan will reduce India's investment risks and operational costs of the strategic storage and keep buffer stock ready for emergency?

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

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

Eco-Friendly Technology

3802. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects undertaken and grants released for conducting research in the field of textiles particularly development of eco-friendly technology of the textiles sector during each of the last three years, state-wise;

(b) the details of the facilities available for testing eco-friendly technology and products related to textiles industry in various laboratories across the country;

(c) whether the Government is proposing to upgrade such laboratories in the country during the current financial year;

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

(e) the details of the funds allocated for such upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) The details of the projects undertaken and grants released for conducting research in the field of textiles by Textiles Research Associations during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Details of facilities available for testing eco-friendly technology and products related to textile industry in various laboratories are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

S.No.	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Grants released	Name of the State	Name of the Agency
1	2	3	4	5	6

1. Eco Friendly Technology Projects: -

1.	Eco-friendly and user-friendly machines for hank processing cottage industry)	2007-08	20,50,000	Maharashtra	Bombay Textile Research Association
----	---	---------	-----------	-------------	-------------------------------------

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Development of durable Jute Geo-textile and its soil interaction	2005-07	9.30,000	West Bengal	Indian Jute Industries Research Association
3.	Development & Promotion of Jute Geo-textiles for Civil Engineering works, soil erosion control, river bank protection etc.	2005-08	57.95,000	West Bengal, Assam, Madhya Pradesh Chhattisgarh	Indian Jute Industries Research Association
4.	Development of eco-friendly Degumming Technology for Value Added Technical Textile Products from Ramie				
5.	Implementation of Cluster based Eco-friendly Chemical Technology Development Programme on Jute Handicrafts	2005-08	239,89,000	Assam	Indian Jute Industries Research Association
6.	Development of Jute Reinforced Composite Products to replace Glass Reinforced Composite Products in Rural Vehicles				
7.	Development of steri Jute Pack by Gamma ray radiation under DAE, BARC/BRNS	2005-07	7,70,000	West Bengal	Indian Jute Industries Research Association
8.	Development of Jute bamboo composites for applications in rural areas	2007-08 JTM, scheme	40.00,000	West Bengal Assam	Indian Jute Industries Research Association
9.	Development of Light fast bleached, dyed and finished jute fabrics for manufacturing export quality home textiles	2007-08 JTM scheme	50,00,000	West Bengal	Indian Jute Industries Research Association
10.	To find alternative to conventional jute batching oil for improving spinnability and to produce nontoxic and hydrocarbon free jute products	2007-08 JTM scheme	42,00,000	West Bengal	Indian Jute Industries Research Association
11.	Eco-friendly fibre lubricant for jute processing under Jute Technology Mission	2007-09	12,60,000	West Bengal	Indian Jute Industries Research Association
12.	Development of energy efficient green cold sizing technology for jute yarn an eco-friendly process under Jute Technology Mission	2008-09	12,15,000	West Bengal	Indian Jute Industries Research Association

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Jute Bamboo somposite - an eco friendly alternative to wood under Jute Technology Mission	2007-09	12,00,000	West Bengal	Indian Jute Industries Research Association
14.	Phase-out CTC from decentralized textile processing sector	2005-06	-4,70,000	Gujaiat	Man Made Textile Research Association

II. Other Projects

S.No.	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Grants released	Name of the State	Name of the Agency
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Development of Spray Mist Technology for Hank dyeing	2004-05	9,00,000	Uttar Pradesh	North India Textile Research Association
2.	To improve processing performance of finer Indian Wools and their product range with incorporation of Enzyme Technology for better value addition	2007-08	17,75,000	Maharashtra	Wool Research Association
3.	To synthesize wool dyes with moth proofing properties	2007-08	22,35,000	Maharashtra	Wool Research Association
4.	Ultra sound assisted scouring and smooth finishing of wool and other specially animal fibres and their products	2008-09	7.72,000	Maharashtra	Wool Research Association
5.	To develop item-free woolens to be worn next to the skin by improvement of surface topography of wool fibres with the help of mechanical/chemical processing and plasma	2008-09	10,40,000	Maharashtra	Wool Research Association
6.	Design and Development of interior Textiles with special emphasis on heat resistance and flame retardancy	2008-09	4,09,000	Maharashtra	Wool Research Association
7.	Implementation of Skill Development Progratmme on Improving Agriculture Practice Retting and Up-gradation of Jute Fibre Quality	2005-07	1,18,00,000	West Bengal	Indian Jute Industries Research Association
8.	Designing of New Metallic Card Clothing for jute Cards	2006-08	US\$ 11000	West Bengal	-do-
9.	Development of zero effluent process for dye-houses:	2004- 05	13,00,000	Maharashtra	Silk and Art Silk Mills Research Association

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Evaluation of knitting behaviour and performance of knitted fabrics during garment manufacturing using Artificial Neural Network (ANN)	2006-07	27,78,000	Taniii Nadu	The South India Textile Research Association
11.	Interaction of the properties of individual cotton fibres in a blend	2006-07	12,68,000	-do-	-do-
12.	Development of hernia mesh	2008-09	30,00,000	-do-	-do-
13.	Development of functional spacer Fabrics for medical inlays in Orthopaedic shoes	2008-09	20,00,300	-do-	do-
14.	Improving Quality of yarn spun from Lyocell/Modal Fibres	2006-07	17,50,000	Gujarat	Ahmedabad Textiles Research Association
15.	Development of High; Production Roller Gin Machine with Chute Feed				
16.	Design and Development of Microcontroller Based Portable Electronic Fibre Fineness and Maturity Tester				

Statement-II

Details of the facilities available for testing eco-friendly technology and products at various laboratories, State-wise

S.No.	Details of the Facilities	Name of the Laboratory	No. of Labs	Location of the Lab	Name of the State
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Presence of Banned amines	Eco-Friendly	1	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
2.	Presence of free and releasable formaldehyde	-do-		Ahmedabad	Gujarat
3.	Presence of heavy metals	-do-		Ahmedabad	Gujarat
4.	Free formaldehyde Release Formaldehyde Hexavalent Chromium	Bombay Textile Research Association	1	Mumbai	Maharashtra
5.	Heavy Metals	-do-		Mumbai	Maharashtra
6.	Banned Amines Poly Chlorinated, Biphenyls, Phthalates, Chlorinated Carriers, Hexachloro Benzene	-do-		Mumbai	Maharashtra

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Banned Amines	-do-		Mumbai	Maharashtra
8.	(i) HPLC (High Performance Liquid Chromatograph) (ii) HPTLC (High Performance Thin Layer Chromatograph) (iii) AAS (Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer) (iv) GC-MSD (Gas Chromatograph- Mass Spectrometer Detector) (v) GC-ECD (Gas Chromatograph- Electron Capture Detector) (vi) UV-VS Spectrophotometer (Ultraviolet-Visible Spectrophotometer)	The South India Textile Research Association	1	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
9.	(i) Banned amines from dyestuffs and dyed textile substrates. (ii) PCP (Pentachlorophenol from textiles materials and process auxiliaries and (iii) Pesticide residues from Textile, effluents and solid waste (iv) Detection of Heavy Metals at PPM & PB level from Textiles, Dyestuff, Process auxiliaries, effluents and solid waste. (v) For Formaldehyde & Metal contents from textiles and auxiliaries	Wool Research Association Eco Testing Laboratory	1	Thane	Maharashtra
10.	Eco, Biological, Chemical testing and Physical testing facilities for Jute/Jute products. Major Instruments like Gas Chromatography-MS, Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer AAS, HPLC, GC, TOC Analyzer, Crock meter, Light fastness tester, Color matching device, BOD Incubator, Light Microscope, Precision Electronic Balances, Rotational Viscometer, Instron, Tenso Rapid etc. are available for testing.	Indian Jute Industries Research Association Eco-testing Laboratory & IJIRA Regional Centre, Shantipur	2	Kolkata & Shantipur, West Bengal	West Bengal

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Eco, Chemical and Physical testing for Jute/Jute Products. Major Instruments like AAS. GC, Microscope, Tensile strength tester, Incubators etc. are available	IJIRA-NERC Regional Centre, Guwahati	1	Guwahati	Assam
12.	Gas Chromatograph (GC), Gas Chromatograph with Mass Detector (GC-MS), UV-VIS Spectrophotometer High Performance Liquid Chromatograph (HPLC), High Performance Thin Layer Chromatograph (HPTLC)	Textiles Committee	4	Cannanore	Kerala
13.	GC, GC-MS, UV-VIS Spectrophotometer, HPLC, HPTLC	Textiles Committee	3	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
14.	GC, GC-MS, Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (AAS) UV-VIS Spectrophotometer, HPLC, HPTLC	Textiles Committee		Tirupur	Tamil Nadu
15.	GC-MS, UV-VIS Spectrophotometer, HPLC, HPTLC	Textiles Committee	1	Bangalore	Karnataka
16.	GC, GC-MS, AAS, UV-VIS Spectrophotometer, HPLC, HPTLC	Textiles Committee	1	Mumbai	Maharashtra
17.	GC, GC-MS, UV-VIS Spectrophotometer, HPTLC	Textiles Committee	1	Jaipur	Rajasthan
18.	GC, GC-MS, AAS, UV-VIS Spectrophotometer, HPLC, HPTLC	Textiles Committee	1	Delhi	New Delhi
19.	GC, GC-MS, UV-VIS Spectrophotometer, HPLC, HPTLC	Textiles Committee	1	Ludhiana	Punjab
20.	Banned amines, Heavy metals, Formaldehyde, Pesticides, Pentachlorophenol (PCP), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) Bio-Chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) etc.	North India Textile Research Association (NITRA)	1	Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

Change in policy for petrol pumps allotment

3803. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether sale of Government companies owned petrol pumps are constantly decreasing;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to bring changes in the policy of the petrol pumps allotment;
- (c) if so, whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to review this situation by some Management institutes; and;
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) have reported growth in sales of petrol/diesel through their retail outlets.

(b) to (d) After dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) w.e.f. 1.04.2002, based on the broad policy guidelines issued by the Ministry, OMCs have framed their own detailed guidelines for selection of dealership/distributorship of petroleum products. These guidelines, which are objective and transparent in nature, provide for a detailed procedure to be followed by the OMCs in making selection of dealers/distributors. There is no proposal as of now to review the selection procedure by some management institutes.

[English]

Air Services to Tourist Places

3804. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any special scheme for air service to tourist spots and pilgrimage destinations for the growth of Tourism Industry;
- (b) if so, the concessions likely to be given to the tourists pilgrims under this scheme;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the adverse effects on the tourism industry due to steep hike in fares by the airlines and the competition caused by the private sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No, Sir. However, Govt. has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

(b) Concessions to the tourist/pilgrims are commercial matter of airlines.

(c) to (e) Domestic air fares are not being regulated by the Government. Domestic airlines are free to charge air fare as per the market forces.

Shortage of Trained Manpower

3805. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether there is shortage of trained man power in pharmaceutical industry;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard ?

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

(b) At present, there are about 864 Pharmacy Colleges in the country and out of them approximately 140 colleges are imparting Masters' Degree education. The facilities existing in the colleges are not commensurate with the needs of the Indian Pharmaceutical industry.

So there is an acute shortage of trained manpower in Indian pharmaceutical industry, which is a knowledge based profession/industry. Further, pharmaceutical industry is a highly regulated industry and regulations are being changed very frequently.

The majority of Pharmaceutical Colleges do not have Trainers to train the Trainees and lack of equipments is another impediment.

(c) National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), SAS Nagar was started in 1998 to fill the gap. In the last three years 6 more NIPERs, in different regions, have started functioning in their make shift campus with the help of mentor institutes and will take atleast five years to have the full capacity and fulfill its objectives. Newly formed Department of Pharmaceuticals, proposes to start the Star Pharmacy Colleges scheme, for strengthening pharmacy education through improving the status of some of the pharmacy colleges in different States to Star Colleges.

Tourist Ticket

3806. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have introduced 'Tourist Ticket';
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is proposed to extend the scheme to Chennai and other metropolitan cities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which it is likely to be introduced ?

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

(b) First and second class Tourist Tickets of 1 day, 3 days and 5 days validity were introduced on 01.05.2007 for unlimited travel in Mumbai Suburban Sections of Central & Western Railways. The fares of these tickets range between Rs.50/- & Rs. 390/-.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Indebtness in Textiles Units

3807. SHRI P. BALRAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the textiles units operating in rural and backward areas are facing debt crisis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Mahbubabad region of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government is in consultation with World Bank and Asian Development Bank to refinance the debtwaiver scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Though some petitions have been received in the Ministry on this subject, the Ministry of Textiles do not have specific or detailed information whether textile units operating in rural and backward areas are facing debt crisis, including Mahbubabad region of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) No, Madam.

Subsidy to Food Processing Units

3808. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is providing subsidy to the food processing units in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of total subsidies provided during the last two years State-wise;
- (c) the details and numbers of such units applied for subsidy during the above period but not yet granted subsidies; and
- (d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant & machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries.

Earlier all the applications for such grants were received by the Ministry through the State Nodal Agencies. These applications were then Centrally processed and grants disbursed directly by the Ministry. From 2007-08, the receipt of applications, their appraisal, calculation of grant eligibility as well as disbursement of funds has been completely decentralized. Under the new procedure, an entrepreneur/applicant can file application with the neighborhood Bank branch/Financial Institution (FI). The Bank/FI would then appraise the application and calculate

the eligible grant amount as per the detailed guideline given to them by the Ministry, The Banks/FIs appraisal report and its recommendation for the release of grant is transmitted to the Ministry through e-portal established for this purpose. After the recommendation is received from the Bank/FI, the Ministry sanctions the grant and transfer the funds through the e-portal.

Under the decentralized procedure, as the applications are received directly by the Banks/FIs, the data for receipt of the applications for 2007-08 and 2008-09 is not maintained centrally by the Ministry. However, the State-wise details of the number of food processing units to which financial assistance has been provided is given in the enclosed Statement. The Ministry releases the funds in the shape of grant in aid to the agencies/entrepreneurs depending upon the availability of funds within the budget provision from year to year basis.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State	2007-08		2008-09	
	Approved	Amount released	Approved	Amount released
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	43	947.49	48	908.999
Andman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	1	17.67
Assam	12	442.17	17	176.79
Bihar	5	83.915	2	42.3
Chandigarh	6	138.08	0	0
Chhattisgarh	0	0	10	163.725
Delhi	0	0	7	160.65
Goa	1	17.00	1	24.57
Gujarat	32	544.06	39	714.81
Haryana	19	418.72	23	349.415
Himachal Pradesh	12	325.09	5	152.745
Jammu & Kashmir	9	109.855	3	22.05
Jharkhand	2	9.09	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka	34	529.62	35	629.895
Kerala	47	876.8	32	545.37
Madhya Pradesh	10	172.32	14	201.87
Maharashtra	95	1696.805	121	1802.633
Manipur	3	61.74	3	45.51
Meghalaya	1	8.19	2	159.57
Mizoram	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	1	27.485	4	178.205
Orissa	6	129.41	2	38.68
Pondicherry	2	31.3	0	0
Punjab	32	481.45	61	841.36
Rajasthan	35	566.075	44	551.975
Sikkim	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	53	951.79	36	594.355
Tripura	2	39.98	1	13.86
Uttar Pradesh	63	1123.425	43	875.475
Uttaranchal	9	339.78	6	163.15
West Bengal	35	653.56	19	390.135
Total	569	10725.2	579	9765.767

Modernisation of Wine and Beer Units

3809. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provides assistance for investment and modernization of wine and beer manufacturing units in the country;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed for extending such support;

(c) the details of funds allocated for the said purpose during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) the employment and revenue likely to be generated by the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) and (b) The

Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of food processing industries, extends financial assistance to food processing units, including Wine and Beer manufacturing units, in the form of grant-in-aid @ 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.

(c) The Scheme of Technology upgradation/modernization/establishment of food processing industries covers food processing units in various sectors such as fruits & vegetables products, consumer industries, grain milling industries, meat & poultry industries, fish processing industries, wine and beer manufacturing industries etc. The fund allocated for the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of food processing industries for the Eleventh Five Year Plan is Rs.600 crores.

(d) Food processing sector has been considered as high employment generating sector. It is estimated that for every Rs. One Crore invested, it creates 18 jobs directly and 64 jobs indirectly in the organized sector and 20 jobs in the unorganized sector across the supply chain. There is no new policy in this regard.

Occupational Hazards in Heavy Industries

3810. SHRI P. KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that deaths due to occupational hazards or accidents have increased in Heavy Industries;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to impart any specific training programmes to workers for observing safety measures during the working hours in Heavy Industries to curb casualties; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV) : (a) No increase in deaths due to occupational hazards or accidents is noticed in 32 operational Public Sector Enterprises under Department of Heavy Industry involving 92831 employees.

(b) and (c) The Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) under Department of Heavy Industry have been taking utmost care towards the safety of its employees and have laid down

safety policies to ensure compliance of safety measure. The PSEs are required to appoint a Safety Officer who ensures adherence to safety norms. Jobs/areas of hazardous nature are identified in the PSEs, wherein adequate safeguards are provided. Regular in-house training programmes mock drills/demonstrations etc. are conducted for workers for observing safety measures at the workplace.

Dumping of Foreign Textile Products

3811. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign textile products are being dumped into Indian market well below domestic prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to protect the Indian textiles industry;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to prevent the textiles products manufactured in China but being sold in India with 'Made in India' labels;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the influx of fake textiles products has drastically lowered the country's textiles exports to Nigeria; and

(f) if so, the specific measures undertaken by the Government to check influx of fake Chinese textiles products in order to sustain textiles exports of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) There have been instances of textiles products like acrylic fibre, acrylic yarn, silk fabric, nylon yarn & flax fibre being imported into India at prices well below the domestic prices of these products in the exporting countries. This has caused the Government to initiate the anti-dumping investigations and impose anti-dumping duties as due and warranted.

(c) and (d) The Government has no information about the Chinese textiles products being sold in India with 'Made in India' labels.

(e) Reported influx of fake textiles products has not affected India's textiles exports to Nigeria. India's textiles exports to Nigeria during the last three years are given below:

India's export of textile items to Nigeria

(Rs. in Lakh)

Description	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	April- January	
				2007-2008	2008-2009
India's Textiles Exports to Nigeria	7324.64	23321.31	14060.17	12072.23	15271.48

Source: Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India. DGCIS, Kolkata.

(f) Does not arise.

Setting up of Investment Hubs

3812. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up massive petroleum investment regions along the coastal belt of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds have been provided for setting up of investment hubs in the Annual Plan Outlay of Public Sector Oil Companies for the year 2009-10;

(d) if so, the sites identified for setting up of such hubs; and

(e) if so, the time by which these hubs are likely to be set up?

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

(a) There is no plan to set up exclusive massive petroleum investment regions along the coastal belt of the country.

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

FDI in Aviation Sector

3813. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the progress made in the civil aviation industry after allowing 100% FDI under automatic route;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of services which are available at present under 100% FDI;

(d) whether this step of the Government has affected the domestic scheduled airlines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for unhindered progress in civil aviation industry vis-a-vis protecting the interest of domestic scheduled airlines?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through automatic route is presently permitted in Greenfields airport projects, Maintenance and Repair Organization (MRO), Flying Training Institutions/Technical Training Institutions and Helicopter/Seaplane Services. In addition, Non-Resident Indians (NRI) can make 100% FDI investment in Ground Handling Services, Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airlines, Non-Scheduled (Passenger/Charter) Airlines subject to no direct or indirect participation by any foreign airlines and sectoral regulations. Foreign airlines are allowed to participate in the equity of companies operating Cargo airlines and Helicopter/Seaplane Services.

(d) and (e) The Government has not made any such assessment.

(f) FDI policy has been formulated to attract foreign investment. It has sectoral regulations and restrictions in investment by foreign airlines to protect the interest of domestic schedule airlines.

Subsidized Diesel/Kerosene for Fishermen

3814. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the hardships faced by the small and marginal coastal fishermen due to frequent rise in diesel and kerosene prices in the country including the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the subsidy on kerosene and also provide subsidized diesel for the use of these fishermen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries has informed that the availability of fish and the unit value realization was not commensurate with the rise in fuel price in the recent years. The component of 'Fishermen Development Rebate on HSD oil' under the Centrally sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations' intended to support the mounting operational cost of small mechanized fishing vessels of less than 20 m length was put in operation during the 10th Five Year Plan. During this period, the fishermen development rebate was fixed at Rs.1.50 per litre of HSD oil used by small mechanized fishing vessels of less than 20 m length. The boats registered with the State Governments, and constructed prior to the Tenth Plan were eligible for the rebate. The rebate was shared on 80:20 basis between the Centre and the States where sales tax is levied, and 100% by the Central Government in case of UTs and States, where the HSD is fully exempted from sales tax.

For the 11th Five Year Plan, the rate of subsidy has been increased from Rs.1.50 per litre to Rs.3.00 per litre. This is subject to a ceiling of 500 litres per boat for every active fishing month for the fishing boats owned by the fishermen of the BPL category. Fishing boats constructed and registered prior to Tenth Plan are eligible for the said rebate.

The Kerosene oil used in fishing vessels is a de-controlled petroleum product, available at market-driven prices. At present, there is no proposal to provide subsidy for this product.

Bhubaneswar Airport

3815. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to convert Bhubaneswar airport into an international airport with a view to exploit the immense tourist potential in this region;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has written to the Centre in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Biju Patnaik Airport at Bhubaneswar is one of the 35 non-metro airports taken up for development and upgradation to international standards. At this airport, construction of a New Terminal Building with all modern facilities including two aerobridges at a cost of Rs. 145.54 crores to handle 800 passengers at a time has been initiated. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has also a plan for extension of apron to facilitate aerobridge stands.

Quota in Railway Reservation

3816. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total percentage of Railway tickets booked under various categories of quota viz. for VIPs, Ministers along with the quota allocated to Government authorized agents and the Tatkal scheme in various classes, category-wise;

(b) whether the quotas fixed under various categories is higher than general quota; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to rationalize the quota system and make available maximum seats for common man under the general quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Members of Parliament and other VIPs like Union Ministers etc. can book berths/seats in general reservation quota and in case of being waitlisted, are accommodated out of the Emergency Quota. Union Ministers, Members of Parliament and former Members of Parliament can also seek reservation out of the Parliament House Quota. No separate reservation quota has been allotted to Rail Travellers' Service Agents/Rail Tourist Agents. Class-wise approximate percentage of General, Tatkal, Parliament House and Emergency quotas in different categories is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Type of Quota	First Air-Conditioned	Executive Class	Second Air- Conditioned	Third Air- Conditioned	Sleeper	First Class	Air- Conditioned Chair Car	Second Sitting (Reserved)
General	68.76	85.21	63.92	69.27	74.92	84.36	81.62	89.86
Tatkal	0.00	0.00	12.42	16.28	16.19	0.06	10.12	6.76
Parliament House	1.73	1.05	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00
Emergency	28.57	12.02	16.19	10.05	3.85	13.49	5.67	2.18

Overcharging Cases of Drug Companies

(d) if so, the details thereof?

3817. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has referred several overcharging cases of drug companies to various States for recovering the excess amount charged by them;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is working jointly with State Governments for recovering the amount overcharged by certain companies on medicines from consumers; and

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

(a) to (d) Till 30th June 2009 National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has forwarded the cases of defaulting firms to various District Collectors for initiation of recovery proceedings for realization of a total overcharged amount of Rs. 147.06 crore from concerned Pharmaceutical companies. Of this, Rs. 53.74 crore has been realized till 30th June, 09. The balance of Rs. 93.32 crore yet to be realized. The list of such cases is available on the website of NPPA i.e. www.nppaindia.nic.in. A copy of the same is enclosed as Statement. Apart from other monitoring mechanisms NPPA also initiates action for overcharging based on complaints from State Drug Controllers (SDCs).

Statement**Statement of Cases Referred to the Collector for Recovery since Inception of NPPA and Till 30.6.09**

S. No.	Company Name	Amount of Recovery (Rs. in lacs)	Collector State	Amount recovered (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3	4	5
1	* M/s. Wyeth Ltd.	1726.35	Maharashtra	1287.93
2	* M/s. Biological Ltd.	106.35	Andhra Pradesh	28.27
3	* M/s. Neo Pharma (P) Ltd.	29.04	Maharashtra	
4	* M/s. N. R. Jet Enterprises	1411.57	Maharashtra	1787.17
5	* M/s. Modi Mundi Pharma	3626.7	Uttar Pradesh	
6	* M/s. Modi Mundi Pharma	604.1	Uttar Pradesh	901.45
7	* M/s. Best Lab. Ltd.	143.58	Delhi	100

1	2	3	4	5
8	* M/s. Twenty First Century Pharmaceuticals	2.85	Tamil Nadu	1.8
9	M/s. Franco Indian Remedies Pvt. Ltd.	1129.51	Tamil Nadu	
10	* M/s. Sidmak Laboratories (India) Pvt. Ltd,	230.54	Gujarat	
11	* M/s. Sidmak Laboratories (India) Pvt. Ltd,	16.41	Gujarat	180.81
12	M/s. Franco India Pharmaceuticals	56.81	Maharashtra	
13	M/s. Franco India Pharmaceuticals	271.07	Maharashtra	
14	* M/s. Tuton Pharmaceuticals	258.88	Gujarat	
15	* M/s. Comed Chemicals	254.91	Gujarat	
16	* M/s. Comed Chemicals	2.03	Gujarat	
17	M/s. McLaren Biotech	4.78	Tamil Nadu	
18	M/s. Marvel Labs (P) Ltd	5.26	Andhra Pradesh	
19	M/s. Alpa Labs Ltd	3.88	Madhya Pradesh	3.16
20	M/s. Ameet Pharmaceuticals	18.07	Maharashtra	
21	M/s. Sai Mirra Innopharm	37.58	Tamil Nadu	21.12
22	M/s. Chemicure Pharmaceuticais	13.84	Haryana	
23	M/s. Centaur Pharmaceuticals	22.53	Gujarat	
24	M/s. Vera pharma	3.79	Andhra Pradesh	0.24
25	M/s. Anrose Pharma	4.44	Himacha Pradesh	0.65
26	M/s. Lyka Labs Ltd	1151.38	Maharashtra/Gujarat	
27	M/s. Dr. Reddy's Labs	20.79	Andhra Pradesh	16.79
28	Ws. Pharmaids Pharmaceuticals	6.22	Andhra Pradesh	
29	M/s. Mangesh Pharma	4	Karnataka	
30	M/s. Asoj Soft Caps Pvt. Ltd.	1	Gujarat	
31	M/s. Arcadia Pharma Specialities (P) Ltd.	2.54	Andhra Pradesh	0.75
32	M/s. PCP Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd	6.93	Andhra Pradesh	
33	M/s. Alkem Laboratories Ltd	27.22	Maharashtra	18.35
34	M/s. Alkem Laboratories Ltd	0.92	Maharashtra	0.66
35	M/s. Dr. Reddy's Labs	470.8	Andhra Pradesh	

1	2	3	4	5
36	M/s. Lyka Labs Ltd	24.12	Gujarat	
37	M/s. Cadila Ltd.	886.77	Ahmedabad	3.72
38	M/s. Cadila Ltd.	515.99	Ahmedabad	
39	Colinz Labs. Ltd.	0.79	Maharashtra	
40	M/s. Mercury Laboratories Ltd.	4.53	Gujarat	
41	M/s. Dr. Reddy's Labs	270	Andhra Pradesh	
42	Avis Life Sciences/Morepen	239.51	Delhi	
43	Apar Labs. Private Ltd.,	1.08	Andhra Pradesh	
44	M/s Lark Labs (I) Ltd.,	15.88	Rajasthan	
45	Cooper Pharma	1.44	Delhi	
46	Centaur Pharmaceutical	2.67	Maharashtra	
47	Healing Touch Pharmaceuticals	0.56	Hayrana	
48	Kabra Drugs Ltd.	0.15	Madhya Pradesh	0.07
49	Unicorn Pharma	0.48	Gujarat	0.25
50	M/s. Dr. Reddy's Labs	26.95	Andhra Pradesh	14.55
51	M/s Alive	0.9	Gujarat	
52	Panacea Pharma	0.37	Gujarat	
53	Valence Healthcare	2.39	Himachal Pradesh	
54	M/s. Amkay Laboratories P Ltd.	12.27	Uttar Pradesh	
55	Gene Laboratories Ltd.	4.69	Delhi	
56	ORO Pharma P. Ltd.	2.97	Orissa	1.75
57	Brussels Laboratories Pvt Ltd.	3.59	Gujarat	1.38
58	M/s Hoch Remedies Ltd.	8.05	Kerala	
59	M/s. G. S. K. Pharmaceuticals	996.44		996.44
60	M/s. Khandelwal Lab (P) Ltd.	2.74		2.74
61	Centaur Labs P. Ltd	4.03		4.03
Total		14706.03		5374.08

*These cases referred to Collector for Recovery have been subsequently contested by the companies in Courts of Law.

*[Translation]***Flying Clubs**

3818. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of flying/gliding clubs in Delhi and other States as on date;
- (b) the dates on which these clubs were set up club-wise separately and the number of aircraft possessed by each of them till date;
- (c) the details of the subsidy provided to these clubs during the last three years, year-wise and club-wise;
- (d) the details of the ranking conferred on each of these clubs by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation; and
- (e) the details of the achievements made by these flying/gliding clubs during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Dahej-Vijaipur Pipeline Project**

3819. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the original date fixed for commencement and completion of commercial supplies from the GAIL India Ltd. Dahej-Vijaipur Pipeline (DVPL-II) upgradation project;
- (b) whether the guidelines of Central Vigilance Commission are being followed in the procurement process for this project;
- (c) if so, whether MOUs have been signed for the supply of gas from the above pipeline;
- (d) if so, whether the project has met or shall be able to meet its obligations of commencement;
- (e) whether there is any delay in execution of the project;
- (f) if so, the probable extents of penalties those might be imposed by the buyers and gas suppliers on GAIL in case this delay is not curbed in time; and

- (g) the monthly loss estimated by GAIL in case of delay in completion of this project beyond the date of obligation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) According to Feasibility Report for DVPL-II upgradation project of GAIL (India) Ltd., October 2010 is fixed for commencement and completion of commercial supplies for Phase I.

- (b) Yes, Madam.

(c) Gas supply of around 10 million standard cubic metre per day (mmscmd) is envisaged for Pragati Power Corporation Ltd., Bawana, North Delhi Power Ltd. Rithala and other designated consumers of KG D6 gas.

(d) and (e) The scheduled date for completion of the Project is October 2010. According to Information provided by GAIL, it is making all efforts to meet the targeted schedule of project completion.

(f) and (g) No penalties are envisaged, as the pipeline is expected to be completed by October 2010.

*[Translation]***Increase in seats**

3820. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to increase the seats in all the superfast trains passing through Kopergaon and Manmad to facilitate the devotees going to the world famous Shirdi Dham;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. Nineteen pairs of trains presently serving Kopergaon and Manmad are considered adequate to meet the present level of passenger traffic including devotees visiting the Shirdi Dham. In addition, special trains are also run to Sainagar Shirdi to cater to extra rush of traffic, whenever required.

*[English]***Suicides by Weavers and Craftsmen**

3821. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of suicides committed by handloom weavers and craftsmen in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, state-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has constituted a Committee to look into this matter; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the report of the said Committee alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The information were called from all State Governments/ Union Territories. Only the following States have reported suicides committed by the Handloom Weavers and the Craftsmen due to poverty, consumption of poison, family disturbance, financial and other domestic problems. The details of suicide committed by handloom weavers and craftsmen during the last 3 years and the current year are as under:

Name of State	2006		2007		2008		2009 (upto June)	
	Handloom Weavers	Craftsmen	Handloom Weavers	Craftsmen	Handloom Weavers	Craftsmen	Handloom Weavers	Craftsmen
Andhra Pradesh	50	-	33	-	48	-	08	-
Orissa	03	-	-	-	01	-	01	-
Kerala	01	-	-	-	05	-	-	-

(c) and (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has constituted an Expert Committee on weavers' problems under the Chairmanship of Minister of Finance, Government of Andhra Pradesh. One of the recommendations of the Expert Committee is to sanction financial assistance to the deceased weaver's families, on par with the assistance being provided to the farmer's community in the State. The State Government has also accepted the recommendations and implemented by way of sanction of ex-gratia to the tune of Rs.1.50 lakh, who committed suicide due to poverty, on account of distress caused by the occupational related problems.

This Ministry has constituted a high level committee headed by MD-NABARD to look in to the problems of high cost of working capital and choking of credit lines in the handloom sector. The Financial package for Handloom Sector worth Rs. 3000 crore has been sent to Ministry of Finance for their approval. This Financial package to handloom sector shall provide:

- (i) Financing the credit needs of handloom weavers/ societies at 7% rate of interest with interest subvention to NABARD and banks from Government of India.
- (ii) Waiver of overdue loans and interest in respect of Weavers/PWCs/Apex Societies.

Government of India is also implementing number of schemes to enhance production, productivity and efficiency

of the handloom sector and enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers by upgrading their skill and providing infrastructural input and marketing support. During the 11th Five Year Plan, the following schemes have been formulated for upliftment of handloom sector:-

- a. Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme
- b. Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme
- c. Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
- d. Mill Gate Price Scheme
- e. Diversified Handloom Development Scheme

Working Group for Plant Sapplings on Vacant Land

3822. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA:

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

SHRI PRATAPRAO GANPATRAO JADHAO:

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have set up a Joint Working Group for plant sapplings on the vacant land along the rail lines in order to produce bio-diesel from the seeds of plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether bio-diesel is likely to be cost-effective and environment friendly;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the progress of the Research and Development (R&D) studies conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) No, Madam. Indian Railways, however, is exploring the possibilities for plantation of Jatropa trees along the Railway track.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) RDSO, Lucknow has undertaken testing of bio-diesels. It has been found that B 10 Blend i.e. 10% bio-diesel in HSD oil can be used on our existing diesel engines without need for any major modification.

Loans for Loss Making Carriers

3823. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the loss making carriers are now finding it difficult to get loans from banks;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the financial health of public carriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Getting loans from banks is financial matter of airlines. Ministry does not regulate financial matter of airlines.

The Public Carrier NACIL has initiated the following measures to reduce losses: -

(i) Integration and restructuring of network and schedules; (ii) fuel efficiency improvement measures; (iii) enforced credit period for all vendors; (iv) Banks requested to roll over the existing working capital borrowings which are due to repayment; (v) Extended credit is being sought from the Public Sector Oil Companies for the fuel uplifts by Air India in India.

Apart from that, NACIL has also formulated proposal for equity induction and provision of loans.

Management of Scooters India Limited

3824. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Management of Scooters India Limited has chosen the Lombardini engine, which has already been failed for its CNG three wheelers;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and rationale behind choosing the Lombardini engine;

(c) whether the Government proposes to conduct any enquiry to find out the truth;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the management of the Scooters India Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV) : (a) As per information furnished by Scooter India Ltd. (SIL), SIL has not chosen the Lombardini engine which has already failed. Although SIL introduced a batch of about 300 vehicles with Lombardini engine in the market. There are feedbacks about some problems in the engine which the company alongwith engine manufacturer is resolving.

(b) The company during 2006 had developed and got type approved a CNG vehicle model with Lombardini engine from the notified testing and approving authority, Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI). The reason for choosing Lombardini Engine was that the existing SIL engine supplier; M/s. Greaves had no engine for smaller CNG vehicle at that time. The introduction of a smaller CNG vehicle was necessitated by the fact that it was essential for sales growth of the company. Further, M/s. Lombardini is a well known multinational company with expertise in small engines.

(c) and (d) Perusal of the facts provided by the company, does not indicate any prima facie ground necessitating any enquiry in the matter.

(e) The Government of India has already appointed all the functional Directors in SIL including CMD, SIL and Director (Tech.). Further in line with the norms for good corporate governance, the SIL Board has also been strengthened with three experienced independent Directors. The Department has also been regularly conducting performance review meetings of the company at regular intervals.

*[Translation]***Modernisation and Construction of Airports**

3825. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given permission to Airports Authority of India (AAI) to mobilize 5000 crore rupees by issuing infrastructure bonds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether AAI has formulated any action plan for the modernization of existing airports and to construct new airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of amount likely to be spent on the modernization and construction of new airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The proposal of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for grant of permission of the Government to mobilize Rs. 5000 crores by issue of infrastructure bonds is under consideration. .

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The capital outlay for AAI for the XIth Plan is Rs. 12434 crores.

*[English]***Setting up of New Refineries**

3826. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of refineries functioning in the country at present, State-wise including in Kerala;

(b) the present installed refining capacity of each refineries;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to set up more refineries and modernize some existing refineries;

(d) if so, the details thereof including in Kerala; and

(e) the time by which proposed refineries are likely to be set up and the amount likely to be spent on modernization of Refineries?

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

(a) and (b) At present, there are twenty oil refineries in the country. The installed Refining Capacity of the refineries, as on 1.4.2009 is 177.97 MMTPA. The State-wise list of refineries, including in Kerala, indicating their refining capacity is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) to (e) Consequent on de-licensing of refinery sector since June, 1998, a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by a Private or Public Sector Enterprise depending on its commercial viability. The details of 'New Refineries' being set up by the Public Sector themselves or in Joint Venture with Private Sector are as under.

Name of the Refinery	Set up by	Capacity (MMTPA)	Anticipated date of completion	Approved Project cost (Rs. Crore)
Bina Refinery, Madhya Pradesh	BPCL	6	January, 2010	10,378
Paradip Refinery, Orissa	IOCL	15	July, 2012	29,777
Bathinda Refinery, Punjab	HPCL & Mittal Energy Investments Pte Ltd.	9	May, 20 11	18,919

The details of the upgradation/modernization of refineries in Public Sector, including in Kerala is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I*The Location and Capacities of Refineries Operating in India*

Sl. No.	Name of the company	Location of the Refinery	Name of the State	Present Capacity (MMTPA)*
1	2	3	4	5
Public Sector				
1.	Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	Guwahati	Assam	1.00
2	IOCL	Barauni	Bihar	6.00

1	2	3	4	5
3.	IOCL	Koyali	Gujarat	13.70
4.	IOCL	Haldia	West Bengal	6.00
5	IOCL	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh	8.00
6.	IOCL	Digboi	Assam	0.65
7.	IOCL	Panipat	Haryana	12.00
8.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited	Mumbai	Maharashtra	5.50
9.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	7.50
10.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	Mumbai	Maharashtra	12.00
11.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	Kochi	Kerala	7.50
12.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited	Manali	Tamil Nadu	9.50
13.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited	Nagapattanam	Tamil Nadu	1.00
14.	Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd.	Bongaigaon	Assam	2.35
15.	Numaligarh Refinery Ltd	Numaligarh	Assam	3.00
16.	Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited	Mangalore	Karnataka	9.69
17.	Tatipaka Refinery (ONGC)	Tatipaka	Andhra Pradesh	0.078
Total (A)				105.468

Private Sector

18.	Reliance Industries Ltd. (EOU)	Mothikhavdi, Jamnagar	Gujarat	33.00
19.	Reliance Petroleum Ltd.	SEZ, Jamnagar Vadinar	Gujarat	29.00
20.	Essar Oil Limited	Vadinar	Gujarat	10.50
Total (B)				72.50
Grand Total (A+B)				177.968

* Million Metric Tonne Per Annum

Statement-II

Name of the Project	Details	Approved cost (Rs. in crore)	Likely date of commissioning
1	2	3	4
I) Indian Oil Corporation Limited, New Delhi			
Naphtha Cracker Project at Panipat	Petrochemical project to generate value added products	14,439.00	November, 2009

1	2	3	4
Residue Upgradation and MS/HSD quality improvement project at Gujarat Refinery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To produce BS- III / IV quality MS &HSD •To improve distillate Yield from 68% to 75% •To process increased quantity of High Sulphur Crude from 26% to 58%. 	5882.00	January, 2010
Improvement in Diesel Quality & Distillate Yield (Hydrocracker) Project along with refinery expansion from 6 to 7.5 MMTPA at Haldia Refinery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To produce BS- III / IV quality HSD •To improve distillate Yield from 64% to 67.3% •Capacity expansion from 6 to 7.5 MMTPA 	2869.00	December,2009
Panipat Refinery Additional Expansion Project from 12 MMTPA to 15 MMTPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Low cost Capacity expansion from 12 to 15 MMTPA •To produce BS- III / IV quality HSD 	1007.83	December,2009 - Quality Part (DHDT) April, 2010 -Other facilities & Revamp work.
MS Quality Upgradation Project at Panipat Refinery	To produce BS- III / IV quality MS	1131.00	December,2009
Installation of FCC Gasoline Desulphurisation Unit Under MS Quality Upgradation Project at Mathura Refinery	To produce BS- IV quality MS	348.00	December,2009
MS Quality Upgradation Project at Barauni Refinery	To produce BS- III quality MS	1492.00	June, 2010
MS Quality Upgradation Project at Guwahati Refinery	To produce BS- III quality MS	372.00	June, 2010
MS Quality Upgradation Project at Digboi Refinery	To produce BS- III quality MS	356.00	June, 2010
Diesel Hydro Treatment (DHDT) Project, Bongaigaon Refinery	To produce BS- III quality HSD	1646.39	June, 2010
MS Quality Improvement at Bongaigaon Refinery	To produce BS- III quality MS	293.60	June, 2010
II) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited(BPCL)			
Kochi Refinery Modernization Project	To increase the refining capacity from 7.5 MMTPA to 9.5 MMTPA	3941	End 2009
III) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited(HPCL)			
(a) Mumbai Refinery			
Green Fuels & Emission Control Project(GFEC)	To upgrade the MS quality to Euro III & IV grade	1850	Commenced from May, 2009
LOBS Project	To upgrade LOBS qualities from existing level of Group-I to Group-II/Group-III	1030	May 2010

1	2	3	4
New FCC Project	Setting up the 1.45 MMTPA capacity new FCC	900.50	May 2010
Diesel Hydro Treater Project	To upgrade/produce the Euro-III/IV HSD	3284	September, 2011
(b) Visakh Refinery			
Clean Fuels Project	To upgrade the MS quality to Euro III & IV grade	2147.80	July, 2009
Diesel Hydro Treater Project	To upgrade/produce the Euro-III/IV HSD	3597	September, 2011
IV) Mangalore Refineries & Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), Mangalore			
Capacity upgradation project	To increase the refining capacity from 9.69 MMTPA to 15 MMTPA	12,412	October, 2011
V) Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL), Manali			
Auto Fuel Quality Upgradation Project	To produce MS/HSD Meeting Euro-II/Euro-IV Specifications.	2615	July 2010
Resid Upgradation Project	To improve the distillate yield of the refinery	3350	End 2012
Single Point Mooring Project	Installation of an SPM off-Ennore for crude oil imports	850	--
VI) Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), Numaligarh			
Diesel Quality Upgradation Project	To produce Euro-III HSD as well as limited quantities of Euro-IV HSD	434.94	April 20 10

India Aviation Meet

3827. SHRI P. BALRAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether an India Aviation Meet held in Hyderabad recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the issues discussed thereon?

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

(b) India Aviation, 2008, an exhibition and conference on civil aviation was organised by Ministry of Civil Aviation jointly with FICCI from October 15-18, 2008 at Hyderabad. "India Aviation 2008" received tremendous response from international as well as national aviation industries. USA came up as the partner country for the show. The event witnessed international participation from 17 countries and more than 40 CEOs from leading aviation companies attended CEOs forum during the event. A total of

38 aircraft were on flying and static display including the world's largest passenger aircraft A-380. Official delegations from 8 countries (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Singapore, Oman, France, USA, Nepal and Bhutan) attended the event and the exhibition was visited by more than 5000 business visitors and 60,000 general public.

India Aviation 2008 was the first of its kind in the country. It focused not only on Airlines and Aircraft manufacturers but also on airport infrastructure & equipment suppliers, MRO and accessories companies thus creating a platform for all sectors of civil aviation industry to meet and interact.

Equity and Soft Loans for Aviation Industry

3828. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) has submitted any proposal for equity and soft loan for aviation industry in the country;

- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) had submitted a proposal for infusion of equity of Rs. 1231 crores and soft loan of Rs. 2750 crores in 2008-09. However, NACIL has now been advised to formulate a concrete proposal for induction of equity and provision of loans. A committee of Secretaries chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, which includes the Finance Secretary Finance and Secretary, Civil Aviation will closely monitor the turnaround plan of NACIL.

Exploration holiday for Petroleum Companies

3829. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

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

(a) whether the leading petroleum companies sought a break from exploratory activity in the already awarded deep water blocks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Union Government is considering a proposal for granting exploration holiday to these companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to meet the shortage in oil production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) No, Madam. However, operators in some deep water blocks have requested government for consideration of a drilling moratorium, for a period of three years.

(e) Government has taken following measures to enhance oil/gas production in the country.

- (i) Awarding more blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
- (ii) Putting new discoveries on fast track development.
- (iii) Implementation of EOR/IOR schemes and infill drilling.
- (iv) Work over and well stimulation of sick wells.

- (v) Development of alternate source of energy such as Coal Bed Methane (CBM), gas hydrates etc,

Revival of Sick PSUs

3830. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI C. SIVASAMI :

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE :

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick public sector companies in the country at present;

(b) the number of such companies revived during the last three years;

(c) the number of public sector companies recommended by the Board of Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) for revival;

(d) whether based on the recommendations of BRPSE the Government has revived all such companies;

(e) if so, the total assistance provided to these companies for revival; and

(f) the future plan prepared for revival of the remaining sick companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV) : (a) Based on the performance data available in Public Enterprise Survey, 2007-08, 78 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) have been identified as sick as per the definition in the Resolution constituting Board For Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) for making reference to BRPSE.

(b) As per Public Enterprises Survey 2007-08, 18 CPSEs have shown profit in 2007-08 out of 35 CPSEs approved for revival by Government till 15.7.2009.

(c) Upto 15.7.2009, BRPSE has recommended revival of 55 CPSEs.

(d) Based on the recommendations of BRPSE, Government has, upto 15.7.2009, approved revival of 35 CPSEs,

(e) Government has approved total assistance of Rs.15115 crores (cash assistance of Rs. 2921 crores in the

form of infusion of funds and non-cash assistance of Rs.12194 crores in the form of waivers/write offs of interest/loans, etc.) from Government of India for revival of these CPSEs.

(f) The concerned administrative ministries/departments of the CPSEs préparé future plans/revival proposals for sick companies on case to case basis and refer them to BRPSE for its recommendations and thereafter for approval of the Government.

Decontrol on Drug Prices

3832. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY :

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Government plans to decontrol drug prices and limiting control only on essential drugs manufactured by less than five producers;

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

(c) whether the prices of commonly used drugs have nearly gone up by 10% every year for the last ten years as reported by National Pharmaceutical Authority (NPPA); and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government will safeguard the interests of the common man?

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

(a) to (d) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1995 (DPCO, 1995) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed / revised by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO 95.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

The NPPA monitors the prices of all formulations based on the reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by the individual manufacturers. Wherever a price increase

beyond 10% per annum (20% before 1.4.2007) is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process. Based on monitoring of prices of non-Scheduled formulations, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 27 non-Scheduled formulation packs under paragraph 10(b) and companies have reduced prices voluntarily in case of 60 formulation packs. Thus, in all, prices of 87 packs of non-Scheduled drugs have got reduced as the result of intervention by NPPA.

A draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006, which, inter-alia, includes to ensure the availability of life saving drugs at reasonable prices, was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007. It was decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). The GOM had held four meetings but did not make recommendations to the Cabinet. Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy can be finalized only after GOM makes its recommendations to the Cabinet.

Food Items in Trains

3833. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to include the local food items which are most popular in the respective States in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have any proposal to introduce the system of booking the food items;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Railways are already providing popular local food items to Railway passengers such as idly, dosa, vada, pongal, upma, sambar tamarind rice, lemon rice, curd rice, sambar rice veg. and non-veg biryani, puri chhole, parantha, etc. as per Standard menu as well as through a-la-carte items.

(c) to (e) Railway is a vast organization operating 17,754 trains including 10,385 passengers carrying trains and carrying more than 18 million passengers per day throughout the country. Due to the vastness of the system,

prior ordering of food is not feasible at present. However, orders for food are taken in the running trains and food, as per order, is supplied through pantry cars or at the serving stations.

Reduction in Prices of Life Saving Drugs

3834. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

SHRI KHILADI LAL BAIRWA:

SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN :

SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL :

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

(a) whether the prices of certain life saving drugs have not come down in spite of reduction in the custom duties on such drugs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the prices of the nine life saving drugs i.e. breast cancer, Hepatitis-B etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) to (c) The Government has reduced the basic custom duty on specified nine life saving formulations & their bulk drugs in the union budget 2009 -10. It is expected that in such cases the drug manufacturers would pass on the benefit of the duty exemption provided by the Government to patients by reducing the MRP of medicines. These nine drugs are non-Scheduled drugs and the prices of non-Scheduled drugs are not fixed by NPPA. However, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) regularly examines the movement in prices of non-Scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring of prices of non-Scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

Scooters India Limited

3835. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed Automotive Research Association of India without competitive bid to improve product to make zero defect vehicle in the Scooter India Limited;

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

(c) whether the Scooters India Limited has spent about 10.5 crore for the production of zero defect vehicle; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (d) In January, 2006 a technical committee was constituted for taking a view on the proposal of Scooters India Limited (SIL) and Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) for development of a four stoke engine. ARAI is the most reputed, experienced and premier automobile testing and homologation autonomous institute in India under the administrative control of Department of Heavy Industry. This committee, with a view to examine the issues in detail, formed a Technical Sub Committee in February, 2006. During deliberations of this Sub Committee, Director, ARAI submitted a detailed diagnostic study of SIL which included issues for improving the performance of SIL and covered areas relating to manufacturing, product quality improvement, HR development including manpower training and vendor development. Thereafter, a detailed proposal for major business process & performance improvement programme for SIL was prepared and submitted by Director, ARAI. CMD, SIL after examining the same agreed to the recommendations made in the report. This proposal was taken up as per extant rules for the approval of the Standing Finance Committee (SFC). Consequent to the approval of the SFC in January, 2007, Jagriti Project was finalized for helping SIL in resolving problems pertaining to product quality, productivity and for bringing down costs of the product. This project also envisaged manufacture of zero defect vehicle. As per information furnished by SIL, it has incurred an expenditure of Rs.37.52 lakhs only towards production of zero-defect vehicle.

Modernisation of Railways

3836. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have mooted fresh proposal for public-private partnership in speeding up the overall modernization of the entire Railways;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways have also entered into public-private partnership in running hi-speed trains;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the response of the private sector thereon; and
- (f) the other steps taken by the Railways to speed up the ongoing railway projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Certain areas such as development of world class stations and infrastructure projects for port connectivity through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) etc. have been identified for possible execution through public private partnership route.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

(f) A number of initiatives such as cost sharing by State Governments and utilisation of funds from Ministry of Defence and additional budgetary support for National Projects have been taken to generate additional resources to expeditiously complete the ongoing projects.

Tatkal Scheme

3837. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of tickets sold under Tatkal Scheme during each of the last three years, Zone-wise;
- (b) the revenue earned from the Scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, Zone-wise;
- (c) whether the Railways are contemplating to revise the Tatkal quota system; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the other remedial measures initiated by the Railways to facilitate the smooth reservation system under general category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Zone-wise details of percentage of Tatkal tickets sold vis-a-vis total reserved tickets sold during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Zone-wise details of earnings from Tatkal Scheme during the last three years and current year upto June 2009 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) As per the announcement made in the Railway Budget 2009-10, Advance Reservation Period (ARP) for Tatkal Scheme has already been revised from 5 days to 2 days for journeys commencing from 01.08.2009. Action has also been initiated to make this scheme available destination-wise and for levying of revised minimum Tatkal charges.

All accommodation including general and Tatkal accommodation is meant for general passengers with the only difference of Advance Reservation Period. Creation of additional reserved accommodation is a continuous process for which Railways run new trains, augment the load of existing trains, run special trains, etc.

Statement-I

No.	Zonal Railway	Percentage of Tatkal tickets sold vis-a-vis total tickets sold		
		2006-07 (6 th May 2006 to 31-03-2007)	2007-08	2008-09
1.	Central	6	11	14
2.	East Central	4	7	10
3.	East Coast	5	9	12
4.	Eastern	3	5	7
5.	Konkan	6	7	10
6.	North Central	2	4	7
7.	North Eastern	4	10	13
8.	North East Frontier	5	8	8
9.	Northern	5	8	13
10.	North Western	5	7	9
11.	South East Central	3	6	9
12.	South Central	5	9	13
13.	South Eastern	5	9	12
14.	Southern	6	10	14
15.	South Western	5	9	15
16.	West Central	2	4	7
17.	Western	7	11	14

Statement-II

S. No.	Zonal Railways	Earnings front Tatkal Scheme (in Rs. In crores)			
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (Upto June)
1	Central	23.85	48.21	67.57	24.60
2	East Central	6.17	13.58	21.05	9.15
3	East Coast	5.44	11.97	16.98	6.10
4	Eastern	7.06	12.61	18.86	7.78
5	Konkan	0.78	1.11	1.63	0.68
6	North Central	1.02	2.11	4.09	1.57
7	North Eastern	5.04	13.21	20.47	7.35
8	North East Frontier	5.96	10.86	12.03	4.33
9	Northern	44.11	85.00	144.50	54.77
10	North Western	7.10	11.42	18.11	7.15
11	South East Central	2.04	4.23	7.65	2.84
12	South Central	12.68	27.03	43.69	13.63
13	South Eastern	8.61	18.15	27.29	9.15
14	Southern	29.19	60.62	89.73	30.75
15	South Western	9.30	19.32	36.43	13.73
16	West Central	1.29	3.25	5.00	2.51
17	Western	26.03	52.02	70.40	25.49
Total		195.67	394.69	605.48	221.59

Extra Passengers on Board

3838. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY :

SHRI MILIND DEORA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Air India 172-seater Airbus A-321 that was to fly as IC-179 from Mumbai to Mangalore on May 5, 2009 had carried three extra passengers and had flouted norms to adjust kin of senior officials;

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

(c) whether any departmental enquiry has been ordered into the affairs;

(d) if so, the findings of enquiry and whether anybody has been held responsible for this lapse;

(e) whether Government is formulating any policy for dealing with such cases in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Airbus-321 Aircraft scheduled to operate flight IC-179 (Mumbai-

Mangalore) on May 5, 2009 was involved in a ground incident at Mumbai due to aircraft pushback with the Aerobridge still connected. During Investigation, presence of three adults, over and above the 172 passengers, was observed on the flight.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. While Investigation is in progress, the cockpit crew involved has been ordered not to utilise the privileges of their licence. The involved ground driver and other ground staff has also been put off duty. The 3 persons responsible for preparation of the Load and Trim sheet also have been withdrawn from their duties. The AME has also been derostered.

(e) and (f) Surveillance checks are carried out and during these checks if any observation is made, similar remedial action will be taken to prevent such Incidents.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Mana Airport

3839. SHRI MURARI LAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop Mana Airport of Chhattisgarh as an International Airport; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, there is no such proposal. However, construction of a modern integrated terminal is in progress which can cater to international traffic in future.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Rail Bridge on River Chenab

3840. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a rail bridge on Chenab river is being constructed on the recommendations of an Expert Committee;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the said Committee in this regard; and

(c) the length of bridge, the total cost and the time likely to be taken for its construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) The Expert Committee appointed to review the alignment of Katra-Qazigund section including bridge over river Chenab has recently submitted its report which is under consideration of the Ministry. The details for construction of the bridge over river Chenab will be worked out expeditiously, once a decision on the report of the Committee is finalized.

[Translation]

Separate rail track for foods train

3841. SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status work of construction of rail line at Mughalsarai-Dehri-On-Sone section of Delhi to Howrah (Kolkata) route; and

(b) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the said rail line and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The Final Location Survey (FLS) of the Mughalsarai- Dehri-On-Sone Section of Eastern Corridor has been finalized and work has commenced on 105 Kms. portion between New Karwandiya and New Ganj Khwaja Station. The approximate cost of the New Karwandiya -New Ganj Khwaja Section is Rs. 1531 Crores and it is likely to be completed by 2015-16 subject to availability of funds.

[English]

Regional Sericulture Research and Training Institute

3842. SHRI RAJU SHETTI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Government to open Regional Sericulture Research and Training Institute;

(b) if so, whether the survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the location where the said institute is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) No, Sir. Presently, there is no proposal pending with the Government to open Regional Sericulture Research and Training Institute.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

*[Translation]***Railway line between Lohardaga and Korba**

3843. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the work on new railway line between Lohardaga and Tori is going on at a very slow pace;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed;
- (d) whether the Railways proposes to lay a new railway line on Lohardaga-Gumla-Jaspur-Korba route; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The work is being progressed as per availability of resources. There has been some delay due to adverse law and order conditions in the area.

(c) Lohardaga-Bakrichampi (14.5Km) portion of the work is targeted for completion during 2009-10. Target date of completion of the remaining portion has not yet been fixed.

(d) and (e) No Madam. Survey for Lohardaga-Korba new line was completed in 2003-04 and the proposed new line was not taken up.

12.00 hrs.**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE***[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Papers to be Laid, Shri Dayanidhi Maran.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): Madam Speaker, on behalf of Shri M. Veerappa Moily, Minister of Law and Justice, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

Placed in Library, See No. LT 575/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, New Delhi, 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 National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 576/15/09]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology, Thanjavur, 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 Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology, Thanjavur, 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 577/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Office of the Director General of Investigation and Registration, (Group 'A' posts) Recruitment Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in the Notification No. G.S.R. 91 in Gazette of India dated the 20th June, 2009 issued under Article 309 of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, **See No. LT 578/15/09**]

- (2) A copy of the 37th Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to the execution of the provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 for the period from 1st January, 2007 to 31st December, 2007 under the Monopolies Restrictive Trade and Practices Act, 1969.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, **See No. LT 579/15/09**]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited and the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, **See No. LT 580/15/09**]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, **See No. LT 581/15/09**]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the GAIL (India) Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, **See No. LT 582/15/09**]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Andrew Yule and Company Limited and the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, **See No. LT 583/15/09**]

12.01 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Status of implementation of the 205th Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on action-taken on the 202nd Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) pertaining to the Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the 205th Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on action taken on the 202nd Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to the Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

12.02 hrs.

- (ii) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 39th Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2008-09), pertaining to the Ministry of Minority 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 Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a statement on the status of the implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty-Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 584/15/09]

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 585/15/09]

Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants for the year 2008-09 of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, in pursuance of the direction 73A of the Directions by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha under rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha,

The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) presented its Thirty-ninth Report on the Demands for Grants for the year 2008-09, relating to the Ministry of Minority Affairs, to the Lok Sabha on 19th December, 2008. The recommendations were considered and the action taken by the government on the recommendations were submitted to the Committee on 4th June, 2009.

Report contained five recommendations. The present status of implementation of all these five recommendations is indicated in the Annexure, which is laid on the Table of the House.

12.02½ hrs.

- (iii) **(a) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 35th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on "General Condition of weavers in the country - A case study of concentration zone of weavers" pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Madam Speaker, in pursuance of direction 73 (A) of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha published in Lok Sabha Parliamentary Bulletin Part-II, dated September 01, 2004, I beg to lay a statement on the Table of the House on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty-fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on "General condition of weavers in the country - A case study of concentration zone of weavers."

The Standing Committee on Labour examined and presented its Thirty-fifth Report in the Lok Sabha on 12th December, 2008. The Report contains 15 recommendations. The recommendations of the Committee focus mainly on the general condition of weavers in the country. The recommendations contained in the report have been examined in the Ministry of Textiles, and a statement on the action taken/proposed to be taken on these recommendations was submitted to the Standing Committee on Labour on 31st March, 2009. The Ministry of Textiles is committed to

implement the recommendations of the Committee in their true spirit.

I also lay herewith the status of implementation of these recommendations on the Table of the House.

- (iii) **(b) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 33rd Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on "Development Schemes for Handicrafts Sector" pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles***

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Madam Speaker, in pursuance of direction 73 (A) of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha published in Lok Sabha Parliamentary Bulletin Part-II, dated September 01, 2004, I beg to lay on the Table of the House a statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty-third Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on "Development Schemes for Handicrafts Sector" of the Ministry of Textiles.

The Standing Committee on Labour examined and presented its Thirty-third Report in the Lok Sabha on 24th October, 2008. The Report contains 11 recommendations. The recommendations of the Committee focus mainly on the Development Schemes for Handicrafts of the Ministry of Textiles. The recommendations contained in the report have been examined in the Ministry of Textiles, and a statement on the action taken/proposed to be taken on these recommendations was submitted to the Standing Committee on Labour in February, 2009. The Ministry of Textiles is committed to implement the recommendations of the Committee in their true spirit.

I also lay herewith the status of implementation of these recommendations on the Table of the House.

12.03 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising due to export of non-Basmati Rice to certain countries in violation of Government Guidelines and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Arjun Charan Sethi.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Madam Speaker, we were the first one to submit you the notice in this regard on Friday. People of four parties are involved in it. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Rewati Raman Singh ji. We gave you the notice first. However, you must find out a way out in the lottery procedure. I raised this issue on 21st during zero hour. But after the ballot, all names were included except my name. There were six members and only my name has been excluded.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Yadavji, I will look into it. But you may speak after Shri Arjun Charan Sethi.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak): Madam Speaker, I call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon;

"Situation arising due to export of non-Basmati rice to certain countries in violation of Government guidelines and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister to speak. You may lay the statement.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. Member for having raised this matter and drawing the Government's attention to this issue. Madam Speaker, I would like to inform, through you, the hon. Member and the House that the non-basmati rice is one of our important agricultural exports. India had exported 3.7 million tonnes of non-basmati rice in the year 2006-07 and 5.28 million tonnes in 2007-08.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you may lay it on the Table and in your reply you can elaborate on this.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I can do that.... (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): On the Calling Attention Notices, Ministers always read fully and only on that basis questions are raised. ... (Interruptions) It is not merely laying on the Table.

MADAM SPEAKER: It is being distributed.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): No, it has not been distributed.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It may be distributed to the Members who have raised it. That will be a new practice.

MADAM SPEAKER: All right. You read it, hon. Minister.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The practice is that the Minister reads out the whole statement.

MADAM SPEAKER: All right, he is reading it.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I will continue, Madam.

The Government does review the availability of food grains within the country on a continuing basis. There was a general rise in food grain prices in the latter half of the year 2007. On 15th October, 2007, the Government imposed a ban on the export of non-basmati rice. This decision was occasioned by the general rise in food grain prices and an overall assessment of the domestic supply position.

The global prices of all types of rice continued to rise steeply over the next few months peaking in April-May 2008. Prices of rice nearly doubled in the international market in a space of less than six months.

Escalating food prices created situations of extreme distress in many parts of the world especially in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and some poor African countries. The Governments of these African countries approached the Government of India with a request to sell them limited quantities of non-basmati rice. And that was, I may add here, a hundred per cent broken rice. Keeping in view our close international ties with these countries and the delicate supply position they were facing, it was decided on diplomatic considerations to authorize the export of limited quantities of non-basmati rice in relaxation of the ban. This was a Government decision.

In pursuance of this decision, the Director-General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) had issued a notification on 24th January 2008 authorising the export of non-basmati rice of 50,000 Metric Tonnes (MT) to Madagascar through the State Trading Corporation of India (STC) and 25,000 MT to Comoros and 9,000 Metric tonnes to Mauritius through the MMTC Limited.

On 26th March 2008, another notification was issued by the DGFT to export 40,000 Metric tonnes of non-basmati rice to Sierra Leone through the PEC Limited. This decision was taken by the Government again on specific requests from that Government and diplomatic considerations.

On 26th of March 2008, another notification was issued by the DGFT to export 40,000 MT of non-basmati rice to Sierra Leone through the PEC Limited. This decision was taken by the Government again on specific request from that Government and diplomatic considerations.

All through the first half of 2008, international supplies of food grains remained very tight. The Government of India continued to receive requests for release of limited quantities of non-basmati rice from various African countries. On 5th August 2008, the Government decided to permit export of 2,25,000 MT of broken rice to various African countries. These exports were to be made through the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce.

On 13th of October 2008, the DGFT issued a notification permitting the export of non-basmati rice of 15,000 MT each to Nigeria, Senegal and Ghana and 10,000 MT to Cameroon. This rice was to be exported through STC. STC was expected to procure the rice from mills which had surplus rice in their stocks and also to ensure that STC's entry into the market did not affect the overall domestic prices of rice.

In its meeting of 5th March 2009, the Empowered Group of Ministers on Food grains & Edible Oils (EGoM) considered another proposal for permission to export non-basmati rice to various countries on diplomatic considerations. The EGoM approved the proposal to export no more than 20 lakh MT of non-basmati rice on a diplomatic basis to some African countries. The Ministry of External Affairs advised the Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD) on 20th April 2009 about the allocation to various countries. On the 6th of May 2009, DGFT issued a notification allocating the export of non-basmati rice across 20 countries totalling 10 lakh MT.

In respect of the country allocations covered by the notification of 6th May 2009, no transaction has been completed as yet. One contract for 25,000 MT to South Africa, allocated by DGFT through their notification dated 18th June 2009, has been signed but execution of the contract has not begun. In this instance, the domestic supplier has been recommended by the Consulate General of India, Durban, based on a certificate from the Department of Trade & Industry of the Government of South Africa.

The actual export of non-basmati rice has been completed only in respect of transactions with five countries, namely, Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius, Sierra Leone and Ghana. The total quantity exported is 1,21,500 MTs. The rice

was procured from domestically available stocks and the approximate procurement value of the non-basmati rice was about Rs. 170 crore.

This export was not out of the stocks procured by FCI/ other Government agencies for the Public Distribution System (PDS).

No other non-basmati rice has been exported even though authorisation for the release of such rice in relaxation of the ban is available. In all, the Government had authorised the release of up to 13.49 lakh MT; of this amount only 9% has actually been exported.

In one transaction, MMTC concluded the transaction with Mauritius for the sale of 8000 MT of rice by nominating a domestic supplier. The counter-party was the State Trading Corporation of Mauritius. In the four other transactions that were concluded, the Minister/Ministries of the recipient African countries nominated suppliers based in India. They also nominated the importing agency in the recipient African country. The transactions were completed through the PSUs in the Department of Commerce with the nominated domestic supplier providing the non-basmati rice to be exported. In all cases, the exporter was one of the PSUs under the Department of Commerce. All export documents were executed by the said PSUs.

The transactions completed were always intended to be concluded on a commercial basis. The Governments of the African countries had not requested the Government of India for release of non-basmati rice as aid or grant; it was always a request for an outright sale. Since all were commercial transactions, the PSUs and the domestic suppliers booked profits.

While examining the transactions that have been concluded it has been noticed that in some cases PSUs have infringed certain conditions contained in the DGFT notifications for the export of non-basmati rice. This matter is being looked into. Enquiries will be held, responsibility will be fixed and remedial action shall be taken.

Reports in the print media suggested, as has been raised, that this was a "Rs. 2500 crore rice export scam". The press report alleged that "greedy exporters used needy African countries to circumvent the ban on rice exports". The factual position is at serious variance with these allegations. As brought out, the total procurement value of rice actually exported was about Rs. 170 crore only.

Moreover, the fact of the matter is that the export of non-basmati rice in relaxation of the ban was fully authorised by the Government keeping in view close ties with the African countries, their pressing needs, and diplomatic considerations. And, even though the Government had authorised the release of about 13.5 lakh MT, a mere 1.22 lakh MT has actually been exported.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: The hon. Minister in his statement now has mentioned that non-basmati broken rice has been exported to different countries as per their request. He has admitted that. We know that in our country, there are 360 million people under the BPL list, who need food, especially this kind of rice for their survival, for meeting their requirements.

Hon. Minister must know and also the House knows that many State Governments are providing this kind of non-basmati broken rice to the BPL families at subsidized rates. For example, in Orissa, it is being provided at Rs.1 a k.g. Similarly, it is being done in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and in other States also.

He has said that we have enough rice. Does he know that the subsidized rice is being provided to the people in different States of the country? If he knows, what is the need of exporting when a ban on this non-basmati broken rice at all? I suppose that when food situation or the stock position in our country is not good and that is why, they have put a ban.

But the hon. Minister has now said that we have enough rice and we generally export rice to different countries. But there must be certain guidelines for exports. He has also admitted towards the end of his statement that 'it has been noticed that in some cases PSUs have infringed certain conditions contained in the DGFT notification for the export of non-basmati rice'. He has admitted that.

I want to know specifically from the hon. Minister - he has given the details as to what are the exports that have been made to different countries - why much of this kind of rice has been exported through PSUs like MMTC, STC, etc. the government agencies.

I would also like to know how much rice is exported through private parties. The hon. Minister has admitted that there are infringements in the export which means that there is something wrong with the process involved in exporting rice to different countries. He may tell not only to me but also to the entire House as to the countries which have asked for such type of rice and how much rice has been exported to them through PSUs.

Is DGFT a Government agency which authorises the export of rice and other commodities to different countries? It is alleged in the newspapers that DGFT has authorised certain selected private parties to export rice. How far is it correct? At the same time, some of the foreign countries have named some private parties through which this type of rice should be exported. Is it correct; if so, can we consider their proposal violating our own guidelines and procedure? A number of such things are being widely published in different newspapers and magazines. If it is correct, how so much of publicity is being given to this particular issue? It has also been reported that these countries ask for the broken non-basmati rice at the concessional rates on humanitarian grounds. Is it also a fact and if so, how much have we lost by way of exporting rice at a concessional rate to these countries? How far is it correct, on the part of a recipient country, to name a private party through which it wants to import rice or for that matter any commodity? I would like to be clarified on these points. I would be glad to know all the facts of the matter and therefore, would request the hon. Minister to reply to my queries on this.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Yadav, your notice was received, but your name could not obtain priority in the ballot, you know it. Despite that I allow you to speak under my special privileges. However, it should not be quoted as a precedent in future.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Madam Speaker, I express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak. I was listening to the statement of the Minister of Commerce. In regard to rice scam, I would like to state that 3.7 million tonnes of rice was exported in the year 2006-07. As per the statement 5.28 million tonnes was exported in the year 2007-08. He has replied to Shri Arjun Charan Sethi in the beginning itself that 3.7 million tonnes and 5.28 million tonnes were exported in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

Madam Speaker, through you I would like to state that he has assumed the office of Minister very recently. Our diplomatic ties with other countries demand that we should help poverty stricken and starving nations as permissible by law. The request was made by the Government of Ghana and assurance of assistance was given by DGFT that exports would be made through STC, MMTC, PEC. Later on names of two companies viz. Amira Food and Shivnath Harinarayan, were recommended by Sierra Leone and Ghana to export it.
...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please, be brief.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: The justification for roping in two private companies in the deal was given that there was starvations in Africa and to salvage the situation, their Ministry of External affairs and the Government made this request only. Paraboiled and not other quality of rice is consumed there. This export was not made through public sector companies like STC, MMTC and P.E.C. It was rather made through Amira Food and Shivnath Harinarayan companies. The LC was issued through Switzerland and the U.S. As per the law of the land export had to be made through public sector company but this export was made through a private company. From where this export was made and at what price? It was purchased at the rate of US\$280 and at what price it was sold? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Sharadji, please conclude now.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to submit that the requests of Ghana and Sierra Leone came to India through the State Governments and not through their central Governments. ...*(Interruptions)* Paraboiled rice is eaten there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, you may conclude.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to know two-three points about the issue involving export of rice. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker, I am concluding.

[English]

How did the private companies come into the Government to Government transaction? Secondly, why was no tendering process followed?

[Translation]

If the private companies were to be involved, why was no tendering process followed; why was no tender invited? There are the CPC guidelines, even then why were the tenders not invited?

[English]

Thirdly, on what basis was an allocation of 170,000 tonnes of rice made to Nigeria?

[Translation]

Why did they cancel it? Any way, you gave it without verifying the authenticity of the requests. They cancelled 1,70,000 tonnes and you gave it to South Africa. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Fourthly, on what basis was allocation of rice made to South Africa?

[Translation]

So, through you, I would say that the Government did not follow the law of the land. Every country has its own law to be followed in every part of that country, but they did not follow the law within the boundaries of their own land. They have flouted all kinds of norms and tried to conceal the facts. They have been very mild while taking initiatives for action. They should not do like that. He has just become a Minister. We will not leave it like that. We have plenty of matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude and take your seat now. Shri B. Mahtab.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: DGFC issued 11 notifications. Was it meant only to benefit the private parties. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Madam, Speaker, the Statement of the Minister hides many things than reveals the actual facts. I would like to refer to two paragraphs, namely paragraphs 15 and 16, of the Minister's Statement. In paragraph 15, the hon. Minister has stated that 'transactions completed were always intended to be concluded on a commercial basis'. Sierra Leone and Ghana wrote to the Ministry of External Affairs. This was a separate letter. I think, it was the second letter. The first letter that was written by 21 African countries had come to the Ministry of External Affairs. The Minister can explain this... *(Interruptions)* They had asked for concessional and preferential rates.

In paragraph 16, the hon. Minister has agreed that in certain cases PSUs have infringed certain conditions contained in DGFT notification for the export of non-Basmati rice. Responsibility will be fixed; enquiries will be held — these are all in future tense - and remedial actions shall be taken. The letter that had first come to the Ministry of External Affairs was forwarded to the Ministry of Food mentioning that Sierra Leone and Ghana had asked for concessional and preferential rates and clearance was given to DGFT for notification of quantity of rice. The rice was supposed to be purchased from amongst different States. I would like to ask

if the Government will find out and let this House know whether this rice was purchased from only one State and that is Andhra Pradesh.

Madam, Speaker, this contravenes the guidelines of purchase of rice. I need not go into the details. It has already been mentioned. Earlier it was 3 lakh tonnes, then it was 5 lakh tonnes and this time it was 13 lakh tonnes.

MADAM SPEAKER: You may please conclude now.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I would like to know if the Government is aware that the Ghana Government is conducting an enquiry and this enquiry is going on for the last three to six months. The Government of India has also been informed and the former Minister of External Affairs of Ghana has been summoned to appear before their investigating agency - as we have here the CBI - the Ghana Bureau of National Investigation.

MADAM SPEAKER: You have asked your question. You may conclude now.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: What is the response of the Government?... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: The discussion has been going on for a very long time. Be brief now.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Madam, this is a serious matter.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Madam Speaker, there is a difference between a Calling Attention in this House and a Calling Attention in the other House. I have been in the other House also. Very often, on important issues, a Calling Attention would become a discussion for the whole day. In this House, the limit is that only five Members whose names are balloted are alone entitled to ask questions and I think, the hon. Member just speaking was only asking questions. You cannot curb that. Otherwise, the Calling Attention would become meaningless. They were very relevant questions put by him. My submission would be that the practice that we have in this House should be followed strictly and that his questions should be allowed as they are very relevant.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, with utmost respect to the hon. Leader of Opposition, I would like to say that rule 197(2) is not to the effect of what he has said. It says that there shall be no debate on this and only clarificatory questions can be asked. It says

"only clarificatory questions" which mean that the Member has to ask only pointed questions. But what we have felt from the hon. Member before him is that he has taken it to be a debate. ... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: The rule says "ask a clarificatory question". The word 'a' is very important. In spite of that, I have allowed you to speak for a very long time. Shri Mahtab, you may now conclude so that the next Member gets a chance. It is one question that has to be put.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR (BANGALORE SOUTH): Madam, it cannot be a single clarificatory question.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please be seated.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: With the permission of the Speaker, you can ask a clarificatory question. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Madam, I respect whatever decision you take. But as far as I understand, all these questions are related to the matter under discussion though you have allowed five Members and also allowed Shri Sharad Yadav to put questions.

MADAM SPEAKER: I have allowed him and that is all right. But that does not mean that we completely do away with the rule. Please do not argue with me.

.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I do not challenge your decision. I am only seeking your permission.

I want to know whether the Government had also, in principle, agreed to provide 1.17 lakh metric tonnes of rice to Nigeria which ultimately Nigeria declined to take for whatever reason which I am not aware of. I would like to know from the Government on it. When Nigeria had sought 1.17 lakh metric tonnes of rice and the Government had agreed to provide it, what happened then? It is not that suddenly the rice procurement in Nigeria had increased and hence they declined. What actually had happened? Is it true that they had asked for a private party to export, it did not occur or something else happened? We want to know the details of it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam Speaker, the Calling Attention Motion which has been moved in this House concerns a very serious issue involving a very big scam in the country. It appears from the statement and reply given by the hon. Minister that many facts have been concealed.

I agree that non-Basmati rice is an export item of our country, but after going through the year-wise details of the total exports I come to the conclusion that it was at least 9.7 per cent i.e. over 10 lakh metric tonne rice has been exported and the specific question that the hon'ble Members have raised here is that the contracts for such export have been awarded to individual companies, whether it may be Vishwanath-Harinarayan, Amira Food or L.N.J. Company, Kolkata in particular.

This has been a leading news in all the newspapers. As the hon. Minister has also stated in his statement, the total calculations show that this is a scam involving over Rs. 2500 crores. Here the discussion was held about DGFT stating that they export on a particular condition, but its flagrant violation was made. However, the hon. Minister said that he was getting the matter looked into. An inquiry would be held into it, responsibility would be fixed and all necessary action would be taken. Through you, I would like to know the time by which this inquiry is likely to be completed and the punishment to be awarded to such people, because it is a very big scam. He may please specify a date for it. This should be done in a time bound manner. That is what I want to know, through you.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Madam Speaker, it is a very serious issue. It was raised here by Shri Sharad Yadav and we all associated with what he said in regard to the scam relating to export of rice to Ghana. Several questions have arisen out of this deal in the export of rice. When the deal or the export of rice was from one Government to another, how did the private companies come into the picture? Three private companies were involved in the export of rice. The hon. Minister has stated that the amount involved is Rs. 170 crore, and that it is not Rs. 2,500 crore. The procurement price is Rs. 170 crore. How was the procurement price fixed? The Minister has stated that all these have been done under the public sector trading companies, the MMTC, the STC and the PEC. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: The hon. Member does not need prompting. Let him speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They have also violated the guidelines. When it was done under their guidance and under their control, how were these three companies allowed to procure directly - I would like to know at what price - and then export it to Ghana? If the matter was so simple, why had the Government of Ghana decided to go for an inquiry into this? Six months back, an inquiry was conducted, or still being

conducted, by their agency. If there was no irregularity, how was the procurement price fixed? Why was the public sector trading companies not entrusted with the task of procurement of rice as well as its export? Why was no tender floated? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Ask the question and conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam Speaker, I am only asking questions.

I would like to know whether the Government will appoint an independent inquiry or a Joint Parliamentary Committee to inquire into this matter. The matter is so serious, involving crores of rupees. There is a need for a Joint Parliamentary Committee to inquire into this matter. Considering the seriousness of the matter, I would like to know from the Minister, whether the Government will constitute a JPC to inquire into the whole scam and the whole matter.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I would thank you so much. Shri Gopinath Munde.

[Translation]

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE (Beed): Madam Speaker, there is no truth in the statement made forth by the hon. Minister in the House, because he has said that the Group of Minister? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam Speaker, at the outset, I would like to object to these words uttered by the hon'ble Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE: Why will you object, I want to bring forth the truth. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister say what he wants to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I will reply to your question. ...*(Interruptions)* You are making allegations. I have objection to it. ...*(Interruptions)*. You will get reply if you ask question. ...*(Interruptions)* You will not make allegations. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE: Madam Speaker, I am ready to prove that it has no truth. At that time you were not the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Ask your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE: I am asking the question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You may ask question seeking a clarification.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE: MMTC, STC and PEC have not made exports by themselves. They have made exports through four private companies. It was not these companies but the Switzerland's 'Nobel Commodities' to which LC for rice was given. Why did he conceal this fact? Noble Commodities was not given licence. ...*(Interruptions)* That rice did not reach those countries where it was to be distributed on humanitarian grounds then where did that rice go? That is why I want to say that a magazine, which has never been against the Government, has dedicated its two issues to uncover the facts and has said that this is the scam involving Rs. 2500 crores. I, therefore, demand in the House that this should be investigated into by the CBI. The hon. Minister should reply to it. He has said that MMTC, STC and PEC are guilty for this. It is not MMTC, STC and PEC but the Group of Ministers who are guilty for this. Why was a meeting held at the time of elections to take a decision to export the commodity. It smells a rat. ...* ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: This is an allegation. This will not go on record.

[Translation]

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE: My demand is that this may be investigated by the CBI to ensure transparency in the House as well as before the people of the country. ...*(Interruptions)* Why are you afraid? ...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please be silent. You have asked your question. So, let the hon'ble Minister reply now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You have asked the question, so, you need not repeat that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister has to reply.

... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: What the hon. Member is saying will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down and let hon. Minister speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam Speaker, many questions have been asked by the hon. Members. I have taken note of all those questions and I will try to clarify some of the doubts which have been raised. At the same time, I would submit with all sincerity that the Statement which has been given, after the Calling Attention notice was received, has been an exhaustive one. We have tried to place on record the sequence and the facts.

One issue which has been raised by Shri Arjun Charan Sethi is about the availability of broken rice. Particularly, he was referring to the PDS.

In my answer itself I have clarified first that whatever procurement was there, being a commercial transaction, the procurement, it was clear, had to be from the mills which had surplus rice in their stocks and also to ensure that the STC's entry into the market or the PSU's entry did not affect the overall domestic price. ... *(Interruptions)*

Secondly, I have also clarified that non-Basmati rice is one of our important agricultural exports. India has been exporting non-Basmati rice and that is purely commercial export which has been going on. It was only in the year 2007-08 when there was a surge in the global prices, the availability was also tight. So, a decision was taken by the Government of India on the 15th of October, 2007 to impose a ban. Once the ban was imposed, naturally no private parties or State undertakings could have exported the non-Basmati rice.

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

New, what has happened? As there was a ban, there was lack of availability in the global market. The Governments of these African countries, individually, had written to the Government of India and, to the best of my knowledge, every request was received at the level of the Head of State or Head of Government for India to relax the ban and permit them to purchase. This was not a humanitarian assistance given by India. Therefore, there was no Government procurement or Government tender. I have also mentioned clearly that the concerned countries had identified the suppliers. This is true and I have mentioned it in my statement. ... *(Interruptions)* I cannot speak for them. You have asked a question. I am going to give you the answer. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Sharad Yadavji, you have asked a question. Please listen the reply. ... *(Interruptions)* I'll reply it. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Sharad Yadavji, please do not interrupt him.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I am not yielding. ... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you address the Chair.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Sharad Yadavji, please take your seat. Let him answer.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam Speaker, I would like to, once again, reaffirm that these were transactions which were purely commercial. Requests were to allow these countries to purchase and the export to take place. It was not in violation of the rules of the ban. It was a conscious decision taken by the Empowered Group of Ministers.

Without causing any offence, I would also like to clarify here to Shri Gopinath Munde because what he said was something very serious; whether it was bona fide, I leave it to the Members of this House to judge after I have completed. These requests have been received post-2007 and my statement clearly indicates the various dates when the

notifications were issued. It did not happen, as he said, at the time of the election. That is not correct. It started from 2008 onwards to various countries and the EGoM decision was taken in 2009. My statement clearly states that not even one grain of rice had gone against that decision. None of the earlier transactions, but for the ones which I have named, have been completed. I have also mentioned that out of 14 lakh tonnes ... *(Interruptions)*

Please allow me to complete. I have come to the House to share the details, and I have come to this House to apprise the Members as to what the initial inquiries have revealed. It is on record that out of 13.5 lakh metric tonnes, which was sanctioned by the EGoM for relaxation of ban to be sent to these countries, it was only 1.22 lakh metric tonnes. Of the total sanctions if you see as I have mentioned in my reply, only nine per cent actually has been exported.

They are looking at the quantities which were authorised to be exported and based on that volume and value... *(Interruptions)* I know what I am saying ... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please, let him complete.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: First of all, this is not the Government of India procurement, I would like to submit. The hon. Member is very wise and intelligent. If there is Government procurement then the price is fixed. These were commercial transactions. The ban was relaxed not on humanitarian assistance or a grant. As I have clarified, it is borne out of the reply which I am giving.

Mr. Sethi was referring about the PDS. Let me tell him that for PDS the releases are close to 240 lakh tones. There is no question of that. The PDS must not be mixed up with that. Neither, it was taken from that... *(Interruptions)* Let me reply please.

[Translation]

Sharad Yadavji, as you pointed out that 37 lakh tonnes and 52 lakh tonnes have gone earlier, that was not related to it. I have given you the figures of the export made before imposing the ban. After that ban was imposed in Oct. 2008, before ban export was made. ... *(Interruptions)* This is not the position after the ban. I have given you that figure. I just want to say that if you have certain doubts, something is published in newspapers and in regard to that you drew the attention of the Government towards that I want to thank all hon. Members

for raising this issue which gave opportunity to the Government to look into it, bring out the facts. As I said earlier, I can provide information of completed transactions only. It is not possible to say anything about those which have not been completed.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Whether irregularities were committed in it or not?

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please keep quiet.

[English]

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: We are all hon. Members. I respect all the hon. Members. They may be eager to get all the information. I am equally eager and the Government is also equally eager to get to the bottom of it. We will have every transaction, those which have been complete, examined, enquired into and wherever the infringement has taken place, responsibility will be fixed and action will be taken. But I cannot give you. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: When this will be done? It should be in a time - bound manner. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Sit down please. Let him reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): When the inquiry will be conducted? ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, please keep quiet. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam Speaker, I through you, would like to tell Shri Mulayam Singhji that he has been a Chief Minister, a Union Minister. He has the experience and knowledge of Government, and administration. He is bringing this calling attention today. I have come to this House with the information gathered during the last 24 hours.

13.00 hrs.

I assure you that we'll fix the responsibility after conducting an inquiry and if any one found guilty of violating any condition, he will be punished, but there should be no politics in it. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad East): Will you constitute a JPC on it. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Madam Speaker, we did not say that was related to the department. That is why no one enquired about the names of the people in the companies and as to with whom they were related and it is right too. I think this is such a serious matter that or as I and Sharad Yadavji demanded to constitute a JPC in this regard, if not that at least a CBI enquiry must be conducted into it. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

It is not merely violation of certain guidelines or rules; there is suspicion of a scam behind the whole thing. Therefore, either a JPC, as suggested by Sharad Yadav or an inquiry by the CBI should be established. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam Speaker, I would like to inform, through you, to the hon. Leader of the Opposition that this issue has come in the public domain. We must also remember that our responsibility both to our people and to the country demands that the facts are brought out. We must avoid the tendency to sensationalize and exaggerate. ...(Interruptions) I have clearly mentioned. ...(Interruptions) Please allow me to speak: ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the Minister speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I am submitting with all humility; I do not mean any offence or disrespect. What I am saying is that the volume and the value which have come out in the media, in my statement I have said that the transaction is not of Rs. 2500 crore, it is only of Rs. 170 crore as per the prices of the private procurement. I am not talking of the Government procurement prices. I have also said that only nine per cent of the authorized quantities were exported; allow us to examine each transaction. Then I have said that wherever there is infringement of the DGFT's Guidelines, when this ban was relaxed, nobody will be spared. If there is infringement proven, responsibility will be fixed. Whatever details come out after the inquiry, I will come back to the House and share it. Thank you. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: We are not satisfied with the statement. We do not want to sensationalize it. But, I would plead with the Government not to trivialize it also. Therefore, dissatisfied with your reply, we are walking out.

13.04 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri L.K. Advani, Shri Sharad Yadav,
Shri Arjun Charan Sethi and some other
hon. Members left the House.*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Before the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister gives the statement, I would bring it to the notice of the House that if the House agrees, we will skip the Lunch Hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MADAM SPEAKER: Okay.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam Speaker, I would like to make only one submission to you that in the List of Business we have fixed the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill for consideration and passing before the Discussion under Rule 193. Since that could not be concluded yesterday, I would request that the Discussion under Rule 193, which was started yesterday, we may begin with that immediately, and the Minister may reply to that latest by 3 p.m. As such, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill may be taken up tomorrow.

MADAM SPEAKER: Does the House agree?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now the House will take up matters of urgent public importance in 'Zero Hour'.

Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey - Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of this august House towards a very important subject. On the 28th the Government of Nepal opened the 17 gates of the barrage, built on river Vanganga at Lakshmanganj in Nepal, when the water of the barrage started overflowing due to excessive rain. It released thousands of cusec meters of water which led to the flooding of Siddharth Nagar Janpath, Maharajganj, Balrampur, Behraich, Shrawasti of Uttar Pradesh. As the water of river Kosi from Nepal had entered Bihar last year, that type of situation is arising there. This time again the water from Nepal has entered into the boundaries of Uttar Pradesh through

Siddharth Nagar. The traffic has been disrupted on the roads of Siddharth Nagar for the last two days and the road from Gorakhpur to Siddharth Nagar, Balrampur, Behraich, Shrawasti via Maharajganj has broken up between Sohratgarh and Barni. The road from Barni to Basti, Faizabad and Lucknow that is also closed and thousands of acres of land has been rendered useless. Boats are plying these days in all villages. Whether it is Kutiya - Ganeshpur, or Bhatiyar-Tulsipur, or Gulora-Halora or Jhandenagar, the situation is same in all these villages. The day before tomorrow, three persons drowned. You may imagine the circumstances which arose before his house. Nepal is planning to release water once again. If the water is released once again then all the villages of the Janpads of Eastern Uttar Pradesh will be washed away, there will be a huge loss of life and the bunds constructed to contain floods there will also be endangered. The pressure of water has increased on the bunds located at Navel, Kathela or Ftawah side. The situation is same from Barabanki to Lakhimpur because these are the foothills of Nepal starting from Padrauna-Khushinagar to Lakhimpur. Lakhs of cusecs of water has entered into all these Janpads from Siddharth Nagar. The state government should issue a statement as to what efforts it is making and the Government of India should stop that water by talking to the Government of Nepal. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI BANSA GOPAL CHOWDHURY (Asansol): Madam, actually, the Coal India Limited has constituted a Committee comprising of three persons to raise the production in all the subsidiaries. What I would like to mention here to the Union Coal Minister, through you, is that the Eastern Coalfields Limited is producing Grade-A coal for the power sector, which is the most valuable coal in the country and it has been supplied throughout the country for a long time. But now Rs.5,000 crore is required to revive the Eastern Coalfields Limited. Unfortunately, the senior officials of Coal India are now making the statement that coal is not available in West Bengal for power generation, which is very unfortunate. When Parliament Session is going on, no money is being sanctioned from the Government of India since 10 years for the revival of the Eastern Coalfields Limited. Now, the senior officials of Coal India are issuing the statement that the Government of West Bengal will not get coal from Coal India to produce power there.

There is crisis of power because of dearth of coal. As you know, small and medium enterprises in the State of West Bengal are also suffering for a long time.

That is why I demand from the Union Ministry, through you, to raise the coal production in the Eastern Coalfields Limited and sanction Rs. 5,000 crore to revive these subsidiaries. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): Madam Speaker, I am thankful to you that you gave me time to speak in the 'Zero Hour'. Nalanda was the center of the Buddhist thought during the ancient time. The Nalanda University was also located here. The followers of Mahatma Buddha also used to do their religious thinking and social reforms work having lived in Nalanda. There is a need to set up international Museum in Nalanda to preserve its ancient glory. There is also a need to establish a national library in Nalanda. Nalanda do not have hotel of ITDC which is necessary to develop it as an international tourist spot. There is a need to set up ITDC Hotel here for the stay of international tourists. Many people from the country and the abroad come to Nalanda. Through you, I would like to request the Government that a national library, national museum and ITDC hotel should be set up in Nalanda.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Akbarpur): Madam Speaker, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government and the entire House towards a very important point. The Government of India runs various schemes like NREGA, Mid-day meal, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Rural electrification Scheme all over the country, however, as the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had also accepted that if one rupee is given by the Government of India for the schemes only 15 paise reach to the ground. The Government and the entire House are also aware of this fact. When the farmers in Bundelkhand of our Uttar Pradesh started committing suicide then the young leader Rahul Gandhi remarked that only 5 paise reach to the ground and 95 paise is being swindled off by corrupt officials and middlemen.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now you please conclude.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Madam, the entire House is concerned. The Government of India have failed to check the misappropriation of funds of the schemes by the State Government. The Union Government say that it is the matter of the State Governments and the State Governments are abetting corruption in Central Government Scheme.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please tell us as to what do you want from the Central Government and conclude your speech.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Through you, I would like to submit that the State Governments are misusing the Central Government Schemes through the heads of the villages to garner votes.

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please conclude your speech.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI TAPAS PAUL (Krishnanagar): Thank you, Madam for giving me the chance to speak in this august House.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Madam, 110 Members had given a public interest litigation in Lok Sabha that all the schemes which are infested with corruption should be withdrawn.
...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down. Let other Members speak.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Madam, I will speak only for one minute.

MADAM SPEAKER: No, you please sit down. You please finish your speech.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Only what Shri Tapas Paul is saying will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI TAPAS PAUL: Madam, I am from the film industry. I want to say something for my fraternity. Madam, I would like to draw your kind attention and that of the House on a very relevant issue of the present times, the genre of the Indian cinema, especially the films on regional language as I belong to that sphere. I have noticed that the films that depict and encourage the rural folk and regional cultural heritage get shunned or curbed by the Censor Board. As I represent the 'Ma', that is mother, 'Mati' that is Mother Earth and 'Manush'

* Not recorded.

that is the people who live in the cradle of 'Ma' and 'Mati', I would like to voice for the upliftment and more mileage for the regional films which actually reflect the image of the rural India.

I would also like to draw kind attention of the House to the need of a Censor Board which will monitor the content telecast on television and its productions. There is no such body to oversee the visual materials which are telecast on television. From my experience, I have noticed that the pictures that the viewers see on their screens have no connection with reality. They depict irrelevant matters and this tendency of depicting artificiality has become an acute problem because the TV has reached every home in the country.

I sincerely hope that the television is the medium which should depict the reality of the village life and show the means of improving it. Under the guidance of our able leader, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, and respected Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, I would like to strive forward, with your cooperation, to empower the rural people through media.

[Translation]

Madam, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that the film industry should be organized as the proper industry and attention should also be paid towards censor.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Madam Speaker, the discussions have been held on drought situation and the grant in aid to the Department of Agriculture, however, I am surprised and sorry to note that the minimum support price of the kharif crop paddy for the year have not yet been announced. It has been the practice for a long time that the minimum support price of the crop are announced before the onset of sowing season. It encourages farmers because they think that they are going to have handsome earning so they pay more attention to agriculture for more yield. While it should have been announced in June itself but even after the lapse of the month of July it has not been announced. I do not know the reason why the minimum support price has not yet been announced. The common people and the villages are facing drought condition. I don't know whether the Government are also facing any crisis.

Secondly, I want that satisfactory minimum support price should be announced so that the farmers may arrange for irrigation facility for 60 lakh hectare of land which have not yet been sown. So, I have two submissions.

Firstly, a remunerative minimum support price should be announced at the earliest because it is already two months late. I would like to know the reason why the Government is not concerned for the farmers and are not pro-farmers. I would like to know this. The Government should announce the Minimum Support Price of rice and kharif crops at the earliest so that the farmers may be encouraged for cultivation and they may sow their crops, because they are facing drought situation. It should have been announced much earlier, but it has not yet been announced. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to these issues.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: (Midnapore): Madam, I associate myself with what Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has said.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, you can send the slip.

SHRI R. THAMARASELVAN (Dharmapuri): Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to the most important issue concerning our health.

Madam, I come from the most backward district of Dharmapuri of Tamil Nadu, which is my constituency also. In my district, there is a high concentration of endemic fluoride in drinking water sources and it ranks the highest in the State of Tamil Nadu. Around 40 per cent of the water sources in Dharmapuri and adjoining Krishnagiri districts were found fluoride-contaminated compared with the State average of 6.9 per cent. According to health officials, dental fluorosis occurs mainly due to heavy ingestion of fluoride from the foetal stage up to 12 years. When pregnant women drink fluoride infected water, the foetus also gets affected. Hence, mother and inborn child both are badly affected. Skeletal and non-skeletal fluorosis is characterised by pain in bones and joints, stiff back, burning sensation, muscle weakness, chronic fatigue, gastrointestinal disorders and loss of appetite.

Madam, the Government of Tamil Nadu – to address this burning issue – has initiated the Hogenakkal Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme, which is in its preliminary stage. In the meanwhile, as an urgent interim arrangement, it is necessary to chalk out an alternative water supply scheme, through the Central Government, for the welfare of the district of Dharmapuri that is not only suffering from shortage of potable water, but its groundwater level has also depleted. Further, the existing water level was also contaminated with

a high content of fluoride, which is causing various diseases. Therefore, there is an urgent need to address this endemic problem.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN: The supply of protected drinking water to all villages was incorporated in the Tenth Five-Year Plan, but people in many parts of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri still depend upon the groundwater, which has high content of fluoride.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Member, just mention what you want from the Central Government and conclude.

SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN: In these circumstances, I would urge upon the Government of India to extend a helping hand to the State Government of Tamil Nadu, which is doing its best to provide potable water to all the villages in entire Tamil Nadu so that together we can give relief to the people of Tamil Nadu — including the people of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri — as far as their drinking water problem is concerned. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): Madam Speaker, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to raise a matter under Matters of Urgent Public Importance. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue. Delhi is going to host the Common Wealth Games in 2010. A lot of infrastructure is being created for it. The Government of India is making some hardware intervention and some software intervention. However, no attention has been paid to the important issue of the tourist guide. When foreign guests visit India the services of a guide would be required to show them places and guide them about what to buy and from where to buy otherwise the local 'lapkas' (street guides) would pounce on the foreign tourists and the latter would report of having a bitter taste of India. Suppose a foreign tourist visiting India has to buy a handicraft item like 'Pachfera'. Its price varies from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 50,000. The price of blue pottery of Rajasthan varies from Rs. 500 to Rs. 5,000. Similarly, the cost of a carpet could be Rs. 5,000 and a beautiful handknitted carpet could cost even Rs. 50,000. Arrangements should be made for tourist guides for Commonwealth games so that the guides can look after their lodging, shopping and sight seeing. They will get a chance to show them tourist places of India. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Sports and Minister of Tourism towards software intervention for tourist guide.

Madam, an examination was taken in the year 2007 and fee was also charged, however, no training was given. If training is imparted, thousands of unemployed persons will get employment.

SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Madam Speaker, for the last several years, poor rainfall is being reported in several parts of India. Poor rainfall is gradually leading to water crisis in the entire country. In rural areas women can be seen fetching water from a distance of 3-4 kilometre. Such is the scarcity of water. I would request the Union Government to make efforts through NREGA Scheme or through special funding so that a fresh water tank is built in every village of the country. We should make efforts to ensure that the source of drinking water remains available in every village so that our country is able to overcome the scarcity of drinking water.

I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards such foreigners who enter our country on a large scale after obtaining visas and overstay here. Their infiltration is continuing in the country. This has been discussed in the House time and again. 403 Pakistani nationals have entered the country and their whereabouts are not known. They are missing. Not even the investigating agencies know their whereabouts. However, the intelligence agencies are fully seized of the matter. The Central Investigation Agency has launched a campaign to obtain information about such people. A.T.S. is also seized of the matter. This issue has repeatedly been discussed in the House that Bangladeshies are illegally infiltrating into our country. Every year five lakh Bangladeshies immigrate into our country, however, out of those 25 thousand Bangladeshies do not go back to their country. This large scale influx is posing a great threat to our internal security.

Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to request the Government that it should take this matter seriously and carry out search operation for the foreigners not going back to their country, lest they be involved in some extremist and terrorist activity. So, I demand the Government to identify such people and ascertain the reasons for their going underground in our country and not going back to their respective country?

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad): Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a traffic rule causing great harassment to the general public. The traffic police is causing great harassment to the people in my Parliamentary Constituency,

Sambhajinagar, Aurangabad and several other places in Maharashtra on the pretext of traffic rule for driving two wheeler only after wearing a helmet. The speed limit of vehicles in the city is regulated at 20 or 30 kilometre per hour. However, in my opinion the rule of wearing a helmet compulsorily should be applied on either highways or out of town. In cities, where there is great congestion owing to heavy traffic the vehicle drivers are harassed by the police by other means. So, the rule of wearing helmets should be applied only on highways.

So, through this House, the hon'ble Minister of Transport and Highways is requested that such an amendment should be made in this rule that prevents the people from being challaned so as to weed out corruption in the department. The rule should provide for mandatory wearing of helmet on highways and make it optional in the city, preventing the people from harassment caused by the traffic police.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): It is very alarming to learn that only 54.1 per cent of India's children are fully immunized. It means 45.9 per cent children are not immunized. The other half runs the risk of disease as they have failed to complete even the basic immunization schedule. Out of this, 11.3 per cent children never received any form of vaccination. With a large number of children in our country, and a larger network of health services, I fail to understand why the basic immunization programme has been tardy. Every Panchayat and every village are covered by Anganwadi, ASHA and some other health workers. That too, parents are supposed to be made aware of the need of immunization of their children. Yet, the latest data depicts the dismal picture. Uttar Pradesh has the lowest, that is, 31.1 per cent fully immunized children which means around 69 per cent of the children are not immunized. Next comes, Meghalaya which has 34 per cent; Tripura and Madhya Pradesh 38 per cent; and Bihar, 41 per cent children who are immunized.

The States which have crossed 50 per cent immunization is of little solace either. As the immunization programme is for all, why an attempt not being made to have cent per cent immunization? Families are to be informed and educated by hordes of health workers. ASHA and Anganwadi workers to make this programme a success. Do not just leave this to the State Governments, The Centre should intervene and provide incentives to districts and panchayats through State Governments and to put in place a monitoring mechanism to oversee the immunization programme of children as it concerns the health of the nation.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, yesterday I was speaking ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: It is about your 'Zero Hour' notice.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, the Government of India has rightly asserted that the country's natural gas reserves including the gas of the KG basin is a national asset. This asset and the interests of the economy cannot be held hostage to the benevolence and mercy of some private players. This was stated by the Government Counselor in the court in the affidavit filed by the Government of India. We also believe that such firm assertions should be allowed and this should be followed up by the appropriate executive action on proper distribution mechanism to make gas available to priority sector in the country. The regional balance in gas distribution should also be ensured through a national gas grid as proposed in the Budget.

The pricing of gas should be based on rational and transparent formulation. As gas is being produced on our own soil, there is absolutely no justification in pricing it on the basis of linkage with international price of an altogether different product like crude oil, as has been done at present, making gas price at US dollar 4.32 per MMDTU. This price was fixed by the EGUM that was formed to decide on the price of gas that will be available from KG basin.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The present gas price determined by the EGUM must be revived. It must be revived and it should be the benchmark 2.34 dollar MMDTU as offered to the National Thermal Power Corporation.

Madam, I demand that the price which has been raised by the empowered Cabinet Committee should be revised and the distribution and marketing of gas of KG basin should be undertaken by the Government and it should not be exploited by the private company.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Madam Speaker, with your permission I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important freedom fighter of this country Shri Girdhari Lal Dogra belonging to my constituency. He was the pride of Jammu & Kashmir who made so many sacrifices. He was the Finance Minister of Jammu and Kashmir for 25 years.

Madam Speaker, national highway no. 1 is being constructed in Jammu & Kashmir. A very huge statue of Late Dograji has been erected at Hiranagar Mode on that highway. The construction work has not begun so far. Initially a sand embankment would be constructed. The people of that area demand that if a flyover is constructed there on pillars, it would not only save the statue but also allow the market to remain intact otherwise the statue of such a great leader of the Congress party would go to dust. My submission is to raise it on pillars instead of making an embankment.

13.35 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters Under Rule 377 will be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(i) **Need to undertake repair works of N.H. 47 from Aroor to Haripad in Kerala**

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (Alappuzha): The National Highway 47 from Aroor to Haripad, which is connected to Alappuzha Roads division, is not in a good condition for travelling. The maintenance of the said National Highway has been demanded by people's representatives and other public organizations, but it has not been done by concerned authorities so far. Due to increasing number of accidents and deaths on this Highway people dread to make journey through this way. The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) have taken up the entire work of this area along with the four laning project of NH 47 from Cherthala to Kaliyikkavila. The NHAI have taken a specific stand that the surplus improvement works are not necessary here because the four-laning works have already started. But, in fact, the preliminary works for four-laning project is not completed yet, even its tender formalities and land acquisition works are not completed. The completion of four-laning work will take so many years. So it is not advisable to connect the surplus improvement works along with the four laning work. In order to resolve the issue, the Government of Kerala has submitted a detailed proposal for the surplus improvement works of this area. The Road Transport and Highways Ministry may give sanction to the works proposed by the Government of Kerala and complete necessary improvement works and ensure prompt intervention on the issue.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

(ii) **Need to re-start the construction of railway line linking Udhampur, Katra and Banihal in Jammu and Kashmir**

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): The construction work of railway line from Udhampur to Katra and Katra to Banihal is closed due to unknown reasons. Rs. 1100/- crores have already been spent on this line. A large area of canal land was damaged, lakhs of trees uprooted for the construction of this railway line. Thousands of construction workers, labourers, and equipments are lying idle for the last eight months due to termination of construction work with the result that Jammu & Kashmir is still longing for railway link to other parts of the country. Hon'ble Speaker through you, I request the Government to re-start construction of the railway line.

(iii) **Need to restart excavation of coal in closed collieries in Giridih Parliamentary constituency of Jharkhand**

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): The country's dependence on imported coal has increased upto about 16.00 million tonnes during 2008. Approximately 74% of the total coal production in the country is used in power sector. In my parliamentary constituency, the number of collieries lying closed under BCCL includes two in Barora area no-1, four in Govindur area No.03, three in WJ area Munidih, three in Katras area no. 4 and four in Sijua area No.5. Jageshwar coal mines of CCL are also lying closed since 1986 and the Central Government had decided to restart this colliery through Jharkhand Mineral Development Corporation, but nothing has come out of it till date.

There is huge coal reserve in the closed collieries, but because of lack of proper redressal mechanism with the coal companies in respect of displacement, environment, scientific and other allied problems, these collieries have not been restarted due to which the country is facing power crisis, unemployment and loss of revenues.

It is, therefore, requested that the Government while constituting a high level committee, may take effective steps to restart these closed collieries with immediate effect.

(iv) **Need to undertake development works in Varanasi under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission**

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Varanasi): Keeping in view the constant traffic congestion in Varanasi, I demand immediate construction of proposed ring road, repair and

opening of Raj ghat bridge over Ganga river, immediate decision for the construction of metro rail proposed by experts of IIT, BHU, improvement of roads and regulation of the traffic there. All these proposals should be executed within a time bound target under Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission.

(v) Need to provide stoppage to all the Goa-bound trains at Karmali Railway Station in Goa

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK (North Goa): From the point of view of tourism, Goa is a very important state and every year lakhs of tourists visit here. National and international conferences are often held here in which large number of domestic and foreign tourists visit there due to which railways earn crores of rupees each year.

Karmali is the main railway station of Goa. Panaji is just 9 km away from Karmali railway station and important tourist places of Goa are also located at short distance from here and connectivity from this railway station is also available to reach there. But, as there is stoppage of only 3-4 trains at Karmali station, tourists have to alight at Madgao railway station where each train stops. It is 21 km away from Panaji due to which tourists have to spend extra money and time to reach there. So, there is need to provide stoppage to all the Goa bound trains at Karmali Railway station.

I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister of Railways that keeping in view the inconveniences being faced by the tourists, necessary action may please be taken to provide stoppage to all the Goa Bound trains at Karmali Railway Station for the promotion of tourism in Goa as well as augmentation in earnings of railways.

(vi) Need to start production of oil from Ratna R Series oil fields

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (Godda): Through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the loss being suffered by the country due to the Government policy regarding-Ratna R series oil fields. In 1999 Ratna R series oil fields were awarded to ONGC, British Petroleum and Essar Group. At the same time oil fields were awarded under the NELP series also. Production was started from all the blocks. But, in spite of giving two clearances during the last 10 years the Government today has not started production in Ratna R series oil fields due to which the Government has suffered losses to the tune of billions of rupees taking in account of all cess and royalty and the loss of crores of dollars suffered as import Bill of oil. I, therefore, request the Government to start it at the earliest.

(vii) Need to set up Commando and Police Training School in Himachal Pradesh

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP (Shimla): Madam Speaker, Himachal Pradesh is a hilly and border state. One of its parts adjoins the terrorist affected State Jammu and Kashmir and the other share its border with Tibet-Comparatively large number of youths from Himachal Pradesh are recruited in country's defence army. That is why notwithstanding be the small state, relatively more people have sacrificed their lives in defence of the country, whether it may be the war of China, Pakistan's two wars or the third Kargil war.

Madam, the Ministry of Home Affairs is contemplating to set up Commando and Police Training Schools all over the country. Keeping in view the patriotism and sacrifices of the youths of Himachal Pradesh my request is with the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that at least one Commando and Police Training School must be set up in Himachal Pradesh.

[English]

(viii) Need to provide Instrument Landing System at Srinagar Airport in Jammu & Kashmir

DR. MIRZA MEHBOOB BEG (Anantnag): After officially declaring Srinagar Airport (Kashmir) as an international Airport and to meet the growing rush of domestic and foreign tourists to Kashmir Valley, immediate attention should be given to upgrade the Airport. Amongst other things installing low visibility infra-structure and instrumental landing operative system needs to be put in place on priority.

13.36 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Issue Arising out of Prime Minister's Recent Visit to Foreign Countries - contd.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House shall now continue with the Discussion under Rule 193. Shri Basu Deb Acharia to continue.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (Ghatal): Madam, where is the Minister?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Madam, the External Affairs Minister is not here.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I am taking notes.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam, it is a very serious matter. At least the Minister of the concerned Department should be present here.

MADAM SPEAKER: All right, please keep quiet and sit down. Presently, the leader of the House is sitting here and he has stated that he has taken note of the matter. You please keep quiet.

[English]

Please continue Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, yesterday while intervening in the debate the Prime Minister said with regard to availability of ENR technology, "As far as the G8 is concerned, the fact is that we have no civil nuclear cooperation agreement with G8 bloc per se. We have, however, signed bilateral agreements with France, Russia and the United States." We know that India first signed a bilateral agreement with the United States of America and subsequently signed bilateral agreements with France and Russia. But these are member countries of the G8 grouping. All the representatives in the meeting of G8 countries decided that they would not allow ENR technology to a country which has not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty. When they have decided so jointly and collectively, how can one of those countries separately decide to supply this technology to our country? There are three countries with nuclear weapons - India, Pakistan and North Korea - which have not signed the NPT and India is being isolated in the case of availability of enrichment and reprocessing technology.

13:37 hrs.

(Dr. M. THAMBIDURAI in the Chair)

Sir, you know that there is a consensus in our country that we will not be party to an agreement that is discriminatory. Non-Proliferation Treaty is a discriminatory agreement. We did not agree to sign the FMCT and CTBT because those are discriminatory agreements. We will not be party to such discriminatory agreements. From the very beginning the Government of India knew that the United States of America, even after signing the agreement, made it clear that they would not supply reprocessing technology to our country. We are proud of our indigenous technology. We have our technology but this has to be updated. The main interest of the United States of America is to supply reactor and nuclear fuel. Other than reactor and nuclear fuel, they agreed to supply

no item to our country. Then, how can the Prime Minister say that the exemption is unconditional and the exemption is clear? Exemption that has been given in regard to nuclear fuel is unconditional, and no conditions have been imposed.

How has he said this: The USA has proposed or rather the G-8 countries have decided collectively that they would not supply the reprocessing technology to a country which has not adhered to the non-proliferation architecture? How would the other country disobey if it has been decided like that in the G-8 countries? What will happen to our R & D in regard to nuclear technology? We will be deprived of that and we will not be able to reach the third phase, that is the thorium-phase in nuclear technology.

The Prime Minister stated in his intervention that we have developed our indigenous technology, why did we agree to sign the nuclear cooperation agreement? What was the need and necessity if we will not get ENR technology? Why should our country be deprived even after our Prime Minister said that we have got clean waiver?

The second question is on end use monitoring agreement. The Prime Minister said that this end use monitoring was in existence since 1990. Whatever equipment we have purchased from the USA, all of them are subject to end use monitoring by the USA. But it was on an ad hoc basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There was no agreement with the USA; that has been stated by the Prime Minister, while intervening yesterday. When the agreement has been signed by India and the USA, what will happen?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acharia, please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is very important, but that question has not been addressed by the Prime Minister yesterday.

The US will have the right to check whether India is using any purchased weapon for the purpose for which it was intended. This could mean a weapon system bought by India to bolster defence; say, for instance, against China or if India wants to use it against Pakistan, they will not be able to use it against Pakistan. EUMA restricts what purchasing country like India can do with US-origin defence equipment, even within its own border; you will not be able to do anything with the equipment which we purchase from the USA.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, please conclude. There are 13 more hon. Members waiting to speak; please allow others to make their speeches. The hon. Minister may reply at 3 o'clock.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please give me 2-3 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Already you have taken 15 minutes; yesterday also you spoke; so, you have taken 22 minutes; please wind up now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Under the terms of EUMA, India cannot modify the purchased defence article or system in any form.

And, it also cannot prevent the buyer country from freeing itself from dependency on United States for maintenance. India would not be able to undertake maintenance of any of the equipment purchased from America. This is not so with the other countries. We have purchased a number of Defence equipment from Russia, erstwhile USSR but this end-use monitoring system was not there for the equipment purchased from other countries. This restricts India from getting ordinary US Defence equipment serviced by any other country without prior American permission. The Prime Minister has stated that the inspection will be fixed on mutually agreed date and the inspector from America will inspect the equipment supplied by America. Those inspectors will not be allowed to visit any sensitive establishment in our country. If any equipment is installed in a sensitive establishment in our country, then that equipment has to be brought to other place for inspection. This is nothing but infringement on our sovereignty, our independence. So, by signing the End-Use Monitoring Agreement with the United States of America, we have become different as with no other country this system is there. When there was an ad hoc arrangement, why did India sign the Agreement? Our C & AG and Air Chief has also criticised signing the Agreement with the United States of America in regard to the End-Use Monitoring. We think this is an infringement on our sovereignty. Our independence has been surrendered to the United States of America and we opposed this End-Use Monitoring Agreement which has been signed between the Government of India and the United States of America.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you. Mr. Chairman. I stand here to participate in the discussion, the second day, relating to the issues arising out of the Prime Minister's recent visit to foreign countries. The issues before us are manifold, no doubt, but I will confine myself to four issues;

- India Pakistan Joint Statement
- The End-Use Monitoring Agreement with the United States
- The G8 Resolution on Enrichment Technology
- The Agreement on Climate Change.

I would deduce the discussion today on two counts. One is the delinking of terrorism from composite dialogue process and the inclusion of a reference relating to Balochistan in the joint statement.

Second is, End-Use Monitoring Agreement about which the Government has fought shy of taking this House into confidence.

On July 9th the Foreign Affairs Minister Shri Krishna made a suo motu statement in this House on significant developments in our neighbourhood. In Para 4 of that statement the first indication of softening towards Pakistan was indicated and I would quote:

"When the Prime Minister met President Asif Ali Zardari, it was agreed that the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan will discuss what Pakistan is doing and do to prevent terrorism from Pakistan against India and to bring to justice those responsible for those attacks including the horrendous crime of the attacks in Mumbai."

So, the decision to discuss was not a sudden one. After the Pakistan directed massive explosion in the Indian Embassy in Kabul last July, already a year has passed, which was followed not long after by the outrage in Mumbai, this country had suspended the composite bilateral dialogue process with Pakistan.

A condition was officially stipulated and reiterated at every opportunity that the composite dialogue could be resumed only if Pakistan gave concrete proof of moving against its nationals who attacked Mumbai and dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism on Pakistani soil. None of this thing has come to pass. We have received a dossier and the end result is only five persons.

A month ago when hon. Prime Minister. Dr. Singh met President Zardari in Yekaterinburg, he had bluntly told President Zardari that "My mandate is limited to telling you that the territory of Pakistan must not be allowed to be used for terrorism against India." But the developments show that the Prime Minister's warning went unheeded.

On 19th July this month. Indian security forces have captured two well armed Pakistani terrorists of Lashkar-e-Toiba. Mohammad Adnan and Mohammad Shafkat, who hail from Sahiwal district of Pakistani Punjab, and who infiltrated across the line of control. They have revealed that they belonged to a group of 15 militants who had been trained in Pak-occupied Kashmir to attack the Baglihar Dam in Jammu and Kashmir. They also revealed that a secret tunnel was being built near the border town of Sialkot for infiltration into India across the international border.

Three days later, Mr. Richard Barrett. Coordinator of the United Nations Security Council's Al-Qaeda and Taliban Sanctions Committee, has warned that there was a "real risk" that the Lashkar-e-Toiba would target India again. These are two instances which demonstrate that infra structure of terrorism in Pakistan remains alive and kicking.

Let us not forget that on January 6, 2004, the Prime Minister Vajpayee and President Musharaf had jointly declared that India agreed to resume the composite dialogue process with Pakistan only after a categorical assurance from General Musharaf that the territory under Pakistan's control would not be used for terrorism against India.

There has thus been a clear link between Pakistan dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism on the one hand and India agreeing to continue the composite dialogue on the other.

Despite this, the Joint Declaration after Prime Minister. Dr. Singh and the Prime Minister, Mr. Gilani astonishingly notes—"Both Prime Ministers recognised that dialogue is the only way forward. Action on terrorism should not be linked to a composite dialogue process and these should not be bracketed".

Is this not an assurance that we will continue dialogue irrespective of whether or not the infrastructure of terrorism is dismantled? I raised this last week also when this was being discussed in this House and I reiterate it again. Who is fooling whom? Is this not a dramatic reversal of the Indian position obtaining till now?

I am of the opinion that there is nothing static in the world. I am not a status quoist nor our country should be. We should strive for change and change in foreign policy is required keeping in mind the change that the world is undergoing today. Once we accept this as a policy, say it. Also say that the discontinuance of composite dialogue paid us no result. Scant attention was given by the powers that be, to pressurize Pakistan to apprehend the culprits of Pakistani

nationals who were behind the Mumbai attack. Say it that Jamaat-ud-Dawa Chief Hafiz Saeed is walking free in Pakistan because you were unable to provide evidence and that is why you had to make a course correction and started the dialogue, at least, at the Secretary level. Say it that Islamabad has withstood Washington's pressure because both are fighting a different war together on a different front, so India's case can be ignored.

We are asked to believe on the trial process of Pakistan to convict the perpetrators of terrorist activities in India.

But are we not aware that Pakistan is yet to complete the trial process of Omar Syed Sheikh who was involved in brutally murdering American Journalist Daniel Pearl in 2001? It is an open secret that people like Omar Sheikh, A Q Khan, Hafiz Mohammed Saeed or Zakir Rahman Lakhvi cannot be punished because they will spill the beans.

We should understand the attitude of Pakistan. Sentimentalism has no place in international relations. We are neither equal victims of terrorism. nor we share a common destiny. A democratic, secular India cannot share a "Common Destiny" with a theocratic, feudal and military dominated Pakistan. Why should we be forced to believe that a rising India cannot assert its rightful place in the comity of nations without good neighbourly relations with Pakistan? This attitude undermines our diplomacy.

Pakistan for the last three decades had created, harboured and trained terrorists backed by ISI to make India bleed and seek strategic depth in Afghanistan. India has been a victim of terrorism sponsored by Pakistan for the past three decades. Now what do we have? The Government has equated the two countries in Sharm-el Sheikh.

Sir, now I would talk about the reference to Balochistan in the India Pakistan Joint Statement. That is worrisome. If Prime Minister Gilani mentioned that Pakistan has some information on threats in Balochistan and other areas, why does it have to be mentioned in the Joint Statement? What is the relevance of such a formulation? It is a Pakistani perspective. It is for the first time that an India-Pakistan Joint Statement hints at Indian involvement in Balochistan and "other areas".

Sir, I need not delve into other matters as the time is very short. But till now there has been no credible report of any Indian sponsored activity in that province of Pakistan. But I would also like to take the opportunity of speaking in this House that with over one lakh Americans and NATO forces in Afghanistan, any action by India that complicates the NATO

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

mission would have invited America's attention. I have a direct question. Have Americans, by implication, rejected Pakistan's baseless claims of Indian interference? I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. All those who care for this nation, all those who have lost their near and dear ones in the serial terrorist strikes across India till November 26 in Mumbai treats this as a betrayal. I believe in the words of the hon. Prime Minister of India for the interpretation he has given. Many people do in this country. The reference to Balochistan and other areas in the Joint Statement has to be excluded from any bilateral discussion in future as it is totally inapplicable and unacceptable to India.

Sir, let me conclude. I am not dealing with end-use. But I would like to make a short point on climate change. There is pressure from the rich nations on the developing nations and it is going in WTO way. When we are meeting in Copenhagen, I have information in my command that we are taking a different stand which is a consistent one, but my question here is, what is the quantity of Greenhouse emission that our country does? Are we conscious of that? We may have a point of view in different forums but what is the Greenhouse emission that our country does and what steps is the Government taking to minimise it?

13.59 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Sir, yes, the hon. Prime Minister has struck the right note in this House by clarifying what India expects of Pakistan and has relied heavily on France and wants itself to be engaged with United States. We could not agree with him more and expect him to hold firm on the course he has worked out for the country.

14.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Raigarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon'ble Prime Minister has given different statements regarding his foreign visit. Indo-Pak joint statement he has signed with Pakistan and the agreement on end use monitoring with USA have become a matter of discussion all over the country for the last several days. It has been widely discussed in electronic and the print media and several apprehensions have been expressed all over the country about the different statements given by the Prime Minister. All these issues were raised by Yashwant Sinha during

discussion under Rule 193. He presented his view point on this issue in detail.

While participating in discussion, the Prime Minister has certainly presented his side in the House on his foreign visit. However, when he rose to speak, he reminded the House that we should not forget this fact that Pakistan is our neighbour and we should have cordial relations with Pakistan, our neighbour. I completely agree with the view of the Prime Minister that Pakistan is our neighbour and we should have cordial relations with Pakistan. However, today the moot point is whether Pakistan considers us as its neighbour whether Pakistan agrees with this fact that India is its neighbour. Whether Pakistan accepts that it should have cordial neighbourly relations with India.

In view of the posture that Pakistan has adopted towards India for the last 20 years, I am constrained to say that Pakistan does not consider us as its neighbour, rather, Pakistan considers India as its enemy. They see India as an enemy and not a neighbour. Though our hon'ble Prime Minister gave statement that Pakistan is our neighbour but Pakistan does not agree with it. Pakistan considers us as an enemy and the way Pakistan has been treating India for the last 20 years is clear indication of this fact that they treat India as an enemy. Every time the Government; whether it was UPA government or NDA Government or Devegowda or Gujaral Government; the Minister of Home Affairs of every Government had given statement in this House that all the terrorist attacks in India, whether it was attack on Redfort, on Parliament, on Mumbai railway station or bomb explosion near Gateway of India or terrorist attack on Mumbai on last 26 November has been a handiwork of Pakistan. Every Minister of Home Affairs have stated in this House that Pakistan has launched a proxy war against India for the last 20 years. Today, Pakistan knows it and has realized this fact that they cannot fight a direct war with India. Proxy war has been going on against our country for the last 20 years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the number of Jawans killed in terrorist attacks in our country is more than the jawans killed in all five wars including Kargil war that we have fought with Pakistan and the number of common people, citizens and civilians killed in terrorist attacks is in fact more than 70 thousands ... (Interruptions) Mulayam Singhji is telling me that this number has reached around one lakh. I had given the figure of 70 thousand, however, Mulayam Singhji has corrected me that this number has reached nearly one lakh. About one lakh civilians that include children, old people,

women and students as well have been killed. The number of Jawans killed in terrorist attacks is more than the jawans killed in five wars.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Pakistan does not consider us as his neighbour. Pakistan considers India as his enemy. The politics of Pakistan revolves around this policy. The more anti-India posture one adopts in Pakistan, more one will rule in Pakistan. Whether it was President Musharraf, President Zardari or the former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif or the present Prime Minister Gilani, whosoever be in the Government or the President would certainly act against India. They consider our country as the enemy and their attitude towards us is like that of an enemy. While accepting the statement of the hon'ble Prime Minister, on behalf of my party I demand in this House that unless Pakistan sponsored terrorism is completely stopped, there should be no dialogue with Pakistan. Our Government should not hold any dialogue with Pakistan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what was the situation in the whole country when the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks took place? It was for the first time when the whole country became united in the wake of the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks. The whole country had stood united rising above the barriers of caste, creed, religion, language and states. Various Muslim organizations staged a rally in Mumbai and protested against Pakistan. They warned Pakistan and stated that terrorism was being sponsored by Pakistan. At that time, the whole world was against Pakistan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when this terrorist attack took place, discussion was held in the House about many letters. At that time, I cited the letters written by the women of this country. Today, I am going to mention about one of these letters again. What was the state of the mind of the people while the country was facing such a situation? Women had sent lakhs of letters to the Members of Parliament. I will mention about one of them here. That letter is not in my hand today but if asked, I can definitely produce it before the House. That letter was in Hindi and reflected the state of the mind of that woman. She had written, "Ek Bar Galati Kare, Vah Insaan, Do Bar Galti Kare, Vah Nadan, Bar-Bar Galti Kare, Vah Pakistan, Aur Har Galati Ko maaf kare, vah Hindustan." Further, that woman had expressed her anger and the last sentence was - 'Attack Pakistan'. A woman, a mother of our country, had written this letter. Lakhs of such letters had been received at that time. The whole country was angry. Pakistan has been sponsoring terrorist activities for many years. The Government of India should not hold any talks with Pakistan unless and until Pakistan cooperates in checking terrorism or stops giving trainings to the terrorists at its soil.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am going to conclude. I will take single sentences to put forth the other issues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, taking no more time, I would submit in a single sentence about the statement made by the hon'ble Prime Minister in respect of the global warming over which concerns were expressed here today. ...(Interruptions) Mulayam Singhji is reminding me that we have lost two opportunities—first one was the time when there was an attack on our Parliament. At that time, our Government should have attacked Pakistan. The second one was the attack on Mumbai and then the Government said in its statement that this attack was not only on Mumbai but on the country as a whole. Despite that, we did not attack Pakistan. I do not support war, but Pakistan is unable to understand anything else than this. Notwithstanding the fact that we carry out an attack or not, we can take a decision that unless Pakistan gives a proof of rectification in this regard, we will not hold talks with Pakistan over any issue. There were bomb explosions in Mumbai in 1993. That matter was decided in the Supreme Court and many accused including Dawood Ibrahim were declared absconders. They all are in Pakistan, but it did not hand them over to us till date. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Geeteji, now you conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The Government is repeatedly making a demand. That is why the Government of India should not hold any talks with Pakistan.

About global warming I would just like to submit that ours is a developing country and there are many countries which are more backward and under developed than us. Speaking on global warming Shri Yashwant Sinha has presented here some figures on the basis of which it is none other than the developed countries which are responsible for this. Now-a-days children are being taught lessons on global warming under the CBSE syllabus. ...(Interruptions) I am submitting this matter before the House as today there is a need to think over it seriously. The lessons on global warming are not being taught in the countries that are responsible for it. That lesson is being taught in India whereas we are not responsible for it at all. There is no mistake on our

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

part. If we accept their point, it would mean that we will never realize our dream to be in the league of developed countries by the year 2020.

The issue of end use monitoring agreement has also been raised. Mulayam Singh ji rightly said yesterday that if they have entered into an agreement like this, let it be put into a dustbin. I repeat it because it is an invasion by the United States on our freedom and independence. If the Government surrender before this invasion, the country will have to face its consequences.

[English]

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Karur): Respected Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to participate in the discussion on the Statement made by the Prime Minister in this House on 17th July after his visit to Italy, France and Egypt.

Sir, I have carefully gone through that Statement and also his intervention in the House yesterday.

I would like to very briefly remind the House of the contrary positions that the Prime Minister took. To begin with, before leaving for the three-country-visits, the stated position of the Government of India was that Pakistan must act on terror before any meaningful discussion could be started.

India also refused to hold any talks with Pakistan until the perpetrators of 26/11 attacks were brought to book. India had been consistently saying that there has to be transparent action against the culprits, the masterminds of the Mumbai terrorist attacks.

Secondly, after making the Joint Statement, he dropped our demand of action against the attackers and said that dialogue is the only way forward. It is apparent.

Thirdly, while intervening in the debate yesterday, he tried to only justify his action. He mentioned that we should trust and verify Pakistan's actions. He stated that the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee also followed the same path of dialogue despite several setbacks. He further mentioned that a peaceful and a friendly neighbour is in India's interest. But where has this wisdom gone so far? Since the 26/11 Mumbai attacks and till he signed the Joint Statement, India was all along saying that Pakistan must bring the culprits to book before we start the process of dialogue. Why should he take a contrary stand without taking Parliament into confidence and why should he unilaterally change the position? Of course, we are for friendly relations with all

neighbouring countries, but that should not be taken for a ride by any neighbour.

The Prime Minister said yesterday that we should trust Pakistan. I will make only three sentences to show how we cannot trust Pakistan. On July 8th, the Intelligence Bureau made an alert that there is going to be another attack on Mumbai. The Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram warned that Pakistan based terrorists would launch another sea-borne attack on Mumbai at seven places.

The second is, Beijing issued a White Paper claiming that a large number of Xingjian terrorists have been getting training in camps in Pakistan. The third is that Ms. Hillary Clinton, on her visit to India, said that Pakistan is the home to syndicate of terror.

So, how can we trust Pakistan? Pakistan had not kept up any promise it made on taking action against terrorists. Even the mastermind behind the Mumbai attack is set free in Pakistan. There is also a growing concern since Pakistan is inducting a large amount of sophisticated defence equipment on our Western borders. Will this create mutual trust and confidence?

In the Joint Statement, he allowed Pakistan to make a mention of Balochistan. India has nothing to do with what is happening there. But just two days after this Joint Statement, Pakistan started linking India with the troubles in Balochistan. The Pakistani Army Chief also stated that Pakistan would tackle Lashkar-e-Toiba, if India stops messing around in Balochistan. This cannot be tolerated. So I want to say that they were never serious and trusting Pakistan again might end up in further troubles for India.

Yesterday, NDA Members accused the UPA for the steps taken relating to Pakistan. In the same way, the UPA Members also accused NDA for whatever action taken during their tenure. But I want to accuse both sides on this issue. What happened during the Kargil War? When the Kargil War took place, the NDA members were very much hostile towards Pakistan. After the Kargil War, they got into power and did nothing. In the same way, after the 26/11 attack in Mumbai, the UPA Members said that they were going to be very serious in taking action against Pakistan for promoting terrorism. They said so many things, but now after the election is over, after assuming power, they also changed their attitude towards Pakistan. But the common people of India and Pakistan are suffering due to terrorism. So, this kind of politics must be avoided on this issue. We have to protect the sovereignty of our country and we must not succumb to any pressure from Pakistan.

Secondly, yesterday when the hon. Prime Minister made a statement, he said that he met the President of Sri Lanka. I would like to know what transpired between the President of Sri Lanka and our Prime Minister. We are very much worried about the pathetic conditions of Sri Lankan Tamil people in Sri Lanka. I would like to know whether any discussion took place between the President of Sri Lanka and our hon. Prime Minister.

Our hon. Amma, Ms. Jayalalitha has requested that a sum of Rs.10,000 crore must be allotted for the rehabilitation of Sri Lankan Tamils in Sri Lanka. But the Budget provided for only Rs.500 crore for them. I am saying this because when we are committed for the rehabilitation of Sri Lankan Tamils and when our Prime Minister gave a statement, why he has not mentioned about this meeting between the Sri Lankan President and the Prime Minister of India.

I have already stated that we must not succumb to the pressure of United States of America also because we are importing transfer of technology. When we are having such defence equipment, we must see that they must not come and visit our places to supervise wherever we are using the defence equipments. That is also very important as our hon. Members said that our sovereignty must be protected and we must have every right to protect whatever we want. Therefore, when we are importing defence technology, we must not allow the foreign countries to visit and supervise them.

Some hon. Members have also touched upon the issue of climatic conditions. Foreign countries must not exploit the Indian condition and we must see that they must not take advantage of the situation. We must have our own foreign policy. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru enunciated a policy of non-alignment. That kind of policy is suitable for us and that has to be adhered to by our country.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal): Sir, I have no hesitation in saying that the statement made by hon. Prime Minister is a matter of welcome to us. I have no hesitation in saying that. There is no reason why I should not feel that I agree with many of his formulations with regard to our policy on Pakistan.

There is a change in the situation. We cannot just only remember Kargil, we cannot just only remember attack on Parliament. There is, of course, a grim reality. We have also to feel that there is a change in Pakistan and the change for the better. There has to be a voice of sanity in India and not a voice of serenity. The handing over of a dossier by Government

of Pakistan confirming the involvement of Pak nationals in the violent attack on Mumbai is a significant development which need not be ignored by us.

The five persons, or maybe more, who have master-minded the attack are on trial and second challan is likely to be submitted by the prosecution. This is the wind of change in Pakistan even in the ruling clique.

We must be aware, Sir, that there is growing awareness among the people of Pakistan. People of India like friendship with Pakistan and people of Pakistan like friendship with India

We are the two great neighbours in South Asia. Not only we have to live in peace - we cannot indulge in the luxury of fighting each other - but we have to fight against poverty, unemployment, and economic evils. Therefore, the whole intention of Indian political establishment, including India, would be to ensure the consolidation of the forces of peace and friendship in Pakistan. Our voice must reach to the people of Pakistan. Our warning should reach to the terrorist group. There has to be a voice of sanity; there has to be a voice of perseverance. There should not be a voice of senility.

I feel that a fractured Pakistan is more dangerous to India than the terrorist groups that seek to work on the soil of that country to mount attack. I am in agreement with the Prime Minister while he is saying that we want a peaceful, a prosperous, a democratic Pakistan and also growing friendship between us. Our own intention is to strengthen not the forces of militancy but the forces of democracy, the forces of peace, the forces of friendship in Pakistan. They are equally poor like India. They are equally unemployed. There has been lack of development. Therefore, there is a common ground to fight against the common enemies, that is poverty and unemployment.

I have a word of caution to my friends in the Opposition also, we should not overplay suspicion to build up Parliamentary offensive in the House. We cannot be led by suspicion. But I must say that Prime Minister's foreign visit was not all in glory. His observation on G-8 countries' Resolution is absolutely ambiguous and it raises suspicion about the success of India's diplomacy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am just concluding, Sir.

The comment of the Prime Minister on the end-use of military hardware is unacceptable. The inspection of India's defence establishment by foreign personnel is definitely an

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

infringement of the sovereignty of this nation. This is unfortunate. But I must say that the hon. Prime Minister has forgotten something to tell us. How has he forgotten his participation in the Non-Aligned Conference? India is one of the architects of the Non-Alignment Movement. There has been a Conference; there has been a declaration; and there has been a call for united action on vital, fundamental, global issues. There has been a call for a war-free world; there has been a call for the establishment of an independent State of Palestine. There has been a protest vigorously against the attack of Israel. How has he forgotten it? Does it mean to say that the Non-Alignment Movement is a low priority of the foreign policy of the Government of India? It is for him to clarify. But again I say, we would like to live in peace with Pakistan not of course giving up our fight against terrorism. Terrorism we must fight but friendship we must also have.

We want peace in the sub-continent. We do not want war. I am surprised the way in which one of my previous speakers had even quoted a letter by a person - may that person she is a lunatic - that why India did not attack Pakistan. This is not the voice of India. The voice of India is the voice of peace and friendship in the sub-continent.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, since yesterday the hon. Members are participating in the discussion arising out of the Statement issued by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has already clarified in detail the three major issues which were raised in the course of the discussion - firstly, whether we have diluted our position in respect of our resolve to fight against terrorism and our concept of zero tolerance for terrorism; secondly, whether in any way by using a particular phrase we have indirectly or implicitly involved ourselves in a matter which was not earlier the part of the bilateral discussions; and thirdly, certain other issues raised in connection with the visit which have been amply clarified by the Prime Minister in his observations while responding to the debate yesterday.

My observation is limited to certain basic fundamental issues in respect of our foreign policy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not mind at all whether I encourage more and more discussions on foreign policy because that is an arena where the Members of Parliament should have interests. It is exclusively within the domain of

the Union Government but I am little pained when a visit is being used by the principal Opposition Party even to march to the Rashtrapathi Bhavan and submit a Memorandum where they say: "The Government has altered the fundamental foundations of India's foreign policy and strategic interest." That is the Memorandum which they submitted; it is a part of the concluding paragraph. At the beginning of the Memorandum they suggested that within weeks of returning to power, the UPA Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh will completely reverse India's strategic and foreign policy positions much to the detriment of the nation. I have serious objections to these formulations and postulations.

India's foreign policy is not the whims and caprices of individuals or that of even a single Party. India's foreign policy is embedded in the basic fundamentals of our 5,000 years old civilization where we have stated *Vasudeva Kutumbakam* - 'whole universe is my friend' long before Independence; the actual formulation of the foreign policy by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru through the principles of *Panchsheel*; and the principles of non-violence and truth enunciated by the Father of the nation.

That is the very basic fundamental of India's Foreign Policy and that basic fundamental has been endorsed by the people of this great country. That can never be altered. That is as simple as that.

Now, what has happened with the visit of the Prime Minister? Serious allegations have been raised that we have altered our position in respect of terrorism. Where? How? I have the list; I would not like to reel out the list because many Members have spoken. From 1999 onwards, how many times we have started talks? Talks were disrupted. Dialogue process was disrupted because of events, because of terrorist attacks from 1999 onwards. It has been going on for more than last quarter a century. Who does not know?

Surely, the initiator of the discussion, the former Foreign Minister and the former Finance Minister, Yashwant Sinha was well aware of that. It was a part of the Pakistan Policy, after getting successive defeats to inflict 1000 scars so that India dies bleeding. That was propagated by one of the Military Rulers of Pakistan. It is well-known. It has been practised through the cross-border terrorism. But neither we have succumbed to that terrorism, neither we have succumbed to that policy nor did we stop talking. This is the bare fact.

You did it; India did it; UPA did it; and this is the process through which the world diplomacy moves. Everybody knew

that — before the Second World War when Chamberlain entered into the Munich Pact — it is not going to succeed, it is not going to keep Adolph Hitler happy, but at the same time, it was considered necessary to have that, because they thought that the last effort should be made to save the world from the impending Second World War. As a humble student of history, this is the lesson of diplomacy, which we should not forget.

We cannot erase Pakistan. Pakistan is going to exist; and it is not new that our relationship with Pakistan has not been cordial from the very beginning.

14.39 hrs.

(MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair)

Many of you may remember that after signing the Nehru-Liaquat Pact in 1950, in 1951 while participating in a debate on the floor of this very House, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru reminded through a story that sometimes the condition of Pakistan is like this, that it is like an errand boy, who killed both his parents — father and mother — and thereafter, when he was prosecuted, he was pleading mercy saying: "Me Lord, pardon me because I am an orphan." He himself killed his father and he himself killed his mother, but he pleaded that he was an orphan.

Therefore, that has happened. But that is a reality. That does not mean that we should stop talking. Nowhere. Talking does not mean a full-fledged meaningful dialogue.

Keeping the communication channel open does not mean it is conceding or surrendering on any particular point. Therefore, this aspect is to be kept in view. We shall have to keep that in view.

What is foreign policy? Foreign policy is the extension of the national interest in the context of the external situation and atmosphere. Therefore, I shall have to enhance my national interest. I shall have to advance my national interest in the context of the external atmosphere. The world is changing, and simply we cannot keep our positions straitjacketed, a perception which refuses to acknowledge or admit the elements of change. War-mongerism is no way. Even when I was making the statement as the then Minister of External Affairs, I had expressed my strong resentment. Somebody suggested from the other side, why do you not attack Pakistan? My instant response, standing from here itself, was that that is not the solution to the problem. War is no solution.

Therefore, we shall have to pursue our policies of zero tolerance. I would not like to repeat. Events have clearly established that we are not succumbing to the pressure of anybody. Madam Speaker, more often than not, myself and Advaniji are two old Members of that House and this House. Of course, he has spent more time in this House compared to me but I have spent more time in that House. Umpteen number of times, I have heard that our sovereignty is compromised. While entering into a broadcasting agreement in the early 60s, known as VoAA, Voice of America Agreement, I heard them saying that our sovereignty had been compromised. While borrowing some money from International Monetary Fund, it was said that our economic sovereignty had been mortgaged. While signing the WTO Agreement in the early mid 90s, they said, "Oh, our sovereignty has collapsed." While entering into Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, they have said we have compromised our national sovereignty.

Questions have been raised. G-8 countries are saying that they are not in favour of supplying ENR technology to those countries which are not signatories to the NPT. Is it for the first time G-8 countries are saying so? Is it not a fact that since the days of formulation of NPT in the 70s, G-8 countries continued to pressurise the entire world? They have their own logic. We have our own logic. We have made it quite clear that we consider that it is a discriminatory treaty. We consider that it creates nuclear haves and have-nots. That is why, we did not sign and we have no intention of signing it.

Yashwant Sinha reflected on my observations. What did I say? In the other House, I said, yes, I have noted the observations of the G-8. But G-8 is not the appropriate forum to decide about the Civil Nuclear Technology Agreement. The two appropriate fora are IAEA and NSG. In NSG, we got clean waiver. As many as eight times, this issue has been debated in this House and in that House. It is not once or twice.

I do not remember any foreign policy issue has been so extensively and so exhaustively debated in this House or in that House. ... (Interruptions) But, despite that ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, just one minute. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Please, I am not yielding. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: You have your own perceptions. I know your nuclear doctrine which you reflected in the last Elections. ... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please keep quiet.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: You only remember what you did say that South Asia should be nuclear weapon-free. What is South Asia? It is India and Pakistan. China will have nuclear weapon; USA will have nuclear weapon; France will have nuclear weapon and England will have nuclear weapon. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I did not say... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please keep quiet.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: China will have nuclear weapon, but not India. ... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please keep quiet. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: That is your nuclear doctrine and the people of India have rejected your nuclear doctrine. ... *(Interruptions)* Please remember that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I did not take that stand. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Please remember that. The people of India have rejected that doctrine. Therefore, most respectfully I would like to submit that do not treat the sovereignty of 112 to 115 crore people as so cheap that it can be mortgaged, that it can be bartered in any way. I would not have minded if some casual remarks would have been made. Where is the fundamental change of the foreign policy? I would like to know. Have we deviated from the principles of building up brotherly relationship, close friendship with our neighbours? Is it not our stated policy that we will come to the aid of each and every neighbour? Is it not our stated policy we do not believe in exporting our ideology, we do not believe in exporting our sphere of influence and we do not believe in the interference of the internal matters of any other country? Therefore, this aspect is to be kept in view. Yes, there will be

divergence of opinion. But if we point out that basic fundamentals are changed, I am afraid, the basic fundamentals are not changed in that simple manner.

Everybody agrees with me. The hon. Prime Minister has made it quite clear. We have nothing to hide in Baloochistan. Who does not know the problems of Baloochistan? Particularly the hon. Leader of the Opposition knows it very well. It was created from May, 1947 itself when the understanding between Quaid-E-Azam Jinnah and Khan of Kalat of Baloochistan a few days before the creation of Pakistan, perhaps, 11th August, 1947 and subsequently the accession of Baloochistan to Pakistan in 1948.

From 1950s onwards there are problems. Problems are continuing. It is their internal matter. We have nothing to hide. We have not done anything there. We have no intention of doing anything there. We are the victims of the terrorism. We have no intention of exporting terrorism to any country. It is against our principles.

I am grateful to the NDA Government which has established four Consulates there. It is because we want to help our friends in Afghanistan, they are good people. We have historic and traditional relations. Because of certain developments since the late 1940s, our traditional and historic ties have been snapped. Land route is not available. But that does not mean the centuries old cultural and historical relationship with that country can be snapped. Therefore, we wanted to help them. In order to help them, these Consulates were established there. It was a good decision of yours. We welcome it. But it is not meant for carrying on any subversive activity. If we made this position quite clear to them, I do not think heaven is going to fall on you.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Hazaribagh): Will you please yield for a minute? My simple question is this. We know their position and we know our position. Why was this sentiment not reflected in the Joint Statement when the Pakistani Prime Minister raised it? We included this sentence, why did we not include one more sentence to state our position? This is our point.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Shri Yashwant Sinha, you yourself have replied to that question in the National Democratic Alliance's memorandum, which you have submitted to the President, saying that 'this is unilateral'. Your point is that we could have put our viewpoint also, but when you describe the statement as unilateral, you admit that we are not a party to it. You yourself are admitting by using the epithet 'unilateral mentioning' that we are not a party to it. But

you could have stated that our position should have been mentioned. That is not the intention. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Shri Pranab Mukherjee, you said 'because it is unilateral and he said'.

Our objection is why Balochistan is mentioned here which is a Joint India-Pakistan Statement and for the first time in all these years. They have been making this allegation earlier also, and I am sure that when the Prime Minister talked to Shri Gilani, he must have told him that we have nothing to do with it, which has been said by you today and also by the Prime Minister. But why, when this was mentioned in the India-Pakistan Statement, could we not have added our viewpoint also?

I am not quoting exactly, but I have with me what he mentioned about Balochistan. But this is true that for the first time, Balochistan has been mentioned in a Joint India-Pakistan Statement agreed by the Prime Ministers. Therefore, my colleague was right when he said yesterday that 'I caution you that this Balochistan will be coming again and again whenever we talk about terrorism and this will be their proof against us that we are also indulging in terrorism, which is absurd, which is bunkum and therefore, never before has Balochistan ever occurred in talks with them.' That is our objection.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: You may have your objection. You are entitled to have your objection, but what I am trying to point out is that this is a unilateral reference. The perception of Pakistan is not shared by us. You know it very well that umpteen number of times ... *(Interruptions)* I have not disturbed anybody. Please allow me to make my observations.

You are entitled to have your own view. You are not going to change your views by listening to me. So, why are you worried? Let me speak my point of view because after all, everybody is listening to what this sovereign Parliament, their chosen representatives are debating and deliberating upon and I welcome this. As I mentioned that if more and more Foreign Policy, more and more fiscal and financial policy is debated and discussed here, it is better than the local issues or extra-local issues being debated and discussed and taking the time of the sovereign Parliament. It would be much better if we concentrate on the macro issues like this. Therefore it is a good idea that you have your own views, but let me express my view and share it with you. It does not mean that you shall have to accept it. You are free to reject it,

but let me speak. I will not take much of your time. My colleague, Shri Krishna will be replying to the debate.

Madam, the fourth point which I am trying to say is that the intention is quite clear. We are not going to succumb to the pressure and compromise our position in this. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): What is your viewpoint about Balochistan? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Shri Ananth Kumar, please do not intervene. Time is running out...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: No, Shri Munde. By 3.30 p.m., we shall have to complete because Private Members' Business will start at that time. Today, we have allocated time after 3.30 p.m. to Private Members' Business. Hon. Minister will reply. I will complete in a minute. Please do not disturb me.

The short point which I am trying to point out is that there is no question of compromising our position in respect of terrorism. Our Prime Minister has used it more than often that Pakistan must act credibly, verifiably to dismantle the terror mechanisms which are operating from there. That is their primary responsibility. It is better for them, and it is better for us. I am saying this because if they dismantle the terror mechanism, then they will be safe from the terrorist attacks and we will be safe from the terrorist attacks. Therefore, it is better for them; it is better for us; it is better for the humanity; and for the people of this country. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The next speaker is Shri Digvijay Singh.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Madam Speaker, Pranab Da has put his point very forcefully only on one question on which I. ...*(Interruptions)*

14.56 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: I would suggest that you go back to your seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please go back to your seat, and say whatever you have to say from there.

... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Anything that you say from here will not go on record. Anything said in the well of the House will not go on record. Therefore, please go back to your seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

14.57 hrs

At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar): Madam, four persons belonging to the minority community and supporters belonging to our political party, namely, Shri Sheikh Jalan, Shri Maltoor Sheikh, Shri Daulat Gazi and Shri Sharafat Hussain and belonging to South 24 Parganas have been brutally killed in the district of South 24 Parganas under the Bhangore and canning Police Station and 35 have been brutally injured. The list is with us. We have drawn the attention of the hon. Shri Pranab Mukherjee; we are drawing the attention of the hon. Prime Minister; and we have drawn the attention of the Home Minister. We would request you to see that the interest, and life and properties of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Minorities are protected properly. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, it is a State matter... *(Interruptions)*... It has happened in the State ... *(Interruptions)*... How can he bring it in this House? ... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, there are four speakers left. I would give two minutes to each speaker.

... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, please take very little time.

.... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam Speaker, I would like to ask Pranab Da a question in just one minute. He has said one thing.

[English]

"foreign policy is an extension of our-national interest"

[Translation]

He gave an apt quote that

[English]

"foreign policy is an extension of our national interest"

[Translation]

I would like to ask one thing as to what national interest will be served with the mentioning of Baluchistan in the joint statement? Which national interest will be served by delinking, debracketing terror from the composite dialogues? We will agree if you just tell us this thing that

[English]

foreign police is an extension of our national interest.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have nothing to add to whatever I have spoken on this issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Digvijay Singhji.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: We want to know as to what national interest will be served through this?

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: He has already given his reply. Now, Shri Digvijay Singh.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: He has already given his reply.

... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: He has said whatever he had to say.

... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please listen, he is saying something.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: India's foreign policy is.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Digvijay Singh, please allow the Member to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam Speaker, let the hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs reply.

MADAM SPEAKER: The hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs will reply. He will reply when the time comes.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It has been stated, and I am repeating it, namely, that the action against terrorism is independent of any dialogue. A country may have a composite dialogue mechanism and a country may not have a composite dialogue mechanism.

15.00 hrs.

But every country is obliged to take action against terrorism irrespective of the presence of mechanism or not. That is the main simple reading of the English language. So far as Balochistan is concerned, mere mentioning, unilaterally, does not mean that we have any subordinate role to play in Balochistan, absolutely not.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Then, why have you mentioned 'Balochistan' in the Joint Statement?
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, you please sit down. Let the hon'ble Member speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Banka): Madam, I am thankful to you that you give me time to speak. I was listening hon'ble Pranab Mukherjee very seriously. Pranab Mukherjee ji had started his speech quite ingeniously. I would like to go before Panchsheel from where he has quoted Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. Regarding the foreign policy of India, I would like to

submit that when in the year 1927 Pandit Jawahar Lai Nehru had gone to address the League Against Imperialism on behalf of the Congress Party, the Congress party was the main party of this country and he had gone there to speak on behalf of Gandhiji. The foreign policy of India remained unchanged till the year 2009 from what had been elucidated in the address given in the League Against Imperialism despite changes in the Government. We have always believed that our foreign policy has observed continuity, though, sometimes there has been minor changes in it. Today I would like to submit that it is on account of the last year's incident that for the first time the people of the country got apprehensive about the foreign policy. Such discussion was never held in regard to the foreign policy of the country that we witnessed last year in the House and such an apprehension that generated thereafter was also never experienced. It is not possible that Prime Minister is saying something and people have any doubt about its authority. India is represented at the international forum by two symbols-one is the flag-tricolour of India and the second is the statement of the Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister represent the 100 crore people of this country. So nobody can doubt the credibility of the Prime Minister of India and neither can I think nor can I say such a thing.

Madam, the Prime Minister is sitting here. Through you, I would like to know as to what happened that the people of this country become apprehensive. It is not doubt, it is apprehension and it is because till 15-20 days back, the stand of the Government was different and after 15-20 days the language changed. It is quite natural that if the stand of the Government will change, the people will think that either the Prime Minister has got new tactics or information or he has acquired a new confidence. I do not say that there should be no discussion. It should be discussed in the House, people often say anything while speaking.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, you please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please do not take it otherwise. Private Member's business is to be taken up at half past three. The Hon'ble Minister has yet to reply so I am saying to conclude. We will not be able to take up Private Member's business at half past three which is essential.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Madam, as you wish. If you permit me, I will speak otherwise I will not speak.

MADAM SPEAKER: You please be brief.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Madam, I will certainly speak briefly. I do not have much to say.

MADAM SPEAKER: Then, it is a good thing. You please speak briefly.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Madam, the hon'ble Prime Minister has given his reply, Pranab Mukherjee ji has also replied. I would like to draw your attention and the attention of the hon'ble Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs towards only two-three things. Many of the Government experts are sitting here, Salman Khursheed Saheb is sitting here. There were many occasions when Salman Khursheed ji and Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji together advocated in Geneva on behalf of India in respect of foreign policy. Pranab Mukherjee himself had been the Minister of Foreign Affairs. We have been used many times and it has been done by him. There had been no discussions on the foreign policy because it was unimaginable that a different foreign policy away from the country's line will ever be made. You have rightly said that it has been done in the self-interest. I would like to put two-three main points before you. It is not a question of the foreign policy. There is doubt in the minds of the common people. All the Members have expressed their views regarding Baluchistan and the Government have also given its clarification in this regard.

It is for the first time that the people of the country have doubts in their minds whether their country also indulges in creating trouble in Baluchistan. People are surprised as to why there was a mention of Baluchistan in it. Who is more experienced than him in this regard? He knows it very well that such voices have always been raised concerning Baluchistan. However, we never paid attention to it. When he says that it is in the national interest, the people of this country fail to understand why Baluchistan was mentioned. If it is so, then what was our stand because it has come unilaterally. Everybody has doubt as to why this point was unilaterally included. Who had pressurized for this? Why was it said? Have we got any information that we should have shared? It is our national duty to remove this doubt. It is not only the responsibility of the Prime Minister and Advaniji rather it is our collective responsibility to remove this doubt from the mind of the people because it is the only strength of India in the world. We have got a record in respect of our foreign policy. ...*(Interruptions)* When we were poor, even then we had our independent foreign policy. Today the country has everything, the Government had promised the world. ...*(Interruptions)* We have equally fought for democratic rights as well as war for independence. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Asaduddin Owaisi.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Madam, I will conclude in two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: There is no time. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Madam, I will conclude in two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: You have made your point. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Madam, I will conclude in two minutes. If you are not allowing then I will not speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Madam, hon'ble Krishna Saheb ji should try to clarify in his reply. The reasons as to why it happened. Because it cannot be clarified merely by speaking or discussing. This House represents aspirations of 116 crore people of India and when he speaks here, this should be clarified as to why it happened.

Secondly, I would like to say that a very wrong trend has been set by his Ministry that even Departmental people and officers are allowed to brief MPs and the media, though the Parliament is in session, and the Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs are themselves involved in it. Joint statement is not an opinion of foreign secretary or any officer, but of the Prime Minister of India. I would like to ask these people who are saying that this is not legally binding on us. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Your speech is over. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Madam, I will conclude in one line only. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, through this House, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that this communique is of the Prime Minister of India. It will be recorded in the history. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: You have made your point. Do not go on repeating.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Till now we think the Biharis have poor knowledge of English, but what kind of English is this, about which it is being said that it is a bad drafting. Why this is being said? Why this kind of terminology is being used.

MADAM SPEAKER: please sit down. Take your seat.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Madam, I would like that hon'ble Krishna Saheb to clarify these two points.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): At that time, he was only putting his argument that you cannot find fault with content, intent and the policy. You can, as an argument, find fault with the draft. That was a point he was putting across. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Madam Speaker, this discussion was initiated by an hon'ble Member of BJP. Why case of Baluchistan was mentioned in that statement. Many issues were discussed. I would like to know that.*

Madam, secondly, the Prime Minister of India. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Listen to what Owaisi ji has to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: It has just began ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please maintain the silence.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Madam Speaker, I would like to say that the statement made by the Prime Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Dr. Manmohan Singh did not said this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: You cannot going to cow down me. ...*(Interruptions)* Address the chair, not me ...*(Interruptions)* You cannot cow down me. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam Speaker, I am on point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: Sushmaji, What is your point of order?

[English]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam, I am on a point of order. My point of order is under Rule 354 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. Rule 354 says, "No speech made in the Council (that means Council of States, Rajya Sabha) shall be quoted in the House (that means this Lok Sabha) unless it is a definite statement of policy by a Minister."

[Translation]

Under rule 354, there is restriction on quoting speeches. Made in Rajya Sabha in Lok Sabha and Hon'ble Member has said in the beginning of his speech that it was said in the other House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He was not quoting anything. He was only referring to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Kindly give ruling on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I have heard you.

On this point of order, under this Rule whatever reference has been made to the other House will not go on record. Shri Owaisi, please continue.

* Not recorded as ordered by the Chair

[Translation]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Madam, they did not let me speak. They got so agitated on my one remark only. Why BJP used word Islamic in context of Pakistan. This was mentioned by a Member of BJP. Pakistan is not the sole upholder of Islam. 15 crore on-Indian-Muslims live in India. What is the objection in this regard? Yes, their ideology, thinking is against the Islam, I agree with this, but they cannot comment like this about the Islam. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker, third thing which I would like to say is ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please now listen to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Madam, they are not allowing me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Madam, let me conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: There is no time left. Hon. Member, I have to tell you to conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: There is very little time left. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister may please start now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Let the hon. Minister reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Only what the hon. Minister says will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MADAM SPEAKER: Please allow the hon. Minister to speak. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to all the hon. Members who have actively participated in the discussion on the recent visit of the Prime Minister to the foreign countries.

Certain perceptions have been put forward; certain doubts have been expressed; much of those doubts have been cleared by the effective intervention of the hon. Prime Minister yesterday.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBER: No.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: It was further strengthened by another effective intervention by the former Foreign Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee just now.

In the NAM Summit at Sharm El Sheikh 118 countries participated, which was a unique event by itself. References were made which were lost in the heat that was generated in the House with reference to Pakistan; but I would like to take the House back to those days of glory, when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who truly could be said as the Father of India's Foreign Policy Evolution. He enunciated India's foreign policy. He was the chief architect of the NAM, along with President Tito and Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt. It was in that very land where the non-aligned thoughts, the seeds of non-alignment were sown. In that land again, 118 sovereign nations met. They were not subservient to any other nation; they were independent and they were sovereign. All of them reiterated it in one voice that non-alignment is as relevant as it was during the days of Pandit Nehru.

They also said that they would like to pursue the policy of Non-alignment. Some acquisitions, some insinuations were made that the autonomy of decision making and indepen-

*Not recorded.

dence of thought and action had been bartered away. I think the hon. Finance Minister referred to some of the previous incidents. I remember, when the Government of India sought a 5 billion dollars loan from the World Bank it was freely accused that India's sovereignty was being sold and India was becoming subservient to the World Bank which is controlled by the United States of America. What is the situation after 20 years? Have we become subservient to the United States? Is not India pursuing an independent Foreign Policy of its own? That is the question.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: We have. ...*(Interruptions)*

References have been made in the joint statement to a number of issues. In the Presidential Statement, which was accepted by all the 118 nations, a number of issues which are of common concern to countries have been raised and we are subscribers to that document. So, India even today pursues an independent Foreign Policy which is tailored to sub serve our national interest. In fact, our Foreign Policy is an extension of the domestic policy subject to the changes that have come about in our neighbourhood and in the world at large. So, we will have to factor that in, in an emphasis here or an emphasis there, in tailoring our Foreign Policy. That has been done very effectively over a period of time. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA (Patna Sahib): Mr. Minister, please take water.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Don't you drink water?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the Minister reply.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: All of us need water at some point of time. It may be me today and it will be you tomorrow.

Madam, any Foreign Policy will be strong and effective as the domestic consensus behind it. That is the reason why the Government keeps this hon. House repeatedly involved through the Statements as to the direction in which our Foreign Policy is being directed. When the debate takes place any

constructive suggestion that comes from there or here, we own it as our own. We have no hesitation. We do not stand on false prestige. Whenever this august House feels our Foreign Policy needs a course correction, we have never hesitated to go in for that course correction.

Well that is what democracy is all about. We stand very firmly on certain very basic concepts of our policy. But the emphasis might keep shifting here and there.

So, I will not dwell on Pakistan because there have been two very effective and decisive interventions. I would only touch one or two other points which the hon. Members have raised. One hon. Member talked about Sri Lanka. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: What about Balochistan?

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: It has been answered. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: It has not been answered. You are going to Sri Lanka but you first answer about Balochistan. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee said that you will answer that. He did not answer about Balochistan. ...*(Interruptions)*. The question is very specific. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

My question is very specific. What National interest will be served by mentioning Balochistan? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please allow the Minister to complete his reply.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: I have understood the question. I thought the question had been answered. But if you would like to have an answer, I will give an answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: What is this going on?

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please address the Chair.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Madam, I need your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, let him complete his reply.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: With reference to Balochistan, I think there was a clarification which was made. When the two Prime Ministers met, the question of Balochistan came and we readily agreed.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Why?

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: It is because we had nothing to hide. ...*(Interruptions)* We had nothing to hide. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Madam Speaker, this is a strange answer. If we had nothing to hide then we should have objected to the inclusion of this word there. For the first time, this has been included. They may have tried earlier also. Furthermore, if it was to be included then we should have said there that India has nothing to do with what is happening in Balochistan. This should also have been said. ...*(Interruptions)*. I am not surprised that even within the Congress Party, there are demands that the Prime Minister clarifies his position on Balochistan and why has he signed it ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

If someone goes through the morning newspaper today, let alone the politicians, even foreign policy and defence policy experts are of the opinion that the replies given by the hon. Prime Minister or Pranabji did not contain any solution for delinking and Balochistan both nor does his just made statement reflect one. It seems that he has nothing new to add to the speech given by the hon. Prime Minister. That is why he was not ready to speak on the issue of Balochistan unless demanded. I understand that there is no use taking part in this discussion now. We stage a walk out. ...*(Interruptions)*

15.30 hrs.

Shri L.K. Advani and some other hon. Members then left the House

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is 3.30 p.m. If the House agrees then we will take up the Private Members' Business immediately after the reply of the hon. Minister.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Madam Speaker, most of the issues raised have been answered by the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Madam Speaker, if the Minister is unable to touch upon Balochistan, let the hon'ble Prime Minister do that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singhji, you may please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Nothing has been said about Balochistan. What is the reason. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let him complete. He has not completed yet.

[English]

Mr. Minister, please address the Chair and continue with your reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seat. Let the Minister reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Hon'ble Prime Minister is present here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He touched every aspect, but they did not listen. ...*(Interruptions)*

15.32 hrs.

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other hon. Members then left the House.

[English]

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Madam, most of the points has been covered. Some hon. Members have mentioned about

the situation in Sri Lanka at the condition of the internally displaced persons who are lodged in camps in Northern Sri Lanka. As you know, the hon. Prime Minister had a meeting with President Rajapakse on the sidelines of the ...*(Interruptions)* In the meeting that the hon. Prime Minister had with the President of Sri Lanka the question of settlement and rehabilitation of civilians who have become hapless victims of the conflict in Sri Lanka came up and the Prime Minister reiterated India's willingness to make possible early return to normal lives of the Tamil IDPs in Sri Lanka.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please be quiet.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: The President of Sri Lanka assured us that he shared these goals and his commitment to complete the resettlement process in next 180 days. We have impressed upon the President of Sri Lanka that this is of urgent importance from the Indian point of view and then it is a humanitarian effort which the Sri Lankan Government will have to go through. The Government of India have already announced a sum of Rs. 500 crore and then the hon. Prime Minister has been gracious enough to say that if need be he is willing to give more for the resettlement of the Sri Lankans.

We are also working with the Sri Lankan authorities and the international community to ensure that practical, meaningful devolution of power and other arrangements are taking place which will enable all communities to live at home and live in peace and dignity within the framework of a united Sri Lanka.

As regards climate change, some references have been made. The hon. Prime Minister, yesterday, has spelt out India's basic policy. We are going to pursue that line even when we will meet in Copenhagen where an International Conference is to take place.

With reference to the end use monitoring, some Members have asked about the arrangements. An impression is sought to be created by some quarters that our Defence installations are going to be open for American inspection and verification. I think nothing could be farther from truth than this statement. The stated position about the end use monitoring system is, when we buy some high end Defence equipment from United States America after arriving at a mutual consent, we decide by mutual consent about the venue where the inspection is going to take place. It is not as

if the United State authorities can walk into any Defence installation and then keep a tab on us.

Let me make it very clear that all that we have agreed on the end use monitoring arrangements will be henceforth referred to in letters of acceptance, as the hon. Prime Minister clarified yesterday and there has never been a thought of our sovereignty being compromised. The arrangements that we have agreed are fully in consonance with our sovereignty and dignity. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Let me finish, Shri Acharia, and then you may ask*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the reply of the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)... *

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Madam, with these words, I conclude my reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Madam, as we are not convinced with the hon. Minister's reply, we are walking out. ...*(Interruptions)*

15.38 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): Madam Speaker, all the people have left. I also stage a walk out.

15.38 hrs.

Shri Lalu Prasad then left the House

15.39 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5th Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, I beg to present the Fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

15.39¼ hrs.

**RESOLUTION RE: STEPS TO ENSURE
AVAILABILITY OF DRINKING WATER
IN THE COUNTRY – Contd.**

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House will now take up item No. 16, the Private Members' Business. Shri Satpal Maharaj.

[Translation]

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ (Garhwal): Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Last time on 10th July, I was speaking on drinking water problem. It has been a tradition in our country that when the youngsters touch the feet of their ancestors/elders, they receive blessings for long life.

15.39½ hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

But if the drinking water is polluted, how will they live a long life? That is why I was making the submission that the polluting ingredients like fluoride, arsenic and selenium are increasing in drinking water. Three and a half hundred crores of people are falling victims to diseases due to these in India. You know that when the atmosphere gets polluted, oxygen is converted into carbon dioxide ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please keep quiet.

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ: Smoke emitted from vehicles makes life difficult - like some years ago in Delhi. One would feel burning sensation in eyes. The Chief Minister of Delhi, Shrimati Sheila Dixit, did a great job by introducing CNG-run transportation system. With this, pollution level got lowered here.

This was, in fact, a relief to the people of Delhi. I would extend my thanks to Sheila ji for this good deed. The polluted atmosphere gets purified by the natural process of photosynthesis. In our forests, there is a green pigment in plants which is called chlorophyll. That chlorophyll converts carbon dioxide and carbon mono-oxide into oxygen. It is the creation of nature for purification but the ground water that gets polluted by the chemicals does not get filtered. This has become a great problem in our country. There is a saying of our saints and hermits that 'Sarve bhavantu sukhinah, Sarve Santu niramayah, Sarve Bhadrani Pashyant, ma Kashchid dukh bhagbhavet.' (May all be happy, healthy, noble and free from sufferings.) Our saints have prayed for India and the world that all may be happy healthy, but we can be healthy only when we get pure drinking water. Today, pure water is not available in any part of the country. These who are rich can purchase a bottle of Bisleri for Rs. 10-15, but the farmers who live in villages and produce foodgrains by cultivating land and shed sweat in producing food can not afford Rs. 10-15 for purchasing a Bisleri bottle for drinking water. They are compelled to drink water from the same traditional well in which frogs and germs float. They have to drink soiled polluted water. In these circumstances how will they lead their lives. This is a great problem. Last time, when I went out after speaking in the House, I met a gentleman in the gallery who works here. He told me that he comes from Bahadurgarh where there is such polluted water that the women are suffering from joints pain, stomach ailments and kidney stone. I mean to say that we have to see how the polluted water can be purified and the people granted the right to drink pure water. There is law in European countries that provides that the water supplied by taps should be of the quality of drinking water. On the same lines we should also formulate a strict law under which supply of pure drinking water could be ensured to the people of India. That is why I would like to say - "Raghupati Raghav Rajaram, Patit Pavan Sitaram, Ishwar Allah tero nam, Sabko Sanmati de bhagwan." Today we need such a mindset so that the people of the country could gain health, wealth and longevity of life. Today our life expectancy is decreasing constantly. Thus, in order to strengthen the country we will have to see that we are able to provide clean drinking water to the common man of the country.

I would like to say that today there is an acute crisis of drinking water and the Himalayan glaciers which are the fountainhead of the rivers of the country are melting very fast due to which the country will face crisis of drinking water. According to a study Himalayan glaciers have registered sharp decline during the last forty years. The area of major

glaciers has shrunk by 16 percent. The pace of shrinking of Himalayan glaciers is very high. Less than one kilometre long glaciers are melting down with high speed. Almost 30 percent glaciers have melt in four decades. Himalayan glaciers are the biggest reservoirs of water. A long term policy should be framed to protect them. In this regard the Government should take special measures soon and availability of clean drinking water should be included in the fundamental rights of the people. In Uttarakhand it is very difficult to provide drinking water through tankers in those villages which are facing water crisis, as there is no road connectivity to many villages even now. So, there is an urgent need to construct roads in these areas. I would like to submit details of the pending and incomplete road projects under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana as also such state sponsored schemes and drinking water projects in my parliamentary constituency of Garhwal. These are Chaubattakhal village group pumping drinking water scheme, Beeronkhal village group reconstitution pumping drinking water scheme, Bhairavgarhi village group pumping drinking water scheme, East-Nayar River pumping drinking water scheme from Mahadeo to Barsund Devta, Devkundai, Talli drinking water scheme.

Bawasa, Ghodiyana, Sindudi drinking water projects are similar schemes in our Uttarakhand. The list of these schemes are very long. That is why I would lay it on the Table of the House. I would like to say if pure drinking water is not made available to the people, it will cause a great problem.

[English]

At the end, while extending thanks to you, I would to say that...

"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;

Where knowledge is free;

Where the world had not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;

Where words come out from depth of truth;

Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;

Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;

Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action;

Into that heaven of freedom, my father, let my country awake."

[Translation]

This was composed by Tagore Saheb. Now I conclude wishing that the longevity and integrity of my country may continue and we may get up and live long life.

[English]

I also lay a part of my speech on the Table.

[Translation]

***Badero Dhaiyya (Nagani) drinking water scheme.**

Linking of **Kedargali drinking water scheme** with the Beeronkhal village group pumping drinking water scheme.

Implementation of **Badeth drinking water scheme** and formulation of new drinking water project for Gurad Malla.

Nanaghat drinking water scheme.

Welneshwar Pumping drinking water scheme for the Sabdarkhal area (55 villages) of Kot block.

Pending drinking water schemes in district Chamoli

1. Amrit Ganga drinking water scheme from Gopeshwar Nagar.
2. Badagaon drinking water scheme in the development block Gairsain.

Pending drinking water schemes in the district Rudraprayag

1. Tallanagpur drinking water scheme.
2. Tilwada Sumadi drinking water project.
3. Rauthiya-Jawadi (West Bhardar) drinking water scheme.
4. Taila drinking water scheme.
5. Pillu-Jangahi drinking water scheme.
6. Agastyamuni drinking water scheme.
7. Basukedar-Dangi-Sogana drinking water scheme.

Pending drinking water schemes in district Tehri.

1. Dhar Pumping drinking water scheme of Lakshmolihadeem for Pattee Hisriyakhal.
2. Maletha-Kaproli-Akari-Barjula Pumping drinking water scheme for Pattee Kadakot western part and Pattee Akari Barjula.
3. Koteswar-Silkakhal drinking water pumping scheme phase-II for Pattee Chauras and eastern part of Kadakot.

... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Satpal Maharaj]

4. Muneth-Sajwan Kanda drinking water scheme for Pattee Bharpur.
5. Drinking water pumping scheme for Deoprayag city.
6. Koteswar-Jhandidhar and Koteswar-Palkot village group pumping drinking water schemes.
7. Kwili-Palkot drinking water pumping scheme.
8. Surajkund-Ranital drinking water pumping scheme.

Pending drinking water schemes in the district Nainital

1. Construction of over head tank in Dhikuli and reconstitution of distribution system.
2. One (1) k.m. long construction of railway line in Bhawani Khulche, Bhawanipur Tadiyal, Madiyal.
3. Construction work of clean water reservoir under Bangajhala drinking water scheme in the Ramnagar city.

Announcements made by the hon'ble Prime Minister

Sir, besides, I would also like to bring to your notice that the hon'ble Prime Minister had announced the construction of five pumping schemes for the state of Uttarakhand during his Haridwar visit on 19th October, 2006 but works on these schemes have not been started so far because of the non-release of funds by the Union Government. These are required to be constituted soon.

District Paudi Garhwal

Danda Nagraja village group pumping drinking water scheme.

Mundaneshar village group pumping drinking water scheme.

District Tehri

2. Ghantakaran village group pumping drinking water scheme.

District Almora

4. Dodam village group pumping drinking water scheme.
5. Saryu Velum village group pumping drinking water scheme.

The problem of drinking water is a national problem so immediate action should be taken to solve this problem.

Motor road

Most of the mountainous villages of Uttarakhand have no roads and on account of this the residents of those villages have to cover long distances on foot to purchase commodities of day-to-day use. If any one falls ill, many times the patient dies before he or she reaches the hospital. It is on account of absence of roads that water tankers cannot reach those areas where there is shortage of drinking water and thus drinking water remains unavailable to the people of this area. So it is essential to construct roads in the mountainous region at the earliest.

While touring my parliamentary constituency of Gharwal, I felt that the public works department of the State Government is not taking much interest in the construction of the roads sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and on account of this the construction work of the sanctioned roads have either not yet been started or it is being done at a slow pace and so the people of this area are facing difficulty. Not only this, the roads that have been constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana are faulty and incomplete, so bus services are not operational on these roads.

For example, the Devprayag-Vyasghat motor road constructed under this scheme in the Paudi Garhwal district was completed on 30th June, 2006, however, this road is still not operational for bus service. Similar is the situation with other roads.

My suggestion in this regard is that the roads sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana should be constructed by the Central Public Works Department or any other autonomous construction agency as is being done in Bihar, so that the sanctioned roads may be completed within stipulated time period and the constitution of Revised Estimate Committee may not be required for the construction of the said sanctioned roads.

The details of pending/incomplete schemes in the Garhwal Parliamentary Constituency

Pending or incomplete schemes under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

District Paudhi Garhwal

1. Paithani - Badeth motor road.
2. Vedikhal - Chorkhinda motor road.
3. Naudkhal- Malkot motor road

4. Aisa- Charekh motor road
5. Molkakhal-Tila motor road
6. Kandalsea - Kurali Talli motor road
7. Kilyokhal - Takolar motor road
8. Bungi - Riksal motor road
9. Pinani to Pinanidhar motor road
10. Melsain - Chopra (stage - 2) motor road
11. Saunderband -Edi motor road
12. Parsundakhal - Kandai malli motor road
13. Pipalpani - Nauli-Dharkot motor road
14. Rithakhal - Panchvati Nai motor road
15. Bharoli - Maithana motor road
16. Chakisain - Jakh motor road
17. Thapla - Sasau motor road
18. Tripalisain - Dugree motor road.

Pending motor road in Chamoli District

1. Nijmulla-Pana-Irani motor road, development block Dasholi
2. Gighrana -Syunbemru-Dumak Kalkot - Urgam motor road, development block Dasholi
3. Pursadi-Palethi-Sartoli motor road, development block Dasholi
4. Vishnugard-Chai thain motor road, development block Joshimath
5. Langasu Bansoli Maikhura motor road development block Karn Prayag
6. Adibadri Silpata Bharradi Sain motor road development block Gairsain
7. Gwad Rikholi Nail motor road development block Gairsain
8. Nalgaon Bhatyana motor road development block Narayanbagad
9. Parkhal Juner Dungri motor road development block Naraanbagad

Pending motor road under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Kirtinagar development block of the Tehri District

1. Khajra-Godi motor road

2. Vagsain-Kaphna motor road
3. Kamand - Kaproli motor road

Development Block Devprayag

1. Ranithaunk to Rajwankoda Bamana Motor road
2. Mulyagaon-Pelethee Kothi Motor road.

Pending motor roads in Devprayag area under state sector.

1. Paudikhal Bharau motor road.
2. Padikhal-Sadnakot motor road
3. Padikhal-Gwalnanagar motor road
4. Syuta-Sigoli motor road
5. Paudikhal-Kulanr Kakrada motor road
6. Malda Shrikot-Paidulapatamotor road
7. Hindolakhal-Paletthi-Bangarh motor road
8. Nagchaud-Chagi Dhauidiyadhar motor road
9. Thungi-Khilethipanwar Palethi Bangarh motor road
10. Hindolakhal-Kandi-Duroji Sirwa motor road
11. Hindolakhal-Bhansakot-Laludikhal Sirwa motor road
12. Hindolakhal-Kothi Paledi motor road.
13. Lalath Siwali-Gujetha motor road
14. Bagadwaldhar-Kund Bharpur road
15. Goltha chak-Vyalni-Takoli motor road
16. Barsoli Band-Gauli-Gurchholi-Dangchaura motor road.
17. Lakshmolli Talyakot motor road.
18. Bagwan-Jawar-Hisriyakhal motor road
19. Nausabagi-Kundi motor road
20. Kandikhal-Chandrawadni motor road

Pending motor roads in development block Kirtinagar under State sector.

1. Paidulabaind-Romla Sirola Jakhand motor road
2. Dagchaura-Gundoli motor road.
3. Pawbaind-Nyulinotipab selsain-Mathudagaon motor road
4. Khajra-Baijwadi motor road

5. Raudu-Jakhigwana Gwada Bela motor road
6. Ghandiyaldhar Pandaychonikhal motor road
7. Chonikhal-Nada Dhauilyana Khongcha Pandav motor road
8. Chonikhal-Kandiyeradi Mulana motor-road
9. Silkakhal-Sarsetsarkena motor road
10. Manjakot-Bandara motor road
11. Dhandiyaldhar Bandara motor road
12. Dhandiyaldhar Hodu motor road
13. Dhanji-Dharkot Supardanda motor road
14. Kameda Bains Malgaddi motor road

Pending motor roads in Narendranagar development block under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

1. Shivepuri-Timli motor road
2. Rani-Chauri-Bhaun motor road
3. Gular-Chameli motor road
4. Gular-Naee Minday motor road
5. Naee-Silkani-Gathiyali motor road
6. Kaul-Kaudarna motor road.

Pending motor road in Ramnagar area under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

1. Heavy vehicle road from Belgarh to Kyari in Ramnagar-Haldwani road

Pending motor roads in Ramnagar area under state sector.

1. Pipal stoppage motor road from Chandranagar Junior High School
2. Dhari-Rajpur link road.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution moved:

"Having regard to the fact that there is a serious crisis of availability of drinking water in various parts of the country, particularly in Pauri Garhwal, Chamoli, Rudrapur, Tehri Garhwal and Nainital Districts in the State of Uttarakhand and that the central sponsored drinking water schemes like Swajaldhara and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) are not being implemented and monitored properly, this

House urges upon the Government to formulate and implement a time bound comprehensive action plan at national level to overcome the problem of drinking water."

[Translation]

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV (Madhubani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Satpal ji has raised an important subject in the House for discussion and for this I would like to extend my thanks to him. Satpal ji is a religious person and he also delivers religious discourses. He also studies religious books and scriptures. We also see him on the television delivering discourses. He has substantial number of religious followers to whom he delivers religious discourses and guide them on the path of religion. That is why he has drawn the attention of the House and the country towards the importance of water from the religion and spiritual point of view.

Rahiman Pani Chahiya Bin Pani Sab sun.
Pani Gaye na ubare, Moti manas chun.

Poet Rahim had said that water is essential for all. If there is no water, whether it is man, lime or pearl all lose luster. Pearls look beautiful in the neck of beautiful woman only when there is a shining of water on the pearls. A man is a man only when he has vigour. Lime stones are useful only when water is mixed in it, otherwise dry lime stone is of no importance. So, the poet Rahim has also said such a beautiful thing about water. On the other hand Tulsidas ji, who has written 'Ramcharitmanas' in folk language has also mentioned about 'Pancha Tatva' or five element.

Kshiti Jal Pawak Gagan Samira.
Panch Rachit Yah Adham Sharira.

In that also he has mentioned about water. There are five elements - earth, water, air, fire and ether - and the Indian seers, since the Rigvedic times, have chanted the glory of all these five elements. Hon'ble Satpal ji is discussing about the indispensability of water. There is not only the scarcity of drinking water for people but also the water for cattle because though people may quench their thirst by taking Bisleri Water but I am a milkman and my buffalo and cows cannot quench their thirst by it. A bottle of Bisleri is not sufficient even to quench the thirst of my goat then how can it quench the thirsts of buffalo, cow and ox. Those who are rich and prosperous can afford to purchase Bisleri water because they have enough money. But a farmer, labourer or Dalit who toil hard to earn their livelihood cannot afford Bisleri water. There are five star hotels in Delhi. Rich people go there and pay thousands of rupees for their one night stay and when they use toilet they

flush 15 litre of water in one go. On the other hand the poor people of 85,000 villages cover five k.m. distance to fetch this 15 litre of water.

Mother goes with pitcher to fetch water and by the time she return, lakhs of children die for want of water. On the one hand there is Hindustan where lakhs of children die in the lap of their mothers for want of drinking water and on the other hand there is India where people flush 15 litre of water in loo. What is the comparison of these two India? The wastage of water should be stopped.

In urban culture one person use 200 litre of water while on the other hand if you go to rural areas, in Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh there you will find that one person does not get even 10 litre of water. One mother covers five km. of distance to fetch one pitcher of water and that is used by her as well as by her children. So, first of all we should stop the wastage of water. The Government should pay attention on this issue.

Lord Krishna has said in Geeta "Annadbhavanti Bhutani, Parjanyaadanna Sambhavah, Yagyadabhavati Parjanya Yagya Karma Samudhyabhava" that means grains are grown from the cloud and grain support the life of human being, food come from cloud, cloud forms out of Yagya, so everybody should perform Yagya. Yagya does not mean only 'Hawan Yagya', Yagya means Lok Yagya. This should be performed.

While delivering the discourse that day, hon'ble Satpal Maharaj ji had said that Bhagirath had brought Ganga from the Kamandal of Brahma by doing 'Tapasya' (rigorous exercise). However, you know that when Ganga came out of the Kamandal of Brahmaji it got stuck in the Jata (matted hair) of Lord Shankar. Then Bhagirath had to do Tapasya again to please Lord Shankar. Then, he squeezed his Jata and from that the present Ganga had emerged. Plans are formulated. Prime Ministers take the helms of the Government. Governments are formed. Administrative system is put in place and development works are taken up, however, entire thing remain stuck in the labyrinth of bureaucracy. India needs such a Bhagirath who can rescue Ganga from the labyrinth of bureaucracy and bring it to the poor people of the villages to quench their thirst. We need a Bhagirath among planners who have firm determination.

I am a farmer, a descendent of Krishna. He had said that the nature is my mother, Ganga is my mother, cow is my mother, however, if I will say that cow is my mother, river is my mother then somebody will rise to get my statement expunged from the proceedings in the name of communalism. Today, in

this scientific age they consider nature as the group of material things that includes forest, rivers, physical objects. However, in Indian culture nature is not treated only as physical entity rather we consider nature as mother. The nature is my mother. God is my father. The entire universe is born from the womb of nature. The more the womb of a mother is pious the more valient the son will be. If mother is ill, the son will be born handicapped. So, we should take care of the health of mother to ensure the healthy child. Cure the mother of her illnesses, and you will have the offsprings healthier. If the nature is pollution free, pious healthy and balanced, the living beings in nature will be strong, beautiful and healthy. Who has destroyed the nature? I would like to ask those who give slogan of science and are involved in major research as to who has created imbalance in nature. They have destroyed the nature. If the nature will be disturbed, will be imbalanced, it will take devastating form like the goddess kali who cuts her neck as well while dancing and become headless.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through this House, I would like to urge the scientists of the world that they should learn the way of lord Krishna. Hon'ble Satpalji, you delivers religious discourser, and know very well that Lord Krishna had said that people should worship Govardhan. I infer three meanings of this story of Shrimad Bhagwat. When Lord Krishna met the illiterate, boor, milkman, jat, Gujar like me who live in village he told them that the meaning of Govardhan for them is Gobar Dhan. That means dung of cow, buffalo and ox is properly for them. The more a person has dung the more manure he will have for their field. When dung manure is added in the field, its fertility will increase in proportion to the manure. The more its fertility is increased, more will be the yield. More is the yield, more grains will come in the house. More grains comes to the house, more will be the prosperity. More is the prosperity, more will be the level of satisfaction and happiness in the house. Then came some educated persons. For them Lord Krishna said - Gao Vardhan. Performs such a yagna that cow progeny may increase and develop. Then come some even more educated person and for them Lord Krishna said that for them it means "Gao Sanwardhan" or improvement in cow breed that means perform such a yogna that cow progeny may develop and as a result nature as well as universe may also improve. Flow the current of inclusive growth.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask as to who polluted the river Ganga and set up big factories along the bank of Ganga. They kept on draining the effluent of factories into Ganga. I would like to submit that those who set up big industries along the bank of Ganga drained the industrial effluents into the river. They were anti-farmer, anti-villagers

[Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav]

and anti-animals. The river Ganga stands not only for purity. Rather our daughter, daughter-in-laws residing along the bank of the river take bath in it. They bring Ganga water and cook their food in it. We wash our cows in Ganga and our cows drink water of the river. So Ganga is our mother because it is the lifeline of our catties and agriculture and also nourish us. Those who are guilty of polluting such a river are creating the crisis of drinking water. The river Yamuna flows near by. Yamuna is in such a state that it seems to be desperately waiting for Lord Krishna to come and see its miserable condition and create a new Yamuna from the tears of empathy, which the lord will shed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you please conclude.

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: While concluding my speech I would like to request that there is a need to make arrangement for water harvesting, management and distribution of water. Check dam should be constructed in the villages where there are water tanks, ponds and seasonal river. Water will be stored there and it can be used for several purposes. Water tanks should be deepened so that it may retain more water and ground water level may rise. Then those rivers, which are dead river and those, which have changed their courses should be taken up. We have seen this in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Those rivers which have dried up should be desilted and its flow should be restored. The water flow will increase and water will be stored and ground water level will rise. So I would like to make a humble request that the Government should check the misuse of water, collect water and should evolve a system for the management and distribution of water. If an integrated plan is formulated by the Government of India then it will result in development of agriculture, and will improve the health of people and animal and the river will also be protected. Only I am not telling this. If only I say then they will say that since I am a leader of Bhartiya Janta Party, I am saying this. I am not telling this only from the religious point of view. I would like to remind them about the speech of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia that he had delivered in the House.

16.00 hrs.

In that speech Dr. Lohia had said that the river should be cleansed, religious places should be cleansed because they act as cultural centres and links.

So, at the end I would like to request all the scientists of the world and tell them that when I was in the Ministry of Agriculture I had told the scientists of ICAR to stop exploitation

of nature. What is the meaning of exploitation? ...(*Interruptions*). The nature should not be exploited. We should establish give and take relationship with the nature. We feed our cows then get milk. First, we should give nature and then take from the nature. Those scientists who have used the word exploitation of nature are cruel, insensitive and against humanity. Please do not exploit nature, cooperate with it. The nature should be worshipped like mother. We will worship nature, worship rivers, worship jungle. They will, solve all our problems. We need water for all these things. We all should make efforts to make arrangement of water. The Government should also make arrangement for water. I would like to urge the poor farmers of India that they should employ their physical strength and do hard labour to dam water and stop it from flowing into the sea and thus save it. If the water is dammed here only then prosperity will come and the children will be happy. You should not depend on the Government. I would like to request the crores of people of this country that they should build this country themselves. They should develop system to stop water.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak on the Private Member's Bill moved by hon'ble Satpal ji Maharaj regarding the measures to ensure the availability of drinking water in the country.

16.02 hrs.

(SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA in the chair)

I would like to begin my speech by supporting this Bill. One of the Members gave a discourse while the other delivered a lecture. However, I will neither give discourse nor a lecture. I would like to extend my thanks to him that he at least mentioned the name of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. He should be in this side. Just now hon'ble Members have expressed their views in detail about the drinking water. If one goes through the figures, it is evident that the population of cities will reach 50 percent by 2050. Not only this, rather the matter of concern is that the population of India will cross 1.6 billion mark by 2050 leaving China far behind and as per the forecast there will be scarcity of foodgrain by 2025 and there will be a war with the neighbouring countries over water. It is a forecast and it is a matter of concern. Today we will have to seriously ponder over it.

Today, you may see that discussions have been held several times on global warming in this House. There is a hole in the ozon layer. Temperature is increasing. The ice of

Himalyan glaciers is melting. There are seven big rivers in the Asia which are perennial rivers. They quench the thirst of the billions of people all over the world. These rivers supply water for the entire southern and eastern areas. However, the World Bank has become the main financier of water supply projects costing nearly 20 billion dollars for the privatization of water. It is also a matter of serious concern. We will have to seriously ponder over it. I do not talk only about India as the problem of water is a global problem and its main reason is the rising population of the country.

Urbanization is rising. Land use is also being changed. The main reason is the exploitation of underground resources be it minerals or water. Especially deforestation and mining and quarrying activities are going on. The entire system of water resources in the Himalayan region is changing due to climatic change. It is a matter of serious concern. This is the reason that today the entire world is facing the problem of drinking water. As far as the misuse of water is concerned, if one sees towards the metropolitan cities of the country, 50 lakh litres water is spent in washing vehicles in Mumbai. We often travel by train and find that 17-44 per cent water flows in drains due to defective valves of major pipelines in Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai. It is a matter of concern. We have discussed in the House in detail about the drought. We can see countries, like Israel, which receives only 10 cm. of rainfall. However, it produces food grains and exports it to other countries also. This is the situation there. Today, if we see the condition of India, we find that the country always suffers on account of drought in a span of four years due to climatic change. There is always scarcity of food grains in the country despite receiving rainfall of more than 50 cm. Discussion was held in this House on the rice export scam. Our agriculture is adversely affected on account of water.

Sir, it is on record that 37 ghastly massacres have taken place in the last 50 years over the issue of water. Even today if we visit rural areas where there is a problem of drinking water, we find that Indian women cover almost four k.m. of distance to fetch one pitcher of water. Then they have water for cooking and drinking. Several hon'ble Members were telling here about Telangana and other areas. As far as the contamination of water is concerned, I would like to tell about the level of pollution. Presently, 22 lakh people die every year due to water pollution. One billion forty cubic km of water is available in the 70 per cent part of the earth. 97.5 percent water in the ocean is brackish. One per cent water is available in the form of ice in the polar regions. One per cent water is present in rivers, ponds, wells, springs and lakes which are potable. Thus 60 per cent of this one percent water is used

for irrigation, industries and factories and the remaining 40 per cent water is used for cooking, bathing, washing cloths, sanitation and other works. Early in the morning after getting up we do morning ablution and in course of that we also brush our teeth. Many people have the habit of keeping their taps on while brushing. Thus 25-30 litres of water is wasted only in brushing the teeth. Per person 300-500 litres of water is used for taking bath tub. This is the status of use of water. Even today two billion people of the world are deprived of pure safe drinking water. It is a serious problem. We will have to ponder over this subject. Two persons out of ten do not get pure drinking water in the world. Discussion is held in the House regarding the problem of drinking water. We should ponder over how to check the misuse and wastage of water and preserve it because only then this problem can be solved. Per year we use 6 billion litres of bottled Rail Neer or Bisleri. Per year we use 6 billion litres of bottled water. Today the bottled water is also costly. Rail Neer and Bisleri bottle costs ten to twelve rupees. Other wise, there are certain brands of bottled water that cost Rs. 60 per litres. They are costlier than even milk. Today water is costlier than milk in our country. So, I wish that people should drink milk instead of water, then the problem of drinking water can be alleviated.

On the other hand, we should preserve fruits because they contain enough liquid. Potatoes, pine apples contain 80 per cent water and tomato contains 95 per cent water. A man requires three litres of water per day for drinking. While cattle require fifty litres of water. We have to spend eight hundred litres of water to get one litre of cow milk. We get one kg. of wheat after using one thousand litres of water. We require four thousand litres of water to produce one k.g. of grain. 83 percent water is used for cultivation and irrigation in India. As such, we will have to resort to rainwater harvesting. As our hon'ble Members said there are many rivers in the country. Earlier, there were thousands of rivers; however, now many rivers have dried up and have disappeared. Now, I think that their number is limited to hundreds and they are smaller as well. Today, if the number of the ponds located in villages and towns, have declined and they have disappeared in course of time. The supreme court have given clear instructions that the houses that have been constructed by encroaching the ponds should be demolished. There are many schemes under the NREGA. The Government always say and all the Members have also said in their speeches that there should be ponds in all the villages and rain water should be harvested. Only then, status quo in regard to our ground water level will be maintained. We can, thus, harvest water and can utilise it.

[Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav]

As far the question of polluted water is concerned, I have said in detail about the prevailing condition that has made water in a way the source of diseases. Several diseases, be diarrhoea, gastroenteritis, skin disease, polio, Hepatitis or cancer, are caused these days due to drinking of polluted water. We are lagging behind in making available pure drinking water to the people. So we will have to make effort to do the same.

We get 80 per cent of water from ground and two per cent from rivers, lakes and ponds. The use of fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture lands causes brackishness of water due to presence of metal contents and other pollutants in it which leads to spread of a number of disease thereby.

As per the figures to this effect, 40 lakh children get infected per year with water borne diseases, be it diarrhoea, gastro-enteritis, typhoid, dysentery and polio. Today several such diseases are spreading.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to contend that next world war will be fought for water. if we fail to ponder over the issue of conserving water.

With, these words, I conclude my speech strongly supporting the private Member's Bill presented by Shri Satpal Maharaj.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy to say that our colleague has raised a very important point through this private Member's Bill in the House. I, too, want that all should take serious initiative in this regard. Water is life. During the rainy season, be it land or sky, dryness appears bad. But, the relevant question is of drinking water. Water will deplete unless it gets recharged. I think that no loss can be as great as that of water. The most important thing that today our rivers and rivulets are drying up. Since our childhood, we have seen in our locality that many rivers have dried up gradually in 10-20-30 years. We wish that water should flow at these dry places again. But we will have to find out the causes that has led to this situation because we will not be able to make available drinking water if it becomes scarce.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the most important thing is our forest. I come from a very beautiful area. This beauty is due to the hills, trees, herbs, but, today these are declining gradually. Today, big and old trees are there and new plantation is not being done there. Some times back, I visited my constituency. Many people may have heard the name of 'Patni Top'. Sanasar

is 17 km away from there. I went there on foot. The hills are being denuded. It appears that there will be big flat fields on the hills in the times to come. When there was no fields in the hills, there were trees and beautiful herbs over there. All of you may be knowing that the forests catch fire every year. But, here forests are set on the deliberately one-two-three-four times in a year. There is no awareness among the people because the Government have no proper planning. Drinking water flows from the hills, but the people want to get it from the ground. How long a human body will survive if blood is squeezed out of it? Similar is the position of earth today. Water is being squeezed from the ground through drip drilling. Water does not come out from the ground through the hand pumps. So, we bore and put two more pipes. Every year, water table is receding by 20 feet. Ways and means to recharge the water table need to be found out. Artificial rain and the other measures like this are needed as we have created an imbalance in nature through its degradation. It appears to me that we will destroy the beauty of nature, created by God by our own hands. My submission is that our country is the most beautiful because these are six seasons. No other country has got this privilege. Some countries have two and some have four seasons. We have the spring season (Basant Ritu). The Himalayas, trees, plains through their mutual coordination have made it beautiful.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our country has two-three departments which have to take this thing seriously. Whenever we become Ministers, we wish to have the department of our choice. We wish to take charge of that Ministry which is slightly less burdened and we may have less responsibility towards our country, society and nature while performing our duties but that Ministry should be more lucrative. Among these, the most important department is forest. Water is precious. This water is being wasted. Plantation is being done only on papers. Papers are full; forest departments of the whole country have filled up their papers showing that they have planted lakhs of trees. It has been written in our scriptures- Gita, Ramayan, Rigveda- that each person should plant at least 16 trees. Plantation of 16 trees means something, digging up five ponds also fulfils some objectives. I wish to state that everybody should go to the hills, 'kandis' and plains. He or she will find these that everybody has one axe or sickle with which he wants to cut down something or the other daily. However, no one wants to plant trees. Our ancestors had ponds dug in hills, 'kandis' and plains and carried out prolific plantations at the banks of those ponds. As the sun move, their shadow fall over those ponds. What is happening today?

First of all, we cut down these trees, then, ponds got dried up. We stopped the inflow of water and encroachments were made every where.

The Minister in charge of rural development and villages is sitting here. He is a very good person. It is my submission to him and the Minister in-charge of water conservation that a comprehensive plan should be formulated so that no pond in the country remains without water. A plan should be chalked out to revive the ponds. Plantation should be carried out in the areas where trees are cut. Nobody takes this responsibility. I am ready to serve this country free of cost. The Government should carry out plantation and recruit officers of my choice. I will not take any remuneration for this purpose. I will bring reforms in the department of forests and water. Give me this responsibility. I will take up this responsibility without any money. I would like to submit that I feel sorry whenever I see such a situation.

Sir, you all might have heard about the water supply scheme. For example whether it is Delhi, Athialata, Athut, Dhandugnu, Kalphetra or anything else, whenever it is formulated, it is named as water supply scheme. Subsequently, when it fails to supply water, it is renamed as improvement of water supply scheme, then it is called upgradation of water supply scheme. Thus water supply scheme keeps on running and yet it does not providing drinking water to the people.

Sir, I would like to submit that unless such elements are reined in nothing will come out of it. All the schemes are like stories, lengthy stories and charming dreams of Mungeri Lal, however, nothing is done practically on the ground. You might also have received information regarding funds given to each Department by the Government of India. There is no M.P. who is less informed than me. All know, the hon. Minister also knows, however, when the scheme is formulated the difficulties arising out of it should also be addressed. The Government should take some measures to streamline the basic structure.

Sir, I feel that nobody can survive if there is no water. First BJP people drank water, Yashwant Sinha ji drank water, one more person drank water; then our hon. Minister of Finance went to drink water, I also went to drink water and just now Satpal Maharaj ji has come after drinking water. I would like to submit that all need water. Regarding taking dinner I would like to submit that I remain here upto one O'clock without eating anything, however, in between I take two three glasses of water. Then I take lunch. When I have to speak I stay here even if I am hungry though I certainly take

water. Water is the source of my survival and the survival of the entire universe, water protects everything. I would like to know as to who is conserving water. Nobody is conserving water. The irony it is that a commodity which is protecting the entire universe is not being conserved by anyone.

Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the Government must take serious note about that. If the Government fails to provide water to the people for drinking purpose and for irrigating the fields, then it is nothing but inefficiency on the part of the Government because there is no scarcity of water in our country though it is not being properly utilised. Our ancestors had chalked out very good plans. Steps wells and ponds were constructed at various places. What are we doing? Through the House, I would like to appeal that every person should plant a tree and should motivate other people of his constituency to do the same. Besides, all the ministries that use water in their premises should take serious note of it and save water. It is immaterial whether anything is done or not but if there is no water for people, catties birds and agriculture all these buildings and edifices and towers will becomes useless. I would like to request that it should be taken seriously.

SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA (Jahanabad): Sir, I am thankful to you that you gave me time to speak. Shri Satpal Maharaj ji deserves congratulation as he introduced a Private Member's Bill for solving the problem of drinking water and provided us opportunity to say something to the Government.

Sir, there is a saying that water is life. That means one cannot imagine about the universe without water. Today, the entire country is facing intense crisis of drinking water and in the coming days this crisis is going to acquire more serious proportions. Many hon'ble Members have expressed their concerns and enlightened us about the reason behind the crisis of drinking water. We started disturbing the nature that led to climatic change and consequent failure of monsoon.

Sir, I come from Bihar. 17-18 districts of the state have got affected on account of crisis of drinking water. Water crisis has reached its peak in Gaya, Jahanabad Navada, Aurangabad and Patna. Water level has gone down. The Government, as well as you know that unless water recharging is done the recharging capacity of ground water will gradually decline. When science had not developed to this extent, our ancestors had constructed ponds in every village. In Bihar we call it Aahar (pond). During the era of Chandragupta Maurya and Kautalya, ponds were constructed in and around Patliputra. However, encroachment is being done gradually. The Government makes tall claim regarding the maintenance of

[Chaudhary Lal Singh]

these ponds. In his budget speech of 2004-05 the hon'ble Minister of Finance had said that they would undertake restoration work of traditional sources of irrigation.

Sir, water is collected in ponds. Then it recharges the water table and later on the same water is lifted from the ground and is used for various purpose. You cannot imagine the difficulties that I have faced during election period in areas of Bihar. Discussion was going on naxalism to find out its solution. It is also concerned about the problem of drinking water. Gaya district comes under the Jahanabad Parliamentary Constituency and it is an important district of the country. My Parliamentary Constituency is Jahanabad. Atari is a legislative Assembly constituency. During election period naxalites had besieged me there. I did not know that it is a hilly area. I had gone there for election campaign. I was afraid as to what will they do with me. They took me there and told only one thing that I should make the arrangement of drinking water for them. You should go there and see the quality of water that they are using for drinking purpose. Though there are wells, however, it takes, half an hour to lift one bucket of water. That is a hilly area, when seepage happens, water ticklish got from inside then a bucket full of water is available.

Mr. Chairman, I narrated it to hon'ble Sh. Nitish Kumarji, the Chief Minister the way I was treated during election campaign. An hon'ble member has rightly said that the drinking water supply project is an eyewash. Not even a single drinking water project is effective in the whole country. Therefore, through you, I would like to submit that small drinking water schemes should be formulated. Our tanks and ponds should be renovated. Today encroachments are being made, pucca houses are being constructed there, get them free from encroachments. This issue is linked with the MPLAD funds. When I was a Member of Legislative Assembly in Bihar I used to get Rs. one crore per year in Bihar. Here, MPs get Rs. 2 crore, with this much fund we need not make 33% enemies for our defeat, these meagre fund itself turns out to be the enemy. Where the drinking water is explored through rig, the Government should make a special allocation for MPs for drinking water and on the basis of special recommendation, the MP should not get that amount. That is a hilly area, I would like to tell you that if I visit that area without making arrangements for drinking water, then one can well imagine my fate. The commanders are sitting there, the incident, which I narrated took place in front of me. This is how those people treated me. They told me if I got elected as

an MP, then visit that area only after making arrangements for drinking water. If arrangements for drinking water is not made, the naxalism and other things cannot be checked. Nothing could be saved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Government that special fund should be made available to MPs for making drinking water available in their areas so that people may get drinking water and should be able to think of their progress and development in future.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, many thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI PRADEEP TAMTA (Almora): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I strongly support the resolution in regard to formulation of the National Policy in view of drinking water crisis in the country, presented by hon'ble Satpalji.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the drinking water crisis is not the problem of our country, but the people of entire world are discussing this problems. As an hon'ble Member said if this problem is not resolved, the wars for water would be fought in coming time. Similar situation is prevailing in our country also. Entire rural and urban areas are somewhere hot by drought and somewhere by floods, drinking water crisis is also prevailing even in the Capital region of Delhi. I hail from Uttarakhand, the area where Ganga and Yamuna flows, the people and fields of area where rivers flows are thirsty.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, vision of a new national policy in this context is needed. As far as issue of drinking water is concerned, we are observing every year that management at national level is required in this regard. We are drawing ground water, as an hon'ble member said, gradually the water is receding by hundreds of metre every time. I hail from Himalayan region, Ganga and Yamuna originate from that area. Every year, our glacier is shrinking by 10-15 metres.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the glaciers are shrinking everyday. In entire Himalayan belt, whether it's Jammu & Kashmir or any other Himalayan region. Whether it is a issue of drinking water or water required for irrigation, the Himalayan is the biggest source of drinking water. Till, a long-term scheme for all rivers originating from Himalayan, whether it originate from our country or Nepal, is formulated, the drinking water crisis will not be resolved.

Sir, gradually forest cover is shrinking in the entire Himalayan region. Only monoculture exists in Himalayan

region. There is a need to plant trees having broad leaves and hybrid trees. Therefore, we have to look into two-three issues. We have to do water management for resolving drinking water crisis. A national policy for water conservation should be formulated.

Sir, a small river Kosi flows through my parliamentary constituency Kosi. The scientist discovered in their studies that the rain water which goes down into earth surface is decreasing every year. In my parliamentary constituency, Kumaon is considered as source of oldest civilization and culture. In the studies, the scientists there have found during last two-three years that it rains every and at least 33 percent of rainy water should go down into the earth, which becomes the sources of drinking water after recharging. Today, its quantity has depleted up to only 13 percent and at some places only 5 percent water goes down into earth. The people living in that entire region depends on Kosi river. Almora city depends on it. Ranikhet adjacent to it depends on it. The Pithoragarh city depends on Saryu River which flows through it. Every year, the quantity of river water is decreasing. We have to pay special attention in regard to how the rainy water should be chennalised into the earth. If the more water chennalised into the earth after getting recharged the more quantity of water would be available in rivers.

Sir, I was listening to a reply to a question during Question Hour, in which it was told that various rivers of the country would be inter-linked to remove the shortage of water. I would like to state as to what benefit would be reaped by inter-linking the rivers, if there is no water in rivers. The rivers would be inter-linked only when water is made available in the river. Now the question is where is the water in the river. You want to stop the natural flow, how it would be possible. Therefore, the moot point is how to stop rainy water from going down to the sea. Our water management system should ensure as to how to chennalise rainy water into the earth.

Sir, there are the Department of Water Resources, Department of Drinking Water and Department of Irrigation to look after water arrangement. These Departments have drinking water and irrigation schemes to the tune of lakhs and crores of rupees, however, they have no scheme for the conservation of water. The Department of Forests will work for the conservation of water while the Department of Drinking water and the Department of Irrigation shall look after the utilization of water. There will not be proper management of water in the absence of coordination among these three departments.

Sir, there is drinking water problem in the major cities. I was reading in a newspaper that the water problem of Delhi is proposed to be resolved by constructing a dam on Renuka lake located in Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh. The construction of a dam in Himachal Pradesh would necessitate displacement of thousands of people, to satiate the thirst of a city. What kind of mechanism it is that seeks to render homeless lakhs and thousand of people to solve the drinking water woes of an influential city inhabited by influential people?

Sir, I hail from Uttarakhand. A large dam was constructed in Tehri. The city in which I lived in my early years is getting submerged under the water of Tihri dam. I cannot believe it even today that such a big city is getting submerged in a dam. That city is sinking to satiate the thirst of Delhi and ironically their own people are thirsty. Everyone looks at the mega project of Tehri with admiration, however, none appears to take note of the plight of the people who have been ruined and displaced due to the project. Some of them have settled in Rishikesh and Haridwar, however, there is no one to understand their plight.

Sir, prominent builders in this city are constructing large buildings with lakhs and crores of rupees. The Government is busy constructing its own buildings. Rain water harvesting is being talked about these days. It is my submission that mandatory rules should be formulated for rain water harvesting in buildings being constructed in Delhi or other cities. Adherence to rules of rain water harvesting should be made mandatory for both Government and private buildings be they of State Government or Central Government for which municipal laws are made. These days the State Government is providing lakhs and crores of rupees every year for drinking water purposes. However, crores of rupees will be spent every year on installing the taps for drinking water from which the bureaucrats, engineers, contractors and politicians would probably benefit a lot, however, this is not going to improve the lot of the common people. Here we are demanding installation of handsets for drawing groundwater. Rules should also be framed for permitting the depth upto which ground water can be drawn.

Today, we have three categories of consumers of drinking water. One category of consumers drink bottled water of various brands like Rail Neer or Himalayan Water. Their percentage would probably be five or ten per cent. Second category is of people consuming tap water and third category involve people in rural areas consuming the same water as consumed by the animals. Unless we chalk out a long term scheme to address the crisis of drinking water, no permanent

[Shri Pradeep Tamta]

solution to address the problem of drinking water can be possible. Rain Water harvesting could offer a permanent solution since there has been no change in the quantum of rain every-year as pointed out by scientists. There has been no change in the last 50 years, however the cycle of season has changed. Today, there is a need to conserve that water. Today, there is a need to plant broad leaved trees in the villages and forests, to construct small trenches and conserve water. Today, there is a need to utilize our traditional knowledge in order to revive and conserve water ponds located in small villages through NREGA. There is a need to harness our traditional knowledge together with modern science. Rules and regulations should be put in place for clearing the maps for every building being constructed on Government land or private land, or in urban area on the condition of provision of space for rain water harvesting. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, the Resolution that has been moved by Shri Satpal Maharaj refers to three basic components, as far as I understand. First, he recognizes a serious crisis of availability of drinking water in various parts of the country. Second, the Centrally sponsored drinking water schemes like Swajaldhara and Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programmes are not being implemented and monitored properly. And the third is the suggestion that he wants to make, that this House urges upon the Government to formulate and implement a time bound comprehensive action plan at the national level to overcome the problem of drinking water. These are the three basic points which he has dealt upon and I will try to minimize my speech only to these three points.

As we are aware, historically, drinking water supply in rural areas in India has been outside the Government's purview or Government's sphere of influence. We had community managed open wells, private wells, ponds and small-scale irrigation reservoirs which have often been the main traditional source of rural drinking water. The first attempt – the Government installed rural water supply schemes were implemented - was made in 1950s as a part of the Government policy to provide basic drinking water supply facilities to the rural population. Since then the involvement of the Government has increased with corresponding decrease in the role of communities in the rural water supply sector.

The Government of India's role in rural drinking water supply sector started in 1972-73 with the launch of the

Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme to assist different States in providing potable water to the rural population. This was the first stage and it happened from 1972 to 1986. The second generation programme started with the launching of Technology Mission. That was during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure in 1986 and later on during P. V. Narasimha Rao's tenure. It was called the National Drinking Water Mission. That was in 1991-92. These programmes from 1986 to 1996 made very little progress.

The third generation programme - which started in 1999 through sector reform projects - involved the community in planning, implementation and management. It was later on called Swajaldhara in 2002. There was a change in policy there, change in the planning structure, change in the implementing sector, change in the sustainability of the programme.

I do not know which Minister is going to reply to this but we would have been happy if the Minister of Rural Development as well as the Minister of Urban Development would have been involved and would have participated in this discussion.

Already a huge investment of about Rs. 72,600 crore has been made in rural water supply sector both by the Centre and the States since the beginning of the era of planned development in '50s up to 2009. A survey reveals that at any point of time there is a considerable gap between the assets that have been created and services that are available in rural population.

The major issue in the rural water system sector is the lack of sustainability of drinking water sources and systems. I will delve into that a little later. But the major question that confronts us today is, has the Government learnt from the past experience? Five to six years back, I had the privilege of visiting different sites. Satpal Maharajji hails from Haridwar and another learned Member also mentioned about Rishikesh. As members of the Public Accounts Committee we travelled from Rishikesh to Patna, sometimes by road and sometimes by train. We witnessed how Ganga was being systematically being killed. Killed by whom? By the people who reside on both banks of river Ganga. The two canals that come out to irrigate the fields keep the Ganga dry. Be it in Aligarh, be it in Kanpur, it is stinking. The money that was invested to treat the sewerage of different cities and towns on both sides of Ganga is not visible. It is the State Government's responsibility and that is how the Centre provides the money. Nothing much has happened.

It is only when we reached Allahabad, when river Yamuna touches river Ganga, that we find some water. People of Uttar Pradesh are well aware of this. The river Ganga does not exist from Aligarh to Allahabad. It is just a sewerage stream. That is all. This is just an instance.

In every State, where a major city comes up or where township is growing or urban areas are growing, river becomes the sewerage line. In our Indian tradition, we pay respect to the river and we worship the river. Where is that tradition today? Where is that tradition today to protect the river water from contamination? Perhaps we have forgotten that tradition, that humility, that water is the panacea of human race. The health of any river is vital to the well-being of the country. Many well-funded river conservation programmes have been set up. So also, for the national rivers as it is declared, some money has been provided. In that, Mahanadhi also is included. But adequate fund needs to be provided. But money for only the first phase has gone; utilization has come for the last three years, but the rest of the money is yet to be provided there.

According to a report, compiled by 24 UN agencies, the world's population has grown to over six billion. Some countries have reached the limits of their resources. The report has estimated that due to climate change, half of world's population will be living in areas of high water stress by 2030, especially in Africa. Water scarcity in some arid and semi-arid places will displace between 24 million and 700 million people. This is very alarming.

There is a strong link between poverty and water resources - with the number of people living in less than 1.25 dollars a day approximately coinciding with the number of those without access to safe drinking water. This situation has a major impact on health, as almost 80 per cent of diseases in developing countries are associated with water, causing some three million early deaths. It is said that some 5000 children die everyday from diarrhoea and 10 per cent of all illnesses worldwide could be avoided by improving water supply, sanitation, hygiene and management of water resources.

It is now realized that the world is running out of fresh water; with every passing day, our demand for fresh water exceeds its availability. The social, political and economic impacts of water scarcity are rapidly becoming a destabilizing force. Unless we dramatically change our ways between one-half and two-third humanity will be living with severe fresh water shortage within the next 25 years.

Some of us believe that there is an infinite supply of fresh water on the planet. Many of us use water as if it will never run out. But this is not true. The available fresh water is less than one-half of one per cent of all the water that is on this Earth. In our country, the rain water storage is traditionally practised since ancient times; in our rural households, once in our backyard or in the front, it is a common site. The Government of India is propagating rain water harvesting, through different programmes of rural water supply. But are we aware that the ponds in home -stead lands are shrinking day by day because of the pressure of population?

I have some suggestions to make, if the Minister can listen to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please make them fast.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : I will make them very briefly.

As I had said, the major problem today is not creating the assets, but we have to sustain those assets so that they can provide service to the people. The major issue in the rural water sector is the lack of sustainability of drinking water sources and systems.

As a consequence, availability of drinking water both in terms of adequacy and quality on a sustainable basis has become a major challenge today. Does the Government have any programme other than delegating the responsibility to the State Government and to the Gram Panchayat, that is the ultimate elected body which we have in the villages? But, how do you repair? After this RWSS putting up different pipe water schemes in different villages now, which happened during Shri Ranghuvansh Prasad's tenure, when a major break down occurs who is going to repair it? We do not have a system and there is no expertise available neither in the villages nor in the block Panchayat headquarters. So, I would suggest that you need to have in place at district level a water security plan which should be hundred per cent grant-in-aid under sustainability programme in a revised guideline. You need to revise the guideline. This can be managed by the District Planning Board. What is happening today is, once the assets are created and handed over to the Gram Panchayats, the RWSS shifts its responsibility, takes its hands off. In this way, the programme will not sustain. The Government of India should develop the institutional mechanism through a regular grant-in-aid which would sustain the programme. But the question remains that we should learn from the experience.

With these words, I would say that this is high time that all of us, the sensible citizens of this country should protect water, use less water and also conserve water. Also, the assets that have been created should be sustained for our future generations.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Bahrapur): Sir, at the outset, I must appreciate the hon. Member, Shri Satpal Maharaj as he has taken the great initiative to bring forward this Resolution in this House. More often than not, here in this House we are discussing drought, flood or drinking water crisis on one pretext or the other.

Sir, first of all, we should appreciate that water is an elixir of all life. We should treat water as an asset. We should not treat water as a disposable article. Since the days of our civilization, human beings have been facing two kinds of problems; flood and drinking water. About 6000 years ago the human beings first discovered the hydro-technical installation to deal with the flood situation and also to procure drinking water for their survival. If we go through the history we will find that the oldest known cisterns were discovered in Palestine and Greece. The earliest dams to retain water were created in Java, Jordan about 3000 BC, Wadi Garawi in Egypt in 2600 BC. All the civilizations spanning from Niles to Tigris-Euphrates, Huang to Harappa Mohenjodaro flourished on the bank of rivers. But the fact is that in today's world we are gradually becoming vulnerable in the context of the availability of drinking water.

17.00 hrs.

It is often said that the last two world wars were fought on land but the third world war will be fought on water. We do not believe in the water war. We believe in water with peace. We require energy security for our country. We require internal security and national security for our country. In the same tune, we should also conceive water security for the present and for the coming generations because if we do not do any effective and fruitful measures today then our future generations will not pardon us.

As it is, it appears that we are sitting on the vast resources of water because three-fourth of our planet consists of water. But the grim reality is that 97.5 per cent of the water of this planet contains salty water and out of the remaining 2.5 per cent, 70 per cent is frozen in Antarctic and almost all of the remaining water is in the form of soil humidity and barely one per cent of fresh water is accessible to us.

India is a country which consists of 2.4 per cent of the global land, 16 per cent of the population and only four per cent of water resources.

17.02 hrs.

(Dr. M. THAMBIDURAI in the Chair)

I would draw the attention of this House that in the year 1947 when we attained acquired our freedom, the per capita

water availability was 6000 cubic metres. In the year 1997, the availability of water got decreased to 2300 cubic metres. The experts say that when the per capita water availability goes below 1700 cubic metres, it will be called water stress and when it will go below 1000 cubic metre, it will be termed as water scarcity. At the present juncture, 200 million population of our country is simply living in the water scarcity zone. This is the grim reality of our country.

I do not know whether this Ministry will singularly be able to deal with the water availability situation in our country because this is very much related to water resources also. So, my suggestion is that this Ministry in conjunction with the Planning Commission should formulate a long term action plan in order to ensure the water availability of our country because being a citizen of this country, everybody has the fundamental right to have fresh drinking water.

There are two components to ground water. One is static and the other is dynamic. The static region is an aquifer zone which does not need any replenishment. Water Resources available in this zone are of the order of 10812 billion cubic metres. The dynamic zone requires replenishment and the resources available in this zone are just 432 billion cubic metres. It is paradoxical to note that on one hand, in our country in the northern extreme there is a place called Cherrapunji which receives 14000 cm of rainfall and on the other hand, on another extreme we have a place called Jaisalmer which receives a rainfall of just 100 mm.

Now, Cherrapunji is witnessing drought and Jaisalmer is witnessing flood. Such is the situation. But the fact remains that people of Jaisalmer were never forced to evacuate because of scarcity of water in that place. It is because they still follow the traditional way of conservation of rain water. Therefore, we have to ponder over how to sustain our water resources. We need more water because we are growing economy,

Sir, I would like to refer to three things here, First of all, we will have to educate ourselves on how to make use of water most prudently. It is because 67 per cent of irrigation water that is drawn from underground sources is wasted. Then, 20 per cent of total water is used for industrial purposes is also being wasted. What we need is more yield and less waste. We need to ensure that. We need to have water economy, irrigation economy because we never attach any worth to water either in agriculture or in industry and treat it just as a disposable article. Here I would like to refer to one quote from the famous book 'Arthasashtra' by Chanakya. He said:

"He should build the irrigation system with natural water sources, or with water to be brought in from elsewhere to others who are building these he should render it with lands roads trees and implements and also give it to the building of holy places and parks. If one does not participate in the joint building of an irrigation work his labourers and bullocks should be made to do his share of work and he should share the expenses but will not receive any benefits from it. The ownership of the fish, ducks and green vegetable in the irrigation works should go to the king."

Therefore, I would simply request the hon. Minister to initiate million well recharge programme under NREGA. We can easily put it into action. Water is an elixir of life. We should conserve water for our future generations.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (Salem): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity for participating in this discussion.

Day before yesterday, this august House discussed elaborately about drought and flood situation prevailing in the country. Today, we are discussing about drinking water problem. We are frequently using the proverb that prevention is better than cure. But we have not taken any precautionary measures to tackle the drinking water problem so far. Sometimes, heavy rain causes flood and havoc, and failure of rain causes drought. Indian agriculture itself is a gamble of monsoon. So, the Government of India has to come forward with a concrete solution to tackle the situation throughout the year. My revered leader, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, during her regime, successfully implemented rain water harvest scheme with the active participation of people. Because of its implementation, the ground water level in all the areas of Tamil Nadu has risen to about ten to twenty feet. For consecutive three years, we managed the water problem in Tamil Nadu without any difficulty. Why not this scheme be adopted strictly and implemented throughout the country? It will solve the drinking water problem at least to some extent.

I am sorry to say that we lack sufficient knowledge on water management technique. If we adopt the water management technique wisely, we can overcome the problem successfully. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, we suffer more on account of drought because of the neighbouring States are not cooperative and unhelpful. We are being crushed in three corners, namely, non-release of water as per agreement by one State, objection to raise water level in the existing dam by another State, and unauthorised constructions across the inter-State river by yet another State. This is the situation now we are facing. I am sorry to say that

the Central Government is a silent spectator to the problems of inter-State river water dispute. Even the Government of Tamil Nadu being a partner in the UPA Government does not want to raise this issue.

Taking this opportunity, I urge the Government to settle the Mullai Periyar issue, solve the Palar issue and finalise the Cauvery issue. These problems impede our progress. I hope that the aspirations of the people of Tamil Nadu will be met by the Central Government.

Another point is, since the industrial effluent sewage water is let out in the rivers, most of the rivers get polluted. In future, if this happens, we cannot get protected water even from the bore wells due to contamination. So, this issue has to be carefully dealt with.

It is the bounden duty of the Government, both the Central and the State Governments, to provide protected water to the citizens.

So, at least hereafter both the Central Government and the State Government should come forward to tackle the water problem, as requested by other colleagues also while mentioning the problems prevailing in their States. I hope the Central Government will take necessary steps to solve the water problem in our country.

[Translation]

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY (Bhadohi): Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak on a resolution moved by hon. Satpal Maharaj on measures to ensure the availability of drinking water in the country. Sir, water is the elixir of life and nature. Sustenance of human life and agriculture are dependant on water. The plants remain green if they are hydrated and there is monsoon owing to the green plants and trees. Monsoon brings rain and makes nature verdured. There used to be three sources of availability of drinking water-wells, ponds and rivers. In rural areas people used to dig wells in the past to draw water and thus solve the problem of water. Today, the situation is such that as we are treading on the path of development, we are besieged by problems. The water in the wells in villages is no longer fit for consumption in the absence of conservation and safety. The wells could not be maintained, disinfected and gradually did not remain fit for consumption. Ponds were another source of water in which rain water could be conserved and saved to use it for drinking, for agriculture besides many other problems could be solved, however, gradually these ponds started shrinking. In villages and towns where earth was dug to create ponds, ironically

[Shri Gorakhnath Pandey]

these began to be filled with earth. Now, work of constructing ponds under NREGA has been undertaken, however, undoubtedly it is only on papers and no work has been done on ground.

Rivers used to be the main source of our life. Earlier all the rivers like Ganga, Yamuna contained pure water that we would call 'Amrit' (nectar). People would take bath in them and use their water for worship and for irrigation as well. Today, I have no hesitation in saying that the water of these rivers have become so polluted that not to talk of using that water for drinking and bathing, there is problem in even touching that water. Through you, I would like to submit that water which is the main source of life, is getting wasted today as rain-water. So, if we do not develop any system of water harvesting with constructing dams and ponds, water problem will become to serious in the days to come that there will be no solution to it. I would like to submit that even today there are villages where families cover miles of distance to fetch drinking water. Their biggest problem is the problem of water. When I visit the rural areas of my parliamentary constituency, Bhadohi which falls in the area of Poorvanchal, nobody demand for road, schools, colleges or any other thing, rather, out of hundred people, ninety people demand for hand pumps who are affected on account of the problem of drinking water. This is the situation presently prevailing in the villages and this situation is going to further worsen. Our population is increasing. Our population is increasing in geometrical progression and our infrastructure is increasing in arithmetical progression. Our infrastructure is increasing in the form of one, two three, four and our population is increasing in the form of two into two four, four into two eight. Through you, I would like to submit that if the Government do not pay attention towards the problem of drinking water, it will further worsen and if there would be any world war, it would be fought on the issue of drinking water. Today, every person is in distress on account of the gloomy future. The farmers are disturbed on account of the plight of agriculture because there is no arrangement of irrigation. The people of villages are disturbed because they do not have any arrangement for drinking water. Presently, the situation is such that our country is endowed with ample natural resources and we are inhabitant of a country which is rich. However, the country is inhabited by the poor people. We have natural resources, we have all types of resources. Nature has benevolently endowed our country with resources, however, we are not able to properly exploit and utilise those resources. So, it is essential for us to

pay attention in this direction. Though we are endowed with ample natural resources, however, if we do not properly exploit them, then certainly we will have to face serious crisis in the times to come.

During rainy season, we see in the villages that rain water flows to rivers and in course of that soil erosion is also caused. The upper layer of soil that is essential for agriculture is eroded. It affects the fertility of soil. It also affect our agriculture. Water table is registering a decline and along with this the area of arable land is also declining. So, I would like to submit that ponds and dams should be constructed to conserve rain water. It will solve the problem of drinking water and agriculture.

83 percent water is used for cultivation and irrigation in our country. We will have to carry out rain water harvesting. There are thousands of people in the country who are facing serious crisis of drinking water. Underground water table is further declining in my area and it is getting contaminated. Certain dangerous elements are getting dissolved into it and the people who consume it are falling prey to diseases. Ponds are getting disappeared from villages and towns. Dangerous diseases like diarrhoea and cholera are being caused primarily due to the drinking water of contaminated water. One person needs 3 litres of drinking water and cattle need 50 litres of drinking water. Bottled water cannot be a substitute to it. As our hon'ble Member said that rich man can afford the luxury of bottled water. However, the poor people of the villages who live in 'jhuggis' and cover miles of distance to fetch drinking water, cannot afford bottled drinking water. So, I would like to submit that if we want to save the country, the agriculture and the greenery and wish to bring about prosperity and alleviate poverty, then we will have to carry-out water harvesting, construct ponds and dams and will have to ensure the availability of drinking water.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this Resolution is over. There are still ten Members yet to speak. If the House agrees, we can extend the time of the House by one more hour to discuss this Resolution.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): We will be sitting in the House up to six o' clock. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I am also telling the same thing. Then, if at all, the discussion on this Resolution is not

completed today, we can take it up the next time. Today, of course, we will be sitting up to six o' clock.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Sir, what about "Zero Hour"?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will be taken up at six o' clock.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (Meerut): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to Satpal Maharajji who raised a very important issue for discussion. Just now, my colleague, sitting beside me was saying that I belong to Meerut where there is no problem of drinking water. This problem is prevalent in Rajasthan or other parts of the country. I would like to initiate my speech with this that the area lying between Ganga and Yamuna is called Meerut. The problem of drinking water is rising constantly in this area too. Just now our hon'ble Member was saying that in rural areas people ask for handpumps. The situation in my area is such that the water level has gone down to the extent that India mark-2 pumps are not able to lift the underground water. People keep on demanding for carrying out boring again. I feel that this problem cannot be solved in piecemeal. Now, there is problem, of water contamination. Poisonous water of factories are released in rivers and on account of this the water of river gets polluted. It does not mean that I am anti-industrialisation. We use pesticides in agriculture. It is dissolved in rain water and pollutes water. Then, should we stop use of pesticides? I have mentioned this because unless we do not ponder over this problem in totality, it cannot be solved. We have forgotten our ancient traditions and probably we paid the price for this. The time from which we started considering the Ganges a river and not a mother, we stopped thinking about its purity. I have the memory of my childhood when the village women used to go for worshipping the wells. The purpose of this was to ensure that the source of water could remain pure and all the people may have the feeling of respect for this. It is on account of lack of this feeling that this problem of water has come up. I feel that the hon'ble Members have presented this aspect in the last one and a half to two hours time.

Sir, I would conclude after discussing only one subject. Today, underground water is the main source of drinking water. The river water is not suitable for use as drinking water. I am concerned that factories and other people are bent upon contaminating the underground water. I would like to cite the

example of my own constituency. There are slaughtering houses in the Meerut district and districts and in other districts of Western Uttar Pradesh. Many types of wastes including blood are released from the slaughtering houses. Under-ground water is not being recharged by pure water. Water is being contaminated by the blood waste through the direct bores. There are three blocks in my constituency and in Kharkhauda and Rajpura blocks blood has been found in the water samples.

There are many factories which do not drain water but put it all under the ground by digging a 200-300 feet deep bore which pollutes underground potable water. Through you I would like to request the whole House as well as the hon'ble Minister that such kind of pollution needs to be controlled by enacting a stringent law. Situation is getting out of control gradually. It would be very difficult to manage it once it goes out of control and we would suffer due to this. In order to check it strict law should be enacted so that it could be treated as a cognizable offence and those involved in such activity could be prosecuted. It will put a check on the efforts to pollute water. A reference to ponds and other sources of water has been made in the House. I associate myself with what has been said. I would like to conclude by saying that the pollution of underground water should be checked otherwise the situation may go beyond our control.

SHRI KAMAL KISHOR 'COMMANDO' (Bahraich): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the issue of availability and facility of water raised by Satpal Maharaj. I would begin by saying that earlier there used to be well in villages and even today it is used in some villages particularly in backward areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would like to tell you that a special arrangement should be made particularly in those areas where wells are used even today. But what is the condition of well water today? The well water has become a source of plethora of diseases. Dead animals fall into it and the people ignorant of this fact keep on using its water due which spread diseases. I am a Member of Parliament from Baharaich which is covered by dense and dry forests with no water facility in the area but still people live there. They are using water from the wells. It means the people are using water of the same well in which animals fall down and die which spreads all kinds of diseases.

At the same time, I would request the Ministry of Water Resources that there should be a special arrangements of tube wells and hand pumps for them. An additional and important regulation should be introduced for these areas. Recently these were facing drought, but now they are facing

[Shri Kamal Kishor 'Commando']

flood. We were crying for water in Bahraich, Shravasti, Siddharthnagar and Maharajganj. But, now these areas are flooded with water all around. A few days ago they were facing drought but now they are facing flood. Because of this three deaths have been reported from there. In Bahraich, 53-54 buildings have collapsed. In Bahraich, there is a place called Katarniya from where flood water enters. When the sluice gate of Nepal opens, the entire area gets flooded. This water flows to Siddharthnagar down to Bahraich and then it flows down in Rapti, Ghaghra and Kosi rivers which wreaks havoc in these areas. Earlier we are facing drought and now we are facing flood. Nepal releases water and the whole water flows into India. I feel the Government of India should take up the matter with the Government of Nepal to find out some alternative for the redressal of this problem. If no alternative arrangement is made, such situation would arise again and again. Keeping in view the prevailing situation, we should store water and then set up a hydro power station there. It will generate electricity, which can be utilised all over Purvanchal and Uttar Pradesh. Delhi, which is adjacent to our State, gets more electricity. If the electricity is generated there, there will be no problem in those areas.

The second thing I want to tell that of late even the forest areas have been registering low rainfall. Earlier it used to rain as soon as the clouds were formed. But now these are also getting dry. The reason is that the water level has registered a sharp decline there. If the water table continues to decline like this, it will be a very big problem for India in times to come. The House was just discussing that scarcity of water may lead to next world war.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to tell you about the importance of water. Today the water is very important.

[English]

It is very important for this country and also for every country. I worked in the Armed Forces and I have seen all the areas.

[Translation]

I tell you about the situation in forces.

[English]

I do not want to go into details.

[Translation]

We had to use three-litres of water for three days there. Having worked in Armed Forces there is no State left where I

have not visited. Whether it is hills of Sikkim, Assam or Uttaranchal, I have visited all of them. I have physically seen all these areas. All kinds of problems are being faced in these areas particularly in those areas where the people of Scheduled Tribes reside. It may be possible that the Members of this House may not have gone to the border, but there is no such border where I have not worked.

Sir, with these words I conclude by saying that there should be a special arrangement for the availability of pure water in the country, with this, I support the Private Members Bill introduced by Satpal Maharaj.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Satpal Maharaj has moved resolution on a current and very relevant issue of drinking water problem which is emerging in his area and across the country. All the hon'ble Members and the House is getting benefit of it as all hon'ble Members are narrating the problems of their area. It is said that "Kshiti, jal, pavak, gagan sameera, panch rachit ati adham sarira." Water is one of the main components of creation and three parts out of four parts of creation consist of water while one part consists of land. But experts say that third world war would be fought for water. Nobody knows whether world war will be fought in future or not, but sometimes I see in the House that definitely war for water would be fought here. Whenever the Cauvery issue is raised, hon'ble Members from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka rise on their legs. When the Narmada issue is raised, then also Members from the two states rise. Therefore, I feel that the water crisis is very grave.

There are grave conflicts and disputes between various states of the country. Tribunals upto Supreme Court have been set up. Witnessing the scene in the House, I get scared that a world war is going to be fought for water. We have to do a work in this regard. People believe that ground water source will never get exhausted and it is also not impure. But this is wrong because water level is depleting. Hon'ble Member, Shri Agarwal was saying that this water may possibly get contaminated. Water, which comes from glaciers in the hilly areas, is deposited in Antarctica as solid ice. One is huge mass of water and the other is surface water, which is also called ground water. 97% of sea water is salty, it is not fit for drinking. Therefore, after the amount of water that is used for irrigation and industry, only 2 percent water is left for drinking.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I see that 92 thousand crore rupees have been spent on drinking water projects since the first five year plan till date. Only a nominal amount of fund had been spent during the first five year plan, however, as the size of

schemes went on increasing and the experts and specialists drew attention of the Government towards the problems of the people, towards the villages, then more money began to be spent on it. However, subsequently more emphasis is being given towards the drinking water problem. Still, there are three kinds of drinking water problems in the country—availability of water, sustainability of water and quality of water. These three kinds of problems still exist, however, as the hon'ble Member has made a mention of the Himalayan region, Tehri Garhwal, Paudi, this area is, in fact, very fortunate, because the quality of water exists there. If the problem of availability of water arises in Uttarakhand, then the problem of quality of water will also surface. The problem of availability of water exists there. Then the problem of sustainability of water is also there. Therefore, the Government of India has laid emphasis on this also. Under the Bharat Nirman Yojana, it is the responsibility of the State to tackle the drinking water problem. The Government of India has made efforts and has given assistance as well. One lakh 74 thousand crore rupees have to be spent during the last four years, water being one of the heads thereof. Other components include the Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojna, Rural Housing, electrification, irrigation, but drinking water is also a part of it. Therefore, I feel that the Government of India is laying emphasis on it. If we do not make pure drinking water available to the people, it cannot be termed less than criminal negligence. Today we are not aware of this fact.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to the experts, the poor in villages fall victim to more than half of the diseases on account of drinking contaminated water. Therefore, the biggest help to the people of the villages would be to make pure drinking water available to them. Around five lakh people die due to Diarrhoea every year in India because they do not get pure drinking water. Therefore, arrangement for pure drinking water should be made. What measures we are having for making available pure drinking water? The hon'ble Members have seriously discussed this problem. Therefore, water conservation should be given top priority. Rain provides water in its purest form in the world. H₂O, water has two parts of hydrogen and one part of oxygen. But rain water is the purest water it does not have a possibility of contamination. Therefore, rain water should be harvested through roof-top water harvesting etc, so as to recharge the water table.

Earlier, one third of rain water was absorbed by the earth. But as roads and houses were constructed, water do not get the space to go into the earth and all water is flowing towards the seas. Therefore, a scheme for re-charging of ground water should be formulated. Water conservation has

been given top priority under the Employment Guarantee Scheme so as to ensure that ponds are maintained for water-conservation.

Sir, the hon'ble Members have discussed drinking water problems in their areas. They should also have a say in this regard. Shri Jagdish Sharmaji was stating in his speech that there is grave drinking water problem. Today, Rs. 700 crore are lying in the exchequer of Bihar, why that is not being spent for the last so many years? The hon'ble Members should have information in this regard, and they should not only be informed about it but should also have a say in this regard.

Sir, funds are lying over there and here we are showing our concern and holding discussions on this drinking water problem. All people visit villages. The population of Muslims over there, is quite less. They are demanding that they should be included in the scheduled caste and other backward class category. You may visit the areas, where the poor people live. Drinking water problem exists over there, they fetch water from quite a distance and there is no other arrangement of drinking water. I feel that all the funds should be spent. ...*(Interruptions)* It is being done, but the problems prevail. Shri Hukamdeo Narayan Yadav ji was stating in his speech that 5920 habitations are having water of less than 10 litres per person. 200 litre per person and 40 litre per person of water has not been made available as yet in the urban and rural areas respectively. They have to manage bathing, cooking and rearing of birds and animals in that much water only. Therefore, it is required to keep the hon'ble Members informed and have their participation in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* It should also be worked out as to how these funds have to be spent. Water problem will have to be given top priority and it should be made the main component of Bharat Nirman. Hon'ble Members should definitely be informed and made to share the onus in this regard.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point; it is well taken.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record further.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I rise to support the

Not recorded.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Motion moved by hon'ble Satpal Maharajji. I associate myself with the views expressed by the earlier speakers on this issue and would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister and the Government on the points not covered.

Sir, this day could be reckoned both as a good day as well as an unfortunate day since even after the lapse of 62 years of our independence we are discussing drinking water woes in this Lok Sabha which is the biggest Panchayat of the country.

Sir, today, our concern should primarily be to revamp the former water supply schemes which are not fully functional be they centrally sponsored schemes or the State Government's schemes. There is a need to ponder over it so that the problems cropping up in those areas could be addressed without delay.

Sir, I hail from Jharkhand. You will be surprised to know that rivers alone are the source of drinking water and irrigation in not only Palamu division but Jharkhand State as a whole.

Damodar River, the lifeline of that area has become polluted today. This is the world's third most polluted river. It flows down into the sea. There is a need to ponder over ways to clean that river. My submission is that participation of the Members of Parliament should be ensured in the implementation of the extant water supply schemes so that the local problems could be addressed.

Sir, I would like to apprise you that I belong to Jharkhand where a call for state bandh was given by the extremists some 15 days ago in the name of price rise. Not even a single shop opened there and not a single vehicle plied. It means that if on the issue of drinking water a call for a week's bandh is given across the country particularly in Jharkhand where 22 out of 24 districts are terrorism infested, then we would remain locked in our houses for a week. It is requested that there should be a permanent solution of drinking water so that the people there would be benefited and arrangements for irrigation could also be made. Today, I am raising this issue. Thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Theni): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the Resolution brought forward by Shri Satpal Maharaj.

Water is a must. We have to preserve and conserve water; also we have to use water in a proper way. A lot of

rivers are flowing from Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, and they are coming inside the territory of Tamil Nadu.

Cauvery river is passing through a stretch of 90 kilometres only in Karnataka whereas it is passing through a stretch of 500 and odd kilometres in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu State could not put up a check dam. If we put up a check dam, immediately it is objected to by the Karnataka State people.

For preserving water, a common law should be enacted by the Central Government; or else, all the river waters should be nationalized in the larger interest of the people of India.

Karnataka State has constructed five huge dams, and so, water is not coming to Tamil Nadu. During the rainy season also, our dam is not full. The full level of our dam is 150 feet but we have water up to 90 feet only. So, I would request the Central Government to enact a common law for preserving water. If we nationalize the waterways, then good things will happen.

There is a beer factory - I do not want to mention the name - in the Chennai city. Earlier I was a Member belonging to that Assembly constituency. At that time, one person in my constituency had given me a report, in which he had said that he put the water coming out from the beer inside the well. With the result, those who are residing in the adjoining areas of about five to six kilometres and who are drinking water through pump or well, their eyesight are getting affected. Most of the persons who are below 40 years in that area are wearing spectacles; a minimum of 100 children in that constituency are dying in a year due to diarrhoea or some other disease. The teeth of those who consume the contaminated water are becoming yellow. It is because the water in that area has the highest fluoride content.

So, if we do not conserve water and if we do not treat it properly, a lot many disease would be coming.

About the bore-well, previously in my village, within 100 feet, we were getting good water. Then, the water level went to 150 feet. Now, we have to go from 500 feet to 1,000 feet to dig a bore-well. In Madurai, in my Constituency, they are taking water directly from the river and supplying it to the people. It is so hazardous and harmful. Water is coming in yellow colour during rainy time. It is not even treated in a proper way. My suggestion is that before supplying water to the general public, it should be treated properly.

The State of Andhra Pradesh is constructing a dam in Palaru. The Central Government should give suitable

instructions, to Palaru in this regard. Same is the case in Kusathaliaru and Cauveri rivers. So, we need to put check dams in every two kilometres, at least, to the height of two to three metres. Then only, we would be able to preserve water; and the ground water level would also increase. This way, we can supply good water to the people.

With these few words, I conclude and support this Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Now, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray. You may make your points and conclude your speech within three minutes because we are winding up at 6 o'clock and there is still one more Member to speak.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come from Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[Translation]

Andaman and Nicobar Islands as well as the North-East from where Kumari Agatha Sangma hails is a high rainfall area, but the people are facing drinking water woes even there. Drinking water woes are existing even in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Mr. Chairman, Sir an hon'ble Member stated just now that Rs. 62 thousand crore were spent on drinking water schemes, why then, didn't people get drinking water despite those measures? I was a Member during the Vajpayee Government as well. The Government of India misleads the Members of Parliament. When I put a question regarding drinking water in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, I was given a reply through the Ministry that everybody was getting water in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Physical target and financial achievement are two separate aspects. This is a scam and dacoity of the highest order in the name of water.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request through you, since very senior officers of the Ministry are present in the gallery. Some NGOs and officers would also be pondering over it and new ideas would be popping up in their heads. Five thousand water harvesting tanks were constructed across Andaman & Nicobar Islands. These tanks harvest rain water. Pipes were installed, tanks were constructed and five thousand water harvesting tanks have been reduced to mere monuments, they do not have even a single drop of water. These have rather become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

How many crores of rupees were spent on constructing five thousand tanks? Today drinking water issues are discussed in the Parliament despite the lapse of 62 years. Km. Agatha Sangmaji is present here. She is young and intelligent. I would request her to inquire why the House was misled on water issues with regard to Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise the issue of drinking water in Port Blair and subsequently give suggestions as to what should be done in the matter. There is only one Municipal Council in Port Blair. I would request you to visit Port Blair once. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Still one more speaker is there to speak. He will take another five minutes. I have to give him time also.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, today there is no drinking water in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. So, I would like to give certain suggestions to Ms. Sangma in regard to management of water. A delegation of reputed N.G.Os. should be sent to the State. That delegation should not only visit state headquarter but should also look into the matter at district level, tehsil and village level and submit its report on how much fund was given and how much expenditure has been incurred and the physical achievement made alongwith the places where people are facing water woes and the places where sources of water are available. North East and Andaman are in zone-5. The water tanks constructed in the past would crack in the next tsunami and prove a disaster for this area. So, it is requested that a drinking water oriented plan should be prepared for that area. In regard to 'NREGA', I would like to state that this scheme is not functioning properly owing to the absence of skilled component. I would like to state that M.P.s who are the Members of the parliamentary committees should be entrusted with the task of identifying certain districts of some states and study the drinking water problems there. In the end, I would like to state that management boards should be set up district wise. Officers from the Ministry are also sitting here. They should be given the responsibility of going on visits for the redressal of this problem and convene meetings which would help resolve this problem, otherwise this House would continue to hold a permanent discussion on water woes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jagdambika Pal, you take five minutes' time. At 6 o'clock, you have to wind up. Then only we can finish.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me opportunity to take part in the discussion being held on so important issue. I associate myself with the feelings of the hon'ble Members they expressed about the importance of water. I would like to draw the attention of the House as well as the Government towards the growing water crisis in the world over. In this country there used to be scarcity of water earlier in Rajasthan. The people of Rajasthan would migrate to other states in Summer. Now the same situation is being faced by other states. Even the State like Uttarakhand and others falling under the Himalayan region towards which attention has been drawn by hon'ble Satpal Maharaj is not left untouched with this crisis. That is why he has come with a resolution. Water crisis is increasing in the world over and it has been stated that 1.8 billion people are likely to face this crisis by the year 2025, so the august House will definitely have to think over it.

Sir, today I want to tell you about the extent of water availability in the world. In the whole world 97.5 per cent water is saline which is not worth drinking. Only 2.5 per cent water is worth drinking. If a single drop of oil falls into 25 litre water, it gets contaminated. Today I want to tell you as to how the water situation prevails. As for the general countries, out of total availability, 70 per cent water is brought in use for agriculture, 22 per cent for industries and only 8 per cent is used for domestic purposes. In poor, low and middle income countries, 82 per cent is used for agriculture, 10 percent for industries and 8 per cent for domestic purposes. In developed countries, only 30 per cent water is used for agriculture, while 50 and 11 per cent is brought in industrial and domestic uses respectively. Today if a man does not get food, he can survive for a month, but if he does not get water, he can hardly survive even for 5 or 7 days.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government as well as the House towards the World Health Organization report according to which 6000 children are dying due to water borne diseases. If these 6000 children are survived, they can give their great contribution in the fields of I.T. and Science. Today the situation is that we waste 94.52 litre of water in 5 minute under shower, and 6-7 to 26.5 litre in flush. We waste 7.6 litre to 2 gallons, in washing hands and brushing teeth, while the report is that 21 per cent people are suffering from water related diseases in our country. I am citing the incident of 1999 when 7 lakh people died of diarrhoea alone. I am not delivering any speech. I am

mentioning only those points which are really serious. 7 lakh people died i.e. on an average 1600 deaths a day. Among those died also include children in the age group of 5 years. I will definitely extend my thanks to this Government, because they declared the National Water Policy, 2002.

18.00 hrs.

I would like to say that water is a state subject which is more than this National Water Policy, 2002, even though it concerns us today. Those who talked about the Ganga, treated cow as a mother did not have any concern about it. Today it is none other than the Congress-NDA Government who have taken initiatives in declaring the Ganga as a national river. Keeping in view the water crisis likely to be more deeper in times to come, the per capita water availability is estimated to be 1820 cubic metre for 1027 million population as per 2001 census. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up in one minute.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Would you allow me to continue or conclude?

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have one suggestion to make. I think this session is going to be concluded on 7th August.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7th August, Friday, is there. Let him finish now.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: We will definitely have to think about the crisis of water that prevails today as to how we will ensure the supply of safe drinking water for the growing population. Water strata are definitely declining today. Nowhere hand pumps are working today. Now-a-days India Mark-2 hand pumps that were being installed in villages also get dried up in summer. One day I said that the water level in tubewells installed in Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh and Punjab are registering decline. Our Rajendra Aggarwal also said now that even the tube wells are drying up today. In this regard my suggestion is that we should undertake the treatment of water in accordance with the rise in population... The Government should think over it seriously and make

recycling even of 97.5 per cent salted sea water. If an astronaut while in space can recycle water which is otherwise not worth drinking from their soil, then salted or sea water can also be recycled definitely. Our many colleagues have talked about water-harvesting.

Time is a constraint, so suggesting this I want to conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We will now take up 'Zero Hour' matters. Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki to speak for three minutes.

DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI (Ahmedabad West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I thank you for providing me with an opportunity to speak on the subject of Diabetes. Sir, Diabetes Mellitus is a serious disease. It is prevailing throughout the world. But it is predominantly existing in India. Diabetes Mellitus is a silent killer. This disease has many aspects. Diabetes is responsible for so many serious and fatal diseases. It is the underlying cause for ischemic heart disease. It can hamper the kidney, it can damage the retina, it can damage the foot and it can lead to gangrene of both the feet. It can reflect on so many systems of the body. It is a metabolic disease.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of this august House and the entire country and the Union Government to take serious steps regarding Diabetes. India is having a number of cases of Diabetes. It is the highest in India as compared to the world. India is considered as the capital of the Diabetic world.

Recently, the Diabetes Atlas, 2007 has published a report where the number of Diabetes cases are the highest - 40.9 million in India at present. It is expected that this number will go to 70 million in the year 2025. It is a very serious matter. It is a very alarming matter.

The Diabetes Atlas has conducted a study recently in India and they had concluded that the increase to 70 million patients in 2025, as estimated, would probably be reached in 2015. That is probably we are going to have the same number, 70 million cases, a decade earlier.

It is a very grave situation and the Government, the NGOs and all others are very much concerned to see that the situation is brought under control.

India is expected to have 70 million people suffering from diabetes by the year 2025 while the China is expected to have 59 million people suffering from diabetes by that year. At present, diabetic population in China is 39.8 million and in Pakistan, the figure is 6.9 million.

The hypothesis is that diabetes is a disease of the urban population and the rural population is not prone to it. That is only a hypothesis because the alarming feature is that now-a-days, the trend is reversing and more of the rural population is suffering from diabetes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You tell what your demand is.

DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI: Sir, I want to demand that the Government of India should intervene in this matter and establish National Institute of Endocrinal Science at several places throughout the country. Since the maximum number of diabetics is in Gujarat, I would urge upon the Government to set up a National Institute of Endocrinal Science funded by the Central Government in Gujarat.

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Purvi Champaran): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture, the Government of India towards the problems of farmers of Champaran. Champaran is an agricultural region. This area is famous for the cultivation of high quality sugarcane and paddy in the country. The entire population of this area is dependent on agriculture. However, the unfortunate thing is that during pre-independence period atrocities were committed against the farmers of this region and now when we are independent we are being neglected by our own Government.

Sir, six year back Agriculture Science Centre was set up at Piprakothi in this area. Even after the elapse of six years, there is only a tin shed there and there are only few staff members. Till now, no officer has been appointed there. Officer's residence should be constructed there. Administrative building along with the training hall for farmers is also required. I also demand for making arrangement for a central nursery and seed production.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and ICAR that they should solve this problem at the earliest and metalled road should be constructed inside the big premises of this institute.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Sir, price rise in the country has been so steep that it has overshadowed

[Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey]

and negated the benefits of the economic growth, increase in per capita income. The wholesale price index has failed to give the real picture. When N.D.A. was in the Government, the price control during the year 1996 to 2004 has set a new benchmark and after that era is cited in reference to inflation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the rate of economic growth in the year 2008-09 has registered 2.1 percent decline as compared to GDP growth registered during 2007-08. Now the situation has become so grave that the poor people are willing to die than to face this price rise.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government employees have certainly got the benefit of increase in pay after the implementation of sixth pay commission, however, remaining 100 crore population remained deprived of its benefit. The increase in salaries of Government employees have been negated by corresponding price rise.

So, I would like to request the Government that it should ensure the distribution of edible oil, pulses, vegetables to all class of consumers especially poor consumers through PDS in Jharkhand so that the people of Jharkhand may get relief from this severe price rise. Along with this the poor people of Giridih, Dhanbad and Bokaro should also be covered under this.

SHRI VISHNU PADA RAY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, nearly one hundred and fifty teachers of Port Blair, the capital of Andaman-Nicobar working on contract basis under 'Sarvashiksha Abhiyan' are continuously sitting on 'Dharna' since 23 July. Presently, they are on hunger strike. They will be on fast till their demands are fulfilled. Who are they? They are qualified teachers of Andaman-Nicobar who have done B.sc. B.ed, M.sc, M.ed, M.A., B.ed. They had got job under Sarvashiksha Abhiyan in 2003. They have served continuously for six years and in course of that their age limit has got expired. They were employed to teach children from aged

six to fourteen years that means they were engaged to teach children from class one to class eight. However, those teachers also teach children from ninth to twelve standard. The posts of the teachers of ninth to twelve standard are lying vacant on account of their retirement or death. I would like to demand that while making recruitment of teachers in Andaman-Nicobar Administration, preference should be given to those teachers who are already working there and their services should be regularized. I would also like to submit that instruction should be given to regularize those teachers as well who are teaching in Chennai and other states under Sarvashiksha Abhiyan.

SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH (Dhanbad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Railways towards the fact that the distance from Bokaro Steel Station to Adhara station via Bhojudih is nearly hundred k.m. There is no local train on this route especially for poor people where as there are many stations and halts on this route. Express trains run on this route. This route connects important places at two states Jharkhand and Bengal. Bokaro Steel Station is the main station where as Adhara is the divisional office of the railway. Bhojudih, and Santhaldih are located in between, coal washeries are also there.

So, through the House, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railways that local train should be introduced from Bokaro to Adhara in public interest.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow the 31st July 2009 at 11 a.m.

18.13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, July 31, 2009 / Sravana 9, 1931 (Saka).

Annexure-I*Member-Wise Index To Starred Questions*

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivaji	400
2	Shri Adsul Anandrao	390
3	Shri Ananth Kumar	395
4	Shri Anantkumar, Hegde	382
5	Shri Baalu, T. R.	397
6	Shri Dudhgaonkar, Ganeshrao Nagorao	391
7	Shri Hussain Syed Shahnawaz	388
8	Shri Jadhav Baliram	391
9	Smt. Jayaprada	396
10	Dr. Joshi, Murli Manohar	383
11	Shri Khaire Chandrakant	386
12	Shri Majhi Pradeep	381
13	Shri Mani Jose K.	384
14	Shri Owaisi Asaduddin	392
15	Shri Pal, Jagdambika	393
16	Shri Panda, Prabodh	399
17	Dr. Patasani, Prasanna Kumar	396
18	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	381
19	Shri Reddy M Raja Mohan	394
20	Shri Reddy, A. Venkata Rami	398
21	Shri S. S. Ramasubbu	387
22	Shri Sharma, Jagdish	382
23	Shri Siddeshwara, G.M.	392
24	Shri Sudhakaran K.	389
25	Smt. Sule, Supriya	385
26	Shri Suresh Kodikkunnil	389

Member-Wise Index To Unstarred Questions

Sl.No.	Members Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1	Shri Prabhakar, Ponnarn	3633, 3715, 3760, 3797, 3829

1	2	3
2	Shri Guddu Premchand	3691
3	Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivaji	3722, 3724, 3780, 3836
4	Shri Adsul Anandrao	3722, 3780, 3812, 3829
5	Shri Agarwal Jai Prakash	3672, 3745, 3788
6	Shri Agrawal, Rajendra	3630
7	Shri Ahir Hansraj G.	3614, 3702, 3768, 3803, 3825
8	Shri Anantkumar, Hegde	3733
9	Shri Babar Gajanan D.	3692, 3762, 3801, 3823
10	Shri Bairwa Khiladi Lal	3834
11	Shri Bavaliya Kunvarjibhai Mohanbhai	3668, 3696, 3742, 3785, 3822
12	Dr. Beg. Mehboob	3669
13	Shri Bhadana Avtar Singh	3647, 3737, 3782
14	Shri Bhagat Sudarshan	3843
15	Shri C. Sivasami.	3651, 3755, 3792, 3830
16	Shri Chauhan Sanjay Singh	3661
17	Shri Chauhan, Prabhatsinh P.	3622, 3754
18	Shri Das Bhakta Charan	3688
19	Shri Deora Milind	3641, 3720, 3838
20	Shri Dharuva Narayana	3632
21	Shri Dhotre Sanjay	3616, 3696, 3744, 3751, 3822
22	Shri Dubey Nishikant	3667, 3721, 3830
23	Shri Dudhgaonkar, Ganeshrao Nagorao	3732
24	Shri Gadhvi Mukesh Bhairavadanji	3645, 3785
25	Shri Gaikwad Eknath Mahadeo	3776
26	Smt. Gandhi Maneka	3684
27	Shri Gopal, L. Raja	3688

1	2	3
28	Shri Haque, Mohd Asrarul	3680
29	Shri Hussain Syed Shahnawaz	3730
30	Shri Jadhao, Prataprao Ganpatrao	3659, 3696, 3744, 3822
31	Shri Jadhav Baliram	3722
32	Dr. Jagannath Manda	3656
33	Shri Jaiswal, Gorakh Prasad	3694, 3797
34	Smt. Jardosh Darshana	3657
35	Smt. Jat Poonam Veljibhai	3679, 3752
36	Smt. Jayaprada	3688, 3797, 3821
37	Shri Joshi, Kailash	3757
38	Dr. Joshi, Murli Manohar	3727
39	Shri Kashyap Virender	3634
40	Shri Khaire Chandrakant	3729, 3779, 3811, 3834
41	Shri Khan Hassan	3625
42	Shri Kumar Mithilesh	3698
43	Shri Kumar, P.	3652, 3728, 3778, 3810
44	Shri Kumar, Shailendra	3681
45	Shri Laguri Yashbant N.S.	3658
46	Shri Madam Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	3623, 3737, 3746
47	Smt. Mahajan, Sumitra	3685, 3756, 3793, 3819
48	Dr. Mahant, Charan Das	3700
49	Shri Majhi Pradeep	3726, 3777, 3809, 3828
50	Shri Majumdar, Prasanta Kumar	3619
51	Shri Mandal Mangani Lal	3683
52	Shri Mohan P.C.	3737
53	Shri Munde Gopinath	3637
54	Shri Muttemwar Vilas	3840

1	2	3
55	Shri Naik P Balram	3631, 3718, 3774, 3807, 3827
56	Shri Naik Shripad Yesso	3673, 3748
57	Shri Nama, Nageswara Rao	3615, 3743, 3786
58	Shri Nirupam Sanjay	3650, 3837
59	Shri Owaisi Asaduddin	3705, 3772, 3813, 3830
60	Shri Pal, Jagdambika	3734
61	Shri Panda, Baijayant	3642, 3725, 3738, 3783, 3815, 3831
62	Shri Panda, Prabodh	3736
63	Shri Pandey Ravindra Kumar	3689, 3758, 3794
64	Km. Pandey Saroj	3676
65	Shri Pandey, Gorakhnath	3663, 3740, 3784
66	Dr. Patasani, Prasanna Kumar	3721, 3776, 3816, 3832
67	Shri Patel Devji M.	3834
68	Smt. Patel, Jayshreeben	3655, 3732
69	Shri Patel, Kishnbhai V.	3701, 3726, 3766, 3802
70	Shri Patil Rao Saheb Danve	3616, 3617
71	Shri Pradhan Amarnath	3628, 3713
72	Shri Pradhan Nityananda	3635, 3716, 3729, 3811, 3834
73	Shri Rajendran, C,	3665
74	Dr. Ram Shankar	3698
75	Shri Ramkishun	3671
76	Shri Rao K.S.	3666
77	Shri Rao, Sambasiva Rayapati	3662, 3739
78	Shri Rathwa Ramsinh	3621, 3706
79	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	3649, 3753, 3791, 3818
80	Shri Ray, Rudramadhab	3643, 3776, 3832, 3838

1	2	3
81	Shri Reddy M Raja Mohan	3735
82	Shri Reddy M. Sreenivasulu	3660, 3688, 3759, 3830, 3832
83	Shri Reddy, A. Venkata Rami	3707
84	Shri Reddy, K.J.S.P.	3662
85	Shri S.S. Ramasubbu	3710, 3770, 3806
86	Shri Sanjoy Takam	3690
87	Smt. Saroj, Sushila	3699, 3765, 3800, 3824, 3835
88	Shri Sathyanarayana, Sarvey	3629, 3714, 3796, 3801
89	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	3627, 3712, 3790
90	Shri Sethi Arjun	3620, 3717, 3773, 3808, 3833
91	Shri Sharma, Madan Lal	3696, 3744, 3764, 3822
92	Shri Shetti Raju	3677, 3842
93	Shri, Anto Antony	3687
94	Shri Shukla Balkrishna K.	3682, 3732
95	Shri Siddeshwara, G.M.	3703, 3743, 3767
96	Shri Singh Dushyant	3693, 3761, 3798
97	Shri Singh Ganesh	3640, 3723
98	Shri Singh Jagadanand	3841
99	Shri Singh Murari Lal	3839
100	Shri Singh Radha Mohan	3678
101	Shri Singh Sushil Kumar	3638, 3747
102	Shri Singh Uday	3639, 3719, 3787, 3811, 3817
103	Shri Singh, Brijbhushan Sharan	3674, 3749, 3789
104	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan Alias Lalan Singh	3727

1	2	3
105	Shri Sudhakaran K.	3731
106	Shri Sugavanam. E.G.	3626, 3711, 3771, 3805
107	Shri Sugumar, K.	3648, 3741
108	Shri Suklabaidya Lalit Mohan	3695, 3763, 3799
109	Smt. Sule, Supriya	3708, 3775
110	Shri Suresh Kodikkunnil	3709, 3769, 3804, 3826
111	Shri Swamy N. Choluvaraya	3618, 3704, 3781, 3814
112	Shri Tewari Manish	3675, 3750
113	Shri Thamaraiselvan R.	3624
114	Shri Tiwari, Bhisma Shanker Alias Kushal	3664
115	Shri Tomar Narendra Singh	3646
116	Shri Toppo Joseph	3653
117	Shri Vasava, Mansukh Bhai D.	3797
118	Dr. Venugopal P.	3686
119	Shri Verma Sajjan	3697
120	Smt Verma, Usha	3636
121	Shri Wakchaure, Bhausahab Rajaram	3670, 3744, 3795, 3820, 3830
122	Shri Wankhede Subhash Bapurao	3696, 3744, 3822
123	Shri Yadav, Hukumdev Narayan	3644, 3760
124	Shri Yaskhi Madhu Goud	3776
125	Yogi, Aditya Nath	3654

Annexure-II**Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	3619, 3629, 3639, 3650, 3674, 3682, 3703, 3709, 3719, 3722, 3733, 3748, 3769, 3776, 3805, 3817, 3832, 3834
Civil Aviation	:	3621, 3623, 3637, 3641, 3669, 3673, 3684, 3687, 3701, 3704, 3710, 3718, 3720, 3730, 3731, 3766, 3767, 3771, 3772, 3773, 3780, 3787, 3790, 3792, 3793, 3804, 3813, 3815, 3818, 3823, 3825, 3827, 3828, 3831, 3838, 3839
Corporate Affairs	:	3635, 3667, 3670, 3716, 3721, 3723, 3745, 3750
Food Processing Industries	:	3624, 3705, 3777, 3808, 3809
Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	:	3645, 3695, 3726, 3757, 3770, 3782, 3810, 3824, 3830, 3835
Law and Justice	:	3630, 3642, 3644, 3651, 3702, 3724, 3775,
Minority Affairs	:	3614, 3649, 3680, 3688
Petroleum and Natural Gas	:	3626, 3633, 3634, 3636, 3643, 3672, 3675, 3681, 3692, 3693, 3697, 3708, 3715, 3727, 3729, 3737, 3746, 3760, 3763, 3797, 3798, 3801, 3803, 3812, 3814, 3819, 3826, 3829
Railways	:	3617, 3620, 3622, 3625, 3627, 3628, 3631, 3632, 3638, 3640, 3646, 3647, 3652, 3653, 3654, 3655, 3656, 3657, 3658, 3659, 3660, 3661, 3663, 3664, 3665, 3668, 3671, 3678, 3679, 3683, 3685, 3686, 3690, 3694, 3696, 3698, 3699, 3700, 3706, 3711, 3712, 3713, 3717, 3728, 3732, 3734, 3735, 3736, 3739, 3740, 3741, 3742, 3747, 3749, 3751, 3752, 3753, 3754, 3756, 3758, 3759, 3762, 3765, 3768, 3778, 3783, 3785, 3788, 3791, 3794, 3795, 3799, 3800, 3806, 3816, 3820, 3822, 3833, 3836, 3837, 3840, 3841, 3843
Steel	:	3615, 3666, 3676, 3689, 3691, 3707, 3738, 3761, 3764, 3774, 3779, 3786, 3796, 3802

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	
Civil Aviation	:	384, 388, 389, 392, 394
Corporate Affairs	:	399
Food Processing Industries	:	386
Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	:	381, 385
Law and Justice	:	
Minority Affairs	:	396
Petroleum and Natural Gas	:	382, 390, 397, 400
Railways	:	383, 387, 391, 393, 395
Steel	:	398
Textiles	:	

INTERNET

The original version of Lok Sabha proceedings is available on Parliament of India Website at the following address :

<http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in>

LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha proceedings are being telecast live on Lok Sabha T.V. Channel. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. everyday the Lok Sabha sits, till the adjournment of the House.

LOK SABHA DEBATES ON SALE

Printed copies of Lok Sabha Debates of Original version, English version, Hindi version and indices thereto, DRSCs reports and other Parliamentary Publications and Souvenir items with logo of Parliament are available for sale at the Sales Counter, Reception, Parliament House, (Tel. Nos. 23034726, 23034495, 23034496) New Delhi-110001. The information about all these publications and items is also available on the website mentioned above.

© 2009 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in
Lok Sabha (Twelfth Edition) and Printed by Sunlight Printers, Delhi - 110006
