

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 03, 2009/Agrahayana 12,
1931 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

**International Day of Persons with Disabilities
and
25th Anniversary of Bhopal Gas Tragedy**

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, today is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This occasion calls for sensitizing the society to the problems and special needs and aspirations of the differently-abled persons.

Let us on this day renew our efforts to promote the cause of the differently-abled persons with a view to ensuring that they achieve their rightful place in our society.

Hon. Members, today is also the 25th anniversary of the Bhopal Gas tragedy. It was on this day, 25 years ago, that the country witnessed one of the most harrowing man-made tragedies in which thousands of people lost their lives, and many were blinded or otherwise physically disabled. The survivors of this gas tragedy are still suffering from the ill-effects of the MIC gas leaked from the Union Carbide Plant at Bhopal. Even after two decades and a half the pain and anguish of the survivors continue to torment us.

Let us on this occasion express our solidarity with the victims of this terrible tragedy and reiterate our resolve to make our world free from such catastrophies and make it a better place for the coming generations.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Question 201, Shri Kodikkunnil Suresh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri):
Madam Speaker, I want your permission to say something. NTPC company. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the Question Hour continue.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I haven't got any notice from you.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Your notice has just come to me. This notice has not reached on time.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please keep quiet. I will provide you a chance to express yourself as a first speaker in the zero hour. Now you let the Question Hour continue. See, Question Hour is under constant attack. It seems that the Question Hour is heading towards its end. Please do not behave like this in the Question Hours.

...(Interruptions)

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 201, Shri Kodikkunnil Suresh.

New Investment Policy for Fertilizer Sector

+

*201. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH:

SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

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

(a) whether the new investment policy for the fertilizer sector has been implemented;

(b) if so, whether the fertilizer industry has responded positively towards the new investment policy;

(c) if so, the names of the fertilizer units which have revamped their units so far;

(d) whether some units have asked the Government for assured availability of gas for their plant; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

New Investment Policy for Fertilizer Sector

(a) to (e) Policy for New Investments in urea sector and long-term offtake of urea from joint venture abroad has been implemented vide notification no. 12012/12/2007-FPP dated 4th September 2008. The fertilizer industry has responded positively towards the New Investment Policy by initiating investment decision for revamp/expansion of existing capacities.

IFFCO—Aonla-I and II, IFFCO—Phulpur-I and II, Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (CFCL)—Gadepan-I and II, Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (NFCL)—Kakinada-I and II and the unit of Tata Chemicals Limited—Babrala have informed regarding availability of additional production of urea after revamp. Furtlner, RCF, Thal; KRIBHCO—Hazira and NFL, Vijapur have undertaken revamp of their units.

Companies have requested for firm availability of gas for taking final investment decision to undertake expansion of their existing units and for revival of closed units. The issue has been taken up with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) in its meeting held on 27-10-2009 considered the demand of natural gas for expansion and revamp of fertilizer plants and revival of closed fertilizers plants and decided that they would be supplied natural gas as and when they are ready to utilize the gas.

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Hon. Speaker Madam, the Government of India has implemented this New Investment Policy for the urea sector—both indigenous and abroad—in September 2008. The salient features of this new policy include import price parity,

revamping projects, expansion of projects, etc. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what extent this New Investment Policy has helped in bridging the gap between demand and supply of 13 fertilizer. ...*(Interruptions)* Is the Union Government considering giving tax concessions under this New Investment Policy to attract investment for fertilizer-capacity generation? ...*(Interruptions)* If so, by what time the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken? ...*(Interruptions)*

11.03 hrs.

At this stage Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please you all take your seats. I will certainly provide you an opportunity to express yourselves in the Zero Hour. First, let the Question Hour continue. Question Hour has been interrupted many a times due to which we are unable to run the Question Hour properly. Hon'ble Members want to ask many questions. Please keep quiet.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Madam, the New Investment Policy of the Government of India is in the form of availability. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except questions and answers.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Madam, the New Investment Policy of the Government of India is in the form of making urea available at a price below the IPP,

*Not recorded.

and it will also lead to indirect savings by bringing down the import price due to reduction in imports.

The New Investment Policy aims at revamp, expansion, revival of existing urea units, and setting up green-field and brown-field projects.

The Policy is likely to substantially bridge the gap in the next five years between the consumption and domestic production subject to availability of gas at reasonable prices. The urea production in this year has gone up by one million tonnes, and we are expecting that by 2012, the urea production will be another one million tonnes extra. That is due to the impact of the new investment policy.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Madam Speaker, the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) is the biggest Central Public Sector Undertaking in Kerala manufacturing fertilizers, and this Company is one of the largest suppliers of fertilizers in the Southern States.

The Company has identified two major projects proposed to be included in the Eleventh Five-Year Plan fund—(i) increasing the capacity of NP production at Cochin Division by 1,000 tonnes per day at a total cost of Rs. 282.70 crore, and (ii) install 1,500 tonnes per day Urea Plant at FACT, Udyogamandal at a total cost of Rs. 693 crore.

In this situation, I would like to know from the Minister, through you, Madam, whether the Union Government have considered the request for releasing financial assistance to FACT for these projects. By what time is the final decision in this regard likely to be taken by the Government of India?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Madam, FACT was making losses up to 2007-08. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please keep quite. I will give you the first chance to speak in the zero hour.

11.08 hrs.

At this stage Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other Hon'ble Members went back to their seats.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): May I seek your indulgence, Madam, for half-a-minute?

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Responding to what the hon. Members have raised, the hon. Finance Minister has said that the Government is prepared for a discussion on Disinvestment. We had a detailed discussion in the other House; we are prepared for a discussion here, whenever the time is fixed by the hon. Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam, it is a very serious issue.

MADAM SPEAKER: I have said that you would be provided the first opportunity to speak in the Zero Hour and if you would give notice then there would be a discussion also on it.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Madam, there should be a separate debate on this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please continue.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: The FACT was making losses up to 2007-08 due to under-recovery on Factompas, which is a subsidized fertilizer. Due to Ammonium Sulphate not being recognized under the subsidy regime, it made losses on Ammonium Sulphate also. In 2007-08, in March, the Government provided Rs. 200 crore as a grant to compensate the losses to some extent. Policy amendments were made in 2008-09, that is, on 1-4-2008, to remove under-recovery of FACT on Factompas, including under-recovery on Ammonium Sulphate. A benefit of Rs. 150 crore was given to FACT by these policy change; and another Rs. 200 crore was also granted by the Government of India so that the FACT can be revived. Now, the position is that the FACT's complex fertilizer plant is making profit. For the Working Capital, FACT has approached the

Government for grant of another Rs. 500 crore, and the Government expect that by this policy change, FACT should be revived.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Pradeep Majhi—not present; Shri Rudramadhab Ray.

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Madam, there are coal-based plants established by the Government of India, like Talcher Fertilizer Plant, but these have been closed. Will the Minister tell us what will be the future of these plants?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: The Talcher fertilizer unit has been closed down and its revival is under the consideration of the Government of India. As the hon. Member knows, Talcher is sitting on a coal belt. So, a coal gasification unit also can be revived there and there is a proposal under which coal gasification is possible. Coal India, GAIL and RCL have shown interest in that and a discussion is on. I am hopeful that the Talcher fertilizer unit can be revived through this coal gasification route.

SK. SAIDUL HAQUE: The Government has committed to ensure gas linkage to fertilizer industry, particularly the closed units for their revival. GAIL has been authorized to enhance the capacity of HBJ pipeline and also to extend it from Jagdishpur to Haldia via Durgapur with connection of pipelines to each of the closed plants. In my Constituency, Durgapur, there is one Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation unit which is closed for seven or eight years. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has taken any action to revive that closed fertilizer unit at Durgapur by ensuring supply of such gas.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Yes, Madam, Durgapur is also under consideration of the Government. There is a plan of making gas available to Durgapur unit. The matter is under consideration of the Government. On the revival package, Durgapur fertilizer unit is also under the consideration of the Government for revival.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN: Madam, Naphtha is the raw material for the Madras Fertilisers Limited unit, which is situated in my Constituency. Naphtha is a costly product and hence the factory is facing a lot of

problems. I want to know from the Minister whether the Government has any plans to convert the plant into a gas-based unit.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Gas is a problem for the Madras Fertilisers Limited unit. The Madras Fertiliser Limited's urea operation was making losses till 2008-09 due to under recovery under subsidy regime. Following the policy amendment from April 2009 to remove under recovery and provide appropriately Rs. 150 crore benefit under this subsidy regime, urea operation there has now become profitable. There is an operational profit there. Though the Madras Fertilisers Limited had a cumulative loss of Rs. 800 crore from earlier, this policy has helped the Madras Fertilisers Limited to revive and make an operational profit. NPK operation is closed due to financial constraints for the last two years. Maybe in a few weeks this NPK operation can start. The only question that arises is about the earlier cumulative loss of Rs. 800 crore. The Government is examining how to overcome that cumulative loss of Rs. 800 crore. The issue is under the consideration of the Department.

Cancer Medicines

*202. SHRI SONAWANE PRATAP NARAYANRAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drugs prescribed for curing cancer are highly priced and unaffordable to the general masses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether these drugs are not covered under the Drugs Price Control Order;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the status of the proposed exemption of cancer curing medicines from all types of taxes in the Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) As per available information, the prices of medicines for treatment of cancer are high particularly in the context of long duration of treatment of cancer patients. Drugs for treatment of Cancer patients are not covered in the list of controlled drugs under Drugs (Price Control) order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). The prices of cancer drugs are, therefore, fixed by the manufacturers themselves taking into account various factors such as the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of excipients, cost of R and D etc.

Under the proposed Pharma Policy at present under the consideration of Group of Ministers (GOM), apart from 74 bulk drugs and their formulations, the drugs/medicines included in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) are proposed to be brought under price control. NLEM 2003 prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also includes some medicines for treatment of cancer e.g. Bleomycin Injection, Gemcitabine Hydrochloride Injection etc.

As per the Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986, announced in September, 1994, the drugs of popular use in which there is monopoly situation have to be kept under price control and the drugs in which there is sufficient market competition have to be kept out of price control. Presently there are 74 bulk drugs included in the first Schedule of DPCO, 95, on the basis of the criteria given in the Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986. The prices of these 74 bulk drugs, and the formulations containing any of these Scheduled drugs are controlled by the Government/NPPA as per the provisions of DPCO, 1995.

(e) and (f) Taxation matters are dealt by Ministry of Finance. However, in the Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006 it has been, *inter-alia*, proposed that the Government would completely exempt all anti cancer drugs (bulk and formulations) from all types of Central taxes, excise duty, import duty etc. and the benefit would be passed on to the consumers. The final decision on the issue of Pharmaceutical Policy will be possible only after the GOM submits its recommendation in this regard. No time frame has been set for finalizing the National Pharmaceuticals Policy.

[Translation]

SHRI SONAWANE PRATAP NARAYANRAO: Madam, even today, Cancer is one of the most dreaded diseases in the country. Cancer is the second among the most fatal diseases in the country causing patients' deaths. Today, about 30 lac persons are suffering from this disease and the number is increasing by 8 lac every year. The worst thing is that 60 per cent patients are below 60 years of age. The maximum expenditure incurred on the treatment of Cancer patients is on medicines. Taxes like excise duty, VAT and Octroi are levied on medicines used in the treatment of Cancer at present.

Madam, it has come to the notice that pharmaceutical companies fix the prices of these medicines by having 500 to 800 per cent margin over and above the manufacturing cost and that is why prices of these medicines are skyrocketing. Through you, I want to ask the Government, whether it intends to take steps to implement the Drug Price Control Order as soon as possible. With the formulation of the National Drug Policy in the year 2000 by the Government under which it was proposed to free the medicines used in the treatment of Cancer from all forms of taxes, Central taxes like excise duty etc., why no action has been taken to implement this policy? Whether the Government has the will power to provide relief to the common people in this matter? Whether the hon'ble Minister will announce a fixed time-frame immediately?

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: The fact of the matter is that the prices of Cancer drugs are on a higher side in the market. The Government is very keen as to how to bring down these prices so that Cancer patients can get the drugs at affordable prices. These anti-Cancer drugs are not covered under the DPCO.

[Translation]

It has not been done under price control so far. In 2003, the Department of Health, Government of India has prepared a list of essential drugs in which 354 medicines have been included and there are 23 anti-

Cancer drugs in this list. We have directed the NPA to explore as to how to include these drugs under this list.

[English]

How to bring these anti-Cancer Drugs under the Price Control Regime so that these drugs can be available to the Cancer patients at reasonable prices? We have already directed the NPPA to look into it and bring it, if possible, immediately within the ambit of the DPCO.

[Translation]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Whether you will waive off the duty or not?

[English]

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Cancer is a vital disease especially among the poor people. Women are also affected by this disease. Most of the women are from the rural areas. Prices of the Cancer drugs are covered in the list of Controlled Drugs. The prices of Cancer drugs are fixed by the manufacturers and they are fixing the prices exorbitantly. Poor people are not able to purchase these drugs. Hence, I would request the Government to take effective steps to reduce the prices of Cancer drugs as most of the poor people are affected by this disease. Cancer is not a curable disease. Hence, I would like to kindly request the Government and the hon. Minister to take steps to bring down the prices and ensure that private manufacturers reduce the prices of Cancer drugs.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: I have already stated that there were about 23 essential drugs listed by the Ministry of Health as anti-Cancer drugs, which needs to be brought under the DPCO.

We have already directed the NPPA to examine it immediately and bring it within the ambit of the DPCO. Once it comes under DPCO, naturally the price has to be reduced.

So far as the tax is concerned, the tax has already been reduced to five per cent now. In the new policy,

total tax exemption will be there so that further benefit can be given to the patients and they would get benefit out of that. Our intention is to bring down as quickly as possible the prices of 23 drugs which have already been listed as essential cancer drugs so that this benefit can be given to the patients.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, will the Government reveal how many blood cancer patients have been saved so far and if so, whether we would be informed about the same in the House?

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: This is a question to be addressed to the Health Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Not a single patient has survived...(Interruptions).

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to submit that Cancer is a disease which is dreadfully spreading in the whole country and it is also incurable. As has been stated, several life saving drugs available in the market are spurious and their prices are also high. Whether you are making any arrangements for the cancer patients belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, poor classes and minorities so that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare can make the medicines available at cheaper rates and the spurious drugs can be checked. By when will the Government make such arrangements? I would like to know this from him.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Madam Speaker, it is true that 20 to 25 lakh people in the country suffer from cancer and its treatment goes on for a long time. So far as the provision of medicines is concerned, it is an average calculation that its treatment cannot cost less than Rs. 25 thousand. Besides, we have also to import some medicines from abroad. Moreover, some indigenous companies are manufacturing these medicines. It's true that the cost of these medicines is on the higher side

and we have made an effort to bring 23 minimum essential anti-cancer drugs under the provision of price control so as to lower their costs. We have directed the National Pricing Authority (NPPA) to take immediate action in this regard so that their prices can be brought down. Besides, a new pharmaceutical policy being formulated contains a provision that the taxes will not be applicable in case of these medicines and this will also lead to the patients getting cheaper medicines.

[English]

This is a concern of everyone, and we are trying our best. Our intention is to bring down the prices so that the patients can get the drugs at affordable prices.

[Translation]

Marketing Strategy by OMCs

*203. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have decided to adopt a common marketing strategy keeping in view the convenience of the consumers particularly for those who are residing outside the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details hereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which this strategy is likely to be implemented by the public sector oil companies across the country?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) set up

Retail Outlet (RO) dealerships/Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) distributorships/Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) dealerships at various locations based on economic feasibility of the locations. Locations found to be economically viable after conducting feasibility studies are rostered in their marketing plan by respective OMCs. These marketing plans cover the entire country, including metropolitan cities and non-metropolitan areas.

For RO dealerships, each OMC has its own separate marketing plan and they enjoy sufficient autonomy so as to enable them to compete amongst themselves and also with the private oil companies, which were given marketing rights subsequent to dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in 2002.

For the conveniences of customers, especially for those residing in non-metropolitan areas, OMC have been setting up of low cost rural ROs, in addition to the regular ROs, to cater to rural/agricultural market in order to reach petroleum products, predominantly diesel, and non-fuel products (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) at the *Kisan's* doorstep. Further, with a view to increase LPG penetration to cover low potential/rural areas, a new scheme called "Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana" has been launched.

Various other measures taken by OMCs for the conveniences of customers include, (1) opening of ATM, Fast Food Counters, Convenience Stores, Ticket Booking, Money Transfer, Insurance Services, etc. at the ROs, (2) measures for ensuring the right quality and quantity of products at the RO by extensive use of the latest technology by (i) installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) for complete monitoring of the movement of all the tank trucks, (ii) automation of retail outlets to monitor various activities in the high selling ROs, (iii) third party certification of ROs, (3) introduction of SMS booking/LPG stoves with thermal efficiency ratings for LPG customers, (4) pilot projects on desired time delivery/anti theft device/multi function regulators for LPG customers, etc.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to say that barring few big cities, there are still some small towns in the country, where the

people have to walk almost 20 miles to get LPG gas, Kerosene and other essential items. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to by when our public sector petroleum companies will ensure the availability of LPG Gas, Petrol and Kerosene oil at nearby places for the common people throughout the country because the people still have to go to far off places for fetching kerosene oil. Has the department formulated any policy in this regard? I am thankful to Shri Murlī Deorajī for formulating Rajiv Gandhi Rural LPG Distribution Scheme for the rural people. By when he would implement the said scheme in the whole country including Maharashtra and my Parliamentary Constituency?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, so far as the question of the hon. Member regarding making petroleum products available in rural areas is concerned, I would like to tell the House that it is indeed the Governments' intention to do so. Our effort has been to supply petroleum products everywhere on time. According to the data, there are 35,000 petrol pumps in our country. So far as the LPG dealership is concerned, there are 10,000 LPG dealerships and 6600 Kerosene dealerships.

Madam, so far as rural area is concerned, the oil marketing companies have formulated a scheme namely, Kisan Sewa Kendra under which petrol pumps will be set up in the interior areas instead of highways. Their number is around 5500 and these have been established in the whole country. Beside non-petroleum products like fertilizers, manure and other such products are being made available at these petrol pumps for agricultural marketing purpose. Just now, the hon. Member mentioned that we have started Rajiv Gandhi Rural LPG Scheme. In the beginning, this scheme has been implemented in those states where LPG penetration is less than 50%. The purpose of the scheme is to make the LPG connection available in those villages which have been deprived of the facility till now. Till now, the LPG connection used to be provided in the cities but under this scheme our effort is to appoint dealers at places where there is availability of 600 refills in a month and this facility will be provided to those people who want to avail it.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Madam, this is a good scheme but so far it has not been implemented in any village. I would like to urge the hon. Minister to get it implemented at the earliest.

Madam, there is inordinate delay in allotment of LPG Agencies by the department due to which people living in small towns are not getting LPG fuel. We want that the people living in small villages should be provided LPG because they have to travel upto 50 kms to get the fuel. Gas agency should be opened at least at Taluka level. Now-a-days, in rural areas fire wood is not used and coal is not available, therefore LPG is used. I wish that Facilities available in cities should also be provided in the rural areas. I would also like to say that a little more transparency should be adopted in allocating gas agencies. There is no transparency in the three member committee because there is no public representative in it due to which the agencies do not start functioning before a year. The Hon'ble Minister should respond to it.

JITIN PRASADA: Madam, as far as this scheme meant for rural areas is concerned, it has been implemented there. It's advertisement has been issued and it is under process. As far as transparency is concerned, a number of cases get entangled in litigation and people had objections. So the norms were relaxed in the new schemes. The status of educational and financial norms has been kept in mind. As the Hon'ble Member has just mentioned that the people of rural areas require gas. In this connection, I would like to state that it has been kept in mind that local people should be given priority. Local people who live in villages, should operate gas agencies and people of the urban areas should not be allowed to purchase the land in rural areas and operate gas agencies there as they do not have any attachment with villages. We have tried to bring about transparency. Till now there used to be an interview method wherein we had 10 marks out of 100. The same was discontinued to avoid discussion. Draw will be held in front of the camera in the presence of the MLA, the MP, representatives of the Block and district and officers of oil marketing companies. Those who fulfill the norms will get gas agency. As such there will be no objection.

[English]

Dr. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI: It is noticed that in the name of extra mileage, etc. many public sector oil companies are insisting on the high priced petrol and diesel. I would like to know whether the Government will control it or not?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, as far as the premium products are concerned, they are additional quality products, additional facilities that are made available in the market and the consumer has a choice to choose whether he wants to go in for the premium petroleum product or he wants to buy the regular product. It is entirely at the discretion and the choice of the consumer.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHANKAR RAJBHAR: Madam Speaker, the Hon'ble Minister has in this reply stated that Rajiv Gandhi Rural LPG Distribution Scheme is being implemented to provide benefit to rural people. He told that advertisement has been issued for suitable locations. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the process adopted for selection of locations has been completed at the officers level or there is any provision to include the opinion of the Hon'ble Members in it?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Hon'ble Madam, as far as the question of selection of locations is concerned, we receive applications from Hon'ble Members and public representatives indicating the requirement for setting up these and they are forwarded to oil marketing companies so that survey could be conducted after the feasibility study and profit viability of the dealership can be assessed accordingly. In the selection of location, we assess the overload and shortage with existing dealers and have they are given preference to that this facility could be provided as soon as possible at the places where this facility is not available.

[English]

Pricing Policy for Natural Gas

*204. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to reduce the variance in natural gas prices within the country for encouraging potential customers like fertilizer and power sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not the reason therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to give freedom to the producers to market their gas, through a mechanism that ensures transparency and avoids transfer pricing or deliberate under pricing;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) At present, there are broadly two pricing regimes for gas in the country, i.e., gas priced under Administered Price Mechanism (APM) and non-APM or free market gas. In view of the multiple gas prices prevalent based on different producer prices, a study is being undertaken by GAIL (India) Ltd.

(d) to (f) Under NELP Production Sharing Contract (PSC), the Contractor has freedom to market the gas for the purpose of sales in the domestic market in India, subject to:—

- (i) the Government's policy for the utilization of natural gas, as envisaged in Article 21 of the PSC; and
- (ii) price formula or basis approved by the Government under Article 21.6 of the PSC, prior to sale of gas.

SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Madam Speaker, according to the Shankar Committee and the Kelkar Committee recommendations, natural gas should be numerated in rupee prices. However, they still continue to be numerated in dollar prices where the dollar has been pegged at Rs.

40 but in real terms it is Rs. 46 to Rs. 50. So, on an average the Government is losing a margin of Rs. 6 to Rs. 10 per unit to these large companies. I just want to ask the hon. Minister about the Government's policy on this.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: As far as gas pricing is concerned, in India the market for gas is not that developed and we have devised various formulas and various situations according to the block and the gas fields that gas comes out from. Since gas is an alternative fuel to the crude which is available in barrel terms and dollar terms, we have to go in for gas pricing comparing it with the international pricing of crude oil which are in dollars. But in India we translate that dollar term into rupees and that is what is made available to the people.

SHRI VARUN GANDHI: As gas prices are being raised, there has been a huge financial pressure on fertilizer companies and smaller companies to rising input costs. My question is, as fertilizer costs are controlled by the Government of India, rising prices will obviously mean a much higher subsidy for fertilizer companies. So, would not this mean a concomitant increase in revenue expenditure and therefore a lot of pressure on the central fiscal deficit?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, as far as Government is concerned, we have given marketing freedom to oil and gas producers subject to certain clauses where we go in to monitor the pricing and the allocation. This Government is committed to it and that is why, we have come out with gas utilization policy. In that policy, fertilizer sector and power sector have been given priority. I must tell you that with the latest gas finds in this country and with this gas being made available to the fertilizer sector, around Rs. 4000 crore per annum will be saved because this is a cheaper fuel.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Madam, this is a very important question. Through you, I want to inform the government that there is a dire need of natural gas in the country. The Government has planned to make it accessible to the people of villages. You may be aware

that gas reserves have been found in some parts of the country, but there is a case pending in the Supreme Court about which I don't know much. Yet, I have read in the newspapers that the Attorney General says that he pleads only on behalf of the Petroleum Department.

I want to ask to the Hon'ble Minister whether his Ministry has moved the Supreme Court in the matter? I don't want to go into the details and dispute connected with this case, I only want to know whether it is the Department or the Union Government that has taken this case to the Court? This is a serious question as sectors like, fertilizer and power are associated in the Gas Sector. If gas is made available to the villages, it will highly boost the fertilizer and power sectors. Since the case is in the Supreme Court, I would like to know who is the plaintiff in this case—Government or the concerned Department alone?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, the Hon'ble Member is a senior member of the House but as far his question is concerned, it does not relate to the subject. The matter is *sub-judice*. Our government accords due priority to the fertilizer and power sectors and we are committed for equal distribution of gas to all...(Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER: Please, keep quite. The Hon'ble Minister is giving the reply. It seems, perhaps, he has completed his reply.

[English]

Rail Accidents Due to Collision

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*205. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several railway accidents had taken place in the recent past due to collision;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Anti-Collision Device is being installed in trains to prevent accidents;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such devices are likely to be installed in all the trains?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) A During the last three months, there has been one train accident due to collision. The collision took place between 2964 Mewar Express and 2779 Goa Express near Mathura station of Agra Division on North Central Railway on 21-10-2009.

(c) and (d) The Anti-Collision Device (ACD), developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) was approved as a pilot project for Northeast Frontier Railway in 2000-01. It was installed on 1736 Route Kilometres of Northeast Frontier Railway in July, 2006. Based on the experience over Northeast Frontier Railway, revised specifications for Anti-Collision Device have been framed. Improved ACD System to the revised specifications is to be developed by KRCL and this is planned to be installed for trial on three Railway Zones (Southern, South Central and South Western Railways) covering 1600 Route Kilometres.

(e) Further proliferation of Anti-Collision Device on Indian Railways will be planned based on performance evaluation of the equipment with improved specifications on the Southern, South Central and South Western Railways.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Madam, you may have noticed that thousands of people lost their lives in the train accidents that occurred in the last few years, the last six months in particular. It is necessary to install anti-collision devices for the safety of general public and some steps have been taken in this direction. Yet, I suppose the department has not made best efforts and has not addressed the issue sincerely. I would like to refer to a small comment in a CAG report here:—

[English]

There has been investment of Rs. 133 crore on provision of anti-collision device. The performance of ACD

installed is not satisfactory. The working of the ACD and its utility across the Indian Railways may need a review.

[Translation]

While we see many a new inventions in different railway networks worldwide, your department is taking so much time in finding out a suitable anti-collision device. I want to ask the Hon'ble Minister about the laxities in the process and the corrective steps likely to be taken in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): Madam Speaker, I thank Shri Agarwal for asking such an important question. But it is not true that over a thousand people have lost their lives.

[English]

The number of accidents in the Railways has decreased, but if there is even one death, then also it is unfortunate. Railways is a transport business. Every year, as you all might be aware, approximately 1,30,000 people lose their lives because of road accidents, but even in case of big railway accidents the loss of lives is somewhere in the range of 200 to 300 people. So, Railways is passenger friendly. But if there is one death also because of rail accidents, then we are sorry for it and we apologise for that.

In the first part of the question the hon. Member has mentioned about the death of 1000 people. Nowadays there are a number of TV channels and we can see even if there is a death of a buffalo because of an accident. Of course, we want to say that it is good as such things are brought to our knowledge immediately.

If one would compare the figures of death for last year and this year, then it would be seen that from May 23, 2008 to 30th November, 2008, the number of deaths because of rail accident was 40 and from May 23, 2009 to November 30, 2009, the number of passenger deaths because of rail accidents other than on unmanned level crossing accidents is 31. So, it is on the decrease and not on the rise. But death due to rail accidents is unfortunate. If one would compare the figures of train accidents because of collision, derailment,

manned level crossing, unmanned level crossings, fire and other miscellaneous factors, then one would see that the figure was 463 some 10 years back and now it is 102 till November, this year and this has been possible because we are developing our safety systems in the Railways.

Madam, in the year 2000-01 when I was the Railway Minister I ordered for this anti-collision device and a provision was made for this because I was very much concerned about safety. After that only a stretch of 1700 kilometres in the North Frontier Railways have been covered so far. There are three proposals for this in the South Central Railways, Southern Railways and South Western Railways.

But I feel that anti-collision device is needed. This matter is very sensitive. In India, it is available only with the Konkan Railways. The Konkan Railways have set up the anti-collision device in the North Frontier Railways but there are some technical problems. After we develop the system, the Railways will decide how to proceed further. I do not know why it has been delayed. But I am also in favour of that and we have to do it.

[Translation]

SHRI JAIPRAKASH AGARWAL: Madam, there has not been expected progress during these years. We are a social welfare state and, I believe public safety is much more important than making railway a profit earning undertaking. I want to point out to the Minister that while the Railways was eager to show profits during the last five years, they failed to put in place the required investment. You have failed to discuss things with the countries where such safety devices have been installed, worldwide and also to allocate enough funds for innovation and installation work. I want to know whether you have taken any fresh steps for this or you are adopting the same old policy.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Madam Speaker, it is true that whenever there is any accident sometimes we try to put in place new technology such as anti collision devices and other safety related measures. But we do not have the long term policy. There are some departmental problems as well.

[English]

We have decided this time that we have to go ahead in terms of short-term vision and long-term vision.

[Translation]

We will bring it to the zero tolerance level in the coming 10 years. If we plan it today, we would be able to do it in the coming days.

[English]

We will do it and this is our commitment.

[Translation]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Madam Speaker, I come from Hadoti. Earlier Mewar Express used to run through the Hadoti region. Today, the Minister was stating that she does not have long-term policy. The UPA Government was in power from 2004 to 2009 and they are again in power for the coming five years. What is your policy in this regard? You talk about the common man. Two accidents have taken place in our region, Rajasthan. What programme have you formulated for the future? You are telling that anti collision device should be installed in the entire country but at present the same device is limited to Konkan railways only. You had mentioned in your first speech that you would issue a paper in which complete details would be given for the last five years in regard to the money allocated for the installation of anti-collision devices and the fact would also be verified whether that money was utilized for the above purpose? If so, the area where that money was utilized alongwith the details thereof? Kindly state the areas and divisions where the same are going to be installed in the coming five years.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Madam Speaker, it is true that the anti collision devices have been installed in North Frontier. At present, 500 people are working there. The work is going on at a good pace. But

[English]

there are some technical difficulties which I cannot disclose here

[Translation]

as it is a technical thing. Safety of passengers is paramount for us.

[English]

For every fifteen days, we hold the meeting on safety to review it. I hold meetings of the full railway board to look into safety measures. We have also decided to appoint a special officer at the level of DRM to take care of the safety of the passengers.

[Translation]

You have asked as to how have we installed the same. We have installed it in North frontier railways we have allocated Rs. 127 crores for the installation of the same in South Central, Southern and South Western railways. We are still making an estimate of the same. It is in the sub urban section of Mumbai, it is in 60 kilometer area, 93 kilometer area and it is 50 kilometer in the Chennai but we want the same for the entire Indian Railway Network. We will undertake a study and research for the above purpose. There is a need to evolve a strict and comprehensive mechanism taking into account the train protection system of various countries. It is available at only one place in India but we have to improve the same

[English]

for this we will take full care of it and then we will do it in every Railways. An amount of Rs. 13,000 crores may be required to be allocated for this matter.

If the Finance Minister gives us support, we can do it.

[Translation]

SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY: Madam Speaker, I had visited the spot of accident the details of which have been given by the Minister in her reply. I, therefore, want to say that such accident should not take place and in this regard she has mentioned a lot in detail. There are some other options such as GIS and GPS technology in addition to anti collision devices. Are we searching for the said option? What is the follow

up action taken after the accident? I have observed that in the Mathura accident, the first response was given by the people of Chhatla legislative assembly constituency. The people of that area saved the lives of the passengers by using cutting devices in order to cut the boggies. The army took many hours to reach the spot. In 2003, an announcement was made that the Government is formulating a scheme at a cost of Rs. 400 crores to set up an emergency response unit. A train that would run at the speed of 140 kilometer per hour would provide us the facility of emergency response. I would like to ask what arrangements have been made in regard to the implementation of the announcement made in 2003. Why is there delay in the Emergency response? We have lost several lives in this accident and a number of people are still affected by this. Therefore, I would like to know what kind of arrangements have been made for them?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: No, it is not so. If any accident takes place then

[English]

it is the duty and moral obligation of the Ministry of Railways to send accident relief trains, alongwith all medical facilities. We have coordination with local hospitals also if anything happens.

[Translation]

We have decided that we shall not see whether the hospital is private or whether it will cost us more money

[English]

it is the duty and responsibility of the Ministry of Railways. They have to take full care of the passengers.

[Translation]

If you have any specific information in this regard, please provide that to us. When ever there is a delay of even five minutes, whenever there is any agitation like Rasta Roko or an officer is transferred, the rail engine is seperated from the boggies. In such a situation.

[English]

Railway becomes the soft target.

[Translation]

It creates problem.

[English]

Please cooperate with us and if there is any particular information, you bring it to our knowledge and we will take necessary action.

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 206, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray—Not present.

[Translation]

Revision in Sale Price of APM Gas

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*207. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to revise the selling price of Administered Price Mechanism (APM) gas produced by Oil and Natural Gas and Oil India Ltd. (OIL);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government plans to utilize the revenue earned by the difference between the selling price and the cost of production?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(c) It is proposed that the difference in consumer price and producer price be transferred to Oil and

Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. and Oil India Ltd. for maintaining/increasing the production of gas from nominated fields, as also for development of such fields and research and development activities.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA: Madam Speaker, natural gas has been in use since long and this is an established industry in the country. Further, refining capacity of crude oil is also increasing day by day. It is commendable on the part of the Government to encourage crude oil refining industry. With the growth of industries, the cost price of products come and down. Today, there is frequent increase in the price of gas in the country which causes hardship to the consumers. The policy of the Government is not pro-consumer. I want to know from the Government why the consumers are facing hardship and why there is frequent price rise when the natural gas industry is growing at a good pace and refining capacity of crude oil in the country is increasing rapidly. Will the Government formulate a consumer friendly natural gas policy and provide them gas at affordable prices?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: As far as natural gas is concerned, it is scarce in our country and it is considered a cheaper fuel and its demand is very high in the country. Recently, we have struck a huge reserve of natural gas and distribution from it has also started. Moreover, I want to tell that the Government intends and to make gas available everywhere for which utilization policy has been framed. As I have already said, top priority has been accorded to the power sector. With the latest find of gas in the country, we will be able to generate additional 10,000 MW power which will enable us to save Rs. 11,000 crore. Otherwise, we would have been dependent on coal, Naptha and other things. So far as fertilizers are concerned, there will be production of fertilizers to the tune of 76 lakh tonnes per annum with gas being made available to the fertilizer plants. This will save Rs. 4,000 crores to the exchequer. The other utilities to which gas is being supplied are mandated by the Court. CNG has not reached to the villages so far but it is being made available in big cities in order to reduce pollution and PNG (Piped Natural Gas) will replace the LPG cylinders. PNG will be supplied through pipes to each household and it will

give relief to the people from the difficulties they face in getting their LPG cylinders refilled. The Government has made allotment of gas to the small scale industries which use 50 thousand smd which contains less quantity of gas so that small scale industries could also grow and they also could get the benefit of cheaper gas and earn profit.

SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA: Madam Speaker, the price of natural gas is determined by Government of India on the basis of APM (Administered Price Mechanism), I would like to know from the Government as to which components including production cost are added while determining the price and how they determine finally the price?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, as far as APM is concerned, earlier there were only two upstream companies in our country—the ONGC and the Oil India and we used to nominate the blocks to them. The Government used to allocate blocks to them and they used to produce oil and gas. For this they did not have to face any competition and gas market was also not developed. Thus, the Government decided that APM would be determined by adding gas cost as well while reckoning the total cost. I am talking about the scenario that existed before 2005. In 2005 the Government felt that gas was being provided at a very low cost and on account of that ONGC and Oil India suffered huge losses. If you wish to have the losses figure, I must tell you that in the year 2006, ONGC suffered a huge loss of Rs. 2500 crore, because APM gas was provided at approximately two dollars. If these companies incur losses then they will not get the incentive to go in for exploration of gas. They will not get encouragement, will not bring new technology. Due to this, our Gas production will be hit hard. Thus, I am telling you that APM gas is very cheaper and is being provided at around two dollars. If that is reckoned in terms of crude oil then it is being provided at the rate of 12 dollar whereas today crude is above 80 dollar. You can very well understand how much losses the Government is suffering.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Madam Speaker, through you, I seek a clarification that the Government have decided APM price as 1.8 dollar, after that the Group of Ministers (GOM) has pegged it at 4.2 dollar

per unit at which it was being sold to Reliance Public Sector Undertaking. After that they went to the Supreme Court. As far as I know the Government is putting forward a proposal before the Cabinet and planning to increase it by 44 per cent. Whether the rate of 1.8 dollar decided as Administered Price Mechanism was not the cost of production and if it was the cost of production then what was the need to increase it by 44 per cent? I want to tell you that the consumers should get the benefit of cost of production and market price.

Madam, whatsoever the benefit the consumers should get it whereas according to your policy this benefit is accruing to producer. If the policy has certain loopholes, we should sit together and resolve there.

MADAM SPEAKER: You may ask your question.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Madam Speaker, I am asking the question. I am saying that if there is any fault in the policy, it may be corrected, but if the intention is malafide, then nothing can be done by anyone. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to whether its benefit should not be passed to the consumers and whether they are going to leave such anti-people policy or not?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, as I have said that the Government does not have any such anti-people policy. As I have already told during the reply of the previous question that the APM gas is very cheaper from today's standards. As far as ONGC is concerned, it is a leading PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. 97 per cent gas of ONGC is supplied at APM rates which is almost around 2 dollars. This is equal to only 12 dollars in terms of crude oil whereas the rates of crude oil are much higher in the international market. Therefore, you can understand it. We have to ascertain the prices of alternative fuels and only after that, we can decide its standards.

Madam, as far as the question of the Hon'ble Member is concerned that whether it is cost plus or not, I would like to say that it is true that it is cost plus. APM gas is on cost plus and the rates of the APM gas decided by the gas linkage committee at that time are still being maintained. Indeed there is a proposal for revision but since there are different prices of gas because there are different wells. The proposal

of the Ministry will be decided by the Cabinet. The proposal for revision is based on the recommendations of the Tariff Commission but the increase is not 44% as being told by the hon'ble Member. I am not aware of his source of information but it is completely wrong. It is not true. I refute it and it is not going to happen.

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 208.

Performance of Textile Sector

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*208. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI RAMESH BAIS:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steps taken by the Government to counter the adverse effect of recession in the textiles sector have shown positive results;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the further corrective measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Government has taken positive and pro-active steps to counter the adverse effects of recession in the textiles sector and has introduced various stimulus packages from time to time. These measures/packages have helped to meet the crisis to a great extent. There was a decline of production of fabric, manmade fibre and cotton yarn in the year 2008-09 over 2007-08 of 1.9%, 14.3% and 1.7% respectively. However, with the introduction of various stimuli packages and measures, the impact of recession has been substantially countered. The production of fabric has increased by 10% during April-October, 2009 over the corresponding period of 2008, while production of Man-made fibres and filament yarn has increased by 13%, production of cotton yarn has increased by 2% and production of blended yarn has registered an increase of 5% (Source: Office of Textile Commissioner).

As per the latest Index of Industrial Production (IIP), textiles production is strong compared to the entire industry. IIP registered a growth of 5.79%, production of textile products (including apparel) recorded a growth of 9.47% and that of wool, silk and man-made textiles registered a growth of 11.88% during April-August, 2009 over the same period in 2008 [Source: Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy (CMIE)].

On the exports front, however, the EU and the US markets of textiles and clothing (T and C), which account for more than half of global imports of T and C products have been under recessionary spell for quite some time now. As per DGCI and S data, textiles exports have declined by 20.41% in dollar terms during the period April-June 2009 over corresponding period of previous year.

The stimulus packages and other recent measures that have been introduced to counter the adverse effect of recession include:—

Stimulus Scheme announced on 07-12-2008

- (1) General reduction of 4% in CENVAT rates. As a result, the textile machinery had 10% (Previously 14%) and Non-cotton textile have 4% (Previously 8%) CENVAT rate.
- (2) 4% optional CENVAT on cotton textiles has been abolished.
- (3) NAPTHA has been exempted from import duty (Previously 5%) for use in the power sector.
- (4) Rate of C. Excise duty on cotton textiles reduced from 4% to Nil [Notification No. 59/2008 (C. Excise dated 07-12-2008)].
- (5) The benefit of Service Tax refund (Already available to 19 other services, which are not in the nature of "input services" but could be linked to export goods.) is now extended to service provided by a clearing and forwarding agent to exporters.
- (6) The Threshold limit of refund of service tax paid by exporters on foreign commissioner agent service has been enhanced from 2% of FOB value to 10% of FOB value of exports.

- (7) Draw back benefit can now be availed of simultaneously with refund of service tax paid in respect of exports.
- (8) Pre and post-shipment export credit for certain specific sectors including textiles belongs to SME sector is being made more attractive by providing an interest subvention of 2% upto 31-03-2009 subject to minimum rate of interest 7% per annum.
- (9) An additional allocation of Rs. 1400 crore will be made to clear the entire backlog in TUF Scheme.
- (10) All items of handicrafts will be included under 'Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana', All items of Handicraft included under Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY) Scheme, under which exports are eligible for Duty Credit Scrip equivalent to 5% of FOB value.
- (11) To boost collateral free lending, the current guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small enterprises on loans will be extended from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore with guarantee cover of 50 per cent.
- (12) Government back-up guarantee ECGC to the extent of Rs. 350 crores to enable it to provide Guarantees for exports to difficult markets/products, to continue the single buyer policy.
- (13) Additional fund of Rs. 1100 crores for refund of Terminal Excise Duty (TED).
- (14) Additional provision of Rs. 350 crores for export incentive schemes.

DEPB/DBK Scheme Announced on 02-01-2009

- (15) The DEPB Scheme extended till December 31, 2009 and restored the rates at those prevailing prior to 5th November 2008.
- (16) Restored DEPB Credit rates to those prevailing prior to 1-9-2008. However, no benefit to exporters of cotton textiles since

there was no reduction in the DEPB rates for cotton textiles.

- (17) Decided to remove the all-in-cost ceilings on External Commercial Borrowings.
- (18) Duty Drawback revised rates/value caps with retrospective effect i.e. w.e.f. 1-9-2008—
 - (a) Increased Value cap for Cotton Yarn from Rs. 8 per kg to Rs. 12 per kg for Grey Yarn and from Rs. 14 per kg to Rs. 16 per kg for Dyed yarn.
 - (b) Increased rate of Drawback for Cotton Knitted Fabrics from 4.5% and 5% and value cap from Rs. 14 per kg to Rs. 15.60 per kg.

Interim Budget 2009-10

- (19) General rate of Central Excise Duty is reduced from 10% to 8%. As a result Central Excise Duty on Textile Machinery is reduced from 10% to 8%.
- (20) Rate of Service Tax on taxable services is reduced from 12% to 10%.

Second Stimulus Package Scheme announced on 24-2-2009

- (21) Customer Duty—The facility of exemption from Basis Customs Duty on imports of Naptha for generation of Electric energy is being extended beyond 31-03-2009.
- (22) Excise Duty—
 - (a) General Reduction in Excise Duty rates by 4% made w.e.f. 7-12-2008 is being extended beyond 31-03-2009.
 - (b) Further reduction in the rate of Excise Duty by 2%; i.e. from 10% to 8%.
 - (c) Retaining the rate of Central Excise Duty on goods currently attracting Ad-Valorem rates of 8% and 4% respectively.
- (23) Service Tax—The rate of Service Tax on taxable services has been reduced from 12% to 10%.

- (24) Exemption from Income Tax for SEZ/s—Removed the anomaly in computation of export profits with reference to the total turnover of the assesses in SEZ/s.

Major supplementary Trade Facilitation Measures announced under Foreign Trade Policy 2004-2009 (on 26-02-2009)

- (25) Rs. 325 crore provided under promotional Schemes for Leather, Textiles etc. for exports made with effect from 1-04-2009. It is in the form of 2% duty credit scrip of FOB value of exports under market linked focused product scheme exclusively for exports into US and EU.
- (26) Benefit of 5% duty credit scrip of FOB value of exports under Focus Product Scheme has been notified for exports of handmade carpets, in lieu of 3.5% benefit allowed earlier under VKGUY scheme (Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana).
- (27) Technical Textiles has been added under High-Tech Products Export Promotion Scheme and now entitled to duty credit scrip equivalent to 1.25% of FOB value of exports.
- (28) Under EPCG scheme, in case of decline in exports of a product by more than 5%, the export obligation of that product is to be reduced proportionately. This provision has been extended for the year 2009-10, for exports during 2008-09.
- (29) DEPB/Duty credit scrip utilization extended for payment of duty for import of restricted items also.
- (30) Procedure for claiming duty drawback refund and refund of terminal excise duty further simplified.
- (31) Re-credit of 4% SAD, in case of payment of duty by incentive scheme scrips such as VKGUY, Focus product and Focus Market, was allowed.
- (32) Export obligation period against Advance

Authorizations extended up to 36 months.

- (33) Permitted supply of intermediate products by the domestic producer directly from the factory to the port of shipment against Advance Intermediate Authorization.
- (34) Dispensed with the requirement of MODVAT/CENVAT certificate in cases where the Customs Notification itself prescribed for payment of CVD, in respect of Advance Licences issued prior to 01-04-2002.
- (35) Export House—Reduced the threshold limit for recognizing Premier Trading Houses from Rs. 10,000 crore in the preceding three years and current year to Rs. 7,500 crore.

Additional Scheme announced on 04-03-2009

- (36) The Government announced facility of refund of service tax paid on all input services, irrespective of whether they are consumed inside or outside the zone, to Special Economic Zones (SEZ) units and developers. Previously, the government exempted SEZ developers/units from paying a tax on services that were consumed within the zone.

Other Facilitation Measures

- (37) Re-imbursement of Additional Duty of Excise levied on fuel under the Finance Act would also be admissible in respect of EOU's.
- (38) Re-credit of 4% SAD, in case of payment of duty by incentive scheme scrips such as VKGUY, FPS and FMS, has now been allowed.
- (39) Simplification of the provision for getting refund of Terminal Excise Duty/Deemed Export Benefits and now exporters can submit a statement certified by Central Excise Authorities in lieu of individual invoices and a monthly statement confirming duty payment in lieu of ER-1/ER-3.
- (40) Krishnapatnam seaport included for the purpose of Export Promotion Schemes.
- (41) Electronic Message Transfer facility for

Advance Authorization and EPCG Scheme established for shipments from EDI ports w.e.f. 01-04-2009.

- (42) Requirement of hard copy of Shipping Bills dispensed with for Export Obligation discharge.

RBI's measures (25-03-2009)

- (43) The validity of interest subvention at 2% on Pre Shipment Credit upto 270 days and Post Shipment Credit upto 180 days was extended from 31-03-2009 to 30-09-2009.
- (44) The validity of interest subvention at 2% on Pre Shipment Credit upto 270 days and Post Shipment Credit upto 180 days has been extended from 30-09-2009 to 31-03-2010.

Strengthening of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme

- (45) TUFs has been extended till 31-3-2012.
- (46) In the current financial year the Government has made a provision of Rs. 2890 crore as against Budget Estimates of Rs. 1090 crore during 2008-09.
- (47) The Government released a subsidy of Rs. 2546 crore under TUFs on 6-8-2009 in a single tranche and the amount was credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries within 72 hours. With this release commitments under TUFs upto 30-06-2009 have been substantially met.

Major Incentives Introduced under Foreign Trade Policy—2009-2014

- (48) Incentive Schemes have been expanded by addition of new products and markets.
- (49) 26 new markets have been added under the Focus Market Scheme. These include 16 new markets in Latin America and 10 in Asia-Oceania.
- (50) The incentive available under Focus Market Scheme (FMS) has been raised from 2.5% to 3%.

- (51) The incentive available under the Focus Product Scheme (FPS) has been raised from 1.25% to 2%. This covers a large number of products from various sectors have been included for benefits under the FPS. These include Jute and Sisal products, Technical Textiles and vegetable textiles.

- (52) Market Linked Focus Product Scheme (MLFPS) has been greatly expanded by inclusion of products classified under as many as 153 ITC(HS) Codes at 4 digit level. This covers textiles madeups, knitted and crocheted fabrics.

- (53) MLFPS benefits also extended for export to additional new markets for certain products. These include apparels among others.

- (54) Higher allocation for Market Development Assistance (MDA) and Market Access Initiative (MAI) scheme is being provided.

- (55) To aid technological Upgradation of export sector, EPCG Scheme at Zero Duty has been introduced for apparels and textiles among others.

- (56) To impart stability to the Policy regime, Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) Scheme is extended beyond 31-12-2009 till 31-12-2010.

- (57) To simplify claims under FPS, requirement of 'Handloom Mark' for availing benefits under FPS has been removed.

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Hon'ble Madam Speaker, as per the reply received from the Hon'ble Minister, two stimulus packages have been given—first on the December, 2008 and second on 24th February, 2009 to overcome the adverse affects of recession. But it is also mentioned in the same reply that after the announcement of both the packages, as per the figures of the DGCI and S during April-June, 2009, a decline of 20.41 per cent has been observed in the export of garments in dollars as compared to the corresponding period during the last year.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member, we have very less time left. Therefore, kindly ask your question immediately.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Madam, what are the reasons behind the decline even after the two stimulus packages to combat recession?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Madam, I would like to inform the hon. Member, through you, that it is a fact that due to the global recession there was a decline in the exports. The Government has been quick to act and from December, 2008 we have announced several stimulus packages to promote exports. As I said in my statement, there is a decline of minus 20 per cent in dollar terms and if you consider it in rupee terms it is minus 6 per cent. Moreover, we have to wait for the economies of US and Europe to improve. The recession there is on the decline and we are seeing a positive trend.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Madam, in the year 2007, the share of India in the Global textile and clothing trade was 4 per cent and 28 per cent respectively. As such the position of India in the trade of textile and clothing over world was seventh and sixth respectively. Through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister that what is the current position of India in Global trade?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Madam, we would be, at least, in the fourth or fifth place in exports. Again, the question should be specific. If the hon. Members asks a specific question relating to a particular country, I can answer. Otherwise, I cannot say the overall position.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, it has to be countrywise.

Shri Ramesh Bais—Not present.

Exploration of Oil/Natural Gas by Private Companies

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

(a) the number of production sharing contracts (PSC) signed between the Government and the private contractors under the New Exploration and Licensing Policy;

(b) the details of names of the private contractors and the blocks provided to them, area-wise; and

(c) the mechanism/method by which the Government assesses the amount of expenditure claimed to have been incurred by the private operators in the exploration of crude oil and natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Under the seven bid rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) concluded so far, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 85 blocks with private companies. The details are given in the enclosed annexure.

(c) The PSC provides the framework/mechanism for recovery of expenditure incurred in the Project by the Contractor. As per provisions of Production Sharing Contract (PSC), the Management Committee (MC) approves the Annual Work Programme and budgets. The Expenditure incurred by the Contractor, is cost recoverable only to the extent of permissible and audited cost. Under the PSC the Government may undertake the conduct of the audit either through its own representatives or through a firm of Chartered Accountants, registered in India, or reputed consulting firm. The cost recovery to the Contractor is permitted pursuant to approved work programme and budget by MC and after adjustment of the audit exceptions as per provisions of PSC.

Annexure**List of Exploration Blocks Awarded to Private Companies (NELP-I)**

Sl. No.	Blocks	Name of the Player/ Consortium	Date of Signing of Contract	Original Area/ Sq. Km.	Type	Area/State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	KG-DWN-98/1	RIL-100%	12-04-2000	10810	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
2.	KG-DWN-98/3	RIL-90%,Niko-10%	12-04-2000	7645	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
3.	NEC-OSN-97/2	RIL-90% and Niko 10%	12-04-2000	14535	Offshore	North East Offshore
4.	NEC-OSN-97/1	GAIL-50% and GAZPROM 50%	03-10-2000	10425	Offshore	North East Offshore
5.	MN-DWN-98/2	RIL 100%	12-04-2000	9605	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
6.	MB-OSN-97/2*	RIL and NIKO	12-04-2000	5270	Offshore	Western Offshore
7.	MB-OSN-97/3*	RIL 100%	12-04-2000	5740	Offshore	Western Offshore
8.	GK-OSN-97/1*	RIL 100%	12-04-2000	1465	Offshore	Western Offshore
9.	KG-OSN-97/2*	RIL 100%	12-04-2000	4790	Offshore	Eastern Offshore
10.	KG-OSN-97/3*	RIL 100%	12-04-2000	2460	Offshore	Eastern Offshore
11.	KG-OSN-97/4*	RIL 100%	12-04-2000	4020	Offshore	Eastern Offshore
12.	KK-OSN-97/2*	RIL 100%	12-04-2000	14395	Offshore	Western Offshore
13.	CY-OSN-97/1*	HOEC 80% and MIL 20%	08-01-2001	2470	Offshore	Eastern Offshore
14.	SR-OSN-97/1*	RIL 100%	12-04-2000	5040	Offshore	Eastern Offshore
(NELP-II)						
1.	GS-OSN-2000/1	RIL 90%, HEPI 10%	17-07-2001	8841	Offshore	Western Offshore

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	AS-ONN-2000/1	RIL 90%, HEPI 10%	17-07-2001	5754	Onland	Assam
3.	CB-ONN-2000/2	NIKO 100%	17-07-2001	419	Onland	Gujarat
4.	KK-DWN-2000/1	RIL 100%	17-07-2001	18113	Deep Water	Western Offshore
5.	KK-DWN-2000/3	RIL 100%	17-07-2001	14889	Deep Water	Western Offshore
(NELP-III)						
1.	KK-DWN-2001/2	RIL 100%	04-02-2003	31515	Deep Water	Kerala Konkan
2.	KK-DWN-2001/1	RIL 100%	04-02-2003	27315	Deep Water	Kerala Konkan
3.	CY-DWN-2001/2	RIL 100%	04-02-2003	14325	Deep Water	Cauvery
4.	CY-PR-DWN-2001/1	RIL 100%	04-02-2003	8600	Deep Water	Cauvery Palar
5.	CY-PR-DWN-2001/1	RIL 100%	04-02-2003	10590	Deep Water	Cauvery Palar
6.	PR-DWN-2001/1	RIL 100%	04-02-2003	8255	Deep Water	Palar
7.	KG-DWN-2001/1	RIL 90%, HEPI 10%	04-02-2003	11605	Deep Water	Krishna Godavari
8.	KG-OSN-2001/1	RIL 100%	04-02-2003	1100	Offshore	Krishna Godavari
9.	KG-OSN-2001/2	RIL 100%	04-02-2003	210	Offshore	Krishna Godavari
(NELP-IV)						
1.	NEC-DWN-2002/1	RIL-90, HEPI-10	06-02-2004	25565	Deep Water	North East Coast
2.	CB-ONN-2002/2	JOGPL (30), GSPC(60) and GGR (10)	06-02-2004	125	Onland	Gujarat
3.	CY-ONN-2002/1	JOGPL-30, GAIL-50, GSPC-20	06-02-2004	680	Onland	Tamil Nadu
4.	GV-ONN-2002/1	CEIL-50, CESL-50	06-02-2004	15550	Onland	Bihar

5.	AA-ONN-2002/1	JOGPL-20, GAIL-80	06-02-2004	1680	Onland	Tripura
(NELP-V)						
1.	KK-DWN-2003/1	RIL 100%	23-09-2005	18245	Deep water	Western Offshore
2.	KK-DWN-2003/2	RIL 100%	23-09-2005	12285	Deep water	Western Offshore
3.	KG-DWN-2003/1	RIL 90% and HEPI 10%	23-09-2005	3288	Deep water	Eastern Offshore
4.	MN-DWN-2003/1	RIL 85% amd NR(V)L 15%	23-09-2005	17050	Deep water	Eastern Offshore
5.	AN-DWN-2003/2	ENI 40%, ONGC 45% and GAIL 15%	23-09-2005	13110	Deep water	Andaman Nikobar
6.	AA-ONN-2003/1	JOGP 10%, JSPL 35%, GSPC 20% and GAIL 35%	16-12-2005	81	Onland	Assam
7.	AA-ONN-2003/2	GPI 30%, NTPC 40% and CRL 30%	16-12-2005	295	Onland	Arunachal Pradesh
8.	GV-ONN-2003/1	CEIL 24%, CEIL 25% and ONGC 51%	23-09-2005	7210	Onland	Uttar Pradesh
9.	VN-ONN-2003/1	CEIL 24%, CE6L 25% and ONGC 51%	23-09-2005	3585	Onland	Rajasthan
10.	RJ-ONN-2003/1	ENI 34%, ONGC 36%, CE2L 30%	23-09-2005	1335	Onland	Rajasthan
11.	RJ-ONN-2003/2	FEL 10% and BIL 40% and XOH 50%	23-09-2005	13195	Onland	Rajasthan
12.	CB-ONN-2003/1	RIL 100%	23-09-2005	635	Onland	Gujarat
13.	DS-ONN-2003/1	GGR 100%	23-09-2005	3155	Onland	Maharashtra
14.	KG-ONN-2003/1	CEIL 24%, ONGC 51% and CE4L 25%	23-09-2005	1697	Onland	Andhra Pradesh
15.	CY-ONN-2003/1	NR(V)L 100%	23-09-2005	957	Onland	Tamil Nadu

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(NELP-VI)						
1.	KG-DWN-2004/4	RIL (100%)	02-03-2007	11904	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
2.	KG-DWN-2004/7	RIL (100%)	02-03-2007	11856	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
3.	MN-DWN-2004/1	RIL (100%)	02-03-2007	9885	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
4.	MN-DWN-2004/2	RIL (100%)	02-03-2007	11813	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
5.	MN-DWN-2004/3	RIL (100%)	02-03-2007	11316	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
6.	MN-DWN-2004/4	RIL (100%)	02-03-2007	8822	Deep Water	Eastern Offshores
7.	MN-DWN-2004/5	RIL (100%)	02-03-2007	10454	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
8.	NEC-DWN-2004/1	Santos International Operations Pvt. Ltd. (100%)	02-03-2007	7790	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
9.	NEC-DWN-2004/2	Santos (100%)	02-03-2007	8706	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
10.	CB-OSN-2004/1	Focus (10%)-Newbury (90%)	02-03-2007	2616	Offshore	Gujarat
11.	MB-OSN-2004/2	Petrogas (20%)-GAIL (20%)- IOC (20%)-GSPC (20%)- HPCL (20%)	02-03-2007	741	Offshore	Western Offshore
12.	PR-OSN-2004/1	Cairn Energy (10%)-Cairn India (25%)-ONGC (35%)- TATA (30%)	02-03-2007	9417	Offshore	Eastern Offshore
13.	MZ-ONN-2004/2	Naftogaz (10%)-RNRL(10%)- Geopetrol (10%)-REL (70%)	02-03-2007	3619	Onland	Mizoram
14.	AA-ONN-2004/3	Essar Energy (90%)-Essar Oil (10%)	02-03-2007	1252	Onland	Assam

15.	AA-ONN-2004/4	Adani Enterprises (35%)-Adani Port (20%)-Naftogaz (10%)-Jaycee (Mumbai) (35%)	02-03-2007	95	Onland	Assam
16.	AN-ONN-2004/5	Essar Energy (90%)-Essar Oil (10%)	02-03-2007	46	Onland	Assam
17.	SR-ONN-2004/1	Prize Petroleum (10%)-Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. (90%)	02-03-2007	13277	Onland	Madhya Pradesh
18.	CB-ONN-2004/5	Adani Enterprises (35%)-Adani Port (20%)-Naftogaz (10%)- Welspun (35%)	02-03-2007	75	Onland	Gujarat
19.	DS-ONN-2004/1	Geoglobal Resources (Barbados) (100%)	02-03-2007	2649	Onland	Maharashtra
(NELP-VII)						
1.	MB-DWN-2005/2	BHP Billiton Petroleum International Pvt. Ltd. 26% and GVK Oil and Gas Ltd. 74%	22-12-2008	3660	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
2.	MB-DWN-2005/3	BHP Billiton Petroleum International Pvt. Ltd. 26% and GVK Oil and Gas Ltd. 74%	22-12-2008	3097	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
3.	MB-DWN-2005/4	BHP Billiton Petroleum International Pvt. Ltd. 26% and GVK Oil and Gas Ltd. 74%	22-12-2008	3408	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
4.	MB-DWN-2005/5	BHP Billiton Petroleum International Pvt. Ltd. 26% and GVK Oil and Gas Ltd. 74%	22-12-2008	3169	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
5.	MB-DWN-2005/7	BHP Billiton Petroleum International Pvt. Ltd. 26% and GVK Oil and Gas Ltd. 74%	22-12-2008	3324	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	MB-DWN-2005/9	BHP Billiton Petroleum International Pvt. Ltd. 26% and GVK Oil and Gas Ltd. 74%	22-12-2008	3138	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
7.	KK-DWN-2005/1	BHP Billiton Petroleum International Pvt. Ltd. 26% and GVK Oil and Gas Ltd. 74%	22-12-2008	14675	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
8.	KG-DWN-2005/2	BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd. 30%, RIL 70%	22-12-2008	1949	Deep Water	Eastern Offshore
9.	MB-OSN-2005/2	Adaani Welspun Exploration Ltd. 100%	22-12-2008	1191	Offshore	Western Offshore
10.	MB-OSN-2005/3	Essar Exploration and Production Ltd. 50%, Nobel Energy International Ltd. 50%	22-12-2008	2810	Offshore	Western Offshore
11.	SR-ONN-2005/1	Deep Energy Lic 10%, Deep Industries Ltd. 70%, Kanvel Finance Ltd. 10% and Savla Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	22-12-2008	789	Onland	Chhattisgarh
12.	RJ-ONN-2005/1	HOEC 25%, BPRL 25%, JSPL 25%, ONGC and IMC 25%	22-12-2008	1424	Onland	Rajasthan
13.	CB-ONN-2005/3	Mercator Petroleum Pvt. Ltd.	22-12-2008	48	Onland	Gujarat
14.	CB-ONN-2005/5	Omkar Natural Resources Pvt. Ltd. 100%	22-12-2008	83	Onland	Gujarat
15.	CB-ONN-2005/6	Omkar Natural Resources Pvt. Ltd. 100%	22-12-2008	102	Onland	Gujarat

16.	CB-ONN-2005/8	Vasundhara Resources Ltd. 100%	22-12-2008	133	Onland	Gujarat
17.	CB-ONN-2005/9	Mercator Petroleum Pvt. Ltd.	22-12-2008	170	Onland	Gujarat
18.	CB-ONN-2005/11	Quest Petroleum Pvt. Ltd. (QUEST) 20%, Quippo Oil and Gas Infrastructure Ltd. (QQVS) 40%, SREI Infra- structure Finance Ltd. (SREI) 20%, Vectra Investments Pvt. Ltd. (VIPL2) 10% and Primera Energy Resources Ltd. (PRIM) 10%	22-12-2008	257	Onland	Gujarat

Note: Company in Bold Letters is Operator

DWN stands for deep water blocks, OSN stands for shallow water blocks and ONN stands for onland blocks

*Stands for relinquished blocks

Abbreviations:—

RIL—Reliance Industries Ltd.

HEPI—Hardy Exploration and Production (India) Inc.

JOGPL—Jubilant Oil and Gas Pvt. Ltd.

CPIL—Cairn Petroleum India Ltd.

CESL—Cairn Energy Search Ltd.

CEGBI- Cairn Energy Gujarat Block-1

MIL—Mosbacher India LLC

BGEPIL—British Gas Explo. and Prod. India Ltd.

TIOL—Tullow India Opn. Ltd.

HOEC—Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Ltd.

CEHL—Cairn Energy Hydrocarbons Ltd.

NIKO—Niko Resources Ltd.

GEO—Geo Global Resources (India) Inc.

PPCL—Prize Petroleum Company Ltd.

GGR—GeoGlobal Resources (Barbados) Inc.

CRL—Canoro Resources Ltd.

NR(V)L—Niko Resources (NELP-V) Ltd.

GPI—GeoPetrol International Inc.

FEL—Focus Energy Ltd.

BIL—Birkbeck Investment Ltd., Mauritius

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI HARSH VARDHAN: Hon'ble Madam Speaker, Hon'ble Minister has replied that the audit of the contracts awarded may be got carried out through various institution or private companies. Since there is scarcity of time, I would like to say only one thing that gas is a national property. The Government has accepted this many times and has also admitted it in the Supreme Court. This is the stand taken by the Government.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask your question, time is running out.

SHRI HARSH VARDHAN: The CAG is a constitutional body. Why do not they make a mandatory provision that it will audit the accounts of every contractor?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: As far as audit is concerned, there are many provisions which ensure judicious expenditure of money and the quantum of expenditure incurred. There is a Managing Committee which comprises of representatives of the Government and the first priority is that if audit is to be done it should be got done by the first class standard auditing company. Even after that, if somebody has any confusion or complaint, audit by the CAG could also be get carried out and it is also being done.

MADAM SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Setting Up of Air Cargo Centres

*206. **SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Carrier proposes to set up dedicated air cargo centres including perishable air cargo centres for improving their bottom line;

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

(c) whether the modalities have been worked out

for setting up of such centres, including the norms for fixing fares; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, Airports Authority and other airport operators are setting up cargo facilities at major airports and other airports where there is demand for the same.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Setting Up of Benches of Supreme Court and High Courts

*210. **SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:**

SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

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 of regional Benches of Supreme Court and High Courts in their respective States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of the proposals received till date State-wise;

(c) the details of the criteria adopted by the Government for setting of additional Benches of High Court in the States; and

(d) the number of such benches set up so far and the number of Benches proposed to be set up in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) 1. The setting up of a Permanent Bench of a High Court is considered by the Government only after receipt of a complete proposal, in terms of section 51(2) of the States' Reorganization Act, 1956, from the State Government which has the consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court and the Governor of the State. While requests have been received from some State Governments for creation

of Benches of the High Courts away from principal seat, no complete proposal has been received for establishment of a Bench from any State Government.

"2. Article 130 of the Constitution provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

The Government has not received any proposal from the Chief Justice of India for setting up of a Bench of the Supreme Court outside Delhi.

3. A list of the requests received from States for creation of Benches of the Supreme Court and High Courts is enclosed as Statement-I.

4. The Jaswant Singh Commission set up by the Government had recommended certain criteria for setting up of Benches of the High Courts in the States. A summary of these recommendations is enclosed as Statement-II.

5. Statement-III of the Permanent Benches of High Courts created so far, is enclosed. The Government had approved in the year 2006 setting up of a Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri. However, the Presidential Order for establishing the same has not been issued yet as the infrastructural facilities at Jalpaiguri for operation of the Bench have not been found satisfactory by the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court.

Statement-I

List of requests received from State Governments for creation of Benches of the Supreme Court and High Courts

Proposed Benches of the Supreme Court of India

Sl. No.	Name of the State Government	Place of Creation of the Supreme Court Bench
1.	Karnataka	Bangalore
2.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai

Proposed Benches of High Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the State Government	Place of Creation of High Court Bench
1.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra
3.	West Bengal	Jalpaiguri
4.	Karnataka	Gulbarga and Dharwad

Statement-II

Broad Principles and Criteria to be followed in Assessing the Expediency and Desirability of Setting up a Bench of the High Court away from the Principal Seat and the Factors to be kept in view in selecting the Venue of the Said Bench

Part I

- Whether the area demanding a Bench possesses the characteristics of a region.
- Whether establishment of a Bench is necessary to fulfil the genuine needs and to satisfy the cherished aspirations of the people of the region/or the demand therefor is inspired quarters to serve their interest;
- Whether the area and population of the region demanding the Bench is at least one fourth of the total area and population of the State to warrant the creation of a Bench;
- Whether the nature of the terrain of the region is plain or hilly;
- Whether the litigant public of the region has to face grave difficulties in journeying to the principal seat of the High Court from their homes;
- Whether the means of travel and communication linking the various parts of the region with the seat of the High Court are un-

- developed or inadequate to facilitate swift movement and communication;
7. Whether the litigant public of the region have to face any hardship at the seat of the High Court in instituting, prosecuting and defending their cases;
 8. Whether the journey from the various places constituting the region to the seat of the High Court cannot be easily covered within 8-10 hours either by rail or by bus;
 9. Whether the current cost of travel to the seat of the High Court is not within the means of a common man;
 10. whether the setting up of a Bench would tend to the convenience of the public of the region;
 11. Whether the people inhabiting the region suffer from economic or any other disability on which they do not have equal opportunity of securing justice from the apex judicial institution;
 12. Whether the number of cases including civil and criminal appeals and revisions, writ petitions and matters involving industrial and taxation disputes, etc. pertaining to the region claiming the Bench is at least 1/3rd of the total number of case going to the High Court to justify the creation of a Bench;
 13. Whether the volume of work going to the High Court from the region claiming the Bench is on the incline;
 14. Whether rate of disposal of cases by the High Court is commensurate with institutions;
 15. Whether the bulk of the cases at the High Court has been pending disposal for more than two to three years;
 16. Whether increase in the strength of the Judges would provide an effective remedy to combat the institution arising from accumulation of arrears;
 17. Whether the number of judges stationed at the seat of the High Court is unwieldy or such as cannot ensure cohesion and uniformity of purpose amongst them;
 18. Whether establishment of a Bench in the mofussil would prove to be an effective instrument for expeditious dispensation of justice and would substantially reduce the overall cost of litigation and inconvenience to the litigant public belonging to the region;
 19. Whether the efficiency of administration of justice would be impaired by establishment of a Bench in the mofussil;
 20. Whether establishment of a Bench in the mofussil would create any insurmountable administrative problem which would impede the smooth functioning of the High Court;
 21. Whether establishment of a Bench in the mofussil would affect the development of uniform case law.
- Part II**
1. Whether the place is centrally situate and has any historic or other importance.
 2. Whether the place is linked with various parts of the region by swift means of travel and communication;
 3. Whether the place has scope for easy availability of the requisite infrastructure such as land, buildings, etc. for housing the Bench, the Judges, the staff, and the lawyers and has adequate facilities for board and lodging of the litigants;
 4. Whether members of the Bar practising at the place are efficient and have the experience of conducting constitutional matters and other types of litigation falling within the jurisdiction of the High Court.
 5. Whether the place has a potential for legal talent.
 6. Whether the judicial and academic atmosphere

- and the law and order situation existing at the place is congenial land conducive to the smooth working of a Bench of the High Court.
7. Whether the climate of the place would enable the Bench to work all the year round without feeling any strain.
8. Whether proper educational facilities for the children of the judges and the staff are available at the place.
9. Whether travel to the seat of the new Bench from different parts of the region would be reasonably less expensive than that at present.

Statement-III*Name of High Courts, Their Principal Seats, Benches and Their Jurisdiction*

Sl. No.	High Court	Principal Seat	Jurisdiction	Bench and Date from which the Bench Began Functioning	
1	2	3	4	5	
1.	Allahabad	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	(19-07-1948)
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	—	
3.	Bombay	Mumbai	Maharashtra; Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli; Goa	Nagpur Aurangabad Panaji	(01-05-1960) (27-08-1984) (30-10-1982)
4.	Calcutta	Kolkatta	West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	
5.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	—	
6.	Delhi	Delhi	N.C.T. of Delhi	—	
7.	Gauhati	Guwahati	Assam Nagaland, Mizoram Manipur Tripura Meghalaya Arunachal Pradesh	Kohima Aizawl Imphal Agartala Shillong Itanagar	(10-02-1990) (05-07-1990) (21-01-1992) (16-05-1992) (04-02-1998) (12-08-2000)
8.	Gujarat	Sola (Ahmedabad)	Gujarat	—	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	—	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir	—	
11.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Jharkhand	—	
12.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Karnataka	—	
13.	Kerala	Kochi	Kerala and Lakshadweep Islands	—	

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior Indore (01-11-1956) (01-11-1956)
15.	Madras	Chennai	Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry	Madurai (24-07-2004)
16.	Orissa	Cuttack	Orissa	—
17.	Patna	Patna	Bihar	—
18.	Punjab and Haryana	Chandigarh	Punjab, Haryana, U.T. of Chandigarh	—
19.	Rajasthan	Jodhpur	Rajasthan	Jaipur (31-01-1977)
20.	Sikkim	Gangtok	Sikkim	—
21.	Uttarakhand	Nainital	Uttarakhand	—

— There are 21 High Courts in the country.

— Only 6 High Courts (Allahabad, Bombay, Gauhati, Madhya Pradesh, Madras and Rajasthan have 14 permanent benches amongst themselves.

Training for Pilots

*211. SHRI R. THAMARASELVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government institutions, imparting training to those aspiring to become pilots;

(b) whether these institutions are able to cater to the needs of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the State Governments have sent proposals for setting up of new pilot training Centres/Institutions; and

(e) if so, the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Presently, 17 flying training institutes are operated in the country by Government institutions one by Central Government and sixteen by State Governments. The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA), Uttar Pradesh is an autonomous society under the Ministry

of Civil Aviation and the remaining are as follows: 3 flying training institutes are run by Haryana State Government, 2 each by the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Maharashtra and one each by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Adequate number of pilots are available in the country to cater to the need of the aviation industry.

(d) and (e) No State Government has submitted any proposal for starting new flying training institutes to the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Exploration by ONGC

*212. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI:

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

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

(ONGC) has not started exploration in most of the nomination blocks in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the nominated blocks in which exploration works have started with outcome thereof; and

(c) the time by which exploration work is likely to be started in the remaining blocks?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) ONGC is holding 69 nomination Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) blocks in the onland and offshore areas of the country. Out of the above, 50 nomination blocks are in onland, 14 in the shallow water offshore and remaining five in the deepwater offshore areas.

ONGC has been taking up exploration activities in these blocks based on availability of the resources, requirements and taking prospectivity into consideration. In three blocks (Singhpan, Bhagati Bhandari and Dimapur) in the state of Nagaland exploration activity has not commenced due to environmental/security constraints.

(b) Exploratory work has commenced in the nomination blocks in the following States:

State/Basin	No. of nomination blocks
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	2
Assam	7
Gujarat	24
Himachal Pradesh	1
Madhya Pradesh	2
Rajasthan	2
Tamil Nadu	6
Tripura	2
West Bengal	1

1	2
East Coast Offshore (SW)	6
East Coast Offshore (DW)	2
West Coast Offshore (SW)	8
West Coast Offshore (OW)	3
Total	66

ONGC has acquired so far, 881032.6.GLK/LK of 2D, 91586.08 sq km of 3D seismic data and drilled 5249 exploratory wells in the nomination blocks and these exploratory efforts have established 6653.48 MMt (O+OEG) in-place with 2398.44 MMt (O+OEG) as ultimate component. The data furnished in (a) and (b) relate to 1-10-2009.

(c) Though the grant for three nomination blocks of Nagaland was issued on 28-4-2006 for a period of four years, exploration activities are suspended based on directions issued by the Government of Nagaland.

[Translation]

Doubling of Rail Lines in North Eastern Region

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

(a) whether projects for doubling of Railway lines in some areas of the North-Eastern Railways have been approved during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the status of the projects approved; and

(c) the time schedule for completion of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. 7 doubling projects in North-Eastern Railway have been taken up in last three years including the current year. The details of the ongoing projects are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Year of inclusion in the Budget	Status
1.	Bhatni-Baitalpur (28.07 km)	2006-07	Earthwork, bridgeswork, blanketing etc., have been taken up. Target is 2010-11
2.	Bhatni-Jiradei (38.11 km)	2006-07	Jiradei-Bankata section (17 km) is targeted for completion in 2009-10. Works in balance portion also taken up. Target is 2010-11.
3.	Ghagharaghat-Chowkaghat (5.63 km)	2006-07	Earthwork, blanketing, bridgeworks, etc. have been taken up. Target is 2011-12.
4.	Gorakhpur-Baitalpur (37.93 km)	2006-07	Gorakhpur Cantt.-Kusmhi (10 km) completed. Kusmhi-Chauri-Chaura (11.25 km) section is targeted for completion by March, 2010 and balance during 2010-11.
5.	Mau-Indara (8 km)	2007-08	Earthwork, bridgework, blanketing, etc., taken up. Target is 2010-11.
6.	Munderwa-Babhnan	2007-08	Babhnan-Gaur section (7.25 km) completed. Gaur-Govindnagar section (16 km) targeted for completion in 2009-10 and balance in 2010-11.
7.	Barabanki-Burhwal (29 km)	2007-08	Earthwork, blanketing and minor bridges works have been taken up. Target is 2010-11.

[English]

Fake Gas Cylinders

*214. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of circulation of spurious/fake gas cylinders in the country have been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take steps to check such cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not reported instances of large scale circulation of fake LPG cylinders

in the country. However, there have been some instances when spurious cylinders were detected by the OMCs at the distributors' premises. During the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and April-September, 2009, OMCs have detected 326 number of spurious cylinders in the county. The year-wise and state-wise details are enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) OMCs are procuring LPG cylinders from cylinder manufacturers who are approved by the Oil Industry Technical Committee (OITC) and have valid manufacturing licences from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE). Strict control is exercised by BIS over the manufacturing process. LPG cylinders procured by OMCs meet the required quality standards.

LPG cylinders received from distributors/transporters at the bottling plants are mandatorily checked for quality and genuineness to avoid the entry of fake

and outlived cylinders in circulation. On detection of sub-standard/spurious cylinders, these are confiscated and thereafter de-shaped/crushed to prevent their re-entry into circulation.

Apart from the legal action which could be taken against any supplier of spurious LPG equipment, in case

any distributor is found in possession of spurious equipment or inducts such equipment in the distribution system, Marketing Discipline Guidelines provide, *inter-alia*, for confiscation of equipment, imposition of fine and recovery at penal rates for the first and second offences and termination of distributorship in the event of a third offence.

Statement

State-wise Number of Spurious LPG Cylinders detected by OMCs during the Years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and April-September, 2009

State/UT	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	April-September, 2009
Andhra Pradesh	—	19	4	1
Gujarat	—	—	2	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	80	2
Maharashtra	6	—	—	—
Orissa	32	—	—	166
Rajasthan	—	2	2	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	6	2	2
Total	38	27	90	171

Pending Railway Projects

*215. SHRI SOMEN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing and pending railway projects under the South Eastern and the Eastern Railways;

(b) the status of Bishnupur-Tarakeshwar Railway line;

(c) whether the projects including Bishnupur-Tarakeshwar Railway line are likely to be completed as per the time schedule;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) The details of ongoing railway projects in South Eastern and Eastern Railway is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) On Tarakeshwar-Bishnupur project which was sanctioned in 2000-01, earthwork, bridges etc. have been taken up in 45 km length. The anticipated cost of this project is Rs. 566.99 crore, against which an expenditure of Rs. 98.12 crore was incurred upto 31st March, 2009.

(c) to (e) Adequate funds have been provided for early completion of Tarakeshwar-Bishnupur project. The work of Bishnupur-Gokul Nagar (17 km) as first phase is targeted for completion by 31st March, 2010.

Statement**Ongoing Projects in Eastern Railway**

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Length (in Km)	Latest anticipated cost	Exp. upto March, 09
1	2	3	4	5
New Lines				
1.	Azimganj (Nasipur)-Jiyaganj up to the Ghat	6.6	95.55	39.91
2.	Sultanganj-Kathuria	74.8	450	0.01
3.	Lakshmikantapur-Namkhana	47.5	125	124.59
4.	Mandarhill-Rampurhat via Dumka	130	676	237.1
5.	Tarakeshwar-Bishnupur with Ext up to Kumarkundu Bypass connecting Howrah-Bardhaman Chord	85	566.99	98.12
6.	Deogarh-Sultanganj including Banka to Barhat and Banka to Bithia Road	147	607.09	105.83
7.	Bariarpur-Mananpur	67.78	450.55	0.03
8.	Deoghar-Dumka	72.25	335	228.65
Gauge Conversion				
9.	Burdwan-Katwa	51.52	346.47	0.16
Doubling				
10.	Bandel-Jirat	20	60.13	78.24
11.	Barasat-Hasanabad doubling with electrification Ph-I (Barasat-Sondalia)	12.12	20.65	9.98
12.	Baruipur-Lakshmikantpur Ph-I (Baruipur-Dakshni Barasat)	17	31.82	26.28
13.	Baruipur-Magrahat	15	30.09	14.07
14.	Kaira-Kiul	15.85	23.73	16.17
15.	Barharwa-Tinpahar	16.49	41.13	31.12
16.	Tinpahar-Sahibganj	37.81	135.7	0
17.	Chandpara-Bongaon	9.77	22.23	2.13

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Chinpai-Sainthia	31.61	91	65.82
19.	Dakshin Barasat-Lakshmikantapur	19.68	89.42	0
20.	Ghutiasharif-Canning	14.5	61.54	0
21.	Habra-Chandpara	22.25	40.89	36.54
22.	Jirat-Ambika Kalna	20.23	63.62	0
23.	Kalinarayanpur-Krishnanagar including Ext. as GC from Krishnanagar-shantipur and New line Krishnanagar to Chartala	51	102.6	50.11
24.	Magrahat-Diamond Harbour	19.67	97.93	0
25.	Nalikul-Tarakeshwar	17.18	83.04	0
26.	Pandabeswar-Chinpai	21.41	75.55	57.73
27.	Tarakeshwar-Sheoraphulli Ph-I (Sheoraphulli-Nalikul)	17.76	83.04	65.14

*Ongoing Projects in South Eastern Railway***New Lines**

1.	Howrah-Amta including Bargachia-Champadanga branch	73.5	154.3	84.68
2.	Tamluk-Digha	87.5	308.57	296.36

Gauge Conversion

3.	Bankura-Damodar Valley (96 Km) with extension from Bowai-Chandi-Khana (22 Km), Rainagar-Chinchai (20.9 Km) and Bankura-Mukut Manipur (57 Km)	196	400.45	250.24
4.	Ranchi-Lohardaga with extension to Tori	113	449.83	230.64
5.	Rupsa-Bangripasi	90	137.56	115.37

Doubling

6.	Adra-Joychandipahar	6	25.31	0.56
7.	Banspani-Jaruli	9	90.88	0.88
8.	Barbil-Barajamda	10	50.03	16.82
9.	Bimlagarh-Dumitra	18.3	99.01	6.97
10.	Goelkera-Manoharpur 3rd line	40	186.92	1.86

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Gokulpur-Midnapur New bridge on diversion alignment with substructure and steel super structure on Bridge No. 143	2	34.15	0.54
12.	Muri-North Outer Cabin/Muri-Doubling of section with provision of 2nd bridge over	1	11.74	0.07
13.	Padapahar-Banspani	32	129.74	106.07
14.	Panskura-Kharagpur 3rd line	44.7	195.35	35
15.	Rajkharsawan-Sini-3rd line	15.2	91.61	0.97
16.	Tikiapara-Santragachi 4th line	5.6	50.14	22.18

Use of Bio-Fuel in Railways

*216. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are using bio-fuel produced from waste vegetable oil for shunting locos, Diesel Electric Multiple Units, light duty road vehicle etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of bio-fuel produced and used by the Railways during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways for production of this oil on a commercial scale?

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

(b) Some Railways have produced small quantities of bio-fuel by using waste vegetable oil collected from hotels. The bio-fuel produced is being blended with HSD oil and is used for shunting locos, Diesel Electric Multiple Units (DEMs), light duty road vehicles in Railway workshops etc.

(c) In the last three years approximately 1,40,000 liters of bio-fuel has been produced.

(d) A project has been sanctioned for setting up

in-house facilities for manufacture of bio-diesel.

Booking of LPG Cylinders through SMS

*217. Dr. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started/proposes to start booking of LPG through Short Message Service (SMS) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States/cities where this facility has been introduced; and

(d) the time by which it will be extended to all parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have introduced the facility of booking LPG refill cylinder through Short Message Service (SMS). The facility has presently been introduced in Delhi and Kochi by IOC and in Delhi, Kochi and Mumbai by BPCL. As per the vision set for the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), in the "Vision 2015—Consumer Satisfaction and Beyond", facility of booking of LPG refill cylinder through SMS will be introduced, in phases, in all towns with population of 5 lakh and above by the year 2015.

[Translation]

Pilferage at Railway Godowns/Yards

*218. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Railways have been drawn to cases of pilferage at different Railway godowns and yards in the recent past;

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

(c) the action being taken by the Railways to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. Details of cases of pilferage at different Railway godowns and yards over various divisions of Zonal Railways for the last three years and the current year 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 (Upto September) is enclosed as Statement.

(c) The following preventive measures have been taken to control such thefts:—

1. Escorting of trains carrying valuable and

important consignments.

2. Patrolling in yards and other vulnerable areas/sections.
3. Conducting raids on the dens of criminals and receivers of stolen Railway Property in order to bring them to book.
4. Armed RPF pickets are deployed in vulnerable sections as and when required.
5. Plain clothed RPF personnel are deployed to collect crime intelligence with a view to tracking down criminals and receivers of stolen Railway property.
6. Cases of theft/pilferage of Railway property are being reviewed regularly and necessary preventive measures are taken to stop such incidents.
7. Dog Squads are deployed for patrolling in yards and vulnerable areas.
8. Close co-ordination among the RPF, the GRP and the Local Police is maintained at various levels to deal with criminals and receivers of stolen Railway Property.

Statement

Cases of Pilferage from Railway Godowns/Yards Reported during the years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 (upto September) over various divisions of Zonal Railways

Railway	Division	Year	No. of cases		Value of property (in Rs.)		Arrest Made			
			Reported	Defected	Stolen	Recovered	OS	RE	RPF	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
CR	Mumbai	2006	1	1	700	700	2	0	0	2
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	1	1	1000	1000	2	0	0	2
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Nagpur	2006	5	5	27100	27100	11	0	0	11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		2007	8	7	38594	18750	8	0	0	8
		2008	4	3	17460	7700	4	1	0	5
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bhusawal	2006	5	5	4982	4982	13	0	0	13
		2007	2	2	3600	3600	3	0	0	3
		2008	5	5	17450	17450	12	0	0	12
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Solapur	2006	1	1	500	500	1	0	0	1
		2007	2	2	9300	9300	6	2	0	8
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pune	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ER	Howrah-I	2006	41	0	131637	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	7	0	28700	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	1	0	18750	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Howrah-II	2006	2	0	2540	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	3	0	37400	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	2	0	2800	0	0	0	0	0
	Sealdah	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	1	1	45000	43050	3	0	0	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
ECR	Malda	2006	2	0	11550	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	2	0	630916	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	1	0	13500	13500	5	0	0	5
		2009	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Asanaol	2006	4	0	7900	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	1	0	1800	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Danapur	2006	3	1	9500	1500	5	0	0	5
		2007	3	3	33550	33550	0	0	0	0
		2008	11	3	21150	7000	3	0	0	1
		2009	8	3	37600	8000	7	0	0	7
	Mughalsarai	2006	9	0	3870	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	1	0	350	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	1	1	5600	5600	3	0	0	3
	Dhanbad	2006	1	0	185	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	4	0	68869	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	6	3	31870	28120	1	0	0	1
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sonpur	2006	10	6	41276	18676	9	0	0	9
		2007	2	1	4450	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	6	4	207850	207150	13	0	0	13
		2009	5	5	32450	32450	6	0	0	6
	Samastipur	2006	1	1	14000	14000	0	0	0	0
		2007	9	9	32010	32010	15	0	0	15
		2008	3	3	151702	151702	3	0	0	3
		2009	7	5	32595	28595	7	0	0	7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
ECoR	Khurda Road	2006	3	0	75846	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	3	0	28675	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	2	0	9200	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	1	0	4900	0	0	0	0	0
	Waltair	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	2	0	16704	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	3	3	291312	291312	11	0	0	11
		2009	1	1	1500	1500	2	0	0	2
	Sambalpur	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NR	Delhi-I	2006	5	5	13540	13540	4	1	0	5
		2007	7	0	43300	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	4	3	51250	44000	4	0	0	4
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Delhi-II	2006	4	4	7700	7700	4	0	0	4
		2007	2	2	8000	8000	2	0	0	2
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ambala	2006	4	3	5900	2800	4	0	0	4
		2007	1	1	1500	1500	1	0	0	1
		2008	1	1	1500	1500	1	0	0	1
		2009	3	3	7000	7000	3	0	0	3
	Firozpur	2006	11	4	13600	8175	5	0	0	5
		2007	1	1	400	400	1	0	0	1
		2008	6	5	19685	19660	6	0	0	6
		2009	1	1	450	450	0	1	0	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
NCR	Moradabad	2006	2	1	6110	2000	1	0	0	1
		2007	4	2	15300	7800	2	0	0	2
		2008	4	2	9350	4000	2	0	0	2
		2009	3	3	5400	5400	4	0	0	4
	Lucknow	2006	17	11	30050	20950	11	1	0	12
		2007	9	6	25076	22900	6	0	0	6
		2008	5	2	26000	25000	4	0	0	4
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Allahabad	2006	1	0	1250	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	1	0	1000	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	1	0	1200	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jhansi	2006	3	3	21700	21700	9	0	0	9
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	3	3	17223	17223	9	0	0	9
		2009	4	4	16500	16500	13	0	0	13
	Agra	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	1	0	1500	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	1	0	5000	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	1	0	3700	0	0	0	0	0
NER	Izzatnagar	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	1	1	900	900	1	0	0	1
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Lucknow	2006	2	2	800	800	1	1	0	2
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	2	2	1700	1700	2	0	0	2
		2009	1	1	1625	1625	1	0	0	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
NFR	Varanasi	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Katihar	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Alipurduar	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	1	0	1300	0	0	0	0	0
	Lumding	2006	1	1	3850	3850	2	0	0	2
		2007	1	1	250	250	2	0	0	2
		2008	7	4	13498019	1353490	18	0	0	18
		2009	2	1	1979300	3500	0	0	0	0
	Tinsukia	2006	2	2	9300	1300	4	0	0	4
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	1	1	1050	1050	2	0	0	2
		2009	1	1	2000	2000	3	0	0	3
	Rangiya	2006	4	1	25900	9500	0	0	0	0
		2007	2	1	9070	6750	1	0	0	1
		2008	1	1	11500	11500	1	0	0	1
		2009	3	3	15500	15500	0	0	0	0
NWR	Ajmer	2006	1	0	750	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Bikaner	2006	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0
		2007	3	1	6450	3850	0	1	0	1
		2008	3	3	4750	4750	3	0	0	3
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jaipur	2006	8	6	14640	9640	6	1	0	7
		2807	4	3	13650	3400	4	1	0	5
		2008	4	4	6800	6800	4	0	0	4
		2009	3	3	3600	3600	3	0	0	3
	Jodhpur	2006	4	2	13450	2000	2	0	0	2
		2007	4	1	18150	1000	1	0	0	1
		2008	1	1	900	900	1	0	0	1
		2009	1	1	1350	1350	1	0	0	1
SR	Chennai	2006	5	2	25911	23225	4	0	0	4
		2007	3	3	24800	24800	3	0	0	3
		2008	5	2	50555	34479	7	0	0	7
		2009	3	2	3750	3000	3	0	0	3
	Trichinapalli	2006	2	0	398	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	3	0	5185	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	6	2	9680	3000	6	0	0	6
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Madurai	2006	1	1	1200	1200	1	0	0	1
		2007	1	1	14000	14000	2	0	0	2
		2008	3	1	4200	1500	1	0	0	1
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Palghat	2006	5	3	11117	5617	2	1	0	3
		2007	1	1	1800	1800	1	0	0	1
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	1	1	1200	1200	1	0	0	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Trivendrum		2006	4	2	18651	17151	2	0	0	2
		2007	4	4	7445	7445	5	0	0	5
		2008	6	4	19450	11950	3	0	0	3
		2009	5	2	65858	16710	2	0	0	2
Salem		2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	1	1	7700	7700	0	2	0	2
		2009	1	1	1334528	1334528	9	2	0	11
SCR	Secunderabad	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	2	2	51500	28700	7	0	0	7
		2008	3	3	12000	12000	16	0	0	16
		2009	1	1	2250	2250	2	0	0	2
	Hyderabad	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Guntakal	2006	3	2	5890	3890	4	0	0	4
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	2	2	8500	8500	5	1	0	6
		2009	2	2	18600	18600	7	0	0	7
	Nanded	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Vijayawada	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	4	4	4920	4920	9	0	0	9
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
SER	Kharagpur	2009	2	0	3750	0	0	0	0	0
		2006	61	0	142650	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	27	0	44412	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	9	0	15790	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Adra	2006	2	2	80201	7026	7	0	0	7
		2007	1	1	1500	1500	1	0	0	1
		2008	3	0	4700	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	2	1	21090	7500	0	0	0	0
	Chakradharpur	2006	11	4	147600	143200	15	0	0	15
		2007	8	5	107925	12000	9	0	0	9
		2008	6	1	9686	1200	2	0	0	2
		2009	2	1	5850	2500	2	0	0	2
	Ranchi	2006	8	3	14200	9350	3	0	0	3
		2007	5	0	23450	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	7	1	48100	9450	2	0	0	2
		2009	2	0	301340	0	0	0	0	0
SECR	Bilaspur	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Raipur	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Nagpur	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
SWR	Hubli	2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2006	1	1	19500	19500	4	0	0	4
		2007	1	1	5000	5000	6	0	0	6
		2008	1	1	4560	4560	0	0	0	0
	Bangalore	2009	1	1	3000	3000	3	0	0	3
		2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	1	1	200000	199875	21	0	0	21
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mysore	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WR	Mumbai	2006	6	0	4715	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	3	0	1874	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	3	0	1530	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	2	0	2901	0	0	0	0	0
	Vadodara	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	1	1	2000	2000	1	0	0	1
		2008	4	0	20340	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ratlam	2006	20	20	16485	24285	27	0	0	27
		2007	9	9	2550	2550	10	0	0	10
		2008	5	5	32300	32300	13	0	0	13
		2009	2	2	680	680	5	0	0	5
	Ahmedabad	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Rajkot	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bhavnagar	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WCR	Jabalpur	2006	1	0	102170	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	1	1	800	800	3	0	0	3
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bhopal	2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Kota	2006		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		2006	287	105	1090814	425857	163	5	0	168
		2007	161	77	1540425	458550	128	4	0	132
		2008	155	81	14724482	2343946	169	4	0	173
		2009	76	52	3964967	1566088	90	3	0	93

*[English]***Medical Centres at Airports**

*219. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the medical facilities provided at various airports in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up 24 hour medical centres at various airports including Bangalore to screen passengers in the wake of the outbreak of swine flu;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps being taken by the Government to upgrade the medical facilities at airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi, medical centres are being operated by Apollo Hospitals and are equipped to handle any kind of medical emergency. International terminal has four bedded medical room and domestic terminals have 5 bedded medical room with ICU level facilities. At Chhatrapati Shivaji International (CSI) Airport, Mumbai medical facilities are available at all the terminals with the facility of dedicated ambulance. There is also a facility of 12 bedded medical centre equipped with emergency medicines and crash ambulances. There are 36 Automatic Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs) installed throughout the terminals for cardiac arrest cases. Bangalore International Airport (BIAL) has an arrangement with Columbia Asia Hospital, a reputed Hospital, for establishment of a pharmacy cum medical room in the passenger terminal, a cardiac emergency ambulance with medication and equipments and also an arrangement of atleast 100 beds in local hospitals in the event of any emergency. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has set up Medical Inspection Rooms for emergencies and first Aid at the international airports at Chennai, Kolkata and Trivandrum. These Medical Inspection Rooms are manned by medical officers of AAI. AAI has also established Medical Inspection Rooms at other operational airports/civil enclaves of AAI. The airports where such facilities are

established and maintained are Patna, Ahmedabad, Pune, Goa, Vadodara, Jaipur, Lucknow, Udaipur, Bagdogra, Dimapur, Calicut, Madurai, Mangalore and Vizag. In addition, State Governments have also established Medical Inspection Rooms at Ranchi, Jammu, Leh, Srinagar and Lengpui airports. At other airports, AAI provides the facility of First Aid.

(b) and (c) Medical rooms at IGI Airport and CSI Airport operate round the clock supported by dedicated ambulance. At BIAL, Directorate of Health Services have been providing the requisite health services in the airport health office which include health screening and inspection of passengers to prevent international spread of Yellow Fever, SARS, Avian Influenza etc. Doctors have been screening international passengers round the clock. AAI has also established proper and adequate medical screening facilities in coordination with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for handling international passengers affected with Swine Flu. Such airports, where medical screening facilities for screening of Swine Flu are NSCBI Airport (Kolkata), Chennai Airport, Trivandrum Airport, Ahmedabad Airport, Goa Airport, Amritsar Airport, Coimbatore Airport, Trichy Airport, Jaipur Airport, Lucknow Airport, Calicut Airport, Nagpur Airport, Mangalore Airport, Pune Airport, Varanasi Airport and Srinagar Airport.

(d) On matter relating to Swine Flu (H1N1 Flu), a meeting of the Committee of Secretaries was held on 3rd September, 2009 to check the spread of Swine Flu and according to the recommendations, airport operators have been directed to take necessary steps. In this regard, AAI has tied up with private hospitals at some of the airports to provide quality emergency treatment at the fastest possible time.

Multi-Sectoral Development Programme

*220. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ;

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of multi-sectoral development programme in the selected minority concentrated districts of the country;

(b) the number of States which are yet to submit development plans in this regard;

(c) the position of utilization of funds by the implementing States; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for better implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) to (d) The implementation of the scheme of Multi-Sectoral Development Programme

(MsDP) for identified minority concentration districts (MCDs) is reviewed regularly by the Government with the State Governments/UT administrations concerned. Recently a provision has also been made to include Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly in the State Level and District Level Committees for implementation of Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for Welfare of Minorities and Multi-sectoral Development Programme. The status of implementation of MsDP in identified MCDs, number of plans approved and the utilization of funds by the State Governments/UT administrations is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	Sl. No.	Minority Concentration Districts	Status of district plans Approved/ Under Process/ Not received	Total amount released (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure reported (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Uttar Pradesh	1.	Saharanpur	Approved	13.91	4.03
	—do—	2.	Muzaffarnagar	Approved	8.72	1.47
	—do—	3.	Baghpat	Approved	2.54	0.85
	—do—	4.	Ghaziabad	Approved	7.37	Nil
	—do—	5.	Bulandshahar	Approved	7.38	6.30
	—do—	6.	Budaun	Approved	21.26	Nil
	—do—	7.	Barabanki	Approved	8.40	Nil
	—do—	8.	Kheri	Approved	20.72	1.53
	—do—	9.	Shahjahanpur	Approved	10.08	2.72
	—do—	10.	Moradabad	Approved	17.09	Nil
	—do—	11.	Rampur	Approved	12.63	3.74
	—do—	12.	Jyotiba Phule Nagar	Approved	9.30	1.09
	—do—	13.	Bareilly	Approved	9.73	0.13
	—do—	14.	Balrampur	Approved	14.29	3.75
	—do—	15.	Siddharthnagar	Approved	12.90	0.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
—do—		16.	Bijnor	Approved	15.83	1.76
—do—		17.	Bahraich	Approved	10.43	Nil
—do—		18.	Pilibhit	Approved	17.20	Nil
—do—		19.	Lucknow	Approved	8.49	Nil
—do—		20.	Meerut	Approved	6.04	Nil
—do—		21.	Shrawasti	Approved	7.65	Nil
2.	West Bengal	22.	Maldah	Approved	10.50	Nil
—do—		23.	Murshidabad	Approved	6.94	4.87
—do—		24.	Birbhum	Approved	7.32	2.19
—do—		25.	Nadia	Approved	7.10	1.02
—do—		26.	Barddhaman	Approved	10.07	10.07
—do—		27.	Howrah	Approved	1.35	1.37
—do—		28.	Uttar Dinajpur	Approved	9.11	Nil
—do—		29.	South 24 Parganas	Approved	15.74	Nil
—do—		30.	Koch Bihar	Approved	3.87	Nil
—do—		31.	North 24 Parganas	Approved	11.55	Nil
—do—		32.	Dakshin Dinajpur	Approved	Nil	NA
—do—		33.	Kolkata	Approved	Nil	NA
3.	Assam	34.	North Cachar Hills	Not received	NA	NA
—do—		35.	Kokrajhar	Not received	NA	NA
—do—		36.	Kamrup	Approved	5.20	3.92
—do—		37.	Darrang	Approved	5.47	5.47
—do—		38.	Barpeta	Approved	31.60	14.67
—do—		39.	Bongaigaon	Approved	3.55	Nil
—do—		40.	Goalpara	Approved	Nil	NA
—do—		41.	Marigaon	Approved	8.99	Nil
—do—		42.	Nagaon	Approved	8.35	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	—do—	43.	Cachar	Approved	2.60	Nil
	—do—	44.	Karimganj	Approved	13.89	Nil
	—do—	45.	Hailakandi	Approved	11.01	Nil
	—do—	46.	Dhubri	Approved	15.55	Nil
4.	Bihar	47.	Araria	Approved	5.54	Nil
	—do—	48.	Kishanganj	Approved	15.84	Nil
	—do—	49.	Purnia	Approved	15.93	Nil
	—do—	50.	Katihar	Approved	5.21	Nil
	—do—	51.	Sitamarhi	Approved	3.00	Nil
	—do—	52.	Darbhanga	Approved	5.99	Nil
	—do—	53.	Pashchim Champaran	Under process	NA	NA
5.	Manipur	54.	Senapati	Approved	9.34	3.73
	—do—	55.	Tamenglong	Approved	3.29	Nil
	—do—	56.	Churachandpur	Approved	7.46	Nil
	—do—	57.	Ukhrul	Approved	3.43	4.06
	—do—	58.	Chandel	Approved	7.59	Nil
	—do—	59.	Thoubal	Approved	3.15	Nil
6.	Haryana	60.	Mewat	Approved	9.51	1.20
	—do—	61.	Sirsa	Approved	9.01	4.51
7.	Jharkhand	62.	Ranchi	Not received	NA	NA
	—do—	63.	Gumla	Approved	Nil	NA
	—do—	64.	Sahibganj	Approved	9.91	Nil
	—do—	65.	Pakaur	Approved	13.03	Nil
8.	Uttarakhand	66.	Udham Singh Nagar	Approved	1.86	Nil
	—do—	67.	Hardwar	Approved	1.50	Nil
9.	Maharashtra	68.	Parbhani	Approved	5.89	Nil
	—do—	69.	Buldana	Approved	7.49	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	—do—	70.	Washim	Approved	2.63	Nil
	—do—	71.	Hingoli	Not received	NA	NA
10.	Karnataka	72.	Gulbarga	Approved	1.50	Nil
	—do—	73.	Bidar	Approved	Nil	NA
11.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	74.	Nicobar	Approved	1.05	Nil
12.	Orissa	75.	Gajapati	Approved	10.35	Nil
13.	Meghalaya	76.	West Garo Hills	Approved	10.79	Nil
14.	Kerala	77.	Wayanad	Approved	76.50	Nil
15.	Mizoram	78.	Lawngtlai	Approved	Nil	NA
	—do—	79.	Mamit	Approved	Nil	NA
16.	Sikkim	80.	North Sikkim	Not received	NA	NA
17.	Delhi	81.	North East	Not received	NA	NA
18.	Jammu and Kashmir	82.	Leh (Ladakh)	Approved	Nil	NA
19.	Madhya Pradesh	83.	Bhopal	Not received	NA	NA
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	84.	East Kameng	Not received	NA	NA
	—do—	85.	Lower Subansiri	Not received	NA	NA
	—do—	86.	Changlang	Not received	NA	NA
	—do—	87.	Tirap	Not received	NA	NA
	—do—	88.	Tawang	Not received	NA	NA
	—do—	89.	West Kameng	Not received	NA	NA
	—do—	90.	Papum Pare	Not received	NA	NA

NA: Not Applicable (as funds have not been released).

[Translation]

**Reservation Counter at Laukha
Bazar Station**

2263. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the approval for opening reservation counter at Laukha Bazar Station under Samastipur Railway Division of East Central Railway, Hazipur (Bihar) has been accorded;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time frame within which it is likely to be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Railway Board has sanctioned PRS-cum-UTS at Laukaha Bazar. UTS is being operated by Station Master. It is expected that PRS at Laukaha Bazar will be operationalised by January 2010.

[English]

Setting Up of Heliports

2264. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up captive airports and heliports in Delhi, Mumbai and other metropolitan cities in the country;

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

(c) whether many heliports have not been properly provided with the lighting and other required facilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the private helicopter operators have been using these helipads and operating their flights even without the required facilities available at the helipads; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

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

(b) Delhi Development Authority has recently allotted 25 acres land to Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. (PHHL) for setting up of captive heliport in Delhi for which M/s RITES has been entrusted to conduct a feasibility study by PHHL. There is no such proposal in other cities.

(c) and (d) Lighting facilities at heliports are provided by the heliport/helicopter operators depending on the type of operation.

(e) and (f) The helicopter operation from sites other than the aerodromes, takes place under the provision of Section 4B Part II, of Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) which provides minimum safety requirement for temporary landing area. As per the CAR, helicopter operators are responsible for the safety of helicopter operations, passengers and people on ground, including the suitability of the site for operation.

[Translation]

Amount Spent on Advertisements

2265. SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on advertisements by the public sector steel companies during each of the last three years and the current year, company-wise;

(b) whether the Government has issued/proposed to issue any guidelines to the public sector steel companies in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Amount spent on advertisements by the public sector steel companies during each of the last three years and the current year is indicated below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of PSU	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)	1757.00	3176.00	5480.00	1791.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)	1999.00	1963.00	1689.00	761.00
3.	NMDC Ltd.	656.00	3004.00	1544.00	579.00
4.	Manganese are (India) Limited (MOIL)	13.08	138.66	22.01	5.24
5.	MSTC Ltd.	78.63	220.85	232.03	15.00
6.	Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd. (FNSL)	7.33	18.86	28.47	2.91
7.	Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL)	15.07	26.98	18.87	20.00
8.	MECON Ltd.	4.90	14.30	11.50	5.60
9.	KIOCL Ltd.	9.56	19.16	44.18	8.20
10.	Sponge Iron India Ltd. (SIIL)	0.71	0.40	0.88	0.31

(b) and (c) All the PSUs had been requested to abide with the guidelines of the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), while releasing advertisements.

[English]

Railway Personnel Dying on duty

2266. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway personnel killed/injured while on duty during each of the last three years and the current year, zone-wise;

(b) the number of family members who have been granted family pensions/ex-gratia/compensation etc. and also the number of such cases which are pending indicating the reasons therefor, zone-wise, during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken to clear all the pending cases and details of any time frame fixed in this regard?

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

Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Exploration/Production of Petroleum Products in Karnataka

2267. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Karnataka where the work of exploration and production of petroleum products is likely to be started along with the details thereof; and

(b) the quantum of share for the State ensured by the Government out of the profit earned from the production of petroleum products in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Geochemical Survey was carried out for Exploration of oil and gas in Bheema-Kaladgi area of Karnataka by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) in the year 2004-05. On the basis of these preliminary studies, low hydrocarbon prospectivity is attributed to these basins. So far no exploration block has been awarded to any company in Karnataka. However, it is envisaged to bring 80% of Indian sedimentary basin under exploration coverage by the end of XI plan i.e. by 2011-2012.

(b) As no hydrocarbon is being produced in the State of Karnataka under New Exploration Licensing Policy regime, no profit petroleum accrues to the State of Karnataka.

National Meat Board

2268. SHRI P. VISWANATHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up National Meat Board and Indian Grapes Processing Board;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Boards are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The Government has set up National Meat and Poultry Processing Board (NMPPB) to oversee the growth and further promotion of Meat and Poultry sector in the country. The NMPPB has been registered on 26th March, 2009 under Societies Registration Act, 1860 and has been notified in the Gazette of India extra ordinary vide notification no. 127 dated 20-1-2009. The Board started functioning from the leased accommodation at 7/6, Association of Municipalities and Development Authority, Siri Fort Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi. The NMPPB is an autonomous body and would initially be funded by Government of India for two years and would be managed by the Industry itself. The NMPP Board will have 19 members including CEO of the Board.

The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 2nd January, 2009 approved establishment of the Indian Grapes Processing Board (IGPB) at Pune, Maharashtra registered under the Societies Act, 1860 to focus on research and development, extension, quality upgradation, market research and information, domestic and international promotion of Indian wine. The IGPB has been notified in the Gazette of India extra ordinary vide notification no. 169 dated 22-1-2009. The Board of IGPB shall consist of Chairman and 14 members including a Convener/Secretary of the Board.

(c) Does not arise.

Profit Earned by Oil Marketing Companies

2269. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA:

SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

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

(a) the present financial status of oil marketing companies;

(b) the total profit earned by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) as a result of prices hiked of petrol, diesel and LPG recently and the amount of loss to be recovered thereby separately for petrol, diesel and LPG, company-wise;

(c) whether the loss estimated to remain still unrecovered inspite of this price hike alongwith the details thereof;

(d) the percentage of increase in inflation estimated to take place due to this price hike; and

(e) the amount of profit earned by the OMCs during the last year, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The Profit after Tax (PAT) of the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), namely, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPC) for the first half year of 2009-10 is as under:

	PAT Rs. crore
IOC	3967
BPC	455
HPC	512
Total	4934

(b) and (c) Based on the Refinery Gate Prices effective 1-7-2009, the OMCs were projected to suffer under-recoveries of Rs. 49,266 crore during 2009-10,

on the sale of sensitive petroleum products; namely Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG. To meet the under-recovery, the retail prices of these products 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. The Government increased the prices of Petrol by Rs. 4 per litre and Diesel by Rs. 2 per litre, with effect from 02-07-2009. The prices of Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene were left untouched.

The estimated impact of the said price increase in terms of reduction of the under-recoveries of Petrol and Diesel during the year 2009-10 is as under:

Product	Impact (Rs. crore)
Petrol	4,320
Diesel	8,670
Total	12,990

(d) The increase in prices of Petrol and Diesel effected from 2nd July, 2009 was taken into account while compiling the Wholesale Price Index for the week ending 4th July, 2009 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which deals with inflation-related data. The Wholesale Price Index and rate of inflation for the petroleum products during the weeks ending 27th June, 2009 and 11th July, 2009 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The Profit after Tax (PAT) of the OMCs during the year 2008-09 is as under:

	PAT Rs. crore
IOC	2950
BPC	736
HPC	575
Total	4261

Statement

Commodities	Weight	Week Ending		
		27 June 09	4 July 09	11 July 09
		Wholesale Price Index (WPI)		
1	2	3	4	5
Liquefied petroleum gas	1.83731	352.4	352.9	352.9
Petrol	0.88815	224.2	246.7	246.7
Kerosene	0.68928	357.6	357.6	357.6
Aviation turbine fuel	0.16953	229.8	229.8	246.9
High speed diesel oil	2.02034	452.2	481.4	481.4
Light diesel oil	0.16015	603.0	629.8	629.8
Naphtha	0.41885	627.5	718.2	718.2
Bitumen	0.14900	571.9	583.7	583.7
Furnace oil	0.49335	411.4	457.1	457.1

1	2	3	4	5
Lubricants	0.16367	328.8	328.8	328.8
Rate of Inflation*				
Liquefied petroleum gas	1.8373	-12.53	-7.42	-7.42
Petrol	0.8882	-19.90	-11.86	-11.86
Kerosene	0.6893	0.00	0.00	0.00
Aviation turbine fuel	0.1695	-49.61	-51.85	-48.27
High speed diesel oil	2.0203	-11.59	-5.88	-5.88
Light diesel oil	0.1602	-12.38	-14.48	-14.48
Naphtha	0.4189	-40.17	-36.63	-36.63
Bitumen	0.149	-13.30	-12.95	-12.95
Furnace oil	0.4934	-35.83	-32.41	-32.41
Lubricants	0.1637	-0.36	-0.36	-0.36

*Rate of inflation is year to year and is with reference to WPI in the corresponding week of previous year.

[Translation]

Development of Airport in Orissa

2270. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to build an airport near the world famous Konark temple in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is no proposal to build an airport near the world famous Konark temple in Orissa.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Konark is well-connected by the existing Bhubaneswar Airport, which is at an aerial distance of 50 km.

[English]

Export Contracts for BHEL

2271. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) has secured export contracts from international market;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the functioning and efficiency of BHEL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. In the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has booked orders from international markets worth Rs. 1,903 crore, Rs. 2,312

crore and Rs. 3,265 crores respectively, which include export orders for projects, products, spares and services. Details of major physical export orders secured by BHEL during these years is given as enclosed Statement.

(c) Continuous review and monitoring of the functioning and performance of BHEL is undertaken by the Department of Heavy Industry with a view to make

further improvements, the company is equipping itself by way of technology, augmentation facilities and processes, forming joint ventures and strategic alliances and inducting manpower to meet the country's power forecast for the 11th plan and beyond. It has already enhanced its manufacturing capacity to 10,000 MW per annum. Plans are also afoot to hike it further to 20,000 MW by 2011-12.

Statement

Major physical export orders secured by BHEL during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09

Sl. No.	Project/Product details	Country
2006-07		
1.	220/110/20 KV Substation, Kabul	Afghanistan
2.	230 KV Substations at Baghabari and Ishurdi	Bangladesh
3.	2x120 MW Gas Based Siddhirganj Power Project	Bangladesh
4.	23 nos. 125 MVA, 220 KV Transformers	Egypt
5.	Compressor package	France
6.	117 nos. Voltage Transformers and 133 nos. Current Transformers	Greece
7.	4xFrame 9E Gas Turbine and Generator based Power Project, Sulaymaniyah, Kurdistan	Iraq
8.	Rehabilitation of 3x5 MW Devighat Hydro-Electric Power Plant	Nepal
9.	Renovation, modernisation and uprating of 2x3.67 MW Hydro Electric Power Plant	Tajikistan
2007-08		
1.	2x12 MW Steam Turbine and Generator (STG) Package for Finchaa Sugar Factory	Ethiopia
2.	2x20 MW Steam Turbine and Generator (STG) Package for Phase 1 and 2x40 MW STG Package for Phase 2 of Tendaho Sugar Factory	Ethiopia
3.	2x126 TPH CFBC Boilers for Mine Mouth Power Plant	Indonesia
4.	1x15 MW Steam Turbine and Generator (STG), 1x120 TPH CFBC Boiler package for PT Indo Bharat Rayon	Indonesia
5.	2x156 MW Western Mountain Gas based Thermal Power Plant Extension	Libya
6.	2x442 TPH CFBC Boiler and Auxiliaries for Koniombo Nickel	New Caledonia
7.	2 units of Frame 6B Gas Turbines for RAK Power Plant	United Arab Emirates

Sl. No.	Project/Product details	Country
8.	2x100 MW Nam Chien Hydro Power Plant 2008-09	Vietnam
1.	5 nos. 100 MVA Transformers	Greece
2.	3x18 MW Boiler-Turbine-Generator Island for PT Kaltima Prima Coal (KPC)	Indonesia
3.	16 nos. Transformers of various capacities	Myanmar
4.	2x14 MW Hydro Power Plant, Ministry of Infrastructure	Rawanda
5.	1x125 MW Power Island Package	Senegal
6.	2x200 MW Tishreen Thermal Power Plant	Syria
7.	1x7 MW Generator for Pamir Energy	Tajikistan
8.	4 nos. 42 MW (Frame 6B) Gas Turbine and Generator (GTG) for International Energy Resources	United Arab Emirates

Company Law Board

2272. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Company Law Board (CLB) has only two members to hear 2000 cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the post of Chairman and some members of Board are lying vacant;

(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) At present, the Company Law Board has a Chairman and three Members. One Member is under suspension.

(c) to (e) The post of Chairman has been filled up. The Government constituted a selection committee to recommend names for the five vacant posts of

Members. The selection committee has recommended four names for appointment as Member, Company Law Board.

Setting Up of Mini Steel Plants

2273. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up more mini steel plants in the country;

(b) if so, the number of licence given by the Union Government to install mini steel plants in the country including Himachal Pradesh and the basis on which these licences have been issued;

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to promote the setting up of mini steel plants in the country;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to set up a steel plant in Kangra; and

(e) if so, cost, capacity and the present status

thereof and the time by which the plant is likely be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) According to the 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 and Regulation) Act, 1951 and the entrepreneurs are free to set up such plants anywhere in the country except in the restricted locations based on their commercial judgment.

However, 2(two) industrial licences namely Ashwini Steel Pvt. Ltd, in Village Lodariyal, Ahmedabad, Gujarat and Niranjn Singh Kartar Singh Forgins Pvt. Ltd. in Village Jandiali, Ludhiana, Punjab have been issued by the Government for manufacture of items like iron and steel in primary/semi-finished forms, M.S. Castings/Steel Ingots etc., in relaxation of location policy. The above two licenses were issued by the Licensing Committee working in Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, after due diligence and consultation and consideration thereof in accordance with the location policy of the Government.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal of the Government to set up mini steel plant in the Kangra in Himachal Pradesh. However, Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) proposes to set up a steel processing unit in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, which envisages facilities of TMT bar mill with production capacity of 100,000 tonne per annum. The proposal has been approved 'in principle' by the SAIL Board and land has been acquired. The estimated cost of the project and time frame for completion has not been finalized.

[Translation]

Opening of LPG Agencies in Rajasthan

2274. Dr. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has invited fresh

tenders to open more LPG agencies in all the districts of Rajasthan to meet the demand of people:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which new LPG agencies are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Notices inviting applications for selection of LPG distributors have been issued on 17-10-2009 by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for establishing 192 new LPG distributors in the State of Rajasthan under the scheme Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGGLVY).

The selection of LPG distributorships is made by OMCs themselves, in terms of laid down guidelines. Commissioning/opening of distributors involves Field Verification of Credentials of the selected candidate, construction of godown/showroom and obtaining statutory clearances. It is therefore, not possible to indicate any time frame for commissioning/opening of LPG distributors, but every effort is made to do so as quickly as possible.

[English]

Complaints to NCM

2275. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of complaints received to the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has gone up considerably in the last two years;

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

(c) the number of such complaints which have been addressed to, year-wise; and

(d) the number of such complaints which are still to be sorted out?

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

(b) Community-wise representations received by the National Commission for Minorities during 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as below:—

Community	2007-08	2008-09
Muslim	1045	1474
Christian	166	183
Sikh	151	413
Buddhist	39	42
Parsi	33	37
Other than Minorities	74	101
Total	1508	2250

(c) and (d) The Commission has taken appropriate action on these complaints in accordance with the procedure laid down for redressal of the grievances.

Setting Up of Steel Plant

2276. SHRI AMARNATH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the world's largest steel maker the Arcelor Mittal is looking for alternative sites to set up steel plant in the Southern State of the country; and

(b) if so, the likely fate of steel plants to be set up in Orissa and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The information is being collected from the respective State Governments of Southern States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

(b) The present status of M/s Arcelor Mittal's plant is as under:—

In Orissa—Arcelor Mittal India Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Orissa on 21-12-2006 for setting up a 12.0 Million Tonne capacity steel project in Patna,

Keonjhar district of Orissa. Nearly 8000 acres of land has been identified for the project, out of which 2847.562 acres is government land and the balance 4905.213 acres consist of private land. The process of land acquisition has begun. Since, all the 15 villages from where the land is to be acquired are located in the scheduled area, which is being dealt in accordance with the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act 1996. Since the area falls under scheduled area, the land is to be acquired, in accordance with PESA Act 1996.

In Jharkhand—M/s Arcelor Mittal India Limited has also signed MoU with Government of Jharkhand on 08-10-2005 for setting up a 12.0 Million Tonne capacity steel project in Topra-Kadara area in Jharkhand. Nearly 8845 acres of land has been identified for steel plant and captive power plant. Prior approval of Government of India received for grant of Mining lease over 202 hectares in Karampada iron ore block in West Singhbhum district. Seregraha coal mine with 150 million tonnes reserve has been allocated jointly with GVK power limited.

[Translation]

Import of Insecticides

2277. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of insecticides in the country is increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the domestic industries have suffered losses due to such import thereof; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to discourage the import of insecticides and boost the production of insecticides in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) Yes Madam, there has been some increase in import of insecticides except in 2007-08. At the same time the production and export of Insecticides

has also increased. The imports mainly consist of basic technicals and intermediates which are used for making high value formulations/pesticides, both for domestic and

export markets. The figures for production, import and export of insecticides is shown in the table below:—

Name of the Product	2005-06 (in MT)	2006-07 (in MT)	2007-08 (in MT)	2008-09 (in MT)
A. Production	82240	84999	83423	85338
B. Import	2160	2242	1198	*
C. Export	24227	27515	25487	*

*As per the website of DGFT, no data is available.

Increase in Volume of Air Cargo

2278. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transportation of cargo by air has increased in the country with the operation of special cargo planes on the domestic and international routes;

(b) if so, the details regarding the cargo carried by planes during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government is aware of any study conducted by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHEM) regarding the transportation of more cargo by air than rail or ship during the last three financial years;

(d) if so, the percentage increase registered in international and domestic air cargo transportation; and

(e) the reasons for the increase in the air cargo transportation?

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

(b) During the last three years from 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, the details of cargo carried by Indian Carriers on domestic and international routes was 445451 tonnes, 511316 tonnes and 515855 tonnes respectively.

(c) Ministry of Civil Aviation is not aware of any

such study conducted by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHEM).

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Loans for SC and ST

2279. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to provide reservation in priority sector loans for handlooms to SC and ST categories;

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

(c) whether there exist any provision for such classification in the current Five Year Plan; 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) No Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Auditors of the Companies

2280. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a person holding any Security of a company is qualified to become an auditor of that company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government held any discussions with the Institute of Chartered Accountants regarding the norms and guidelines for the auditors to be appointed for the public limited companies; and

(d) if so, the details and 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 KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The provisions of section 226(3)(e) of the Companies Act, 1956 provide that a person shall not be qualified as auditor of a company, if such person is holding any security of that company. For this purpose, security means an instrument which carries voting rights.

(c) and (d) The Government, after having consultations with various stakeholders including the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), has introduced the Companies Bill, 2009 in the Lok Sabha on 3rd August, 2009. Clauses 123 to 125 of such Bill

deal with matters relating to appointment of auditors.

Cotton Corporation of India

2281. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has cleared an allocation of Rs. 1473 crore to the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to meet the losses it incurred on account of procurement and disposal of cotton during 2008-09;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of cotton procured by CCI during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Cabinet has approved the allocation of Rs. 1473 crore to meet the losses in disposal of Cotton procured under Minimum Support Price (MSP) Operations by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) during the cotton season 2008-09. However, only Rs. 500 crore has been approved by the Ministry of Finance during the pre-Budget discussion.

(c) State-wise, quantity of cotton procured by CCI during the each of the last three years and the current year is as under:—

(Quantity in bales)

State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 As on 24-11-2009
1	2	3	4	5
Punjab	—	—	1043814	86591
Haryana	—	—	255342	21762
Rajasthan	—	—	155217	4480
Gujarat	—	—	1236114	162
Maharashtra	539754	—	1997091	504
Madhya Pradesh	89844	—	736526	—

1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	527646	218694	3275754	133864
Karnataka	4954	—	163123	3682
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	—	—	132	—
Orissa	16,257	4611	71717	—
Total	1178455	223305	8934830	251045

Late Running of GNP-3

2282. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many EMUs particularly GNP-3 (Palwal-Ghaziabad) EMU is often running late;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) action taken against the officials responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) During the month of October 2009, GNP-3 has arrived destination on 21 days within 15 minutes of its scheduled time of arrival. On 10 occasions, the train was delayed, wherein the delay was due to signaling failure on 1 occasion, running behind other commuter trains on 7 occasions and behind long distance trains running late on 2 occasions. The reasons for late running of trains including EMU suburban trains include assets failures, alarm chain pulling, law and order problems, bad weather, cattle run over, electricity grid failure, etc. Appropriate administrative action is taken against the staff responsible for causing delays in train operations.

[Translation]

Platform at Jhansi Railway Station

2283. SHRI KAPIL MUNI KARWARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to construct platform at the Jhansi Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) There are 7 high level platforms at Jhansi station and at present there is no proposal for construction of new platform at Jhansi.

[English]

Selection of Judges

2284. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether in a selection of Judges to High Court, the most bright and meritorious among district Judges were seldom appointed while personal favorites were picked;

(b) if so, the details of such cases which came to the notice of the Government; and

(c) the corrective 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.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Stoppage of Lichchhavi Express

2285. SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to provide stoppage to 'Lichchhavi Express' running between Delhi and Sitamarchi at 'Lar' Station in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) At present, 4005 Sitamarhi-New Delhi Lichchhavi Express has a scheduled stoppage at Lar Road station. The stoppage of 4006 New Delhi-Sitamarhi Lichchhavi Express at Lar Road station has however not been found commercially justified.

Basic Amenities at Sarai Rohilla Station

2286. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trains being run from the Sarai Rohilla station, Delhi;

(b) whether the Railways have received the complaints regarding the lack of passenger amenities at the station;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the construction of Road Over Bridge on the Rohtak Road is under the consideration of the Railways; and

(e) if so, the time by which the bridge is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) 8 pairs of trains including one pair of passenger train are presently originating/terminating at Delhi Sarai Rohilla station.

Besides, 12 pairs of trains are also stopping at the station.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

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

Award to Railway Employees

2287. SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme has been launched by the Railways to award the railway employees for their better performance;

(b) if so, the amount released for the distribution, zone-wise and date-wise;

(c) whether, any zone/division is still to be provided with the amount allocated for award distribution; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. Scheme for grant of awards to Railway employees for better performance already exists on the Indian Railways. The awards are given individually as also in groups for their meritorious services. The funds are utilized by the Zonal Railways from their own budgetary provisions for this purpose and there is no problem in this regard on any Zonal Railway.

[English]

Setting Up of Airport at Meerut

2288. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the existing prescribed norms for establishment of an International Airport in terms of distance between one such Airport to another;

(b) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Uttar Pradesh Government to establish an International Airport at District Meerut, Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The prescribed norms are as under:

- (i) No Greenfield airport will normally be allowed within an aerial distance of 150 kms of an existing airport.
- (ii) In case a Greenfield airport is proposed to be set up within 150 kms of an existing civilian airport, such cases will be decided on case to case basis.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Airport at Kanyakumari

2289. SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps for the setting up of Greenfield Airport in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Kanyakumari Town is situated at an aerial distance of 77 Km (approx) from Thiruvananthapuram International Airport and at an distance of 105 Km from Tuticorin Airport.

Revenue Earned by Konkan Railway

2290. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of revenue earned by the Konkan railway since its inception;

(b) whether the Railways have any proposal for

doubling the Konkan sector rail lines between Kerala and the Western region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

(a) The details of revenue earned by the Konkan Railways since its inception are given below:

(Figs in crores of Rs.)

Year	Total Earnings
1997-1998	19.90
1998-1999	98.48
1999-2000	130.22
2000-2001	168.43
2001-2002	187.73
2002-2003	227.56
2003-2004	249.83
2004-2005	288.52
2005-2006	372.26
2006-2007	442.76
2007-2008	533.53
2008-2009	615.84
Upto Sep. '09	254.22
Total	3589.28

Manpower of ONGC's Officers

2291. SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

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

(a) the places where ONGC's offices are located in India and abroad and the manpower working in these offices on regular, hire/contract basis, station-wise;

(b) the contractual staff hired by the implant offices of ONCC and the salaries/wages paid to them during the last three years station-wise;

(c) whether necessary statutory benefits are being extended to the staff hired by the ONGC;

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

(e) the steps being taken and proposed to be taken to regularise the services of such staff who have been working with the ONGC regularly for more than 10 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Location-wise break-up of manpower of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) as on 1st November 2009 is given in the enclosed Statement. Regular employees of ONGC are extended all statutory benefits. The benefits to regular employees includes wages/salary, provident fund, gratuity and medical

facilities.

(b) to (d) ONGC does not hire contractual staff directly. ONGC awards Job contracts and the contractor engages and pays the workers for executing the job. Therefore, the details of contract workers engaged by the contractor or wages paid by him to his workers, are not maintained by ONGC.

ONGC incorporates clauses in its contract to ensure that payment of statutory benefits such as Contributory Provident Fund (CPF), Bonus, Leave with wages, Workman's Compensation or Employee's State Insurance (ESI), where applicable, etc. are made by the contractor to his workers. However, details of such payments are not available with ONGC, since these payments are made by the Contractors directly to their workers.

(e) As ONGC does not directly hire the services of contractual staff, there is no employee-employer relationship between the contract labour and ONGC. Hence, the question of the regularisation of their services in ONGC does not arise.

However, whenever ONGC advertises for vacancies in regular posts, these workers are eligible to apply for regular posts, provided they meet the age/qualification criteria. Some such workers have been selected/have joined regular posts in ONGC.

Statement

Sector	Location	Employee Strength as on 1st November 2009					
		Regular	Others			Grand Total	
			Deputation in	Tenure	Term		Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
01-Headquarter	Dehradun	2629	5	4	15	24	2653
	Delhi	777	23		26	49	826
02-Mumbai Sector	Goa	65					65
	Hazira	776		1		1	777

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Mumbai	5752	3	278	7	288	6040
	Uran	692					692
03-Western Sector	Ahmedabad	2569		146	5	151	2720
	Ankleshwar	2720		304		304	3024
	Vadodara	1408		37		37	1445
	Cambay	263	3	39		42	305
	Jodhpur	178		2		2	180
	Mehsana	2326	1	180		181	2507
04-Eastern Sector	Jorhat	1205	1	13		14	1219
	Nazira	5022	6	223		229	5251
	Sibsagar	327					327
	Silchar	369	2	6		8	377
05-Southern Sector	Chennai	792	4		5	9	801
	Karaikal	1118	29	75		104	1222
	Rajahmundry	1445		301		301	1746
06-Cental Sector	Agartala	977	6	9		15	992
	Kolkata	942	1	6	2	9	951
Total		32352	84	1624	60	1768	34120
**OVL		229					
**Deputation Out		118					347
Grand Total		32699	84	1624	60	1768	34467

Commission Rate of Petrol Pump Dealers

2292. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of commission fixed to pay to the dealers of petroleum as on date;

(b) whether there is a variation in the rate of

commission being paid by oil PSUs to the dealers of petroleum, gas, diesel and kerosene;

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

(d) whether the Government have received requests from the dealers of various States for hike in the rate of commission being paid to them;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) The current rates of Dealer/Distributors commission on Petrol, Diesel, Kerosene and Domestic LPG are given below:

	Rs./Kilolitre
Petrol	1125
Diesel	673
Kerosene	
Wholesale Dealer's commission (Form XV)	263
Wholesale Dealer's commission (other than Form XV)	220
Domestic LPG	
	Rs./Cylinder
14.2 Kg Cylinder	21.94
5 Kg Cylinder	11.30

The rates of Dealer's/Distributor's commission are revised from time to time. The Dealer's/Distributor's commission for Petrol, Diesel, Kerosene and Domestic LPG are different due to difference in their business requirements like capital invested, working capital required, infrastructure required, quantum of stock loss and the costs of operation etc.

(d) to (f) The Government had received requests from the Federation of All India Petroleum Traders, All India Kerosene Dealers Federation, All India LPG Distributors Federation and the Federation of Gujarat Petroleum Dealers Associations for revision in the commission. The Dealer's/Distributor's commission for Kerosene, Domestic LPG and Petrol/Diesel has been revised with effect from 30-6-2009, 6-7-2009 and 26-10-2009 respectively.

Import of Power Equipments from China

2293. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the

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

(a) whether the inflow of cheap imported power equipment from China has been imposing a threat to the domestic players such as Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Heavy Industries has urged the Finance Ministry to impose countervailing duty on such cheap import of power equipments from China;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action so far taken thereon?

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

In the 11th Plan Period, out of the likely thermal power capacity addition of 61,237 MW, equipments for about 21,000 MW is being imported from Chinese manufacturers. Similarly, out of total orders of about 15000 MW for hydro power projects, order for 464 MW have been placed on Chinese manufacturers/suppliers. In the 12th Plan Period, out of total orders of about 45,000 MW placed so far, orders for thermal capacity of about 14,000 MW have been placed on Chinese manufacturers/suppliers. Thus, equipments for about 33% of thermal projects are being imported from China. Thus the import of cheaper Power Equipment from China has been imposing a threat to domestic manufacturers including BHEL.

(c) No Madam. Countervailing Duty is being levied on import of power equipments including those from China, except in the case of Mega and Ultra Mega power projects.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Vacant Post of IO

2294. SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that

Information Officers have not been appointed in Regional offices of the Oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these Information Officers are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) The Information Officers have been appointed by all major oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) except Engineers India Limited (EIL) in their regional offices as per the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The role of the regional offices of EIL is limited to engineering and coordination with clients only. Since information sought by citizens is mostly pertaining to policy decisions and major activities, appointment of Public Information Officer at Regional Offices of EIL will not serve purpose as all policy decisions and major activities are at Head Office only where Central Public Information Officer handles all queries.

[Translation]

Puja and Special Trains

2295. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of 'Puja Special' and other special trains introduced by the Railways in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the High Official Requisition (HOR) quota is also valid for such trains;

(c) if so, whether the berths allotted under HOR quota in sleeper coaches were not released from railway board/headquarters for many days due to technical fault in the month of October, 2009;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the schedule of regular trains gets affected by the introduction of such special trains; and

(f) if so, the details of losses of revenue caused to the Railways as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Data for special trains run during different festivals are not maintained separately. However, approximate total number of special trains run during the last three years and current year is as under:

Year	Special trains (In trips)
2006-07	16,249
2007-08	21,750
2008-09	33,908
2009-10	22,748 (upto Sept. 09)

(b) to (d) Emergency Quota in all trains including special trains is controlled by Zonal Railways. In case of Northern Railway, Emergency Quota controlled jointly with the Ministry of Railways. No incidence of non-releasing of Emergency Quota in the month of October, 2009 has been reported.

(e) Planning for running special trains is done taking in view the operational feasibility without affecting schedule of regular trains.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Indian Institute of Handlooms and Textiles

2296. SHRI P.K. BIJU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan for the upgradation of Indian Institute of Handlooms and Textiles in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of this office.

[Translation]

Report of NCRLM

2297. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has deliberated upon the recommendations contained in the reports presented by the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by 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) and (b) The Government is still examining the various aspects of the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM) report, including from constitutional and legal angles.

Firing in Awadh Express

2298. SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incident of firing took place in Awadh Express between Dahod-Godhara in the first week of October;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons died and injured in this incident;

(c) the steps being taken to stop such incidents of looting and throwing out passengers from running trains; and

(d) the action taken against persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) On 03-10-2009 at 23:20 hours while train no. 9038 Awadh Express was running between Limkheda-Piplod stations over Dahod-Godhra section, there was a scuffle between

a passenger traveling in General coach of the train and pantry car staff during which one passenger had opened fire from a country made pistol on the pantry car staff but the bullet hit two other passengers. One passenger, sustained injury on his head and died on the spot and other passenger sustained minor injuries. The passenger who opened fire managed to escape by pulling the alarm chain. The injured passenger was admitted to Civil Hospital/Godhra. A case has been registered by GRP/Godhra vide Crime No. 29/09 under section 302, 307 and 34 IPC and 25(i) Arms Act. No arrest has been made so far.

(c) Important mail and express trains are being escorted by Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF). Escorting parties are properly briefed to remain alert and vigilant during their duties to keep close watch over suspected persons traveling in trains.

(d) As and when any person is found guilty, appropriate action is taken against him under the provisions of law.

[English]

Sabari Rail Line

2299. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether land acquisition for Angamali-Azutha (Sabari) Railway Line Project in Kerala has been completed;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the status thereof;

(c) the details of the amount earmarked/spent for the construction of Sabari Railway line since its inception, year-wise;

(d) whether the Railways have received any request/proposal for extension of Sabari Railway Line from Azutha to Punaloor; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Railways in this regard?

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

Required land for this project is yet to be handed over by the State Government. Local people of the area are strongly objecting to passing the alignment through their premises/agricultural lands. Out of 516.42 hect. of land requirement for this project, requisition for 470.86 hect of land has been submitted to the State Government and only 7.83 hect of land has been handed over to the Railways.

(c) Anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 550 crore and an outlay of Rs. 15 crore has been provided for this project during 2009-10. Year-wise expenditure incurred on this project upto March, 2009 is as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Expenditure
1997-98	Nil
1998-99	0.0010
1999-2000	0.23
2000-01	0.39
2001-02	0.33
2002-03	3.96
2003-04	0.49
2004-05	0.23
2005-06	0.29
2006-07	1.29
2007-08	10.29
2008-09	27.62
Total	45.121

(d) and (e) Government of Kerala has requested for extension of Sabari Rail through Pattanamthita-Punalur-Thiruvananthapuram.

Updating survey for Erumeli-Pattanamthita-Punalur-Thiruvananthapuram has been taken up.

Railway Projects in Haryana

2300. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing/pending railway projects in Haryana during the last three years alongwith details of the rail over/under bridges and manned/unmanned crossing in the State;

(b) whether these works are executed/progressing as per their schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Details of ongoing new line, gauge conversion and doubling rail projects in Haryana are as under:—

Project	Anticipated cost (Rs. in crore)
New lines	
Jind-Sonepat (81 km)	385.95
Rewari-Rohtak (75 km)	475.17
Doubling	
Harsauli-Rewari (39 km)	110.00
Jakhal-Mansa (45 km)	109.12
Kukrana-Panipat (6.5 km)	36.08
Palwal-Bhuteshwar 3rd line (81 km)	330.00
Tugalakabad-Palwal 4th line (33.5 km)	123.90
Rohtak-Jakhal (52 km)	107.66
Gauge conversion	
Ajmer-Phulera-Ringus-Rewari (295 km)	717.00
Delhi-Rewari 2nd line (83 km)	149.00
Rewari-Sadulpur and Sadulpur-Hissar (211 km)	705.00

In Rewari-Rohtak new line, 4 ROBs, 30 RUBs and 37 Manned level crossings are proposed and in Jind-Sonepat new line 2 ROBs, 34 RUBs and 40 Manned level crossings are proposed.

Gauge conversion of Delhi-Rewari 2nd line, Rewari-Sadulpur-Hissar and Phulera-Ringus-Rewari and doubling of Rohtak-Jakhal has already been completed. The works are being progressed as per the availability of resources.

Robbery in Himalayan Express

2301. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a robbery took place in non AC compartments of Himalayan Express recently;

(b) if so, whether no RPF personnel were posted there;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the quantum of loss occurred and the action taken by the Railways thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Important trains are escorted either by Government Railway Police (GRP) or by Railway Protection Force (RPF). This train was escorted by Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel/Haryana.

(d) The robbers took away One mobile phone, two chains, one ring and cash worth Rs. 24,800. On 28-09-2009 FIR No. 132/09 U/s 395, 397 and 34 IPC was registered against unknown persons. 04 accused have since been arrested during investigation which is in progress.

[Translation]

Railway Projects for Maharashtra

2302. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent proposals for upgradation of railway stations,

construction of road over bridges and foot over bridges in major cities of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No proposal has been received from the State Government of Maharashtra regarding upgradation of railway stations. However, the State Government of Maharashtra has sponsored seven (7) nos. of proposals for construction of road over bridges and nineteen (19) nos. of proposals for skywalks in Mumbai area during current year, details of which are given in the enclosed Statement.

Whereas proposals for road over bridges are being chased for feasibility at site, the proposals for skywalks, duly approved by Railways, are being taken up by Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA) for further action.

Statement

Details of the proposals for Road Over Bridge (ROB) and skywalks submitted by the Government of Maharashtra State are as under:

Road Over Bridges

Following seven (7) proposals of construction of ROBs have been sponsored by the Government of Maharashtra State.

1. ROB at level crossing Gate No. 126 at Kajgaon-Tarwade-Hamuntkeda Parola Road on Kalyan-Lonavala Section;
2. ROB at level crossing Gate No. 103 on Vinchur Thetale Ugaon Road near Thetale village;
3. ROB at level crossing Gate No. 118 on Chandwad-Manmad-Nandgaon-Chalisingaon-Ajanta Road at State Highway (SH)-27;
4. ROB at level crossing Gate No. 149 on Jalgaon-Asoda-Shegaon-Barnod Road;
5. ROB at level crossing Gate No. 144 on

Savkhedphata-Erandol-Neri-Jamner Road at SH 186;

6. ROB at level crossing Gate No. 101 on Niphad-Ugaon-Malegaon road at Ugaon; and
7. ROB at Nargargaon at level crossing no. 32 at Kalyan-Lonavala Section.

Skywalks

Nineteen (19) proposals for construction of skywalks in Mumbai Division by Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA) are as under:—

- (1) Construction of skywalk at Chembur;
- (2) Construction of skywalk at Mulund (East and West);
- (3) Construction of skywalk at Badlapur;
- (4) Construction of skywalk at Bhandup (West);
- (5) Construction of skywalk at Ulhasnagar;
- (6) Construction of skywalk at Vidyavihar;
- (7) Construction of skywalk at Thane (East) with 2 nos. in foot over bridge (FOB);
- (8) Construction of skywalk at Cottongreen;
- (9) Construction of skywalk at Kalyan (West);
- (10) Construction of skywalk at Dadar (East);
- (11) Construction of skywalk at Rey Road;
- (12) Construction of skywalk at Sewri;
- (13) Construction of skywalk at Chinchpokli;
- (14) Construction of skywalk at Parel (East);
- (15) Construction of skywalk at Kurla;
- (16) Construction of skywalk at Ghatkopar (West);
- (17) Construction of skywalk at Vadala Road (West);
- (18) Construction of skywalk at Kalyan (East) and
- (19) Construction of skywalk at Vikhroli station (East and West).

Conceptual plan of all the above works has been approved.

[English]

Doubling of Bangalore-Mysore Rail Line

2303. SHRI ADAGOORU H. VISHWANATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether doubling work on Bangalore-Mysore railway line is pending due to lack of funds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Railways to arrange sufficient funds for the project?

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

(b) and (c) This project is being executed on 2/3rd cost sharing basis with the Government of Karnataka. This will ensure availability of required funds during execution.

Extension of Mangalore-Bangalore Day Train

2304. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have any proposal to extend Mangalore-Bangalore Day train upto Karwar via Udupi and Kundapur; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

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

[Translation]

Awards for Preventing Accidents

2305. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways give any awards to its officials and other persons who help in preventing the rail accidents;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons awarded in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year?

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

(b) Any Railway official or outsider who helps in averting rail accidents is suitably awarded by the Zonal Railways.

(c) The number of persons awarded during the last three years and current year is given below:

Year	No. of persons awarded
2006-07	934
2007-08	851
2008-09	907
2009-10 (upto Oct. '09)	479

[English]

Exploration by ONGC in Assam

2306. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) proposes to hive off its Assam assets into an wholly owned subsidiary;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the gas assets of Tripura in Assam-Arakan basin are also likely to be transferred to that subsidiary; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the production of gas is likely to be enhanced as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No such proposal has been submitted

to the Government by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC).

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

Flight Delays during Winters

2307. SHRI PURNMA SI RAM:

SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has decided that only airlines that have CAT-III B Instrument Landing System (ILS) equipped aircraft and trained pilots would be given slots before 10 AM during the ensuring winter season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite installation of ILS CAT-III facilities at IGI airport, there is still lot of delay or cancellation of flights due to fog;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures taken to impart training to pilots to operate the flights during fog effectively;

(e) whether most of the private airline companies do not give proper training to their pilots in the upgraded instrument landing system; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed the scheduled domestic airlines having CAT-III non-compliance aircraft in their fleet to file separate fog schedule for these aircraft 10-12-2009 to 10-02-2010, failing which during foggy conditions the approved departure/arrival slots of these aircraft prior to 1000 hours shall be shifted beyond 1000 hours in coordination with the concerned airport operator.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. IGI Airport, Delhi has not experienced fog during this winter season so far. All scheduled domestic airlines have been advised by

DGCA to train their pilots for CAT-II/III operations during low visibility conditions as per DGCA regulations.

(e) All the scheduled domestic airlines have confirmed that they have sufficient number of trained CAT-III pilots, commensurate with CAT-III compliant aircraft in their fleet.

(f) Does not arise.

Extension of Catering Services

2308. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are proposing to extend catering services in Vadodara, Rajkot and Bhavnagar bound long distance trains in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) At present Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is providing catering services in 21 pairs of trains originating/terminating from Gujarat region.

Moreover, Railways endeavours to extend catering services by attaching pantry cars in long distance trains subject to operational feasibility, availability of rolling stock, priority of the train, journey time, commercial justification, etc.

[Translation]

Use of Land after Extracting Oil and Gas

2309. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI VITTHALBHAI HANSRAJBHAI
RADADIYA:

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

(a) the manner in which the Government uses the land in Gujarat after extracting oil and gas from the oil wells and gas reserves;

(b) whether the Government is considering to return the said land to the farmers from whom it was acquired for extraction of oil and gas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Lands acquired by ONGC for Petroleum operations are used in accordance with the Acts and Rules of the State governing such usage. The lands acquired are returned to the land owners after oil extraction and revival of land, if it is not required by ONGC. However, ONGC also acquires lands for oil extraction on permanent basis, which are put to use for operational purpose or conversion to green belt as per the Company's policy.

Food Park

2310. SHRI DEORAJ SINGH PATEL:

SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA:

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

(a) the total number of food parks approved during the Tenth Five Year Plan Period and the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the number and details of food parks that became operational in the country till date State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to establish more food parks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) 15 Food Parks were approved by the Government during the Tenth Five Year Plan Period. During the 11th Plan, till date, 'in-principle' approval has been accorded in case of setting up of 10 Mega Food Park projects.

(b) A table showing the number and details of Food Parks that became operational in the country till date, State-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) In the 11th Plan, the Ministry has approved a new scheme to establish 30 Mega Food Parks with a view to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure for food processing sector in the country on a pre-identified cluster basis with a strong backward and forward linkage

and to provide value addition of agricultural commodities including poultry, meat, dairy, fisheries etc. in a demand driven manner. Financial assistance has been enhanced to 50% of project cost excluding land component in

general areas and 75% in difficult areas, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 crore for setting up of Mega Food Parks.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	Location of the Project	Implementing agency	Year of approval	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Kuppam, Distt.-Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd.	2000-01	Operational
2.	Haryana	Saha, Distt.-Ambala	Haryana state Ind. Dev. Corporation Ltd.	2001-02	Operational
3.	Haryana	Rai, Distt.-Sonipat,	Haryana state Ind. Dev. Corporation Ltd.	2001-02	Operational
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	Khunmoh, Distt.-Srinagar	J and K State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	2000-01	Operational
5.	Kerala	Distt. Mallapuram	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation	1996-97	Operational
6.	Kerala	Aroor, Distt.-Alappuzha,	Marine Products Infrastructure Development Corporation P. Ltd. (MIDCON)/Seafood Park India Ltd.	2001-02	Operational
7.	Kerala	Mazhuvannur, Ernakulam	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA)	2002-03	Operational
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Jaggakhedi, Distt.-Mandsaur	Madhya Pradesh Audyogic Kendra Vikas Nigam (Indore) Ltd.	2000-01	Operational
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Piparia, Babai, Distt.-Hoshangabad	Madhya Pradesh Audyogic Kendra Vikas Nigam (Bhopal) Ltd.	2001-02	Operational
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Borgaon, Distt. Chhindwara	M.P. Audyogik Kendra, Vikas Nigam (Jabalpur) Ltd.	2001-02	Operational

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Malanpur, Ghirongi, District Bhind (M.P.)	M.P. Audyogik Kendra, Vikas Nigam (Gwalior) Ltd.	2002-03	Operational
12.	Maharashtra	Vinchur, Distt. Nashik	Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation	2001-02	Operational
13.	Maharashtra	Mouza Gumthala, Bhandara Road, Dist. Nagpur	M/s Haldiram Krishi Udyog Pvt. Ltd., Dist. Nagpur	2002-03	Operational
14.	Maharashtra	Village Sangvi, Distt. Satara	M/s Agrifood Informatics (India) Ltd., Pune-411013	2002-03	Operational
15.	Maharashtra	Palus, Distt.-Sangli	Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation	2003-04	Operational
16.	Maharashtra	Kapsi, Taluka Kamtee, Distt. Nagpur	M/s Maa Umiya Audyogic sahakari vasahat Maryadit	2005-06	Operational
17.	Manipur	Distt.-Ukhrul	Rishang Keishing Foundation for Manage- ment of Tribal Areas	2001-02	Operational
18.	Mizoram	Chhingchip	Mizoram Food and Allied Industries	2001-02	Operational
19.	Orissa	Khurda	Orissa Indl. Infrastructure Development Corporation	2001-02	Operational
20.	Punjab	Sirhind, Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib	Punjab Agri Export Corporation	2000-01	Operational
21.	Rajasthan	Ranpur, Distt. Kota	Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corpo- ration Ltd., (RIICO)	2002-03	Operational
22.	Rajasthan	Boranada, District- Jodhpur	Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd. (RIICO)	2002-03	Operational
23.	Rajasthan	Sri Ganganagar	Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corpo- ration Ltd. (RIICO)	2003-04	Operational

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Tamil Nadu	Virudhunagar, Distt.-Madurai	V.P.S. Ayyemperumal Nadar and Sons	2000-01	Operational
25	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul District	Nilakottai Food Park Ltd.	2004-05	Operational
26.	Tripura	Bodhjungnagar, West Tripura	Tripura Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	2000-01	Operational
27.	Uttar Pradesh	Kharkion, Distt.- Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	2000-01	Operational
28.	Uttar Pradesh	Shahajanwa, Gorakhpur	Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority	2004-05	Operational
29.	Uttar Pradesh	Village Kushalipur, District Saharanpur	M/S Kushal Inter- national Limited	2002-03	Operational
30.	Uttar Pradesh	Kursi Road, Distt.-Barabanki	Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	2000-01	Operational
31.	West Bengal	Chakgaria, 24 Parganas (South)	State Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd., (BENFISH), Kolkata	1998-99	Operational
32.	West Bengal	Sultanpur, South 24 Parganas	State Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd., (BENFISH), Kolkata	2003-04	Operational
33.	West Bengal	Malda	Deptt. of Food Process- ing Industries and Horti- culture, Government of West Bengal	2003-04	Operational
34.	West Bengal	Shankarapur, Dist. Purba Medinipur	Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture, Aquatic Resources, Government of West Bengal	2004-05	Operational
35.	West Bengal	Sankhrail, Howrah	West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC)	2004-05	Operational

[English]

Hike in Freight Rate

2311. SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN:

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to set up a Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority (RTRA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have hiked freight rates 400 times in the last five years;

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

(e) whether frequent hikes have adversely affected the Railway's freight movement and also its revenue targets; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to stabilize the freight traffic?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

Study on Sales Promotional Expenses

2312. Dr. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had conducted any survey to study the sales promotional expenses; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Madam.

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

Multi Modal Transport System

2313. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of second phase of Multi Modal Transport System (MMTS) in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any committee has been set up to study proposal of the Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding cost sharing arrangement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The following six works (under 2nd phase of MMTS) at Hyderabad have been identified and are under consideration of Government of Andhra Pradesh:

Sl. No.	Route	Route Km.
(i)	Secunderabad-Medchel-Manoharabad	43
(ii)	Secunderabad-Ghatkesar-Bhongir	46
(iii)	Maula Ali-Sanatnagar	21.85
(iv)	Lingampally-Patancheru	8.75
(v)	Maula Ali-Kacheguda	10
(vi)	Falaknuma-Shamshabad	20

(b) and (c) South Central Railway has compiled the proposals in consultation with Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been approached to bear two-thirds of the cost of the Project.

Supply of LPG with Higher Butane

2314. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI PURNMASI RAM:

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

(a) whether butane and propane is mixed in different proportions to form LPG in order to claim subsidy thereby resulting in loss of Rs. 40.97 crore during five years ended March 2008 and supply of LPG with higher butane;

(b) if so, whether the oil companies failed to use the suggested linkages leading to frequent deviations/manual interventions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether due to wide gap between the prices of subsidized LPG and commercial LPG, the oil companies failed to exercise control on the diversion of domestic LPG for commercial usage; and

(e) if so, the number of cases of diversion of domestic LPG for commercial usage came to light in the last three years and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) As per the Government approved PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme, 2002, the desired Cost Price of Domestic LPG is derived by considering weighted average of international prices of Butane and Propane with weightage of 60% and 40% respectively. However, Butane and Propane are not produced separately at the refineries, and LPG with varying ratios of Butane and Propane, is produced so as to meet BS 4576 specifications. In case of imports, Butane and Propane are imported separately. The ratios

of imports of Butane and Propane depend upon availability as well as the facilities to handle them at port locations, where these are blended to match BS 4576 specifications.

(b) and (c) The linkages for bulk LPG from various sources to the bottling plants and from bottling plants to the markets mainly depend upon the following:

- (i) Availability of LPG at source/import terminal.
- (ii) Distance of the bottling plant from source/import terminal.
- (iii) Bottling plant capacity
- (iv) Market demand
- (v) Mode of bulk transportation and the transportation cost.

The linkages for a particular month are finalised before beginning of the month with the above assumptions/inputs. However, during the month, some linkages are required to be changed due to the following:

- (i) Disruption in LPG availability at sources/non-uniform availability due to non-plan shutdowns/other operational reasons.
- (ii) Non-materialisation of the projected demand in the markets.
- (iii) Fluctuation in bottling levels at the bottling plants due to various constraints.
- (iv) Delay in arrival of LPG import vessels at the ports.
- (v) Bandhs/strikes/natural calamities etc.

(d) and (e) The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have detected 1,470 cases of diversion of Domestic LPG by their LPG distributors in the country during the last three years and during April-August, 2009. Action against the erring distributors was taken as per provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/Distributorship Agreement.

[Translation]

Speed of Rajdhani Express

2315. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the average speed of Rajdhani trains;
- (b) whether the Railways propose to increase the average speed of Rajdhani trains; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps

taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The average speed of Rajdhani trains is enclosed as Statement.

(b) and (c) Speeding up of trains including Rajdhani Express is a constant endeavour and continuous process on Indian Railways and is dependent on constant optimization of the investments made by Railways in modernization of technology, high powered locos, modern coaches (LHB, air brake, CBC) and better tracks.

Statement*Rajdhani Express trains*

Sl. No.	Train No.	From	To	Average Speed (in Km.p.h.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	2301	Howrah	New Delhi	85.12
2.	2302	New Delhi	Howrah	85.53
3.	2305	Howrah	New Delhi	77.14
4.	2306	New Delhi	Howrah	77.79
5.	2309	Rajendranagar	New Delhi	79.55
6.	2310	New Delhi	Rajendranagar	78.00
7.	2313	Sealdah	New Delhi	83.08
8.	2314	New Delhi	Sealdah	82.30
9.	2421	Bhubaneswar	New Delhi	74.68
10.	2422	New Delhi	Bhubaneswar	76.06
11.	2423A	Dibrugarh	New Delhi	64.43
12.	2424A	New Delhi	Dibrugarh	62.64
13.	2425	New Delhi	Jammu Tawi	64.10
14.	2426	Jammu Tawi	New Delhi	62.37
15.	2429	Bangalore	Nizamuddin	71.10
16.	2430	Nizamuddin	Bangalore	70.40

1	2	3	4	5
17.	2431	Thiruvananthapuram	Nizamuddin	76.03
18.	2432	Nizamuddin	Thiruvananthapuram	73.66
19.	2433	Chennai	Nizamuddin	77.25
20.	2434	Nizamuddin	Chennai	77.02
21.	2435A	Dibrugarh	New Delhi	57.50
22.	2436A	New Delhi	Dibrugarh	54.83
23.	2437	Secunderabad	Nizamuddin	76.91
24.	2438	Nizamuddin	Secunderabad	75.45
25.	2439	Ranchi	New Delhi	76.82
26.	2440	New Delhi	Ranchi	76.07
27.	2441	Bilaspur	New Delhi	72.33
28.	2442	New Delhi	Bilaspur	74.12
29.	2443	Bhubaneswar	New Delhi	71.05
30.	2444	New Delhi	Bhubaneswar	74.48
31.	2453	Ranchi	New Delhi	75.90
32.	2454	New Delhi	Ranchi	72.48
33.	2493	Bangalore	Nizamuddin	71.60
34.	2494	Nizamuddin	Bangalore	70.40
35.	2951	Mumbai Central	New Delhi	87.41
36.	2952	New Delhi	Mumbai Central	86.05
37.	2953	Mumbai Central	Nizamuddin	79.82
38.	2954	Nizamuddin	Mumbai Central	79.44
39.	2957	Ahmedabad	New Delhi	66.71
40.	2958	New Delhi	Ahmedabad	65.16

*[English]***Production of Urea in Private Sector**

2316. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production capacity of Urea in Private sector in comparison to the public sector in the country as on date, plant-wise;

(b) whether production capacity of these plants is as per the stipulated target;

(c) if not, the reason thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target fixed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The annual installed capacity of urea in Private Sector and Public Sector was 83.02 lakh MT

and 6309 lakh MT respectively as on 1-4-2009. The plant-wise/sector-wise details of installed capacity are enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) and (c) The details regarding installed capacity, targets and actual production of urea in private sector for the year 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April-October 2009) are given below:—

(Lakh MT)

Year	Installed capacity	Target	Actual Production (April-October 09)
2008-09	83.02	86.08	82.68
2009-10 (April-Oct. 09)	48.42	51.00	50.98

The production of urea in Private Sector was less than the target due to limitation in availability of natural gas and equipment breakdown. The production of SPIC-Tuticorin/DIL-Kanpur was suspended due to working capital constraints. A statement showing plant-wise installed capacity, targets, actual production and %age capacity utilization in private sector is enclosed as Statement-II.

(d) The Government has announced a New Investment Policy for urea sector on 4th September 2008. The policy is expected to attract investments in urea sector subject to availability of gas. The policy also aims at creation of additional production capacity through revamp, expansion and revival of existing urea units in the country and new Green fields projects in the country.

The Government has also announced on 6th March 2009, policy for conversion of FO/LSHS urea units to Natural Gas, restart of existing urea units and resumption of urea production by RCF-Trombay to increase indigenous production.

Statement-I

Annual Installed Capacity of Urea as on 1-4-2009

Name of Plants	Installed Capacity ('000' MT)
NFL: Nangal-II	478.5

Name of Plants	Installed Capacity ('000' MT)
NFL: Bhatinda	511.5
NFL: Panipat	511.5
NFL: Vijaipur-I	864.6
NFL: Vijaipur-II	864.6
Total (NFL):	3230.7
BVFCL: Namrup-II	240.0
BVFCL: Namrup-III	315.0
Total (BVFCL):	555.0
RCF: Trombay-V	330.0
RCF: Thal	1706.8
Total (RCF):	2036.8
MFL: Chennai	486.8
Total (Public Sector):	6309.3
GSFC: Vadodara	370.6
SFC: Kota	379.0
ZIL: Goa	399.3

Name of Plants	Installed Capacity ('000' MT)	Name of Plants	Installed Capacity ('000' MT)
SPIC: Tuticorin*	620.0	CFCL: Gadepan-I	864.6
MCF: Mangalore	380.0	CFCL: Gadepan-II	864.6
GNFC: Bharuch	636.0	TCL: Babrala	864.6
IGCL: Jagdishpur	864.6	Shahjahanpur (Kribhco Shyam)	864.6
NFCL: Kakinada-I	597.3	Total (Private Sector)	8302.5
NFCL: Kakinada-II	597.3		

*Production suspended.

Statement-II

Plant-wise Annual Installed Capacity, Production Target, Actual Production and %age Capacity Utilisation of Urea during the Year 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April-October 2009)

Name of Plants	Installed Capacity as on 1-04-09	Production (in '000' MTs)				%age Capacity Utilisation	
		2008-09		2009-10 (April-October 2009)		2008-09	2009-10 (April-Oct. 2009)
		Target	Actual Prod.	Target	Actual Prod.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
GSFC: Vadodara	370.6	240.6	236.3	147.0	177.6	63.8	82.2
SFC: Kota	379.0	378.2	395.5	221.8	217.3	104.4	98.3
ZIL: Goa	399.3	398.5	412.4	270.4	253.4	103.3	108.8
SPIC: Tuticorin*	620.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MC F: Mangalore	380.0	390.9	379.3	213.0	225.7	99.8	101.8
GNFC: Bharuch	636.0	620.4	592.3	367.7	404.0	93.1	108.9
IGCL: Jagdishpur	864.6	1143.2	1068.6	620.8	609.7	123.6	120.9
NFCL: Kakinada-I	597.3	744.5	768.9	418.4	414.9	128.7	119.1
NFCL: Kakinada-II	597.3	660.3	609.1	387.1	368.5	102.0	105.8
CFCL: Gadepan-I	864.6	1084.5	909.8	641.0	593.3	105.2	117.6
CFCL: Gadepan-II	864.6	1029.3	1008.3	571.8	562.8	116.6	111.6
TCL: Babrala	864.6	999.4	1023.8	695.0	734.9	118.4	145.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Shahjahanpur (Kribhco Shyam)	864.6	918.0	864.3	546.0	536.0	100.0	106.3
Total (Private Sector)	8302.5	8607.8	8268.6	5100.0	5098.1	99.6	105.3

*Production suspended.

[Translation]

Subsidy on Diesel

2317. SHRI RAJU SHETTI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any estimate of the diesel being consumed in agriculture and non-agriculture activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the subsidy being provided on diesel consumption for agriculture and non-agriculture activities, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) In the survey conducted by Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) through Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in 2008, the share of Diesel sold through retail outlets for agricultural purposes was estimated at 13.8%.

(c) At present, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is not administering any fiscal Subsidy Scheme on Diesel. The retail price of Diesel is, however, modulated by the Government, so as to benefit the common man and to protect the interests of the economy, including the agriculture sector, because of which the OMCs incur under-recovery on the sale of Diesel. The OMCs have incurred under-recovery of Rs. 1,806 crore on the sale of Diesel during the period April-September, 2009, which have been compensated by the Public Sector Upstream Oil Companies. Based on the Refinery Gate Prices effective 1-12-2009, the OMCs are incurring an under-recovery of Rs. 2.55 per litre on Diesel. The retail selling price of Diesel, both for agriculture and non-agriculture consumers, is the same.

In addition to above, in August, 2009, Ministry of Agriculture has decided to give financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations which have introduced Diesel subsidy for farmers, to enable them to provide supplementary irrigation through Diesel pumpsets in the drought and deficit rainfall affected areas to protect the standing crops. This will help in mitigating the adverse impact of drought/deficit rainfall conditions on foodgrain production.

[English]

Difference in Selling Price of Medicines

2318. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

SHRI CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH:

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

(a) whether there is huge difference in selling price of branded medicines as compared to non-branded generic versions of drugs/medicines which are being available and sold by Jan Aushadi Stores (JAS) in the country;

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

(c) the price difference between branded medicines in the open market as compared to non-branded generic versions of drugs/medicines sold by Jan Aushadi Stores (JAS) in different parts of the country alongwith total number of drugs and formulations under price control order and without price control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Comparative price of some unbranded quality generic medicines sold at Jan Aushadi Outlets *vis-a-vis* average market price of these medicines are as follows:—

(Prices in Rs.)

Name of Salt	Dosage	Pack	Market Price	Jan Aushadhi
Tab. Ciprofloxacin	250 mg	10	55.00	11.10
Tab. Ciprofloxacin	500 mg	10	97.00	21.50
Tab. Diclofenac	100 mg	10	36.70	3.35
Tab. Cetirizine	10 mg	10	20.00	2.75
Tab. Paracetamol	500 mg	10	10.00	2.45
Tab. Nimesulide	100 mg	10	25.00	2.70
Cough Syrup	110 ml	Liquid	33.00	13.30

Presently there are seventy four bulk drugs as specified in the 1st Schedule of Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 and the formulations based on them are under Price Control under the provisions of the said order.

Jan Aushadhi Outlets

2319. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:

SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to start Jan Aushadi Outlets for providing drugs at cheaper rates to the common man;

(b) if so, the time limit set to extend this scheme to every district in the country;

(c) the mechanism put in place to ensure the availability of medicines at the above outlets;

(d) the details of medicines which are likely to be made available at these outlets;

(e) whether these medicines would be available on the subsidized rates;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether any accountability has been fixed for

shortage of medicines in these outlets; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) At present, no time limit has been set for opening Jan Aushadhi Outlets in each District.

(c) At present, medicines are made available by the Pharma Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to Jan Aushadhi Outlets.

(d) A list of 280 medicines is enclosed as Statement.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h) Pharma CPSEs supply medicines on receipt of orders from Jan Aushadhi Outlets.

Statement

Sl. No.	Therapeutic segment/Formulation
Analgesic Anti-Inflammatory	
1.	Diclofenac Sodium IP 100 mg. SR
2.	Diclofenac Sodium IP 50 mg.
3.	Ibuprofen IP 400 mg.

Sl. No.	Therapeutic segment/Formulation
4.	Ibuprofen IP 400 mg+Paracetamol IP 325 mg.
5.	Indomethacin
6.	Inj. Diclofenac Sodium 75 mg per ml.
7.	Nimesudide IP 100 mg.
8.	Paracetamol 500 mg Tab.
9.	Syrup Paracetamol IP 125 mg./5 ml
10.	Paracetamol IP 500 mg. + Diclofenac Sodium IP 50 mg.
11.	Pentazocine Injection
12.	Nimesulide Syrup
Anti Infectives (Topicals)	
13.	Application Benzyl Benzoate IP (100 ml)
14.	Application Benzyl Benzoate IP (500 ml)
15.	Chlorhexidine Gluconate Solution BP 5%
16.	Chlorhexidine Gluconate Solution BP 5%
17.	Glutaraldehyde 2% Solution
18.	Povidone Iodine Solution 10%
19.	Povidone Iodine Solution 5%
20.	Providone Iodine Ointment
Antimicrobials	
21.	Amikacin 100 mg injection
22.	Amikacin 250 mg injection
23.	Amikacin 500 mg injection
24.	Amoxycillin 125 mg.
25.	Amoxycillin IP 250 mg.
26.	Amoxycillin IP 500 mg.
27.	Amoxy. 250+Cloxy. 250 caps.
28.	Amoxycillin Oral Suspension IP Each 5 ml contains (Amoxycillin 125 mg.)

Sl. No.	Therapeutic segment/Formulation
29.	Ampicillin IP 250 mg
30.	Ampicillin IP 500 mg.
31.	Ampi 250++Cloxa 250 mg Cap
32.	Ampicillin 250 mg inj.
33.	Ampicillin 500 mg inj.
34.	Hamycin Suspension
35.	Azithromycin IP 250 mg.
36.	Azithromycin IP 500 mg.
37.	Benzathene Penicillin G Injection 6 lac
38.	Benzathene Penicillin G Injection 12 lac
39.	Benzathene Penicillin G Injection 24 lac
40.	Cefadroxil 250 mg.
41.	Cefadroxil 500 mg.
42.	Cefoperazone
43.	Cefotaxime Sodium and Salbactam Sodium inj. 1 gm.+500 mg.
44.	Cefotaxime Sodium and Salbactam Sodium inj. (500+250 mg.)
45.	Cefotaxime Sodium and Salbactam Sodium inj. (250+125 mg.)
46.	Cefotaxime Sodium Injection 1000 mg.
47.	Cefotaxime Sodium Injection 500 mg.
48.	Cefotaxime 250 mg Inj.
49.	Ceftazadime IP 1000 mg.
50.	Ceftazadime IP 500 mg.
51.	Ceftazadime IP 250 mg.
52.	Ceftriaxone 1 gm.
53.	Ceftriaxone 250 mg.
54.	Ceftriaxone 500 mg.

Sl. No.	Therapeutic segment/Formulation
55.	Ceftriaxone+Sulbactam 1500 mg.
56.	Ceftriaxone+Sulbactam 750 mg.
57.	Ceftriaxone+Sulbactam 1500 mg.
58.	Cefuroxime Axetil IP 250 mg.
59.	Cefuroxime Axetil IF 500 mg.
60.	Cepbalexin 125 mg.
61.	Cepbalexin IP 250 mg.
62.	Cephalexin IP 500 mg.
63.	Ciprofloxacin IP 250 mg.+Tinidazole IP 300 mg.
64.	Ciprofloxacin IP 500 mg.+Tinidazole IP 600 mg.
65.	Ciprofloxacin IV Inf (2 mg/ml.)
66.	Ciprofloxacin IP 250 mg.
67.	Ciprofloxacin IP 500 mg.
68.	Ciprofloxacin Ophthalmic Solution USP. 3%w/v
69.	Clotrimazole oint.
70.	Suspension Cotrimoxazole
71.	Co-trimoxazole-Pead. (20 mg.+100 mg.)
72.	Co-trimoxazole-DS (160 mg.+800 mg.)
73.	Co-trimoxazole-SS (80 mg.+400 mg.)
74.	Doxycycline IP 100 mg.
75.	Erythromycin Stearate IP 250 mg.
76.	Erythromycin Stearate IP 500 mg.
77.	Ethambutol IP 200 mg.
78.	Ethambutol IP 400 mg.
79.	Ethambutol IP 800 mg.
80.	Flucunazole IP 150 mg.
81.	Fluconazole IF 300 mg.
82.	Furazolidone IP 100 mg.

Sl. No.	Therapeutic segment/Formulation
83.	Furazolidone Susp. Each 5 ml contains (Furazolidone IP 25 mg.)
84.	Gentamycin Sulphate Injection 80 mg.
85.	Isoniazid IP 100 mg.
86.	Isoniazid IP 300 mg.
87.	Livofloxacin IP 250 mg.
88.	Livofloxacin IP 500 mg.
89.	Metronidazole IP 200 mg.
90.	Metronidazole IP 400 mg.
91.	Norfloxacin IP 400 mg.
92.	Norfloxacin IP 400 mg.+Tinidazole IP 600 mg.
93.	Ofloxacin IP 200 mg.
94.	Ofloxacin IP 400 mg.
95.	Ofloxacin IP 200 mg.+Ornidazole IP 500 mg.
96.	Benzyl Penicillin IP 5 lac
97.	Benzyl Penicillin IP 10 lac
98.	Fortified Procain Pencillin IP 4 lac
99.	Fortified Procain Pencillin IP 20 lac
100.	Fortified Procain Pencillin IP 40 lac
101.	Pyrazinamide IP 500 mg.
102.	Pyrazinamide IP 750 mg.
103.	Rifampicin IP 450 mg.
104.	Silver Sulphadiazine Cream 1% w/w
105.	Roxithromycin IP 150 mg.
106.	Roxithromycin IP 300 mg.
107.	Sparfloxacin 100 mg.
108.	Sparfloxacin 200 mg.
109.	Streptomycin IP 0.75 g.

Sl. No.	Therapeutic segment/Formulation
110.	Streptomycin IP 1 g.
111.	Sulphacetamide Eye Drop IP 10% w/v
112.	Sulphacetamide Eye Drop IP 20% w/v
113.	Tetracycline IP 250 mg.
114.	Tetracycline IP 500 mg.
115.	Tinidazole IP 300 mg.
116.	Tinidazole IP 500 mg.
Gastrointestinal Tract	
117.	Albendazole IP 400 mg. (Chewable) Uncoated
118.	Suspension Albendazole 200 mg/5 ml.
119.	Dicyclomine HCl. IP 20 mg+Paracetamol IP 500 mg.
120.	Domperidone IP 10 mg.
121.	Susp. Domperidone 5 mg./5 ml.
122.	Famotidine IP 20 mg.
123.	Famotidine IP 40 mg.
124.	Omeprazole IP 20 mg.
125.	Oral Rehydration Salts Citrate IP 21 GM (WHO Formula)
126.	Oral Rehydration Salts Citrate IP 4.1 GM (WHO Formula)
127.	Promethazine Syrup
128.	Ranitidine IP HCl. 150 mg.
129.	Ranitidine IP HCl. 300 mg.
I.V. Fluids	
130.	Mannitol 20% 100 ml.
131.	Mannitol 20% 350 ml.
132.	Plasma Volume Expander (Gelatin Base)
Respiratory Tract	
133.	Syrup Citirazine 5 mg./5 ml.

Sl. No.	Therapeutic segment/Formulation
134.	Tab. Citirazine 10 mg
135.	Cough Syrup CPM 3 mg.+A. Chl. 110 mg.+Sod. Cit. 46 mg.+Menthol IP 0.9 mg
136.	Cough Syrup Diphen 14 mg.+A. Chl. 135 mg.+Sod. Cit. 57 mg.+Menthol IP 0.9 mg
137.	Inj. Aminophylline 125 mg/ml.
Vitamins	
138.	Cebexin-Z Caps
139.	Polyvitamin (Prophylactic) NFI
140.	Vitamin B-Complex (Prophylactic) NFI
Others	
141.	Dexamethasone 40MG Inj. (Corticosteroid)
142.	Atropine Sulphate 0.6 mg/1ml. (Cardiovascular)
143.	AVS
144.	Chloroquine Phosphate IP 250 mg. (Anti Malarial)
145.	Furosemide IP 40 mg. (Antihypertensive)
146.	Furosemide Injection
147.	IDPL 28' pills (OCP)
Analgesic Anti-Inflammatory	
148.	Aceclofenac 100 MG Tabs
149.	Diclofenac Gel
150.	Nimesulide+Para Tabs
151.	Nimesulide+Para. Susp.
Antimicrobials	
152.	Amoxicillin+clavulanic acid 375 mg Tabs
153.	Amoxycillin+clavulanic acid 625 mg Tabs
154.	Amoxycillin+clavulanic acid 1.2 mg injection
155.	Cefixime 200 mg Cap.

Sl. No.	Therapeutic segment/Formulation
156.	Cefixime 100 mg Cap.
157.	Diloxanide Furoate+Metronidazole Tabs
158.	Lactobacillus 100 million Tabs
159.	Meropenem 1.2 gm injection
160.	Norfloxacin+Metronidazole Tabs
161.	Secnidazole 500 mg Tabs
162.	Secnidazole 1 gm Tabs
163.	Cefoparazone+Salbactam Injection
	Cardiovascular Drugs
164.	Amlodipine 2.5 mg Tabs
165.	Amlodipine 5 mg Tabs
166.	Amlodipine 10 mg Tabs
167.	Atenolol 50 mg Tabs
168.	Diazepam 5 mg Tabs
169.	Enalapril 2.5 mg Tabs
170.	Enalapril 5 mg Tabs
171.	Enalapril 10 mg Tabs
	Corticosteroids and Antidiabetic Drug
172.	Betamethasone 1 mg Tabs
173.	Betamethasone .5 mg Tabs
174.	Dexamethasone Tabs
175.	Glibenclamide 1.5 mg Tabs
176.	Glibenclamide 2.5 mg Tabs
177.	Glibenclamide 5 mg Tabs
178.	Glibenclamide 10 mg Tabs
179.	Metformin Hydrochloride 500 mg Tabs
180.	Metformin Hydrochloride 1 GM Tabs
181.	Prednisolone Tabs

Sl. No.	Therapeutic segment/Formulation
	Gastrointestinal Tract
182.	Pentaprazole 40 mg Tabs
183.	Dicyclomine 20 mg Tabs
184.	Metoclopramide 10 mg Tabs
185.	Ondansetron 4 mg Tab
	Vitamins and Minerals
186.	Calcium and Vit. D3 250 mg Tabs
187.	Calcium and Vit. D3 500 mg Tabs
188.	Ferrous Salt+Folic Acid Tabs
189.	Folic Acid 5 mg Tabs
190.	Vitamin A Palmitate Solution
	Others
191.	Bronchodilator Expectorent
192.	Cough Supressent (Dextromethorphan Based)
193.	Cough Supressent (Dextromethorphan Based)
194.	Disodium hydrogen 100 ml Bottle (Alkalyser)
195.	Mebendazole 100 mg Tabs
196.	Mebendazole 500 mg Tabs
197.	Alprazolam .5 mg Tabs
198.	Alprazolam .25 mg Tabs
199.	Amlodipine+Atenolol Tabs (5+50)
200.	Amoxy+Dicloxacillin Caps
201.	Cefixime Dry Syrup
202.	Enzyme Syrup
203.	Omeprazole+Domperidon Caps
204.	Azithromycin Suspension
205.	Gatifloxacin 400 mg Tab.
206.	Dicyclomin 20 mg+Mefanamic Acid 250 mg

Sl. No.	Therapeutic segment/Formulation
207.	Losartan Potassium 50 mg Tablets
208.	Meth. Ergometrine 0.125 mg Tablets
209.	Serratiopeptidase 10 mg Tablets
210.	Serratiopeptidase 10 mg+Aceclofenac 100 mg Tab.+Paracetamol 500 mg.
211.	Lactobacillus Tablets
212.	Pheniramine maleate
	Cardiovascular Drugs
213.	Clotrimazole Vaginal Tab. 100 mg
214.	Isosorbide 5 mono
215.	Hydrochlorothiazide 12.5 mg
216.	Hydrochlorothiazide 25 mg
	Gastrointestinal Tract
217.	Al-Mg. Hydroxide Tabs.
218.	Al=Mg. Hydroxide Suspension
	Antimicrobial
219.	Chloremphenicol Caps 250 mg
220.	Chloremphenicol Caps 500 mg
221.	Metronidazole Injection I V, 5 mg/ml.
	Others
222.	Aceclofenac Gel
223.	Cetirizine 5 mg+Pseudoephedrine 20 mg+ Paracetamol 500 mg
224.	Doxylamikel 10 mg+Pyridoxinel 10 mg+Folic Acid 2.5 mg
225.	Levocetirizine 5 mg Tabs.
226.	Lisinopril 5 mg Tabs.
227.	Losartan 50 mg+H.Ch. Thaizide 12.5 mg Tab.
228.	Norfloxacin+Metronidazole Suspension

Sl. No.	Therapeutic segment/Formulation
229.	Patoprazole 20 mg+Domperidon 10 mg Tab
230.	Rabiprazole 20 mg Tabs
231.	Ramipril 2.5 mg Tablets
232.	Beclomethasone+Neomycin Cream
233.	Beclomethasone+Clotrimazole+Genta. Cream
234.	Clopidogrel 75 mg tablets
235.	Iron, Folic Acid and Zinc Caps (Carbonil Iron)
236.	Tonic Iron, Folic Acid and Zinc (Carbonil Iron)
237.	Rabiprazole+Domperidon 30 mg SR tabs
238.	Sucralfate+Oxythazine Susp.
239.	Etophylline and Thephylline Tab.
240.	Aceclofenac+Paracetamol 200 mg
	I.V. Fluids
241.	Normal Saline (NS)
242.	Glucose Normal Saline (DNS)
243.	Dextrose 5% (5D)
244.	Dextrose 10% (10D)
245.	Ringer Lactate (RL)
	Gastrointestinal Tract
246.	Ranitidine Injection
247.	Deacos Cough Syrup
248.	Inj. Ondensteron 2 ml
	Respiratory Tract
249.	Theophylline 25.3 mg+Etophyllin Amp. 84.7
	Others
250.	Methayl Sallisilate Oint. (Eutheria)
251.	Phenol Black
252.	Phenol White

Sl. No.	Therapeutic segment/Formulation
253.	Proxy Tabs (Sugar free Tabs)
	Analgesic Anti-Inflammatory
254.	Diclofenac Sodium 50 mg.+Serratiopeptidase 10 mg
	Antimicrobials
255.	Phenoxy Methyl Penicillin 125 mg
256.	Phenoxy Methyl Penicillin 250 mg
	Antiepileptics
257.	Carbamazepin 100 mg tabs
258.	Carbamazepin 200 mg tabs
259.	Carbamazepin 300 mg tabs
260.	Carbamazepin 400 mg tabs
261.	Sodium valporate 200 mg tabs
262.	Sodium valporate 300 mg tabs
263.	Sodium valporate 500 mg tabs
	Cardiovascular Drugs
264.	Propanolol 10 mg tabs
265.	Propanolol 40 mg tabs
266.	Propanolol 80 mg tabs
267.	Verapamil 40 mg tabs
268.	Verapamil 80 mg tabs
269.	Verapamil 120 mg tabs
270.	Metoprolol 25 mg tabs
271.	Metoprolol 50 mg tabs
272.	Metoprolol 100 mg tabs
273.	Diltiazem 60 mg tabs
	CNS Disorder
274.	Haloperidol 5 mg tabs

Sl. No.	Therapeutic segment/Formulation
275.	Haloperidol 10 mg tabs
276.	Haloperidol 1.5 mg tabs
	Others
277.	Vitamin A5000IU+Vit.D3 Caps
278.	Vit. D3 0.25 mcg caps
279.	Calcium salt tab. Vit.+D 3250 mg+125 mg
280.	Gentamicin Inj.

Security to Judiciary

2320. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether aftermath of attack on Judges of the High Courts of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, the Government is contemplating to constitute a special security force to protect the judiciary; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to constitute a special security force to protect the judiciary. However, guidelines have been issued to the State Governments to review and adequately strengthen the security arrangements for High Courts and District/Subordinate Courts as well as Judges.

Free Railway Passes

2321. SHRI PULIN BIHARI BASKE:

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down to issue free railway passes for various categories;

(b) the details of free railway passes issued during each of the last three years and the current year category-wise;

(c) whether the Railways have renewed the free railway passes issued previously during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) if so, the details of the people and institutions whose passes have been renewed alongwith the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Railways are proposing to extend these facilities to categories such as people living below poverty line and other backward classes, students etc; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

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

Statement

Complimentary Card Passes to the following categories of persons are being issued as per the schemes announced from time to time by the Ministry of Railways:

1. Freedom Fighters (Cost borne by Ministry of Home Affairs).
2. Arjun Awardees/Olympic Medalists/Asian and Commonwealth Gold Medalists/Dronacharya Awardees.
3. Winners of Param Veer Chakra, Maha Veer Chakra, Veer Chakra (Defence personnels).
4. Winners of Ashok Chakra, Shourya Chakra and Kirti Chakra (Civilian awardees are not included).
5. Winners of President's Police Medal For Gallantry and Police Medal for Gallantry (Police Personnels).
6. Non-official Members of Railway Hindi Salahkar Samiti.

7. One office bearer each of the four organization namely Kendriya Sachivalaya Hindi Parishad, Nagrik Pracharini Sabha Varanasi, Rashtra-bhasha Prachar Samiti Wardha and Akhil Bharatiya Hindi Sansthan engaged in propagation of Hindi.

8. Ex-Minister of Railways/Minister of State for Railways/Deputy Minister for Railways.

9. Bharat Ratna Awardees.

10. Complimentary card passes under discretionary powers of Minister of Railways.

Additional Coaches in Nagercoil Express

2322. SHRI C. SIVASAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to add six more new coaches in Nagercoil Express from Coimbatore to Nagercoil via Tiruppur which is now running with only 14 coaches; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

[Translation]

Improvement in Air Services

2323. Dr. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had a discussion with private operators recently about problems being faced by them and to improve aviation services; and

(b) if so, the details of major issues discussed and decision taken to solve the problems?

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

(b) The Government holds meeting with all scheduled airlines/airport operators on regular intervals to discuss their problems relating to operational issues. The last meeting was held on 23-03-2009.

[English]

Yatri Niwas

2324. SHRI K. SUGUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to construct 'Yatri Niwas' at Pollachi, Udumalaipettai and Palani in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the time by which these 'Yatri Niwas' are likely to be constructed?

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

Construction of Airport at Badami

2325. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for construction of airport at Badami in Karnataka; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) On the request of Government of Karnataka (GoK), Airports Authority of India (AAI) had conducted feasibility study at Bagalkot near Badami in Karnataka for development of airport and submitted its report to GoK for taking further necessary action.

[Translation]

Schemes for Minority Artisans

2326. Dr. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any scheme for providing financial assistance to the minority workers/artisans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the workers/artisans are getting full benefits of this scheme;

(d) if so, the number of the minority workers/artisans benefitted State-wise; and

(e) the reasons for selecting only 3000 artisans out of total seven lakh artisans existing in Moradabad district of Uttar Pradesh despite fixing a limit of 48,000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) to (c) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a Central Public Sector Enterprise working under the Ministry of Minority Affairs provides loans to persons belonging to minorities, living below double the poverty line for undertaking self employment and income generating activities including minority workers/artisans. Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has been implementing six generic schemes for the development of the handicrafts sector, the beneficiaries of which include artisans from the minority category also. The schemes for the promotion and development of handicrafts, sector in the country include Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana, Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare scheme, Marketing Support and Services scheme, Design and Technology Up-gradation scheme, Human Resource Development scheme and Research and Development scheme.

(d) A statement showing State-wise total number of persons belonging to minorities including minority workers/artisans assisted by NMDFC (till 31-10-2009) is enclosed.

(e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Statement*National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation Up to 31-10-2009*

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Term Loan Total		Micro Financing Total		Total	
		Amount	No. of Benf.	Amount	No. of Benf.	Amount	No. of Benf.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5331	30309	656	21706	5987	52015
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	2	42	2	42
3.	Assam	787	1740	191	4524	978	6264
4.	Bihar	3870	10708	111	5924	3981	16632
5.	Chandigarh	81	187	0	0	81	187
6.	Chhattisgarh	165	408	0	0	165	408
7.	Delhi	319	690	38	261	357	951
8.	Gujarat	6295	15595	126	1680	6421	17275
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1067	2024	0	0	1067	2024
10.	Haryana	3139	7508	31	526	3170	8034
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	3235	7020	83	925	3318	7945
12.	Jharkhand	345	894	35	456	380	1350
13.	Kerala	23544	54702	2291	27135	25835	81837
14.	Karnataka	6480	18109	255	3315	6735	21424
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1320	5054	115	1379	1435	6433
16.	Maharashtra	4758	8340	201	3980	4959	12320
17.	Manipur	189	430	17	1765	206	2195
18.	Meghalaya	0	0	4	62	4	62
19.	Mizoram	3889	12700	0	0	3889	12700
20.	Nagaland	4996	9941	241	1558	5237	11499
21.	Orissa	873	2913	151	3674	1024	6587
22.	Punjab	4454	10332	0	0	4454	10332

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23.	Pondicherry	198	521	0	0	198	521
24.	Rajasthan	1184	2601	65	3003	1249	5604
25.	Tamil Nadu	2594	5389	2680	42593	5274	47982
26.	Tripura	321	792	5	50	326	842
27.	Uttar Pradesh	14056	33028	212	9694	14268	42722
28.	Uttaranchal	590	767	20	1130	610	1897
29.	West Bengal	25852	66772	1478	27381	27330	94154
Total		119932	309474	9007	162163	128939	472237

*[English]***Payment of Dues to AAI**

2327. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether private airlines have failed to pay dues to Airport Authority of India Ltd. (AAI) for using airport facilities;

(b) if so, the amount due from these airlines as on 31st October, 2009 airline-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to initiate action against such airlines including refusal to provide credit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Most of the private domestic airlines are paying their dues for services availed by them to Airports Authority of India (AAI) on time.

(b) The outstanding dues payable by major private domestic airlines as on 31st October, 2009 are as under:—

Go Air-908.67 lakhs, Interglobe Aviation Ltd. (Indigo)-872.78 lakhs, Jet Airways-4986.62 lakhs, Jetlite (India) Ltd.-1466.60 lakhs, Kingfisher Airlines-16792.19

lakhs, Paramount Airways-853.96 lakhs and Spicejet Ltd.-1542.42 lakhs.

(c) and (d) In the case of defaulting airlines, AAI takes action to realize their dues by way of:—

(i) Interest is levied on the defaulting airlines for the delayed settlement of AAI dues.

(ii) In case of sustained default, wherever necessary, the Security deposit furnished by the airlines in form of Bank Guarantee/Fixed Deposits is en-cashed.

(iii) Security Deposit in respect of defaulting airlines is suitably increased based on their operational/dues.

(iv) If necessary, credit facility to the airline is withdrawn and the defaulting airline's operations are put on Cash and Carry basis.

Dumdum Airport

2328. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dumdum Airport has been declared as the fastest growing airports in the Country as per the recent survey;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the infrastructure that has been

put in place to cope with the growing passenger and freight traffic at the airport?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To meet the requirement of growing passenger and cargo traffic, Airports Authority of India (AAI) is developing and modernizing NSCBI Airport at Kolkata at a cost of Rs. 1943 crores which includes construction of a modern integrated passenger terminal building, construction of new Control Tower, extension of secondary runway, associated taxi tracks, apron, parking bays and rapid exit taxiways.

[Translation]

Production of Gas by ONGC and IOL

2329. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *alias* LALAN SINGH:

Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether gas areas allocated to ONGC and Indian Oil Limited five years ago have started the production;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of these gas areas and out of it the number of gas areas where gas is being produced on commercial basis;

(d) the average annual gas being produced in these areas and its average sale price;

(e) the basis on which the sale price is being determined; and

(f) the names of the industries to which the gas is being supplied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Five years ago, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) was

awarded 14 blocks with operatorship in 12 blocks and Oil India Limited was awarded 2 blocks for oil and gas exploration under fourth bidding round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-IV) in year 2004. Production has not started from these blocks. However ONGC has made one discovery in the Block CB-ONN-2002/1 and the block area is under appraisal stage.

(c) No gas is being produced on commercial basis from these blocks.

(d) to (f) Questions do not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

[English]

New Coaches in Trains

2330. SHRI K.P. DHANAPALAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to introduce new coaches to trains running to Kerala from New Delhi; and

(b) the measures taken by the Railways to check the quality of meals served in these trains running to Southern States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Attachment of new coaches in trains for augmenting the load and on replacement account is an ongoing process subject to operational feasibility, commercial justifications and availability of coaching stock.

(b) Standards for the meals being served in Rajdhani/Shatabdi and Mail/express trains have been laid down. Various measures such as inspection, monitoring, passenger satisfaction surveys, etc. through officers, Quality Control Professionals (QCPs) and independent professional agencies are undertaken to ensure quality and quantity of food items. Punitive action is also taken against defaulting licensees.

Pilferage of Oil and Petroleum Products

2331. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of theft and pilferage of oil and

other petroleum products have been increasing in Railways during the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last three years and the current year and the value of lost property in such cases;

(c) whether the employees of Petroleum Companies were found involved in such cases;

(d) if so, the details of employees found guilty and action taken against them; and

(e) the details of the recovery of theft/pilfered property and its value in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The number of cases of theft and pilferage of oil and other petroleum products are decreasing from the year 2006 to 2009 (Upto October) except in the year 2008. The number of cases of theft and pilferage of oil and other petroleum products reported during the year 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 (Upto Oct.) over zonal Railways are as under:—

Year	Number of cases	Value of property stolen (In Rs.)
2006	24	17,03,295
2007	21	7,41,525
2008	39	3,91,85,539
2009 (Upto October)	14	40,68,438

(c) and (d) No employee of Petroleum Companies were found involved.

(e) Value of Property recovered in cases of theft/pilferage of oil and petroleum products for the last three calendar years and current year i.e 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 (Upto Oct.) are as under:—

Sl. No.	Proposal	Status
---------	----------	--------

New Line

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Viramgam-Sankeshwar | Survey not taken up. |
| 2. | Daman-Nasik | Survey not taken up. |

Year	Value of property recovered (In Rs).
2006	31,690
2007	3,89,495
2008	14,86,804
2009 (Upto October)	81,255

The case were registered with RPF, N.F. Railway and wherever Law and Order was involved the cases were registered with Assam State Police.

Railway Projects in Gujarat

2332. SHRIMATI POONAM VELJIBHAI JAT:
SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI
BAVALIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposals from the Government of Gujarat for construction of new rail lines, gauge conversion in the State and extension of rail line upto Dhora via Ropar City, Kutch;

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

(c) whether the Railways have any plan to construct a rail line between Ghandhidham-Ropar and Dhora?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Government of Gujarat has requested for taking up some new rail lines and gauge conversion projects. However, there is no such proposal for extension of rail line up to Dhora via Ropar City. The details of proposals received for taking up new projects with status is as under:

Sl. No.	Proposal	Status
3.	Nadiad-Tarapur-Kheda-Matar	Survey not taken up.
4.	Tarapur-Mahemdavad	Survey not taken up.
5.	Mahesana-Harij-Radhanpur	Survey completed and work not taken up.
6.	Vejalpur-Botad	Survey not taken up.
7.	Rajkot-Jaipur-Marwad	Survey not taken up.
8.	Porbandar-Porbandar Port	Survey completed.
9.	Surat-Hazira	Survey completed and work not taken up.

Gauge Conversion

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Ahmedabad-Khedbham-Ambaji | Work taken up in Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar section as part of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur gauge conversion project. Survey for balance section of Himmatnagar-Khedabrahma with extension to Abu Road via Ambaji taken up and likely to be completed by March, 2010. |
| 2. | Ahmedabad-Botad-Bhavnagar and extension up to Khizadiya Jn. via Jasdan and Dhasa-Jetalsar and extension | Proposal for Ahmedabad-Botad and Dhasa-Jetalsar conversion was processed for "In principle" approval of Planning Commission, who desired that the gauge conversion of the section may be deferred for the present as the projected traffic do not justify immediate conversion. Further, a survey for new line between Botad-Gondal via Jasdan has been sanctioned and survey taken up. |
| 3. | Bilimora-Waghai gauge conversion and extension to Manamad Jn. via Ahwa-Saputrara | Survey for gauge conversion/new line for Bilimora-Waghai-Manmad has been taken up. |
| 4. | Dhasa-Veraval gauge conversion with Visavadar-Junagadh line | Veraval-Jetalsar is already existing B.G. section. The gauge conversion of Dhasa-Jetalsar deferred for the present as the projected traffic does not justify immediate conversion. Further, survey for gauge conversion of Khizadiya-Amreli-Visvadar-Junagarh taken up. |
| 5. | Ahmedabad-Mehasana 2nd line gauge conversion | Separate survey for Ahmedabad-Mehsana not sanctioned. However, this is a part of Ahmedabad-Palanpur-Delhi doubling survey which is in progress. |
| 6. | Godhra-Lunawada gauge conversion and extension to Himmatnagar via Modasa and gauge conversion of Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma line extension to Abu Road via Ambaji. | Survey for Godhara-Lunawada with extension to Himmatnagar via Modasa not sanctioned. Survey for Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma line with extension to Abu Road via Ambaji taken up. |

Sl. No.	Proposal	Status
7.	Ahmedabad-Mehasana-Taranga-Ambaji	Survey completed.
8.	Bhavnagar-Mahuva	It is already on broad gauge line.
9.	Wankaner-Bhuj-Naliya	A broad gauge line already exists from Wankaner to Bhuj. The conversion of Bhuj-Naliya has been taken up.
10.	Narrow gauge railway lines under jurisdiction of Vadodara Railway Division	Gauge conversion of Bharuch-Samni-Dahej, Pratapnagar-Chhotaudepur and Ankleshwar-Rajpipla has been taken up.
11.	Viramgam-Samakhiali	It is already on broad gauge.
12.	Navlakhi-Maliya-Rajkot	It is already on broad gauge.
13.	Mahesana-Viramgam	It is already on broad gauge.
14.	Viramgam-Surendranagar	It is already on broad gauge.
15.	Samakhiali-Gandhidham-Kandla	It is already on broad gauge. The doubling of Gandhidham-Kandla Port by gauge conversion of meter gauge line to broad gauge has been included in Budget 2009-10.
16.	Gandhidham-Anjar-Mundra	It is already on broad gauge.
17.	Bhavnagar-Adhelal-Dholera-Petlad	There is no such railway line.
18.	Dholera-Bhimnath	There is no such railway line.
19.	Khambhat to Port	There is no such railway line.

**Exploration of Oil by ONGC
Videsh Ltd. in Iran**

2333. SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consortium led by ONGC Videsh Ltd. has abandoned its plan for exploration of oil from the Farsi block in Iran due to high sulphur content in the crude and hence making commercial production unviable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian consortium is considering an option by retaining the block for possible gas production;

(d) if so, whether the Farsi block has been assessed to have adequate gas reserves to justify the investment by the consortium; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) No Madam. High Sulphur Content is not the reason for the Oil Field to be non-commercial.

ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) led consortia consisting of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) has submitted a Feasibility Report for the oil discovery based on techno-economic considerations to National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on 26th November, 2008.

(c) to (e) Commerciality of the gas find of Fazad-B gas field of Farsi Block established by the OVL led consortia has been accepted by NIOC. The Gas Initial In-Place (GIIP) is estimated to be 12.5 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF). Master Development Plan (MDP) to develop the field is under finalization in consultation with NIOC. Preliminary estimated Investment as per MDP would be about USD 5.5 billion for sales gas option wherein Gas production is contemplated for a period of 30 years.

Reservation Chart

2334. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware about the inconvenience faced by the waitlisted passengers holding e-tickets, in cases where the chart is prepared barely an hour before its actual departure;

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

(c) the reasons for the reservation charts of the trains originating/passing through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand being prepared barely an hour before its actual departure and is in clear violation to the existing criteria; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to provide relief to the passengers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) All efforts are made to print reservation charts well in advance for the convenience of all reserved passengers. However, at times, printing of reservation charts get delayed due to operational/technical reasons. Instructions have been issued to the zonal Railways to strictly ensure that reservation charts are printed sufficiently in advance of the departure of train.

Misuse of Section 498A

2335. Dr. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the section 498 A meant for offences

of matrimonial cruelty including dowry cases has been misused;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to delete this particular Section or amend it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) A number of representations have been received from various quarters regarding the misuse of the provision of Section 498 A of IPC. Information regarding its misuse is not collected by National Crime Records Bureau. The matter has been referred to the Law Commission of India to study the use of the provision of this section and hold consultation and suggest amendments, if any, to the provision. An Advisory has also been issued to the State Governments to prevent the misuse of the said Section.

Revival of Instrumentation Ltd.

2336. SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of units of Instrumentation Ltd. making profit/loss;

(b) whether any revival package for Instrumentation Ltd. has been approved by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) Instrumentation Ltd., Kota (ILK) has two production units at Kota and Palakkad. It also has two other units namely Project-Distributed Digital Control (P-DDC) unit, Kota which deals in Turnkey projects and a Marketing unit at Kota which deals in retail sales. No separate profit and loss accounts are prepared for each unit. The turnover of these units is as follows:—

		(Rs. in lakhs)	
No.		2007-08	2008-09
1.	Kota Unit	4321.97	3086.37
2.	Palakkad Unit	9909.66	11061.28
3.	P-DDC Unit, Kota	7537.68	9174.06
4.	Marketing Unit, Kota	2911.23	1987.75
(i)	Total Turnover	24680.54	25309.46
(ii)	Total profit/loss	(-)/3336.19	282.59 (Accounts yet to be passed in AGM)

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) The revival package for Instrumentation Ltd. approved by the Government on 11-2-2009 contains the following:—

- (i) Interest free mobilization advance of Rs. 30 crores from BHEL to ILK, to be liquidated by ILK in 5 years in equal installments through supplies to be made to BHEL against their orders. This mobilization advance would be utilized by ILK for its technological upgradation and diversification programmes.
- (ii) Interest free advance of Rs. 25 crores from BHEL to ILK at the beginning of each year for the next three years beginning from 2008-09. This advance would be adjusted during the same year against supplies to be made as per BHEL orders.
- (iii) Additional Government Guarantee for Rs. 20.00 crores, without waiver of Guarantee fee for a period of five years or JV formation, whichever is earlier, for enabling furnishing of performance bank guarantees for fresh tenders.
- (iv) Continuation of existing Government Guarantee of Rs. 25.00 crores along with exemption of guarantee fee from the date of approval of revival package for a period of five years or JV formation, whichever is earlier.

(v) Provision of Rs. 38.36 crores as 3.5% preference share capital redeemable within 3 years from the date of normal redemption of the bonds (31st Dec. 2009) from profits to be earned by the Company. This amount would be utilized by ILK for redemption of VRS bonds worth Rs. 35 crores and payment of annual interest of Rs. 3.36 crores in December 2009. The dividend on these preference shares would be converted to equity.

(vi) Provision of Rs. 10 crores as 3.5% redeemable preference shares, to be redeemed within 10 years, to be used for providing VRS to an estimated 100 employees. The dividend on these preference shares would be converted to equity. The position will be reviewed after one year of implementation of the package with reference to the success of the first tranche for considering subsequent tranches of funds.

(vii) Write off of Govt. loan of Rs. 246.1010 crores as on 31-12-2008.

(viii) Waiver of entire outstanding interest of Rs. 258.2605 crores as on 31-12-2008 on Govt. plan and non-plan loans and freezing of interest thereon beyond 31-12-2008.

(ix) To allow ILK to approach BIFR for seeking various exemptions/concessions from various Government Agencies.

- (x) ILK will go in for joint venture formation with a public sector/private sector partner having majority stake, within a period of 3 years of the approval of the revival scheme.
- (xi) Winding up of three shell Companies namely (1) IL Power Electronics Limited (ILPEL), Jaipur, (2) Instrumentation Digital Controls Limited (JDCL), Kota and (3) Instrumentation Control Valves Limited (ICVL) Palakkad.
- (xii) Permission for reversal of earlier decision of CCD for disinvestment of 51% of the holding of ILK in ICVL, Palakkad in favour of M/s Larsen and Toubro Ltd as this revival package envisages revival of ILK as a composite entity including ICVL.
- (xiii) Permission for implementing DPE's 1997 pay scales in the company out of their own resources prospectively.
- (xiv) To raise the age of superannuation from 58 years to 60 years for retaining technical man-

power during the revival process.

Amount Spent on Health Camps

2337. SHRIINDER SINGH NAMDHARI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry organises the health camps in the different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the total amount spent on such health camps during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the States where such camps were organised during the said period, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Steel has not organized any health camps during the last three years or the current year. However, the Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry have organized health camps and the amount spent in organizing such health camps during the each of the last three years and the current year is indicated below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of PSU	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1.	Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)	44.66	385.62	708.89	123.76
2.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)	8.64	310.23	14.74	0.16
3.	NMDC Ltd.	18.77	59.69	69.16	0.93
4.	Manganese Ore (India) Limited (MOIL)	3.91	88.96	85.92	9.89
5.	MECON Ltd.	—	0.27	0.18	0.26
6.	KIOCL Ltd.	—	0.16	0.11	0.01

(c) The details of the health camps organized at various locations are enclosed as Statement.

Statement*Health Camps organized by the PSUs under the Ministry of Steel***(I) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)****Health Camps organised by Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai from 2006-07 till date**

Sl. No.	Year	Place, District and State
1.	2006-07	Umda, Durg, Chhattisgarh
2.	2007-08	Salekasa, Gondia, Maharashtra
3.		Devri, Gondia, Maharashtra
4.		Gadhi, Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh
5.		Bithali, Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh
6-22.		At the site of twenty one model Steel Villages, Durg, Chhattisgarh (17 Camps)
23.	2008-09	Bhander, Datia, Madhya Pradesh
24.		Karera, Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh
25.		Rewa, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh
26.		Mitauli, Lakhimpur, Khiri, Uttar Pradesh
27.		Kafara, Lakhimpur, Khiri, Uttar Pradesh
28.		Dhauarahara, Lakhimpur, Khiri, Uttar Pradesh
29.		Qajikamalpur, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh
30.		Rahangi (Hirri Mines), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh
31.		Chatouna (Hirri Mines), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh
32.		Mohla, Rajnandangaon, Chhattisgarh
33.		Patan, Durg, Chhattisgarh
34-230.		At the site of 21 Model Steel Villages, Durg, Chhattisgarh (197 Camps)
231.	2009-10-till date	Rahru, Simla, Himachal Pradesh
232.		Jamgaon, Durg, Chhattisgarh
233-336.		At the site of 21 Model Steel Villages, Durg, Chhattisgarh (134 Camps)

Sl. No.	Year	Place, District and State
Health Camps organised by Durgapur Steel Plant, Durgapur, West Bengal from 2006-07 till date		
1.	2007-08	In 7 villages in Burdwan District, West Bengal
2.		In 9 villages in Bankura District, West Bengal
3.		In 10 Model Steel villages, Durgapur, West Bengal
4.	2008-09	In 1 village in Bankura District, West Bengal
5.		In 10 Model Steel villages, Durgapur, West Bengal
6.	2009-10	In 10 Model Steel villages, Durgapur, West Bengal
Health Camps organised by Rourkela Steel Plant, Rourkela, Orissa from 2006-07 till date		
1.	2006-07	Chikatmati, Lathikata, Orissa
2.		Tarkera, Lathikata, Orissa
3.		Barain, Lathikata, Orissa
4.		Balanda, Lathikata, Orissa
5.		Raghubartola, Lathikata, Orissa
6.		Ramjodi, Lathikata, Orissa
7.		Jharbeda, Kuarmunda, Orissa
8.		Kaloshiria, Kuarmunda, Orissa
9.		Bankibahal, Kuarmunda, Orissa
10.		Luakera, Kuarmunda, Orissa
11.		Dandiapally, Kuarmunda, Orissa
12.		Ankurpali, Nuagaon, Orissa
13.		Kapatmunda, Bisra, Orissa
14.		Jhirpani, Bisra, Orissa
15.		Dumerta, Bisra, Orissa
16.		Sarubahal, Bisra, Orissa
17.		Jabaghat, Bisra, Orissa
18.		Bhalulata, Bisra, Orissa
19.		Kulunga, Lathikata, Orissa

Sl. No.	Year	Place, District and State
20.		Jalda, Lathikata, Orissa
21.		Lathikata, Orissa
1.	2007-08	Kaloshiria, Kuarmunda, Orissa
2.		Chikatmati, Lathikata, Orissa
3.		Tarkera, Lathikata, Orissa
4.		Barain, Lathikata, Orissa
5.		Balanda, Lathikata, Orissa
6.		Raghubartola, Lathikata, Orissa
7.		Kapatmunda, Bisra, Orissa
8.		Jharbeda, Kuarmunda, Orissa
9.		Luakera, Kuarmunda, Orissa
10.		Dandiapally, Kuarmunda, Orissa
11.		Bankibahal, Kuarmunda, Orissa
12.		Dumerta, Bisra, Orissa
13.		Sarubahal, Bisra, Orissa
14.		Jabaghat, Bisra, Orissa
15.		Jhirpani, Bisra, Orissa
16.		Ankurpali, Nuagaon, Orissa
17.		Ramjodi, Lathikata, Orissa
18.		Belpara, Bolangir, Orissa
19.		Sindhekela, Bolangir, Orissa
20.		Bharsuja, Bolangir, Orissa
21.		Tusra, Bolangir, Orissa
22.		Nakrundi, Kalahandi, Orissa
23.		Adri, Kalahandi, Orissa
24.		Tal Nagi, Kalahandi, Orissa
25.		Mahulpatna, Kalahandi, Orissa
26.		Bandamunda, Bisra, Orissa

Sl. No.	Year	Place, District and State
27.		Kulunga, Lathikata, Orissa
28.		Jalda, Lathikata, Orissa
29.		Peripheral villages, Sundargarh, Orissa
1.	2008-09	Kaloshiria, Kuarmunda, Orissa
2.		Chikatmati, Lathikata, Orissa
3.		Tarkera, Lathikata, Orissa
4.		Barain, Lathikata, Orissa
5.		Balanda, Lathikata, Orissa
6.		Raghubartola, Lathikata, Orissa
7.		Kapatmunda, Bisra, Orissa
8.		Jharbeda, Kuarmunda, Orissa
9.		Luakera, Kuarmunda, Orissa
10.		Dandiapally, Kuarmunda, Orissa
11.		Bankibahal, Kuarmunda, Orissa
12.		Dumerta, Bisra, Orissa
13.		Sarubahal, Bisra, Orissa
14.		Jabaghat, Bisra, Orissa
15.		Jhirpani, Bisra, Orissa
16.		Ankurpali, Nuagaon, Orissa
17.		Ramjodi, Lathikata, Orissa
18.		Jalda, Lathikata, Orissa
19.		Chikatmati, Lathikata, Orissa
20.		Pisawan, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh
21.		Panposh (Rourkela), Orissa
22.		Bandarnunda, Bisra, Orissa
23.		Kulunga, Lathikata, Orissa
24.		Jalda, Lathikata, Orissa

Sl. No.	Year	Place, District and State
25.		Peripheral villages, Sundargarh, Orissa
26.		Children from Lathikata Block
1.	2009-10	Laing, Rajgangpur, Orissa
2.		Kaloshiria, Kuarmunda, Orissa
3.		Tarkera, Lathikata, Orissa
4.		Barain, Lathikata, Orissa
5.		Balanda, Lathikata, Orissa
6.		Raghubartola, Lathikata, Orissa
7.		Kapatmunda, Bisra, Orissa
8.		Jharbeda, Kuarmunda, Orissa
9 .		Luakera, Kuarmunda, Orissa
10.		Dandiapally, Kuamlunda. Orissa
11.		Bankibahal, Kuarmunda, Orissa
12.		Dumerta, Bisra, Orissa
13.		Sarubahal, Bisra, Orissa
14.		Jabaghat, Bisra, Orissa
15.		Jhirpani, Bisra, Orissa
16.		Ankurpali, Nuagaon, Orissa
17.		Ramjodi, Lathikata, Orissa
18.		Jalda, Lathikata, Orissa
19.		Chikatmati, Lathikata, Orissa
20.		Panposh (Rourkela), Orissa
21.		Peripheral villages/slums
22.		Peripheral villages/slums
23.		Bandamunda, Bisra, Orissa
24.		Kulunga, Lathikata, Orissa
25.		Jalda, Lathikata, Orissa
26.		Peripheral villages/slums

Sl. No.	Year	Place, District and State
Health Camps organised by Bokaro Steel Plant, Bokaro, Jharkhand from 2006-07 till date		
1.	2006-07	Parbahal/Bokaro/Jharkhand
2.		Jala/Bokaro/Jharkhand
3.		Ashalata/Bokaro/Jharkhand
1.	2007-08	Policeline/Bokaro/Jharkhand
2.		Talgharia/Bokaro/Jharkhand
3.		Purana Bazar, Dhanbad/Jharkhand
4.		Digwadih/Dhanbad/Jharkhand
5.		Sonabad/Bokaro/Jharkhand
6.		Bhuli/Dhanbad/Jharkhand
7.		Vasepur/Dhanbad/Jharkhand
8.		Sindri/Dhanbad/Jharkhand
9.		Manaitand/Dhanbad/Jharkhand
10.		Chandankyari/Bokaro/Jharkhand
11.		Govindpur/Dhanbad/Jharkhand
12.		Nirsa/Dhanbad/Jharkhand
13.		Chirkunda/Dhanbad/Jharkhand
14.		Nirsa/Dhanbad/Jharkhand
07-08 (Health Camp)-MEGA Camp		
1.		Raghopur-Hajipur/Bihar
2.		Patepur-Hajipur/Bihar
3.		Mahnar-Hajipur/Bihar
4.		Jandaha-Hajipur/Bihar
5.		Mahua-Hajipur/Bihar
6.		Hajipur/Bihar
7.		Samastipur/Bihar
8.		Lalganj-Hajipur/Bihar

Sl. No.	Year	Place, District and State
9.		Vaishali-Hajipur/Bihar
10.		Biddupur-Hajipur/Bihar
11.		Varisnagar-Samastipur/Bihar
12.		Bodhgaya/Bihar
13.		Naubatpur-Patna/Bihar
14.		Kalyanpur-Samastipur/Bihar
15.		Chaibasa/Jharkhand
16.		Dumka/Jharkhand
17.		Kodarma/Jharkhand
18.		Giridih/Jharkhand
19.		Gumla/Jharkhand
20.		Ranchi/Jharkhand
21.		Arwal-Jahanbad/Bihar
22.		Chhatra/Jharkhand
23.		Ramgarh/Jharkhand
24.		Aurangabad/Bihar
25.		Sasaram/Bihar
26.		Sonepur Mela-Hajipur/Bihar
27.		Hayaghat-Darbhanga/Bihar
28.		Rajnagar-Madhubani/Bihar
1.	2008-09	Rajapakad-Hajipur/Bihar
2.		Bhagwanpur-Hajipur/Bihar
3.		Jahanabad/Bihar
4.		Ara/Bihar
5.		Maner/Bihar
6.		Roshra-Samastipur/Bihar
7.		Patna City-Patna/Bihar

Sl. No.	Year	Place, District and State
8.		Jamshedpur/Jharkhand
9.		Manage, Jamshedpur/Jharkhand
10.		Begusarai/Bihar
11.		Muzaffarpur/Bihar
12.		Latehar-Ranchi/Jharkhand
13.		Namkum-Ranchi/Jharkhand
14.		Metihari/Bihar
15.		Chhapra/Bihar
16.		Saharsa
17.		Supaul
18.		Purnia
19.		Sarai (Vaishali)
20.		Masaurhi (Patna)
21.		Baheri (Darbhanga)
22.		Araria
23.		Purnia
24.		Chehrakala (Vaishali)
25.		Desri (Vaishali)
26.		Sheohar
27.		Sahdeiburz
28.		Biraul (Darbhanga)
29.		Kusheshwar Asthan (Darbhanga)

Health Camps organised by IISCO Steel Plant, Burnpur, West Bengal from 2006-07 till date

1.	2006-07	Hadamdih, West Bengal
2.		Kerardih, West Bengal
3.		Gutgutpara, West Bengal
4.		Dhoirapara, West Bengal

Sl. No.	Year	Place, District and State
5.		Shyamdih (Majipara), West Bengal
6.		Baradanga, West Bengal
7.		Thana Math, West Bengal
8.		Kuilapur, West Bengal
1.	2007-08	Hadamdih, West Bengal
2.		Dhoirapara, West Bengal
3.		Gutgutpara, West Bengal
4.		Kerardih, West Bengal
5.		Nakrasota, West Bengal
6.		Dhenua, West Bengal
7.		Dhenua (Majhipara), West Bengal
8.		Kalajharia, West Bengal
9.		Surya Nagar, West Bengal
10.		Saradapally, West Bengal
11.		Kuilapur, West Bengal
12.		Old age home, West Bengal
13.		Baradanga, West Bengal
14.		Barodighari, West Bengal
15.		Barthol, West Bengal
16.		Narshinghbandh, West Bengal
17.		Ramnagar Colliery, West Bengal
18.		Jitpur Colliery, West Bengal
19.		Chasnalla Colliery, West Bengal
1.	2008-09	Gutgutpara, West Bengal
2.		Dhoirapara, West Bengal
3.		Hadamdih, West Bengal

Sl. No.	Year	Place, District and State
4.		Kankardanga, West Bengal
5.		Nakrasota, West Bengal
6.		Bhalluckjore, West Bengal
7.		Narsinghbandh, West Bengal
8.		Kerardih, West Bengal
9.		Alamnagar, West Bengal
10.		Old age home, West Bengal
11.		(Dhakeswari), West Bengal
12.		Barodighari, West Bengal
13.		Jorpara, West Bengal
14.		Baisnabbandh, West Bengal
15.		Aluthia, West Bengal
16.		Shastri Nagar, West Bengal
17.		Baradanga, West Bengal
18.		Santa, West Bengal
19.		Jhoparpatti, West Bengal
20.		Shyambandh, West Bengal
21.		Barthol, West Bengal
22.		Dihika, West Bengal
23.		Dhenua, West Bengal
24.		Talkuri, West Bengal
25.		Dhrubdangal Mungeripara, West Bengal
26.		Bartoria, West Bengal
27.		Santinagar, West Bengal
28.		Jagatdih, West Bengal
29.		Fatehpur, West Bengal
30.		Shyamdih West Bengal

Sl. No.	Year	Place, District and State
31.		Dharampalli, West Bengal
32.		Khaswahanagar, West Bengal
33.		Ramnagar, West Bengal
1.	2009-10	Gutgutpara, West Bengal
2.		Dhoirapara, West Bengal
3.		Hadamdih, West Bengal
4.		Kankardanga, West Bengal
5.		Ghuskapara, West Bengal
6.		Bhalluckjore, West Bengal
7.		Nakrasota, West Bengal
8.		Baradanga, West Bengal
9.		Leprosy Colony, West Bengal
10.		Madandih, West Bengal
11.		Kerardih, West Bengal
12.		Dihika, West Bengal
13.		Jorpara, West Bengal
14.		Narsinghbandh, West Bengal
15.		Suryanagar old age home, West Bengal
16.		Barodighari, West Bengal
17.		Purusottampur, West Bengal
18.		Dharampally ground, West Bengal

**Health Camps organised by ALLOY Steels Plant, Durgapur, West Bengal
from 2006-07 till date**

1.	2006-07	Nearby villages of Durgapur
2.	2007-08	
3.	2008-09	
4.	2009-10	

Sl. No.	Year	Place, District and State
Health Camps organised by Salem Steel Plant, Salem, Tamil Nadu from 2006-07 till date		
1.	2006-07	KK Nagar, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
2.		Poolampatti, Edappadi, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
3.		Solampallam, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
4.		Thirumalaigiri, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
1.	2007-08	Vattamuthampatti, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
2.		Karukkalvadi, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
3.		Vellakkadai, Yercaud, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
4.		Arigoundampatti, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
5.		Jalluthupatti, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
6.		Pulampatti, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
1.	2008-09	Karumandurai, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
2.		Sivadhapuram, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
3.		Thottianur, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
4.		Narasakadu/Kottaimedu, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
5.		Perla Soragal, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
1.	2009-10	Naickenpatti, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
2.		Muthu-naickenpatti, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
3.		Kolli-Hills, Namakkal Disst. (Tamil Nadu)
Health Camps Organised by Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant, Bhadravati, Karnataka from 2006-07 till date		
1.	2006-07	Hosa Nanjapura, Peripheral Villages, Bhadravati, Shimoga District, Karnataka
2.	2007-08	Model Steel Village - Anthargange, Bhadravati, Shimoga District, Karnataka
Health Camps organised by Raw Material Division from 2006-07 till date		
1.	2006-07	Jharkhand-Kiriburu, Meghataburu, Gua, Manoharpur, Chiria and Bhawanathpur; Orissa-Bolani, Puriyapani, Barsua and Kalta; Madhya Pradesh-Kuteshwar

Sl. No.	Year	Place, District and State
Health Camps organised by Central Marketing Organisation from 2006-07 till date		
2.	2007-08	Dausa-Rajasthan, Faridabad-Haryana, Baddi-Solan, Himachal Pradesh
Health Camps organised by Research and Development Center for Iron and Steel, Ranchi, Jharkhand from 2006-07 till date		
1.	2006-07	In and around Ranchi
Health Camps Organised by Central Coal Supply Organisation, Dhanbad, Jharkhand from 2006-07 till date		
1.	2007-08	Rangani Bheeta, Dhanbad, Jharkhand
2.		Kolakusma, Dhanbad, Jharkhand
3.		Manjhaladih, Dhanbad, Jharkhand
4.		Gopnadih, Dhanbad, Jharkhand
5.		Bagula, Dhanbad, Jharkhand
6.		Bara Baghmara, Govindpur, Jharkhand
7.		Aamaghata, Dhanbad, Jharkhand
8.	2008-09	Manjhaladih Manjhi Basti, Dhanbad, Jharkhand
Health Camps Organised by Growth Division, Kolkata from 2006-07 till date		
1.	2008-09	Kulti, West Bengal
Health Camps Organised by Environment Management Division, Kolkata from 2006-07 till date		
1.	2008-09	Kolkata, West Bengal
Health Camps Organised by Maharashtra Electros melt, Chandrapur, Maharashtra from 2006-07 till date		
1.	2006-07	In and around Chandrapur, Maharashtra

(II) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)

Sl. No.	Name of Camp	Location	State
2006-07			
1.	Multipurpose social service camp	Jaggaihpeta Limestone Mines	Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of Camp	Location	State
2.	Multipurpose social service camps	Paderu and Araku, Visakha Dist.	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Eye Camp	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Multipurpose social service camp	HB Colony, Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
5.	Free medical camp with the help of Lions Club	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
6.	General Medical camps	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
7.	Two Multi Purpose Social Service Camps	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
8.	Medical activities	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
9.	General Medical camp by VSGH	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
10.	General Medical camp by VSGH	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
11.	Deadiction programme	Salugu village, Paderu Division, Visakha District	Andhra Pradesh
12.	Follow up Multi-purpose Social Camps	Tribal villages, Paderu Division, Visakha District	Andhra Pradesh
13.	Dental camp	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
2007-08			
1.	General Medical camp	Eppagaruvu, Devarapalli	Andhra Pradesh
2.	General Medical camp	Kittumala (near Lambhasingh junction) Narsipatnam	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Screening Camp for women members of conservancy contract workers of VSGH (40 women)	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Hepatitis-B Vaccination Camp by VSGH	Islampeta	Andhra Pradesh
5.	Camp through Lifeline Express	Vizianagaram	Andhra Pradesh
6.	Distribution of appliances to disabled persons (Lifeline Express)	Vizianagaram	Andhra Pradesh
7.	Hepatitis-B vaccination camp	Islampeta and Surrounding villages	Andhra Pradesh
8.	General Medical Camp	Murubai village near Appikonda	Andhra Pradesh
9.	Cancer Screening Camp	VSGH and K.N. Palem, near Islampeta, Visakha	Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of Camp	Location	State
10.	Medical Camp and Diabetic Screen Camp	Maddivanipalem, Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
11.	Hepatitis B Vaccination camp	Pedapalem	Andhra Pradesh
12.	De-addiction programmes	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
13.	Cancer Detection Camp	T. Devada, Gangavaram	Andhra Pradesh
14.	Biopsy and Hysterectomy for cancer prone patients	Surrounding villages	Andhra Pradesh
15.	Financial Support to Sankar Foundation for constn. Of 3rd floor of Sankar Foundation Hospital. As a matter of good gesture by RINL-VSP, Sankar Foundation have come forward to organise free eye cataract camps in the Rehabilitation Colonies, Peripheral Vi	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
2008-09			
1.	Cancer Screening Camp	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
2.	General Medical Camp	Tribal Village Antyada, K.D. Peta Mandal, Narsipatnam, Visakhapatnam district.	Andhra Pradesh
3.	General Medical Camp	Tribal Village Antyada, K.D. Peta Mandal, Narsipatnam, Visakhapatnam district.	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Hepatitis-B vaccination camp	Aganampudi, Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
5.	General Medical Camp	Tribal Village Antyada, K.D. Peta Mandal, Narsipatnam, Visakhapatnam district.	Andhra Pradesh
6.	Hep.-B Vaccination Camp	Aganampudi, Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
7.	General Medical Camp	Burma Colony, Pedagantyada, Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
8.	Alcohol De-addiction programme	at 3 Places in Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
9.	Medical-Mega medical camp	Vizianagaram	Andhra Pradesh
10.	Hepatitis-B vaccination camp	Pedamadaka, Aganampudi, Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
11.	General Medical camp	Thumpala near Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam district.	Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of Camp	Location	State
12.	General Medical Camp and distribution of items	Pannar village	Gujarat
2009-10			
1.	General Medical camp	Peda Gangavaram, Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh

(iii) Details of Medical Camps conducted by NMDC since 2006-07

Nature of Medical Camp	Kirandul, Chhattisgarh No.	Bacheli, Chhattisgarh No.	Donimalai, Karnataka No.	Panna, Madhya Pradesh No.
2006-07				
General Medicine			1	
Eye Camp	1	1		
2007-08				
General Medicine	1		3	4
Family Planning Camp				1
Eye Camp	1	1		
Gynecology Camp		1		
Child Health Camp		1		
2008-09				
General Medicine			4	6
Eye Camp	1			
ENT Camp		1		
Dermatology Camp		1		
2009-10 (Upto October 2009)				
General Medicine			2	

(iv) Manganese Ore (India) Limited (MOIL)

Sl. No.	Place of Camp	State	Date
1.	Nagpur	Maharashtra	21-22 January, 2008
2.	Dongri Buzurg District Bhandara, and Kandri, District, Nagpur	Maharashtra	15-09-2009

(v) MECON Ltd.**Financial Year 21007-08**

Sl. No.	Date	Location	State
1.	28-6-2007	Village Chene, Namkum, Ranchi	Jharkhand
2.	31-07-2007	Jagannathpur, Dhurwa	Jharkhand
3.	13-11-2007	Irgoo Toli by-pass road, Harmu, Ranchi	Jharkhand
4.	21-11-2007	Viii. Bongaibera, Ganga Ghat, Angara, Ranchi	Jharkhand
5.	04-12-2007	Pokhar Toli, Hinoo, Ranchi	Jharkhand
6.	17-12-2007	Village Kesharo, Nagri, Ranchi	Jharkhand
7.	09-01-2008	Pipar toil, Argora, Ranchi	Jharkhand
8.	24-01-2008	Ganyour Toli, Hatia, Ranchi	Jharkhand
9.	07-02-2008	Village Guni, Hutari, Khunti	Jharkhand
10.	20-02-2008	Village Sargon, Mandar, Ranchi	Jharkhand

Financial Year 2008-09

Sl. No.	Date	Location/Village	State
1.	09-07-2008	Jagannathpur, Dhurwa, Ranchi	Jharkhand
2.	12-11-2008	Village Dokad, Johna block, Angara, Ranchi	Jharkhand
3.	29-11-2008	Village Badka Muru, Burmu, Ranchi	Jharkhand
4.	12-12-2008	Village Fudi, Ranchi	Jharkhand
5.	22-01-2009	Pokhar Toli, Hinoo, Ranchi	Jharkhand
6.	22-02-2009	Village Childag, Angara, Ranchi	Jharkhand

Financial Year 2009-10

1.	8-7-2009	Jagannathpur, Dhurwa	Jharkhand
2.	30-9-2009	Holy Faith Mercy Home, Khunti	Jharkhand
3.	7-10-2009	Ganyour Toli, Hatia, Ranchi	Jharkhand
4.	14-10-2009	Sooch Village, Dugdugia Hutar, Khunti	Jharkhand
5.	5-11-2009	Birhu Village, Khunti	Jharkhand

(vi) Kudremukh Iron Ore Limited (KIOCL)

Sl. No.	Camp	Date	State
1.	Management of Stress and its treatment, Nehru Bhawan at Kavoor Township, Mangalore	18-7-2007	Karnataka
2.	Malaria Control Awareness Programme KSRC Hall Kavoor, Mangalore	07-08-2007	Karnataka
3.	Heart Awareness Camp at Kavoor Township, Mangalore	12-03-2008	Karnataka
4.	Heart Awareness Camp at Kudremukh	27-03-2008 28-03-2008 29-03-2008 30-03-2008	Karnataka
5.	Chikungunya prevention and treatment camp at First Aid centre in Plant	04-07-2008	Karnataka
6.	Chikungunya prevention and treatment camp at KSRC Nehru Bhavan Auditorium	05-07-2008	Karnataka
7.	General Safety and motivational in all level HPC/I. POL Terminal Bala, Katipalla, Mangalore	30-01-2009	Karnataka
8.	Occupational Health Hazard, HPCLPOL, Terminal Bala, Katipalla, Mangalore	30-01-2009	Karnataka
9.	Philosophy of Safety, Hindustan Unilever Limited, Vloor, Mangalore.	11-02-2009	Karnataka
10.	Occupational Health Hazard, Hindustan Unilever Limited, Vloor, Mangalore	11-02-2009	Karnataka
11.	Women's Rights and Safety Training Programme, Baikampady Industrial Area, Mangalore	20-03-2009	Karnataka
12.	Lasproscopic Sterlization Camp with State Government	16-05-2006 25-04-2007 01-01-2007 07-03-2008 06-06-2008 17-09-2008	Karnataka
13.	Pulse Polio Programmes with State Government	09-04-2006 14-05-2006 07-01-2007 11-02-2007 06-01-2008 17-02-2008	Karnataka

Sl. No.	Camp	Date	State
14.	Blood Donation Camp with Lion's Club and CISF, Kudremukh	07-03-2007	Karnataka
15.	Heart Checking Camp from Manipal Heart Foundation, Bangalore	28-03-2008	Karnataka
16.	Cancer Detection Camp for Women	04-08-2007	Karnataka
17.	Refraction Camp in Kavour Township in association with Lions Clun and Titan Industries Ltd.	16-08-2007	Karnataka
18.	Free eye check up camp in Meenakali area, Baikampady, Mangalore in association with Lions Club and Health Centre	25-10-2009	Karnataka

Shastri Dingni New Station in Maharashtra

2338. SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway has sanctioned the new Shastri Dingni station at Sangameshwar in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Stoppage of Trains at Falakata Railway Station

2339. SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:

SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether only one Sealdah bound express train stops at the Falakata railway station in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways are planning to give two or three more express trains to have stoppage at Ghoksadanga railway station in West Bengal;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam. Three express trains bound for Sealdah/Howrah stop at Falakata.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) No, Madam. Stoppage of additional trains at Ghoksadanga station is not feasible at present.

Moynaguri-Jogigopa Rail Line

2340. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount sanctioned for the New-Moynaguri-Jogigopa rail line during the current financial year;

(b) the progress of work made so far on this project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) An outlay of Rs. 109 crore has been provided for the project in Railway Budget, 2009-10.

(b) and (c) Land acquisition, earthwork, bridge etc. has been taken up between New Mainaguri-New Coochbehar and New Coochbehar-Gauripur section. Land acquisition and bridge work has been taken up on Gauripur-Abhayapuri (Jogighopa). An expenditure of

Rs. 86.19 crore has been incurred on the project up to 31-03-2009. Work is targeted for completion by March, 2014.

[Translation]

Polls Survey

2341. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any recommendations to check opinion polls and post poll surveys during the election have been received by the Government from the Election Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to implement the recommendations received from Election Commission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) In July, 2004, the Election Commission of India has sent a set of 22 proposals which *inter alia* includes the proposal relating to restriction on publication and dissemination of results of exit polls, etc.

(c) to (e) A Bill, namely, the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 2008 has been passed by the Rajya Sabha on the 25th November, 2009 and the said Bill contains provisions relating to restriction on publication and dissemination of results of exit polls, etc.

[English]

Introduction of Trains

2342. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request to introduce new trains via Borivali Station (North Mumbai) to Konkan region; 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. Some representations including from Shri Sanjay Brijkishor Lal Nirupam, Member of Parliament, have been received for introduction of train from Borivali to Konkan region.

[Translation]

Revival of Cottage Industry

2343. SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any system in place to encourage those industries which are being run as cottage industries in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan to revive the carpet industry of Bhadohi in Uttar Pradesh being run as a cottage industry and is on the verge of closure due to recession; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The steps taken to promote and develop the carpet industry of Bhadohi in Uttar Pradesh include: Setting up of Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadohi; organizing Carpet Expo at Varanasi and New Delhi every year. Besides, it is proposed to introduce a new scheme titled Comprehensive Carpet Cluster Development Scheme etc.

Pricing Policy for Petroleum Products

2344. SHRI LALJI TANDON: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether investors have to face losses in the absence of any clear and long term price fixation policy of petroleum products;

(b) if so, whether the above reasons are responsible

for less interest of investors towards public sector undertakings;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating for evolving long term price fixing policy of petroleum products; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) With effect from 1-04-2002, the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) for petroleum products was dismantled and it was decided that the pricing of all petroleum products, except PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG, would be market-determined. However, in view of the steep increase and high volatility in the international oil prices since 2004-05, the Government has been modulating the retail selling prices of Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG sold by the three Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs); namely, Indian Oil Corporation, Sharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, to protect the consumer from the inflationary impact of international oil prices.

As passing on the entire impact of the increase in the oil prices to the consumers would have resulted in a steep increase in the domestic prices and aggravated inflationary conditions, the Government has been following an equitable Burden Sharing Mechanism, to ensure that the burden of under-recoveries was shared by all the stakeholders; namely the Government, the Public Sector Oil Companies and the consumers in the following manner:

- Government through issue of Oil Bonds
- Domestic upstream oil companies by offering price discounts to OMCs
- OMCs to bear a portion of the under recoveries and
- Consumers to bear minimal price increases

By adopting this approach, the Government has not only protected the consumers from high international

oil prices but has also ensured the financial health of the OMCs.

(d) and (e) The Government has constituted an Expert Group on 31-08-2009 under the chairmanship of Dr. Kirit S. Parikh, former Member of Planning Commission to examine, *inter-alia*, the current pricing policy of the four sensitive petroleum products; namely Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG and make recommendations for a viable and sustainable pricing policy for petroleum products.

Rail Line from Delhi to Korba and Mumbai to Korba, Chhattisgarh

2345. Dr. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request to provide direct railway link from Delhi to Korba and Mumbai to Korba, Chhattisgarh;

(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) Details of each and every demand received is not maintained. As per records available, no such request has been received from State Government of Chhattisgarh.

[English]

Allocation of Funds to Textiles Sector

2346. SHRI C. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated for textiles sector during each of the last three years and the current year, head-wise;

(b) whether total allocated amount has been spent during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the details of unused amount for the said period, head-wise;

(e) whether the Government has pumped in more money into this sector in the current year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The details of funds allocated and spent for the textiles sector during the last three years and the current year, head-wise, is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(d) The Ministry's plan allocations, during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 were Rs. 1654.50 crore, Rs. 2323.00 crore and Rs. 4092.32 crore respectively, at the Revised Estimate (RE) stage. As against the Revised Estimate, the unused amounts during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 were Rs. 276.36 crore, Rs. 111.73 crore and Rs. 267.65 crore respectively. The major

portion of the unused amount was on account of the 10% mandatory earmarking of the plan outlay for the North-East States which could not be spent as there was no demand for assistance from the North East under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks and Cotton Technology Mission. The details of unspent amount year-wise and head-wise is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(e) and (f) Yes, Madam. The allocation (Budget Estimate) for the textiles sector for the current year is Rs. 4500.00 crore which exceeds the previous year's Budget Estimate by Rs. 2000.00 crore. The enhanced allocation has been made for the purpose of clearing interest subsidy backlog under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme.

Statement-I

Sector/Scheme-wise Plan Outlay and expenditure from 2006-07 to 2009-10

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Sector/ Scheme		Annual Plan 2006-07			Annual Plan 2007-08		
		BE	RE	Exp	BE	RE	Exp
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A. Village and Small Industry							
1.	Handlooms	185.00	221.45	185.43	315.00	302.04	292.58
2.	Sericulture	142.00	132.37	125.98	110.00	110.00	110.00
3.	Handicraft	110.00	104.65	95.49	220.00	180.28	162.85
4.	Powerlooms	8.00	6.00	0.67	10.00	10.00	9.65
5.	Wool and Woolens	5.00	10.25	6.75	15.00	15.00	13.35
6.	Development of Mega Clusters						
	Sub Total (A) (VSI)	450.00	474.72	414.32	670.00	617.32	588.43
B. Industry							
7.	NIFT	11.00	16.00	11.00	20.00	9.00	9.00
8.	R and D including TRAs	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Technology Upgration Fund Scheme (TUFS)	550.00	894.48	811.75	945.00	1185.37	1142.33
10.	Scheme for Integrated Textile Park	209.00	190.00	101.55	450.00	400.00	371.17
11.	Jute Technology Mission				80.00	37.50	37.50
12.	Export Promotion Studies	1.00	1.00	0.26	1.00	1.00	0.66
13.	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Textile Management Coimbatore	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	9.18	9.18
14.	Brand Promotion Scheme \$				5.00	0.01	
15.	Foreign Investment Promotion Scheme (FDI) \$				0.50	0.10	
16.	Textipolis \$				0.50	0.01	
17.	Setting up of Fasion Hub \$				1.00	0.00	
18.	Common Compliance Code \$				1.00	0.01	
19.	Human Resources Development \$				0.50	0.50	
20.	Textile Engineering including Jute \$				0.50	0.00	
21.	Technical Textiles including Jute				1.00	1.00	1.00
22.	Cotton Technology Mission (CSS)	100.00	50.00	25.00	60.00	60.00	50.00
23.	Jute Manufactures Development Council	9.00	9.00	9.00			
24.	Sectt. Economic Services	1.00	0.80	0.26			
25.	SJDF (including Jute Technology Mission)	12.50	12.50	0.00			
	Sub Total (B)	899.50	1179.78	963.82	1573.00	1705.68	1622.84
	Grand Total (A+B)	1349.50	1654.50	1378.14	2243.00	2323.00	2211.27

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Sector/ Scheme		Annual Plan 2008-09			Annual Plan 2009-10	
		BE	RE	Exp	BE	Exp (upto 30-11-09) (P) #
1	2	9	10	11	12	13
A. Village and Small Industry						
1.	Handlooms	340.00	325.81	324.44	340.00	161.67
2.	Sericulture	115.00	131.00	131.00	115.00	105.00
3.	Handicraft	220.00	212.16	198.47	220.00	98.55
4.	Powerlooms	10.00	12.30	10.54	10.00	7.70
5.	Wool and Woolens	15.00	15.00	14.50	15.00	7.50
6.	Development of Mega Clusters		20.00	18.70	50.00	3.20
	Sub Total (A) (VSI)	700.00	716.27	697.65	750.00	383.62
B. Industry						
7.	NIFT	32.25	78.25	78.25	32.25	21.75
8.	R and D including TRAs	2.00	2.00	2.00	10.00	5.16
9.	Technology Upgration Fund Scheme (TUFS)	1140.00	2843.61	2632.00	3140.00	2550.99
10.	Scheme for Integrated Textile Park	450.00	305.00	279.59	397.00	139.33
11.	Jute Technology Mission	80.00	66.00	66.00	70.00	58.46
12.	Export Promotion Studies	1.00	1.00	0.93	1.00	
13.	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Textile Management Coimbatore	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	4.54
14.	Brand Promotion Scheme \$	6.48	0.00		6.48	
15.	Foreign Investment Promotion Scheme (FDI) \$	0.01	1.94		0.01	2.99
16.	Textipolis \$	1.00	0.00		1.00	

1	2	9	10	11	12	13
17.	Setting up of Fasion Hub \$	1.00	0.00		1.00	
18.	Common Compliance Code \$	0.01	0.00		0.01	
19.	Human Resources Development \$	8.00	0.00		8.00	
20.	Textile Engineering including Jute \$	0.00				
21.	Technical Textiles including Jute	13.00	13.00	13.00	18.00	17.40
22.	Cotton Technology Mission (CSS)	60.00	60.00	50.00	60.00	50.00
23.	Jute Manufactures Development Council					
24.	Sectt. Economic Services					
25.	SJDF (including Jute Technology Mission)					
	Sub Total (B)	1800.00	3376.05	3127.02	3750.00	2850.62
	Grand Total (A+B)	2500.00	4092.32	3824.67	4500.00	3234.24

\$: The scheme is under formulation

P: Provisional

#: Based on releases from PAO

BE: Budget Estimate

RE: Revised Estimate

Exp: Expenditure

Statement-II*Year-wise unused amount of Plan Funds*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Sector/ Head	Unspent Amount		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
A. Village and Small Industry				
1.	Handlooms	36.02	9.46	1.37
2.	Sericulture	6.39		
3.	Handicraft	9.16	17.43	13.69

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Powerlooms	5.33	0.35	1.76
5.	Wool and Woolens	3.50	1.65	0.50
6.	Development of Mega Clusters			1.30
	Sub Total (A) (VSI)	60.40	28.89	18.62
B. Industry and Mineral				
7.	NIFT	5.00		
8.	Technology Upgration Fund Scheme (TUFS)	82.73	43.04	211.61
9.	Scheme for Integrated Textile Park	88.45	28.83	25.41
10.	Cotton Technology Mission (CSS)	25.00	10.00	10.00
11.	Others	14.78	0.97	2.01
	Sub Total (B)	215.96	82.84	249.03
	Grand Total (A+B)	276.36	111.73	267.65
	Unspent Amount under NER	96.52	78.21	249.73

Loans to Steel Industry

2347. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing soft loans to steel industry;

(b) if so, the loans provided to the Steel manufacturers during each of the last three years and

the current year, Company-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and 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) Details of loans provided to the Steel manufacturers during each of the last three years and the current year are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Name of PSU	Loan sanctioned/released		Purpose
		Non-Plan loan	Plan loan	
1	2	3	4	5
2006-07	1. Bharat Refractories Limited (BRL)	30.46	—	For meeting expenditure on account of payment of outstanding salaries and wages of its employees.

1	2	3	4	5
	2. Hindustan Steelworks Construction Company Limited (HSCL)	21.44	7.00	Rs. 21.44 crore for meeting expenditure on account of payment of outstanding salaries and wages of its employees. Rs. 7.00 crore for meeting expenditure on purchase of new equipments and capital repair/updating of existing equipments.
2007-08			Nil	
2008-09			Nil	
2009-10	During current Financial Year no loan has been released so far.			

Source: Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Steel.

Pending Railway Projects in Gujarat

2348. SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Railway projects in Gujarat under the divisions of Vadodara, Rajkot and Bhavnagar are still pending for completion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of amount spent thereon so far, project-wise; and

(d) 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) to (d) The details of projects is not maintained division-wise. The details of projects falling in these areas is as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Projects	Anticipated Cost	Expenditure upto March, 09	Outlay	Status and target date for completion, wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Jetalsar-Wansjaliya gauge conversion (90.61 km) with Rajkot-Veraval and Veraval-Somnath	446.53	419.33	27.20	Rajkot-Veraval and Veraval-Somnath sections commissioned. On Jetalsar-Wansjaliya, gauge conversion has been completed recently and section commissioned for goods traffic.
2.	Chhotaudepur-Dhar, New line (157 km)	570.00	3.74	20.22	Earthwork, bridgework, land acquisition, etc., have been taken in 40 km of length.
3.	Pratapnagar-Chhotau-	227.52	179.90	35.00	Pratapnagar-Dabhoi section (35

1	2	3	4	5	6
	depur, Gauge conversion (99.27 km)				km) completed. Balance section of Dabhoi-Chhotaudepur (65 km) targeted for completion during 2009-10
4.	Bharuch-Samni-Dahej, Gauge Conversion (62.36 km)	165.66	15	45.65	Work taken up and likely to be completed during 2010-11.
5.	Rajpipla-Ankelshwar Gauge conversion (62.89 km)	196.97	8.16	60	Earthwork, bridgework, etc., taken up. Mega block for conversion has also been taken up.
6.	Surendranagar-Dhrangadhara (34 km) and Surendranagar-Pipavav gauge conversion	528.49	359.47	24	Gauge conversion of Surendranagar-Bhavnagar-Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva with extension to Pipavav has been completed and commissioned. Conversion of Surendranagar-Dhrangadhara section has been taken up targeted for completion during 2009-10.

All the projects are progressing as per availability of resources.

Freight Cost

2349. Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the total freight cost involved in fulfilling the urea requirement in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise, including Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): The subsidy is not paid on statewide basis. The freight subsidy paid for the indigenous urea during last three years and current years is as under:

Year	Amount (in Rs. crores)
1	2
2006-07	740.00
2007-08	1834.14

1	2
2008-09	1350.009
2009-10 (Till date)	390.95

Appointment of Judges

2350. SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplating on evolving a new mechanism for the appointment of High Court and Supreme Court Judges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government formulated any view on the primacy that is accorded to the Chief Justice of India in the appointment and transfer of Judges of the higher judiciary in terms of the Supreme Court Advocates and Records Association Vs the Union of India (1993) 4SCC41; and

(d) the status of the impeachment proceedings against Justice Soumetra Sen of the Calcutta High Court?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has drawn up two Memoranda of Procedure for appointment and transfer of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts in accordance with the judgment of the Supreme Court dated October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory opinion dated October 28, 1998.

(d) An Enquiry Committee under the provisions of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 has been constituted by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha for the purpose of making an investigation into the grounds on which the removal of Shri Justice Soumitra Sen of the Calcutta High Court is prayed for. The Committee has yet to give its findings.

Export of Handicrafts

2351. SHRI S. ALAGIRI: Will the Minister of

TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the countries to which handicrafts items were exported during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any special scheme keeping in view the rising demand of Indian Handicrafts items in the foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The details of country-wise export of handicrafts items including hand-knotted carpets exported during each of the last three years is as per enclosed statement. The country-wise export data for the current financial year i.e. 2009-10 is not available, however, the exports of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpets registered upto October, 2009 is to the tune of Rs. 10891.85 crore.

(b) No Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Major Country-wise export data of Handicrafts and Handmade Carpets and other floor coverings

(Rupees in crore)

Sl. No.	Country	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
		Handicrafts	Carpets	Handicrafts	Carpets	Handicrafts	Carpets
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Australia	271.77	51.08	210.78	62.56	108.01	68.81
2.	Canada	538.19	49.97	430.85	59.33	234.25	40.27
3.	France	805.72	56.96	673.91	56.78	361.54	48.84
4.	Germany	1725.90	698.22	1366.14	646.71	744.48	613.24
5.	Italy	608.31	45.56	476.13	105.94	270.23	25.5
6.	Japan	482.93	65.04	386.04	59.83	187.33	48.75
7.	Netherland	537.07	36.38	446.28	44.02	231.77	19.09

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Saudi Arabia	455.96	29.03	386.95	—	—	—
9.	Switzerland	266.63	18.00	205.77	9.13	111.79	26.86
10.	USA	5419.99	1833.02	4507.51	1668.86	2255.75	1359.29
11.	UK	1927.24	189.25	1506.52	183.07	863.11	112.18
12.	Other Countries	4248.43	631.38	3415.17	628.50	2814.86	345.90
	Total	17288.14	3674.86	14012.05	3524.73	8183.12	2708.73
Grand Total		20963.00		17536.78		10891.85	

[Translation]

Reduction in Prices of Steel

2352. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

SHRI RAMKISHUN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to reduce the prices of steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reduction in prices per tonne of flat steel products by the Public Sector Undertakings, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Steel sector in the country is deregulated and Government does not control or determine the prices of steel products in the market. The price of steel is determined by the market, depending upon the demand-supply scenario, input cost of materials and the international price movement of steel products.

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

(d) In case of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) there has been no reduction in the listed prices of flat steel products during the current financial year. However,

in view of falling market prices of flat products at different locations selling prices have been reduced by offering discounts ranging between 4-5 per cent in November '09 to match market prices.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited does not manufacture any flat steel product.

Stoppage of Trains at Barabanki Railway Station

2353. SHRI P.L. PUNIA:

SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received representations regarding the stoppage of some important trains at Barabanki Railway station in view of its religious importance;

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

(c) whether a demand has been made to the Railways for providing stoppage for Durg Express at Bilthara Road and Salempur in Uttar Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The request has been examined but not found feasible.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Stoppage of 8201/8202

Durg-Gorakhpur Express has been provided at Belthara Road, w.e.f. 25-01-2009, on an experimental basis till 31-03-2010. However, stoppage of 8201/8202 Durg-Gorakhpur Express at Salempur station has not been found feasible.

Introduction of New Halts

2354. SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new railway halt stations introduced during each of the last three years, zone-wise and out of them, the number of such halts where building and public amenities have been provided;

(b) the details of public amenities provided to such station halts; and

(c) the reason for delay in providing amenities for the left out ones and the time by which they are likely to be provided?

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

Table of the Sabha.

LPG Connections

2355. SHRI RAMKISHUN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cooking gas distributors in the Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh alongwith the number of connections allocated to these distributors;

(b) whether the demand of cooking gas connections is being fully met by these distributors; and

(c) if not, 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) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that as on 30-11-2009, they are serving 54,672 LPG customers through their 7 LPG distributors in the Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh. The name of the LPG distributors and their customer strength are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the distributors	Customer strength
1.	M/s Shri Bihari Gas Service	11,371
2.	M/s Mughal Sarai Railwaymen's Consumer Cooperative Society	12,047
3.	M/s Rama Gas Agency	3,875
4.	M/s Chakia Bharatgas	6,897
5.	M/s Harihar Bharatgas	7,854
6.	M/s Raj Bharatgas	5,328
7.	M/s Shri Diwakar Bharatgas	7,300

OMCs have not made any allocation for release of new LPG connections, per se, and the entire demand for new connections is being met by these distributors with connections being released immediately, after due verification.

OMCs have reported that there is no waiting list

for release of new LPG connections with their LPG distributors in Chandauli district of Uttar praaesh.

Halt of Chhindwara-Jhansi Superfast Express

2356. SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to provide halt for recently started Chhindwara Jhansi superfast express train at Betul and Bordohi station in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) At present, there is no such proposal to provide the stoppage of 1103/1104 Chhindwara-Jhansi Express (bi-weekly) at Betul and Bordhai stations.

[English]

Photo Identity Cards

2357. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) issued by the Government in various States as on 31st October, 2009, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is aware that a large number of EPICs have been found defective;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government

to issue error free EPICs in the country, and

(e) the time by which the entire country is likely to be covered fully with EPICs?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) A Statement showing the latest number of Elector's Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) issued in various States/Union territories as on 07-10-2009 is enclosed.

(b) to (d) Cases of issue of a large number of defective EPICs have not come to the notice of the Election Commission, though cases do occur where particulars are wrongly written or mismatch of photo takes place. The same are sent for correction to the officers concerned in the office of the Electoral Registration Officer.

(e) It has been the endeavour of the Election Commission to achieve 100% coverage under the EPIC scheme. Efforts have been constantly made to cover all the electors under the EPIC scheme. The process of issuing EPICs is a continuous process as names of new voters are added every year and those of the persons who have died have to be deleted. Further, on account of migration of persons from one place to another, changes in EPICs need to be carried out based on their applications.

Statement

The Status of Electors' Photo Identity Cards (EPICs)

As on 07-10-2009

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union territories	No. of electors in the roll used in GE, 2009			Total No. of EPIC issued	% of EPIC coverage
		Male	Female	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28684843	29207416	57892259	52490911	90.67
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	368418	364538	732956	656582	89.58
3.	Assam	9012150	8431467	17443617	0	0
4.	Bihar	29187892	25268509	54456401	36240735	66.55

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Chhattisgarh	7845559	7625088	15470647	12732342	82.30
6.	Goa	511915	508062	1019977	858311	84.15
7.	Gujarat	18885467	17581466	36466933	33801200	92.69
8.	Haryana	6531270	5467391	11998661	11997461	99.99
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2302312	2240602	4542914	4094074	90.12
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3389951	3144591	653.4542	3555444	54.41
11.	Jharkhand	9466977	8443618	17910595	13766083	76.86
12.	Karnataka	21290520	20463511	4175403.1	31211138	74.75
13.	Kerala	10556255	11810325	22366580	22366580	100.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	20164786	17894487	38059273	36441754	95.75
15.	Maharashtra	38156021	34807522	72963543	45485473	62.34
16.	Manipur	829678	897567	1727245	1336715	77.39
17.	Meghalaya	629436	648303	1277739	1277739	100.00
18.	Mizoram	308562	317726	626288	576185	92.00
19.	Nagaland	673047	644682	1317729	565306	42.90
20.	Orissa	14052262	13108310	27160572	22999572	84.68
21.	Punjab	8781100	8112249	16893349	16290256	96.43
22.	Rajasthan	19475617	17489600	36965217	33908194	91.73
23.	Sikkim	157011	143154	300165	298094	99.31
24.	Tamil Nadu	20765129	20615014	41380143	41115310	99.36
25.	Tripura	1065706	1016559	2082265	2082265	100.00
26.	Uttarakhand	2973957	2820441	5794398	5595071	96.56
27.	Uttar Pradesh	61941301	51394998	113336299	93672451	82.65
28.	West Bengal	27523788	24904416	52428204	51175170	97.61
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	141096	123940	265036	169941	64.12
30.	Chandigarh	290669	231981	522650	519305	99.36
31.	Daman and Diu	48357	47025	95382	76706	80.42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	81061	69643	150704	122281	81.14
33.	NCT of Delhi	6185926	4906361	11092287	9400713	84.75
34.	Lakshadweep	23464	22472	45936	44971	97.90
35.	Puducherry	366788	395240	762028	762028	100.00
Total		372668291	341168274	713836565	587686363	82.33

EPIC in 34 States (Not implemented yet in Assam)

Expansion of Rail Network in Jammu and Kashmir

2358. SHRI S.D. SHARIQ:

Dr. MIRZA MEHBOOB BEG:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to expand the rail network in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have plan to conduct survey for laying rail line between Baramulla-Kupwara-Sogam: Lolab, Srinagar-Bandipore-Sopore-Baramulla, Anant Nag-Pahalgam and Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the work on Udhampur-Qazigund rail line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The work of new line from Udhampur-Baramulla has been taken up. The section from Qazigund-Baramulla has already been commissioned.

(c) and (d) Surveys for Baramulla-Kupwara, Jammu-Poonch new lines has already been conducted. As regards Srinagar-Bandipore-Sopore-Baramulla railway line, it is stated that Srinagar has already been connected to Baramulla via Sopore through a rail link as part of the recently completed Qazigund-Baramulla new line. No survey has been done for Anantnag-Pahalgam.

(e) Target for completion is during 2017-18.

Courts for Commercial Disputes

2359. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up commercial courts to deal with high value disputes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these courts should have provision to charge higher fee to be paid by financial institutions; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government to amend the court fee Act?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Government is considering setting up the Commercial Division in the High Courts and to introduce a Bill in Parliament for the purpose.

(c) and (d) No, Madam.

Railway Crossings

2360. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL:

SHRI ANJANKUMAR M. YADAV:

SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of norms laid down for constructing railway crossings;

(b) the number of railway crossings which have not been constructed so far even after fulfilling the

requisite norms, zone-wise;

(c) the number of unmanned railway crossings in the State of Assam; and

(d) the number of people died and wounded in these unmanned railway crossings in each of last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) As per existing policy, level crossings is made in consultation with the State Government at the time of laying of a new line or within 10 years from the date of its commissioning to traffic. Thereafter, any accommodation work such as level crossing can be provided at a technically suitable location on deposit terms, if such a proposal is sponsored by the State Government/Local bodies duly agreeing to bear the initial cost of construction of the level crossing and one time capitalized cost of recurring maintenance and operational charges. Further, as per policy of Railways, no new unmanned level crossing is permitted on existing lines.

(b) The number of railway crossings which have not been constructed so far even after fulfilling requisite norms, zone-wise is 1 on Northern Railway, 1 on North Frontier Railway and 2 on Western Railway. These are Deposit works.

(c) The number of unmanned railway crossing in the state of Assam is 562 as on November 2009.

(d)

	No. of persons killed	No. of persons wounded
2006-07	4	3
2007-08	Nil	Nil
2008-09	Nil	Nil
Current year (upto Nov. 09)	3	Nil

Diversion of Subsidized Fuel

2361. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government has imported markers to check diversion of the subsidized fuel for adulteration of motor fuels and industrial solvents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the annual expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the other options adopted by the Government to check the adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) In order to check diversion of subsidized PDS Kerosene for adulteration of transport fuels, a Marker System was introduced w.e.f. 01-10-2006 throughout the country by doping of kerosene with marker at all the supply locations of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). The marker was procured from M/s Authentix Ltd. (UK) through their Indian partner M/s SGS India Pvt. Ltd. The contract for supply of Marker expired on 31-12-2008 and the doping of kerosene with marker had been discontinued w.e.f. 01-01-2009.

(c) At present there is no marker in use, the question of annual expenditure does not arise thereon.

(d) Government has taken number of additional initiatives viz. Automation of Retail Outlets, Third Party Certification of Retail Outlets and monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS). Further, the provisions of Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 2005 issued under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 also provide to check the various malpractices including adulteration. OMCs also undertake regular and surprise inspection of Retail Outlets to check the menace of adulteration.

Textile Parks

2362. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared new schemes for developing textiles sector infrastructure by merging the old schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of textile parks for infrastructure development being proposed to be opened under the current Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(d) whether some State Governments have sought financial assistance for the development of textiles sector infrastructure; and

(e) if so, the financial assistance provided by the

Government to each State during the first two years of current Five Year Plan for opening textiles parks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP) was approved in July 2005 by merging the then existing two schemes, namely, Apparel Park for Exports Scheme (APES) and Textiles Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS).

(c) Number of projects, State-wise, sanctioned under the aforesaid three schemes are given in the following table:—

State	APES	TCIDS	SITP
Andhra Pradesh	1	2	5
Gujarat	1	3	7
Haryana	0	1	0
Jammu and Kashmir	0	1	0
Karnataka	1	0	1
Kerala	1	1	0
Madhya Pradesh	1	1	1
Maharashtra	1	3	9
Punjab	1	0	3
Rajasthan	1	2	6
Tamil Nadu	2	3	7
Uttar Pradesh	2	1	0
West Bengal	0	0	1
Total	12	18	40

(d) and (e) The projects sanctioned and started under erstwhile APES and TCIDS prior to July 2005 have been implemented by Agencies of the State Government, such as, Municipal Corporation, State Industrial Development Corporation, Trust, project specific Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), etc. and also private SPV. However, under the SITP, Industry

Associations/Groups of Entrepreneurs are main promoters of the Textiles Parks by forming SPV. Financial assistance provided to the Implementing Agencies for execution of projects sanctioned under the aforesaid three schemes during the first two years of the 11th Five Year Plan, State-wise, are given in the following table:—

(In Crore Rupees)

State	APES		TCIDS		SITP	
	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09
Andhra Pradesh	1.68	0.00	01.73	0.00	49.92	13.58
Gujarat	0.00	0.00	19.86	4.95	60.00	60.00
Haryana	0.00	0.00	08.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	01.35	0.65	0.00	0.00
Karnataka	4.15	0.00	00.00	0.00	10.62	17.82
Kerala	4.42	0.78	16.18	2.77	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	2.82	4.01	01.23	0.14	0.00	0.00
Maharashtra	5.74	0.00	17.61	0.84	45.39	59.47
Punjab	1.52	2.73	00.00	0.00	4.00	28.00
Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	04.52	2.76	15.75	21.43
Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	16.82	1.41	40.91	50.05
Uttar Pradesh	8.20	0.59	00.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
West Bengal	0.00	0.00	00.00	0.00	8.00	0.00
Total	28.53	8.11	87.32	13.52	234.59	250.35

Direct Train between Guntur-New Delhi

2363. SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal regarding a direct train between Guntur (Tenali Jn.)-New Delhi via Nadikudi and Nalgonda;

(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) Direct train between Guntur (Tenali)-New Delhi

via Nadikudi and Nalgonda is presently not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Wheel Chair for Disabled

2364. SHRI BHARAT RAM MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wheel chairs/stretchers available at railway stations, division-wise;

(b) whether the Railways plan to increase the availability of wheel chairs/stretchers; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The number of wheel chairs/stretchers provided at stations, varies from station to station and is determined after taking into account the quantum of traffic handled and the requirement. Division-wise figures in this respect are not maintained. Procurement of new wheel chairs/stretchers and replacement of the damaged wheel chairs/stretchers is an ongoing and continuous process.

[English]

Demand and Supply of Kerosene Oil/LPG

2365. SHRI JAYARAM PANGI:

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

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

(a) whether there is a gap between the demand and supply of kerosene oil and LPG in the country:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of supply and demand of kerosene oil and LPG in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the quantum of kerosene and LPG imported during the said period to meet the demand alongwith the rate at which these items were imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. There is no gap between demand and supply of LPG and Kerosene. The demand is met through supply of products either through domestic production or through imports in case of deficit. The details of sales of PDS Kerosene and LPG for the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

(d) The details of the Quantum of kerosene and LPG imported during the last three years are given in enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

State-wise PDS SKO Allocation and Sales (MTs)

State	Allocation (Inc. Addl.)			Sales*		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	524958	517936	517158	524075	517712	517085
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6407	6797	5816	5971	5623	6113
Arunachal Pradesh	9257	9257	9257	9141	9340	9344
Assam	258007	263007	258007	257937	262766	258008
Bihar	647430	662994	657430	644582	662623	652579
Chandigarh	13067	13067	9999	10478	8912	8390
Chhattisgarh	146938	146938	146938	145420	145329	145449
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2782	2782	2782	2540	2674	2910
Daman and Diu	2118	2118	2118	2031	2061	2061

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Delhi	168484	168484	160935	160786	164729	140532
Goa	19212	19212	19212	19188	19089	19211
Gujarat	747650	743759	743759	747385	743877	742922
Haryana	145619	145619	145619	145447	145816	144699
Himachal Pradesh	50537	50537	49409	48936	47499	46160
Jammu and Kashmir	76433	76433	76200	74536	69757	72831
Jharkhand	211175	211175	211175	210416	210867	210891
Karnataka	462412	461867	461478	463239	462219	461301
Kerala	216308	216308	216308	216657	216327	216398
Lakshadweep	795	795	795	858	532	709
Madhya Pradesh	489231	488609	488609	488029	484753	487595
Maharashtra	1280768	1276876	1276876	1280062	1271373	1276870
Manipur	19907	19907	19907	19467	19296	19693
Meghalaya	20401	20651	20401	19678	20505	20374
Mizoram	6217	6217	6217	6215	6220	6175
Nagaland	13612	13312	13312	13599	13325	13357
Orissa	316144	314977	325172	316043	311581	323832
Puducherry	12257	12257	12335	12253	12247	12383
Punjab	237192	237192	237192	236044	235216	233870
Rajasthan	401247	401248	398913	399988	400254	398274
Sikkim	5582	5582	5582	5589	5888	5809
Tamil Nadu	568267	570602	564075	569629	563892	564012
Tripura	30832	30832	30832	30641	30713	30714
Uttar Pradesh	1246908	1241772	1242939	1242373	1241151	1241632
Uttarakhand	94517	89849	89849	93790	89339	89583
West Bengal	756149	754049	752352	751894	750418	751601
All India	9208820	9203017	9178958	9174917	9153923	9133367

*Sales figures are based on Industry Performance Review Figures Provided by OMCs.

Statement-II**State-wise LPG Sales (MTs)***

State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Andhra Pradesh	847169	916958	972038
Andaman and Nicobar	5238	4916	5744
Arunachal Pradesh	10138	10933	11109
Assam	167347	177005	178869
Bihar	251712	266437	282811
Chandigarh	32550	35085	35816
Chhattisgarh	105635	116068	119353
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	9743	13378	13219
Daman and Diu	6068	6952	6955
Delhi	585041	619636	642144
Goa	47905	52333	54001
Gujarat	602629	661478	676066
Haryana	391033	439092	456622
Himachal Pradesh	82074	89962	92502
Jammu and Kashmir	110814	123423	122274
Jharkhand	95391	106400	113862
Karnataka	707970	780005	812966
Kerala	478784	516804	524268
Lakshadweep	243	209	252
Madhya Pradesh	411292	452919	472614
Maharashtra	1612385	1778282	1814300
Manipur	15211	17467	16703
Meghalaya	12868	13289	13968
Mizoram	17801	17440	17573
Nagaland	13634	14302	14129

State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Orissa	134334	145372	158784
Pondicherry	24358	30184	30525
Punjab	521686	556800	574484
Rajasthan	443694	503453	529638
Sikkim	5624	8376	8841
Tamil Nadu	977780	1070558	1130294
Tripura	18988	20061	19452
Uttar Pradesh	1113938	1202725	1251057
Uttarakhand	134491	148612	155187
West Bengal	534474	571308	607011
All India	10530044	11488220	11935429

*Sales figures are as per Y2 data provided by OMCs and Include Auto/Bulk/Domestic and Non Domestic LPG sales.

Statement-III

Supply (Production + Import) of LPG and Kerosene

Product	Supply	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09 (Prov.)		
		Quantity (TMT)	Value (Rs. crore)	Rate (Rs./MT)	Quantity (TMT)	Value (Rs. crore)	Rate (Rs./MT)	Quantity (TMT)	Value (Rs. crore)	Rate (Rs./MT)
LPG	Production	8454	—	—	8868	—	—	9335	—	—
	Import	2278	5766	25315	2833	8700	30715	2360	7916	33546
	Total	10731			11700			11695		
Kerosene	Production	8621			8025			8461		
	Import	1424	4250	29856	2489	8324	33448	1423	6480	45533
	Total	10045			10514			9884		

**Lacunae in New Exploration
Licensing Policy**

2366. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

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

(a) whether there have been major lacunae in the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) which governs the upstream oil and gas sector;

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

(c) whether under the NELP, contractors who have won licenses for exploration and have signed production sharing contracts (PSCs) with the Government have the freedom to market the gas at prices discovered through "arms-length negotiations"; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) provides for level playing field for National Oil Companies, Private and Foreign Companies and bids are invited through International Competitive bidding process based on transparent quantifiable Bid Evaluation Criteria.

(c) and (d) Under NELP Production Sharing Contract (PSC), for the purpose of sales in the domestic market in India, the Contractor has freedom to market the gas; however, in terms of Article 21.1 of PSC, any proposal by the Contractor relating to discovery and production of Natural Gas from the Contract Area shall be made in the context of the Government's policy for the utilization of natural gas and shall take into account the objectives of the Government to develop its resources in the most efficient manner and to promote conservation measures. Further, as per Article 21.6 of PSC, the Contractor shall endeavour to sell all Natural Gas produced and saved from the contract area at arms length prices to the benefits of Parties to the Contract and is required to submit a price formula or basis, to the Government for approval prior to the sale of gas.

Automotive Industry

2367. Dr. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether automotive industry is working on developing engines for better performance on CNG; 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 furnished by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the automotive industry is working in developing engines with better performance on CNG. The automotive industry is already in process of introducing better performing CNG vehicles, which has always been an ongoing process for the next stage of emission norms scheduled from 01-04-2010. These engines will be developed to meet Bharat Stage IV Emission norms to be applicable from 01-04-2010.

Automobile Industry has always endeavored to continuously improve their vehicle technology for better performance, lower emissions and improved fuel efficiency. These developments are being done across the board for CNG three wheelers, cars, small trucks and buses.

[Translation]

Construction of Airports in Bihar

2368. SHRI ARJUN ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to construct new airports in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representation has been received regarding construction of an airport at Sitamarhi in Bihar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY

OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, Government of India have no plan to construct new airports in Bihar.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Law Commission

2369. SHRI SAMEER BHUJBAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the recommendations made by various Law Commissions are pending to be considered;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of Law Commissions constituted by the Government during the last decade and the details of recommendations made by them;

(d) the number of recommendations accepted by the Government out of them; and

(e) the details of recommendations pending to be considered and implemented?

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

Chiria Iron-Ore Mines

2370. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government behind the leasing out of Chiria Iron-ore mines to Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL);

(b) whether the State Government has been given any information in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) State

Governments are the owners of minerals and grant mining leases with the prior approval of the Central Government in the case of iron ore under the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) had requested the Government of Jharkhand to renew the mining leases at Chiria which belonged to the erstwhile Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO), which has been merged with SAIL with effect from 01-4-2005. The question of renewal of these leases is pending with the Government of Jharkhand and a few cases pertaining to renewal are also before the Courts. SAIL and the Ministry of Steel are in dialogue with the State Government to resolve the matter for ensuring the renewal of these leases in favour of SAIL.

[English]

Offloading the Government Equity in NMDC

2371. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated amount likely to be accrued by approving offloading the Government equity in National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC);

(b) whether the funds are likely to be utilized in any of the schemes for asset creation in the country; and

(c) if so, the allocation to be made for the purpose, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) It is not feasible to estimate the realization by approving the offloading of Government equity in NMDC as the same would depend on various factors such as the percentage of equity to be disinvested, the prevalent market conditions at the time of actual disinvestment etc.

(b) and (c) The proceeds from disinvestment will be channelised into National Investment Fund and proceeds thus deposited between April 2009 and March 2012 will be available in full for meeting the capital

expenditure requirements of selected Social Sector programmes decided by the Planning Commission/ Department of Expenditure.

[Translation]

**Railway Line between Ghanauli to
Baddi Industrial Area**

2372. SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of railway line from Ghanauli in Punjab to Baddi industrial area of Himachal Pradesh has been announced;

(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) No, Madam. However, a survey for a new line from Ghanauli to Baddi has been taken up as proposed by State Government of Himachal Pradesh as an alternative alignment to Chandigarh-Baddi new line project. The said survey has been completed and survey report is under finalization by Northern Railway. Further decision regarding taking up of the project would be taken, once the survey report is received and examined in the Ministry.

[English]

**Frequency of Local Train between
Panipat and Delhi**

2373. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposals to increase the frequency of local trains (EMU) between Panipat and Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

**Handloom Weavers Health
Insurance Programme**

2374. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the coverage limit and relax the procedural norms for the handloom weavers health insurance programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the number of beneficiaries under the new programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Madam. The Government of India is implementing a Health Insurance Scheme for handloom weavers with an annual limit of Rs. 15,000 per family, out of which OPD cover is Rs. 7,500. At present there is no proposal to increase the coverage limit and relax the procedural norms under the Health Insurance Scheme for handloom weavers.

(c) The enhancement in the insurance cover will involve a higher rate of total premium which will also result in increase in the weaver's share of premium causing additional burden on the weavers and many weavers may not be able to pay the increased premium. The present Health Insurance Scheme covers all pre-existing as well as new diseases and a substantial provision has been kept for OPD. The annual limit per family is Rs. 15,000 out of which OPD cover is Rs. 7,500.

(d) Does not arise. However, as per the existing Health Insurance Scheme the State Governments are required to be actively associated with the implementation of the scheme by way of sensitizing the handloom weavers to join the scheme. Instructions have also been given to the implementing agency viz; ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd. to take all steps to popularize the scheme among the weavers through out the country by various means including advertising the information about the scheme in vernacular language. The implementing agency has been organizing health

camps and awareness camps regularly in collaboration with the State Governments.

Rail Neer Plants

2375. SHRI P. VISWANATHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has any proposal to set up Rail Neer Manufacturing Plants at various parts in the country;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the estimated cost and the capacity thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new plants are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Two Rail Neer plants are in the process of being set up by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). One Rail Neer plant is being set up at Palur (Chennai) with capacity of 1,80,000 bottles (of one litre each) per day at an estimated cost of Rs. 13.45 crores.

This plant is expected to be commissioned in 2010. Second Rail Neer Plant is being set up at Ambarnath (Mumbai) with capacity of 3,00,000 bottles (of one litre each) per day at an estimated cost of Rs. 24.00 crores which will be commissioned in 2011.

Price of Cotton

2376. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of cotton in the international market is less than its price in India;

(b) if so, the average price of cotton in August and September 2009 in international and Indian market and the impact of the situation over the export of jute and cotton; and

(c) if so, the value of export for cotton and jute during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No Madam.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of above.

Setting Up of Southern Gas Grid

2377. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to develop the concept of a Southern Gas Grid covering the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether there is no Gas Pipeline connectivity to Kerala for bringing Krishna-Godavari (KG) Gas or Gas from other sources;

(c) if so, the time by which the Southern Gas Grid is likely to be set up; and

(d) the extent to which it will be helpful to the Southern States including Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Gas pipelines are laid according to gas availability and connect production and consumption centers. A network of trunk gas pipelines is being laid connecting *inter alia* customers in the southern part of the country to various sources of natural gas.

(b) GAIL (India) Ltd. has been authorized to construct Kochi-Kanjirkod-Bengaluru-Mangalore trunk natural gas pipeline to transport Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) from Kochi LNG terminal to inter alia customers in Kerala.

(c) and (d) Government has authorized GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) and Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Ltd. (RGTEL) for laying *inter alia* the following pipelines, which would connect Southern parts of the country:—

GAIL (India) Limited

— Kochi-Kanjirkod-Bengaluru-Mangalore

— Dabhol-Bengaluru

RGTEL

- Kakinada-Nellore-Chennai
- Chennai-Bengaluru-Mangalore
- Chennai-Tuticorin

As per the information received from GAIL and RGTEL, all these pipelines are expected to be completed by 2012-13. These pipelines would enable existing non-gas based plants, to convert to natural gas, apart from creation of new gas-based projects, in Southern states, including Kerala.

Setting Up of NTC Mills

2378. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to set up new National Textile Corporation (NTC) Mills in various parts of the country; and
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the estimated capacity thereof, State-wise?

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

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

Doubling Work on Khurda-Puri Rail Line

2379. SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of doubling work on Khurda-Puri rail line; and

(b) the target fixed for completion of work alongwith budgetary provision made for this work in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) On Khurda Road-Puri line, doubling has already been completed from Khurda Road to Delang as first phase. The work of doubling from Delang to Puri is not sanctioned.

[Translation]

Coal and Iron Ore Mines Owned by SAIL

2380. SHRI HARSH VARDHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of coal and iron ore mines owned by the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) in the country, location-wise;
- (b) the number and names of mines out of them in which the mining for coal and iron ore is not being carried out at present; and
- (c) the reasons therefor and the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The details of coal and iron iron ore mines owned by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) are given below location-wise:

	Jharkhand	Chhattisgarh	Orissa	West Bengal
Coal Mines	1. Chasnalla 2. Jitpur 3. Tasra 4. Sitanala	—	—	1. Ramnagore
Iron ore mines	1. Kiriburu 2. Meghahataburu	1. Rajhara 2. Dalli	1. Bolani 2. Bursua	

Jharkhand	Chhattisgarh	Orissa	West Bengal
3. Gua (4 leases)	3. Rowghat	3. Kalta	
4. Chiria (6 leases)			

(b) and (c) Presently, mining operations at Tasra, Sitanala and Rowghat is not being carried out as these mines are under development. In respect of the Chiria iron ore mine comprising six leases (i.e. Ajithaburu, Budhaburu, Sukri-Latur, Ankua, Dhobil and Tatiburu) mining operations are continued only at Dhobil location. Operations are not continuing in other locations for want of renewal of forest clearance (Budhaburu, Ajithaburu and Sukri-Latur) and non-exploration (Ankua and Tatiburu). Apart from that, renewal of Ajithaburu, Sukri-Latur and Tatiburu are under dispute. Vigorous efforts are also being made with the State Government at appropriate levels in the Government of India to resolve the impediments.

[English]

New Rail Lines in Karnataka

2381. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for construction of new railway lines in the States;

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

(c) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Government of Karnataka has submitted their proposal for following 15 new lines:—

- (i) Bagalkot-Kudachi,
- (ii) Tumkur-Davangere,
- (iii) Talaguppa-Honavar,
- (iv) Shimoga-Harihar,

- (v) Mulbagal-Kolar-Hoskote-Whitefield,
- (vi) Dharwad-Belgaum via Kittur,
- (vii) Almatti-Kustagi-Koppal/Kanakagiri-Kampli-Daroji,
- (viii) Gadag-Haveri,
- (ix) Yadagir-Shahpur-Shorapur-Muddebihal-Alamatti,
- (x) Anekal Road-Bidadi Bypass,
- (xi) Madanapalli-Srinivasapura,
- (xii) Bijapur-Shahbad,
- (xiii) Kottur-Chitradurg,
- (xiv) Kengeri-Kanakapura-Chamarajanagar and
- (xv) Kushalnagar-Mysore (Krishnarajanagar).

However, the projects are not yet sanctioned and hence is not feasible to give requirement of funds.

Besides above, Government of Karnataka had also requested to expedite work on Kottur-Harihar, Bidar-Gulbarga, Munirabad-Mahboobnagar new lines, Shimoga-Talguppa gauge conversion and Ramanagaram-Mysore doubling projects, which are already taken up on cost sharing basis with the Government of Karnataka. An outlay of Rs. 120.90 crore has been provided for these works during 2009-10.

(c) No time-frame can be given regarding new proposals at this stage.

Finlay Mills Land

2382. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to sell the land of NTC Finlay Mills in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated amount to be collected through this sale;

(c) whether there was any proposal to shift the Finlay Mills to Nagpur; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Revival Scheme approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) is self-financing, and funds are generated through sale of surplus land and assets of closed mills. Accordingly, an attempt was made by National Textile Corporation (NTC) to sell the land of Finlay Mills, Mumbai. But no offer at optimum price was received, and the land has not been sold yet. Decision as to whether and when to sell the land of Finlay Mills will be taken by NTC, depending upon requirement of funds for revival, and in accordance with re-assessment of valuation and reserve price of land being fixed by NTC. However, presently, there is no proposal to sell the land of Finlay Mills in Mumbai.

(b) Can not be indicated presently in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Supply of Petroleum Products in Andhra Pradesh

2383. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of petroleum products in flood-hit areas of Andhra Pradesh is not sufficient;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Due to unprecedented rains on 2nd and 3rd October 2009 in the State of Andhra

Pradesh, there were floods in four districts namely Kurnool, Mehbubnagar, Krishna and Guntur. During the period, supply of Petrol and Diesel at Retail Outlets (ROs) of Oil Marketing Companies was normal across the State, except few ROs in the districts of Kurnool, Mehbubnagar and Krishna due to road breach/damage and ingress of flood water. However, all efforts were made to keep supply line normal by alternate routes wherever possible.

In addition, 13000 Kilolitres of Public Distribution System kerosene was sanctioned to the State of Andhra Pradesh to meet the flood situation in the State.

OMCs have reported that as on date supply situation is Completely normal in the flood affected areas of the State.

Cotton-based Manufacturing Bag Units

2384. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up cotton-based manufacturing bag units in the country particularly in Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which these units are likely to come up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No Madam. The Government of India only facilitates entrepreneurs for setting up of textile Manufacturing units.

Safety in Offshore/Inland Petroleum Operations/Petroleum Installations

2385. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:

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

(a) whether no legal framework exist for regulating safety in offshore/inland petroleum operations/petroleum

installations in the country even though petroleum operations in the country's offshore areas and inland areas are going on for the last three decades;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking any action to establish such framework for so long; and

(c) the time by which the Government would take steps to establish safety regulatory framework for offshore petroleum operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The existing legal framework for safety in offshore, inland upstream sector and other inland petroleum operations exists as following:

- (i) **For safety in offshore:** Oil Industry Safety Directorate (an autonomous body under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas) is entrusted with the responsibility of administering the "Petroleum and Natural Gas (Safety in Offshore Operations) Rules, 2008" notified in June, 2008 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas under Oil (Regulation Fields Development) Act, 1948.
- (ii) **For safety in inland upstream sector:** Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), under the Ministry of Labour and Employment is the statutory authority for regulating the safety, under the Mines Act, 1952. Besides DGMS, the Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organization (PESO) is also a statutory authority under the Petroleum Act, 1934 and Rules made thereunder for technical and safety requirements of the oil installations.
- (iii) **For other inland petroleum operations:** The major statutory authority for other inland petroleum operations are (a) Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) under the Petroleum Rules made under the Petroleum Act; and (b) Chief Inspector of Factories of respective State Government under Factory Rules made under the Factories Act, 1948.

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

Code of Conduct on Duties of Airports

2386. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received by the Government to fix a Code of Conduct on Duties of Airports towards passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to help air passengers get quality services at various airports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has not received any communication to set up a code of conduct on duties of airports towards passengers.

(c) Quality services are being provided to air passengers at airports managed by AAI and are as per ICAO standards. Airports are also evaluated on the basis of quality of service provided to the users.

Doubling Work of Madurai-Nagercoil Rail Line

2387. SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to take up the doubling work of Madurai and Nagercoil, Trivandrum-Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have any plan to introduce new trains between Mysore-Bangalore and Kanyakumari; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Surveys for doubling of Thiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari and Madurai-Vanchi Maniyachi (Tuticorin) section of Madurai-Nagercoil routes have been completed. The proposals are not yet sanctioned.

(c) and (d) Introduction of Mysore-Yeshvantpur

Express has been announced in the Railway Budget 2009-10. However, there is no proposal for introduction of train between Mysore-Bangalore-Kaniyakumari.

Income and Expenditure of Railways

2388. SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of cash surplus before dividend earned by the Indian Railways in each of the years from 2004-05 to 2007-08;

(b) the amount of current as well as deferred dividend paid to the Union Government in each of the said period;

(c) the amount of investible surplus earned by the Railways in each of the said period;

(d) the amount appropriated to Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF), Development Fund, Capital Fund and Special Railway Safety Fund from internal generation during each of the said period;

(e) the amount of Annual Plan Expenditure being financed through internal generation of the Railways during each of the said years; and

(f) the total fund balance of the Railways during each of the said years?

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

Review of Sick Industrial Companies Act

2389. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to review the 'Sick Industrial Companies Act' and replacing Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) by National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) respectively; and

(b) 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 Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 2002 provides for setting up of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) which shall replace Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) respectively. However, due to legal challenge, the NCLT/NCLAT has not been set up so far.

Cargo Evacuation

2390. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to develop rail capacity in the country for cargo evacuation to and from the port; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) All the major ports of the country and the existing minor ports are already connected by rail. Increasing rail capacity on port rail networks, which are offering or have the potential to offer increasing rail bound traffic, is an ongoing process in the Railways.

(b) The important port connectivity projects, which are currently in progress are as follows:

Western Ports:

1. Gauge Conversion of Bhildi-Samdhari section for connectivity to Kandla Port.
2. Gauge Conversion of Bharuch-Samni-Dahej section for connectivity to Dahej Port.
3. Dedicated freight line between Wadala-Kurla for augmenting capacity and ease of evacuation from Mumbai Port.
4. Gandhidham-Kandla Port doubling to augment capacity of evacuation from Kandla Port.
5. Gandhidham-Adipur doubling to augment capacity of evacuation from Mundra Port.

Eastern Ports:

6. New line connecting Haridaspur-Paradip for connectivity to Paradip Port.

Southern Ports:

7. New Line between Vallarpadam-Idapally for connectivity to International Container Transshipment Terminal, Vallarpadam, Cochin.
8. New line between Obulavarpane-Krishnapattnam for connectivity to Krishnapattanam Port.
9. Doubling of Samalkot-Kakinada section for increasing evacuation capacity of Kakinada port.
10. 3rd line between Vizianagaram-Kottavalasa for increasing evacuation capacity of Vishakhapatnam Port.
11. 4th line between Kottavalasa-Simhachalam for increasing evacuation capacity of Vishakhapatnam Port.

[Translation]

Import of Steel from China

2391. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister

of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether steel is being imported from China at the rates lower than the rates in the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the Indian steel industry facing competition from the cheaper imports of Chinese steel;

(c) whether the Indian steel industry is demanding ban on the import of such steel from China;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to ban the import of steel in view of the said demand; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Ministry of Steel monitors the average indicative price of imports from China and other countries. According to this information, the landed cost of import in respect of major steel categories keeps fluctuating on month-to-month basis. A comparison of landed cost of import from China in respect of two major categories of steel items Hot Rolled (HR) Coil and Rebar, vis-a-vis net sales realization of domestic market price is given in Table below for the past six months.

(in Rs/tonne)

Period	Landed Cost of Import from China		Net Sales Realization of Domestic Market Price	
	Hot Rolled	Rebar	Hot Rolled	Rebar
June 2009	27117	27870	28585	29593
July 2009	29422	29422	28589	29632
August 2009	29701	35283	29679	28637
September 2009	29172	30196	29800	28496
October 2009	26322	27116	29782	28247
November 2009	25661	26269	29281	27968

Source: Economic Research Unit (ERU)

(b) During the past one year, the government has taken the following measures to assist the domestic steel industry tide over the global economic crisis, which *inter-alia* includes discouraging of cheaper imports and encouraging of export of steel products. These are:

- (i) Export duty on all steel items withdrawn from 31-10-2008.
- (ii) Re-imposition of Import duty on steel items at 5% (except steel melting scrap) on 18-11-2008.
- (iii) Re-introduction of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme on steel items on 14-11-2008.
- (iv) Reduction of Excise Duty on steel items from 14% to 10% in December, 2008 and further to 8% in February, 2009.
- (v) Re-introduction of Countervailing Duty on TMT bars and rods.
- (vi) Import of Hot Rolled Coil brought into "Restricted Category" of imports with effect from 21-11-2008.

(c) A section of the steel industry has represented for necessary fiscal action to protect the domestic steel industry from any kind of import at lower rates.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal in the Ministry of Steel for imposition of ban on steel imports.

[English]

Sheep and Wool Development Programmes

2392. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the aids granted under various schemes/programmes being run by the Government for the sheep and wool development in the country including Gujarat during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the performance regarding the production and development of wool during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Government is administrating the implementation of Sheep and Wool Improvement Scheme (SWIS) for the growth and development of Wool Sector in the country. The details of the fund released to States Governments/ Cooperatives/NGOs, etc., to implement the SWIS Scheme during the last three years and the current year are as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Particular	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
A.	Fund released in all States	411.48	457.01	967.72	420.02*
B.	Funds released in Gujarat State	50.00	97.00	317.25	55.00*

*Till October 2009.

(b) The estimates about production of wool are collected by respective States Husbandry Departments and the data is maintained by the respective State Governments.

[Translation]

Tax Structure in FPI

2393. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the primary agricultural commodities are mostly exempted from taxes and the processed foods are subjected to multiple levies;

(b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating

to rationalize and simplify the tax structure for the food processing industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether most of the units engaged in the food processing industries are unorganized; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to enhance the participation level in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Government has taken necessary steps to rationalize and simplify the tax structure for the food processing industry.

100 per cent tax exemption for first five assessment years beginning with the initial assessment year is available under section 80-1B(11A) of Income Tax Act, 1961 to undertakings deriving profit from the business of processing, preserving and packaging of fruits or vegetables and new units in the business of processing, preservation and packaging of meat or meat products or poultry or marine or dairy products. Under sub-section (11A) of section 80-1B of the Income-tax Act, 1961 a deduction from profits upto specified amounts is allowed in the case of an undertaking deriving profit from the business of processing, preservation and packaging of fruits or vegetables or from the integrated business of handling, storage and transportation of food grains subject to specified conditions, if such undertaking begins to operate such business on or after the 1st day of April, 2001. With a view to preserving perishable food items like milk, poultry and meat, the Finance (No. 2) Act 2009 has amended sub-section (11A) of section 80-1B with effect from 01-04-2010 to also provide tax holiday in respect of the business of processing, preserving and packaging of meat and meat products and poultry, marine and dairy products for units which begin to operate such business on or after 1st April, 2009. The amount of deduction in a case of an undertaking deriving profit from the business of processing, preservation and packaging of fruits or vegetables or meat and meat products or poultry or marine or dairy products or from the integrated business of handling, storage and transportation of food grains, is hundred per cent of the profits and gains derived from such undertaking for five

assessment years beginning with the initial assessment year and thereafter, twenty-five per cent (or thirty per cent where the assessee is a company) of the profits and gains derived from the operation of such business in a manner that the total period of deduction does not exceed ten consecutive assessment years and subject to fulfillment of the condition that it begins to operate such business on or after the 1st day of April, 2001.

(d) and (e) The Food Processing Units are both in organized as well as unorganized sector. The Small scale and unorganized sector constitutes about 70% of the food processing sector. Several steps have been taken by the Government to enhance the participation level in this sector. The Ministry has schemes for promotion of the food processing industry.

The Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries is aimed at creation of new processing capacity and upgradation of existing processing capabilities, modernization of Food Processing Sector to include Milk, Fruit and Vegetables, Meat, Poultry, fishery, cereal, consumer items, oil seeds, rice milling, flour milling, pulse etc. The Ministry under the Scheme extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh in general area or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakh in difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP areas. In addition, under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States, higher levels of assistance @ 50% upto Rs. 4.00 crore for setting up and Rs. 1.00 crore for Upgradation of fruit and vegetables processing is available. A National Horticulture Mission has been launched with an objective to boost the horticulture sector.

The Scheme for Human Resource Development focuses on developing technologists, managers, Entrepreneurs and manpower for quality management in Food Processing. The scheme also aims at development of rural entrepreneurship and transfer of technology for processing of food products by utilizing

locally grown raw material and providing "Hands-on" experience at such production cum training centres, while according priority to SC/ST/OBC/minorities and women candidates.

[English]

Variation in Prices of Drugs

2394. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to review its drug pricing policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received representations on variation in the prices of drugs; and

(d) if so, the action contemplated by the Government on such representations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b)) The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 prepared by this Department after extensive discussions with various stakeholders and in line with the declared objective of the Government in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11-1-2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM) The GOM has held four meetings. However, after the formation of the new Government, the GOM has been re-constituted on 1-9-2009. The final decision on the issue of Pharmaceutical Policy will be possible after GOM makes its recommendation to the Cabinet. At present, the prices of medicines are being controlled as per DPCO, 1995 which was formulated as per Pharmaceutical Policy, 1994.

(c) and (d) References/representations received from individuals, Non-Government Organizations, State Drugs Controllers and Consumer fora are attended to promptly for appropriate and necessary action.

Under the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control)

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

Variation in Airfare

2395. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for large variation in airfare between different sectors viz. Port Blair-Kolkata and Port Blair-Chennai though the journey time is same;

(b) whether the airfare of these sectors could be fixed at the same rate;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the reasons for huge difference in airfare between Air India and private flight carriers like Kingfisher etc. in sector Port Blair-Kolkata;

(e) whether the Air India fare could be fixed similar to the sectors Delhi-Kolkata Chennai-Kolkata in the Port Blair sector to boost the tourism; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The fares are market driven. Keeping the fares at all levels at the same rate may not always be possible. The demand keeps varying from time to time and sector to sector.

(e) and (f) Delhi-Koikata and Chennai-Kolkata are essentially metro sectors. The Competition is high and the demand remains more or less same throughout the year unlike Portblair where the traffic is seasonal. As each route is distinct from the other, keeping the Portblair fares similar to the metro sectors may not always be acceptable commercial interest.

Road Over Bridges

2396. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of construction work on road over bridge in Danapur Division of Eastern Central Railways

particularly in Patna district; and

(b) the steps taken by the Railways for the timely completion of these over/under bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There are 14 works of ROB's undertaken in Danapur Division, out of which 11 are falling in Patna District. The details of these works is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) All cut efforts are being made to get the works completed in time. Construction work is being continuously monitored, Meetings are being conducted with State Government of Bihar and executing Agency for early completion of these works.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Anticipated cost for Rly's share	Cost of State's share	Position
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Road Over Bridge (ROB) at level Crossing (LC) No. 79-A (Mithapur)	16.88	41.98	Work is in progress. 45% progress has been made.
2.	ROB at LC No. 127A (Cheriyatand)	8.01	8.94	Railway portion completed
3.	ROB at LC No. 73 (Agamkuan)	19.06	9.14	More than 90% progress has been made.
4.	ROB at LC No. 75 (Rajendra Nagar)	13.91	3.85	Work completed in March 09.
5.	ROB at LC No. 74 (Kumharar) Gulzarbagh-Rajendra Nagar	20.26	9.49	Works stopped by ASI, Patna. Revised General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) yet to be received from State Government after approval.
6.	ROB at LC No. 45 (Bihta)	14.99	9.22	Work in progress. 78.9% progress has been made.
7.	ROB at LC No. 31 (Sachivalaya)	24.05	9.28	Work in progress. About 94% work completed.

1	2	3	4	5
8.	ROB at LC No. 30 (Sachivalaya-Patna)	9.27	9.49	Dropped by State Government.
9.	ROB at LC No. 72 (Gulzarbagh-Patna Saheb)	9.18	9.40	Work in progress. Physical progress 11.53%.
10.	ROB at LC No. 4C/2-E (Patna-Gaya) diversion on NH 83.	3.22	3.22	Agency not fixed, hence physical progress is nil.
11.	ROB at LC No. 35B (Phulwari-sarif-Danapur)	15.43	15.48	GAD contract awarded on 13-11-2008. State Government has not signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) so far.
Total		154.26	129.49	

*[Translation]***Fertilizer Subsidy to Farmers**

2397. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *alias*
LALAN SINGH.

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

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to follow the policy of providing fertilizer subsidy to each farmer on the basis of his agricultural land;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, the question do not arise.

Rail Accidents

2398. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Railways have

been drawn to frequent train accidents occurring on the Delhi-Ghaziabad and Delhi-Agra sections;

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

(c) the details of casualties occurred in these accidents and amount of compensation given on this count; and

(d) the steps taken to avert these accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) During the current year from April to 15th November 2009, only one derailment took place on Delhi-Ghaziabad section and one collision took place on Mathura-Palwal section.

On 26-06-2009 at 23.20 hrs., while the train No. 2687 Dehradun Express was approaching Sahibabad Station on Delhi-Ghaziabad section of Delhi Division, its Loco Pilot overshot the Home Signal of Sahibabad station and entered into Sand Hump resulting into derailment of the train engine and the parcel van. No casualty took place in this accident. Cause of the accident is stated to be overshooting of the Home Signal by the Loco Pilot.

On 21-10-2009 at 04.55 hrs., 2779 Goa Express collided in the rear of 2964 Mewar Express which was

standing due to alarm chain pulling on Mathura-Vrindavan Road block section of Agra Division of North Central Railway resulting into death of 23 passengers, grievous injury to 15 and simple injuries to 9 passengers. Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle is conducting statutory inquiry into the above accident and the final report is awaited. Considering the human suffering, Ministry of Railways has announced payment of ex-gratia amount of Rs. 5 lakhs to next of kin of each deceased passenger, Rs. 1 lakh to each grievously injured and Rs. 10,000 to each simple injured passenger. Compensation is payable to the victims only after a claim is filed in the Railway claims Tribunal and a decree is awarded by the Tribunal.

(d) Measures taken to prevent derailments include progressive use of long welded rails in place of fish plated joints, use of modern track maintenance machines and mechanized maintenance of track, phasing out of derailment prone four-wheeler tank wagons, regular patrolling of tracks at vulnerable locations including night patrolling, etc.

Measures taken to avert collisions include installation and extension of Anti-Collision Device (ACD) on trial basis, Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark track circuiting on entire 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and 'D Spl.' routes, progressive use of Block Proving Axle Counters to ensure last vehicle check, introduction of Auxiliary Warning System in certain areas to prevent cases of Signal Passing at Danger and a pilot project on Train Protection Warning System (TPWS).

[English]

Investments by Indian Oil

2399. SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

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

(a) the status of Paradeep Oil Refinery being set up in Orissa;

(b) the progress made so far in the installation of the refinery and the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the project would be completed by the stipulated time-frame; and

(d) if not, the details of time and cost over-run anticipated for the Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) For the Paradip Oil Refinery being set up, Engineering, Procurement and Construction Management (EPCM) Consultants including Managing Project Management Consultant (MPMC) have been engaged. In addition, Packages for Raw Water Pipeline, Nitrogen and Hydrogen (N₂ and H₂) Plant and Crude Oil and Product Tankages have been awarded. Detailed engineering of various process units is in progress and purchase orders have been placed for critical equipments. Infrastructure development jobs are in progress at site. Tendering for Piling work of various units is in progress.

(b) As on 31-10-2009, the overall physical progress of the project was 11.56% and financial progress stood at 7.4% with an expenditure of Rs. 2,204.84 crore.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The schedule for completion of various process units of the project is between March, 2012 and July, 2012 and full stabilization of the refinery by November, 2012 with no cost over-run anticipated at this stage.

Women Judges

2400. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:

SHRI PULIN BIHARI BASKE:

SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA:

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

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

(a) the ratio of women judges in the Supreme Court and various High Courts in the country;

(b) the reasons for low representation of women in the higher judiciary; and

(c) steps taken or proposed to be taken by the

Government for giving more representation of women in the higher judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) A statement showing the number of women Judges and the ratio of women Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts as on 30th November, 2009, is enclosed.

(b) The Government has not received sufficient

proposals from the Chief Justices of High Courts for appointment of women as Judges in the High Courts. So far as the Supreme Court is concerned, the Government has not received any proposal from the Chief Justice of India for appointment of a woman as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India

(c) The Government has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts to locate, *inter alia*, women from the Bar for appointment as Judges of High Courts.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	No. of Women Judges	Ratio of women Judges to the total number of Judges
1	2	3	4
A.	Supreme Court of India	—	—
B.	High Court		
1.	Allahabad	04	4:81
2.	Andhra Pradesh	02	2:31
3.	Bombay	07	1:9
4.	Calcutta	02	2:39
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—
6.	Delhi	08	8:43
7.	Gauhati	01	1:21
8.	Gujarat	03	3:26
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—
11.	Jharkhand	02	1:7
12.	Karnataka	02	2:37
13.	Kerala	02	1:16
14.	Madhya Pradesh	03	3:35
15.	Madras	06	1:9

1	2	3	4
16.	Orissa	01	1:17
17.	Patna	03	3:22
18.	Punjab and Haryana	04	2:23
19.	Rajasthan	01	1:30
20.	Sikkim	—	—
21.	Uttarakhand	—	—
Total		51	1 :12.37

Garib Rath Train

2401. SHRI ADAGOORU H. VISHWANATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Garib Rath introduced between Yeshwantapur and Kopargaon is only a weekly train;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to run this train between Yeshwantpur and Kopargaon daily; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A weekly special express train scheduled to run between Yesvantpur and Sai Nagar Shirdi upto 27-01-2010 originates from Yesvantpur on Tuesday and from Sai Nagar Shirdi on Wednesday.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Supply of LPG Cylinder in a Time Bound Manner

2402. Dr. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make it

mandatory for the gas agencies to supply gas cylinder within forty eight hours from the date of the booking or to face the fine;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that they have instructed their LPG distributors to effect LPG refill supplies to genuine customers within forty eight hours from the date of booking, under normal circumstances. However, delay in refill supplies may occur in the event of backlog due to non-availability of filled LPG cylinders with the distributors for unavoidable reasons such as road breaches, floods, strikes, bandhs etc.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints on deliberate delay in refill supplies, these are investigated. If the complaints is established, action is taken against the erring LPG distributor in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

[Translation]

Railway Lines in Industrial Areas

2403. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for laying railway lines in industrial areas;

(b) the number of proposal for laying rail lines in industrial areas received during the last three years;

(c) whether the Railways have received any proposal for connecting Indore-Pithampur industrial area with railway line;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The policy followed for taking up new line projects was enunciated by the National Transport Policy Committee 1980 and the following criteria was prescribed:—

- (1) Project oriented lines to serve new industries for tapping mineral and other resources;
- (2) Missing links for completing alternative routes to relieve congestion on existing saturated routes;
- (3) Lines required for strategic reasons; and
- (4) Lines for establishment of new growth centers or giving access to remote areas.

Besides the above, new lines are also taken up on socio-economic considerations.

(b) No such data is maintained.

(c) to (e) Indore-Dahod new line project is a sanctioned work covering Indore-Pithampur area.

[English]

Cleaning of Railway Coaches through Private Agencies

2404. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have outsourced mechanized cleaning of Railway coaches to private agencies;

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

(c) whether the said move resulted in people loosing jobs in Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Intensive mechanized cleaning of coaches in the coaching depots has been outsourced through professional agencies in 42 Coaching depots on Indian Railways. Limited mechanized cleaning attention to identified trains during their scheduled stoppage enroute has also been outsourced at nominated 27 "Clean Train Stations" on Indian Railways.

(c) to (e) No, Madam. Existing Railway Staff deployed for cleaning activities in coaches have not been/shall not be affected at all by the measures as above. These initiatives are primarily to enhance the levels of cleanliness and hygiene in trains.

Price of Aviation Turbine Fuel

2405. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Group of Ministers (GOMs) has been set up to look into high base price of aviation turbine fuel compared to international benchmarks and incidence of sales tax on aviation fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether GOMs has given its final report; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) A Group of Ministers (GOMs) on the Civil Aviation Sector has been constituted to consider the present problems of the civil aviation sector, including the financial situation of the airlines and possible remedial measures. Two meetings of the GOM have been held so far.

Ethanol Mixed Petrol

2406. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI S. ALAGIRI:

SHRI UMASHANKAR SINGH:

SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

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

(a) the present status of ethanol blended petrol programme;

(b) whether there is any proposal to make 10% doping mandatory in petrol;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the ethanol programme has been introduced since November 2006 in 16 cities of sugarcane growing States;

(e) if so, whether this programme is suffering due to inadequate Special Denatured Spirit (SDS) availability and this mandatory doping may disrupt in fuel supply in case of SDS shortage;

(f) if so, the response of the Union Government thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (g) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has decided on 12-11-2009 to enforce mandatory blending of 5% ethanol for the time being, and resolve issues relating to supply through an inter-ministerial committee consisting of Secretaries in Deptt. of Food and Public Distribution, Deptt. of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOP and NG), and Minisuy of New and Renewable Energy. Accordingly, MOP and NG has issued instructions to the Oil Marketing Companies for necessary action. Earlier, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas vide its notification dated 20th September, 2006 has directed the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to sell 5% Ethanol

Blended Petrol (EBP) subject to commercial viability as per Bureau of Indian Standards specifications in entire country except North-Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshdweep with effect from 1st November, 2006.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had decided on 9-10-2007 to make 5% blending of ethanol with petrol mandatory with immediate effect across the country (except Jammu and Kashmir, North Eastern States and Island territories) and optional blending of 10% ethanol with petrol from October 2007 and thereafter mandatory blending from October, 2008.

The indigenous availability of ethanol on a sustainable basis to meet the requirement of the EBP Programme has been an issue ever since the programme was implemented throughout the nation in November 2006. Availability of Ethanol during the period 2006-2009 was deficient to the extent of 60%, as against the requirement of 181.54 crore litres, quantity contracted was 146 crore litres and the quantity supplied was only 58.7 crore litres. Shortfall during 2009-10 was 84%. In Orissa, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Jharkhand and Puducheny, the programme has not taken shape due to non-resolution of issues like procedural problems and taxation policy affecting the commercial viability in the implementation of the programme. At present 5% EBP programme is being implemented in 14 States and 3 UTs out of 20 States and 4 UTs identified for implementing the programme.

Further, OMCs had floated fresh tenders in June '09/July '09 for the requirement of ethanol of 69 crore litres of ethanol for next one year. The parties have offered only 27.3 crore litres (40% of the requirement) of ethanol. As such the availability of ethanol in sufficient quantity is a problem.

The Government is constantly making efforts to procure adequate quantity of ethanol. Issue of inter-state movement of ethanol has been addressed through intervention of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, and some States have taken positive measures to remove these obstacles. However, availability of ethanol is dependent on the sugar cane production and demands of other sectors like potable and chemical industry.

Bilateral Pacts on Operation of Flights

2407. SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKER:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bilateral pacts entered into with other countries on the operation of international flights to and from India;

(b) whether the Government has reviewed/or proposed to review these agreements;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present India has bilateral Air Services Agreements with 104 countries, which provide the legal framework for operations of air services between countries.

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

[Translation]

Production of Urea

2408 SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether the estimated production of urea fertilizer is likely to increase and its cost is likely to come down with the use of natural gas as fuel for manufacturing; it;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the estimated demand of this gas in fertilizer industry by March, 2009

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The estimated production of urea is not going to increase due to availability of natural gas in the current year as additional natural gas is being used for substitution of naphtha being used by the gas based units earlier. However, the cost of production has come down due to usage of gas. Average cost of production of urea in country has approximately reduced from Rs. 13509 Per MT to Rs. 11084 Per MT.

(c) Total requirement of natural gas for existing gas based units by March 2009 was estimated at 42.933 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter per Day (MMSCMD).

[English]

Setting Up of Fertilizer Units

2409. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

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

(a) whether the setting up of new and expanding existing fertilizer units have been stuck;

(b) if so the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of proposals for setting up of new fertilizer units are pending for clearance;

(d) whether his Ministry has urged the Government to supply long term natural gas for new fertilizer units;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Six Companies viz. IFFCO, KRIBHCO, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, INDO-GULF Fertilizers Limited, TATA Chemicals Limited

and Chamba! Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited have requested for firm availability of gas for taking final investment decision to undertake expansion of their existing units.

(c) No clearance of Government is required for setting up of a fertilizer unit by any company.

(d) to (f) The issue has been taken up with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) in its 65 meeting held on 27-10-2009 considered the demand of natural gas for expansion and revamp of fertilizer plants and revival of closed fertilizers plants and decided that they would be supplied natural gas as and when they are ready to utilize the gas.

Rail Projects in Andhra Pradesh

2410. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for certain railway projects and also introduction of new express trains during the last three years and current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the funds allocated for the said projects; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The details of each and every demand received is not maintained. However, as per the available records, the proposals with their current status, received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years and current year are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the proposal	Current Status
1.	Manuguru-Ramagundam New Line (190 km)	Survey completed.
2.	Marakpur Road-Srisailem New Line (65 km)	Survey taken up.
3.	Cuddapah-Bangalore New Line (255 km)	Project has been taken up for execution. 50% cost of the project is being shared by Andhra Pradesh Government. Work of final location survey commenced. Rs. 29 crore has been allotted in Budget 2009-10.
4.	Bhadrachalam Road-Kovvur New Line (151 km)	Survey completed.
5.	Bhadrachalam Road-Bhavanapalem New Line (36 km)	Survey completed.
6.	Nadikudi-Srikalahasti New Line (307 km)	Survey completed.
7.	Akkanapet-Medak-Manoharabad New Line	Survey completed.
8.	Akkanapet-Medak-Patancheru New line	Survey completed.
9.	Pandurangapuram-Sarapaka New line	Survey completed.
10.	Jadcherla-Nandyal New Line (182 km)	Survey completed.
11.	Armoor Adilabad New Line	Survey completed.

Sl. No.	Name of the proposal	Current Status
12.	Dharmavaram-Pakala gauge conversion	Out of 227 km Pakala-Madanapalle 82 km completed and balance is nearing completion.
13.	Vijayawada-Gudivada-Machilipatnam-Bhimavaram/Narsapur-Nidadavolu Doubling and Electrification (175 km)	Survey completed.
14.	Bibinagar-Nadikudi/Macherla-Nallapadu (Guntur) Doubling and Electrification	Survey completed.
15.	Guntur-Tenali-Repalle (27 km) Doubling/ Electrification	Survey not taken up.
16.	Gadwal-Macherla (233 km)	Survey taken up.

Multi Modal Transport System (MMTS)

1.	Secunderabad-Manoharabad Doubling and Electrification	The proposal is under examination/processing for sanction.
2.	Falaknuma-Umdanagar Doubling and Electrification	The proposal is under examination/processing for sanction.
3.	Secunderabad-Bhongir 3rd line and Electrification	The proposal is under examination/processing for sanction.

Project are taken up after examination of survey reports in the Ministry and approval as per rules.

The Express trains requested and the action taken is as under:—

Sl. No.	Train Requested Between	Action Taken
1.	Secunderabad/Hyderabad-Bangalore overnight	Secunderabad-Yesvantpur Garib Rath introduced
2.	Secunderabad/Hyderabad-Visakhapatnam overnight	Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam Garib Rath introduced
3.	Secunderabad/Hyderabad-Mumbai overnight	Visakhapatnam-Mumbai Express via Secunderabad announced in Rail Budget 2009-10
4.	Secunderabad/Hyderabad-Adilabad overnight	Tirupati-Nizamabad Krishna Express extended to Adilabad
5.	Secunderabad/Hyderabad-Goa	Not found feasible
6.	Visakhapatnam-Tirupati Intercity	Not found feasible
7.	Secunderabad/Hyderabad-Ahmedabad (via Nizamabad)	Madurai-Manmad Express extended to Okha via Ahmedabad

Sl. No.	Train Requested Between	Action Taken
8.	Kacheguda-Ajmer	Not found feasible
9.	Visakhapatnam- Tirupati	Not found feasible
10.	Guntur-Chennai Intercity	Not found feasible
11.	Puttaparihi-Shirdi	Not found feasible
12.	Hyderabad-Pune	Hyderabad-USmanabad Express extended to Pune
13.	Visakhapatnam-Chennai overnight	Not found feasible
14.	Adilabad-Nizamabad	Tirupati-Nizamabad Krishna Express extended to Adilabad

[Translation]

Ban on Exit Polls

2411. SHRI BHUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government make any law to impose ban on the exit polls during elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) A Bill, namely, the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 2008 has been passed by the Rajya Sabha on the 25th November, 2009 *inter alia* includes the provisions relating to restriction on publication and dissemination of results of exit polls.

(c) Does not arise.

Compensation to Farmers

2412. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil refineries in operation under the various oil PSUs in the country;

(b) the land acquired from the farmers during the last three years alongwith the amount paid as compensation;

(c) whether the farmers have been resettled or provided employment by the said PSUs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which all the farmers are likely to be resettled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) At present, there are 17 Refineries operating in Public Sector in the country.

(b) During the last three years, among oil Public Sector refineries, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) has acquired 642 acres of land for their Panipat Refinery from the farmers and has paid Rs. 124.50 crore as compensation to the farmers. Further, it has acquired 0.7583 acres of land for Gujarat Refinery and has paid Rs. 53.50 lakhs as compensation to the farmers.

(c) to (e) IOCL has followed the extant guidelines issued by Department of Public Enterprises vide O.M. No. 15/13/84-BPE(C) dated 3rd February 1986 on the subject which, *inter-alia*, prohibits offer of employment to a member of land loser family. In line with these guidelines, Panipat Refinery has undertaken a number of initiatives towards rehabilitation of affected persons including training aimed at equipping the persons with

self employment skills. The land owners were encouraged to form co-operatives for taking up jobs in the areas like transport, civil, electrical works etc.

In case of Gujarat refinery, land has been acquired through Consent Award declared by Land Acquisition Authority, and as per this award, there is no provision of employment for the farmer whose land has been acquired.

[English]

Allotment of Booths

2413. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Railways for allotment of PCO/STD/ISD/FAX booths at Railway Stations;

(b) whether handicapped people are being given preferential allotment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The policy for allotment of PCO/STD/ISD/FAX booths at railway stations stipulates that tender/applications be invited through advertisements in newspapers. A two packet tendering is followed in respect of booths at A1, A, B and C category stations and allotment is done by calling for applications in respect of D, E and F category stations. 50% booths are reserved for the educated unemployed youth, 25% for physically handicapped (including blind) with disability of 40% and above and 25% for women (including war widows and widows of railway employees). In all the above categories, 15% booths are reserved for SCs, 7.5% for STs and 27% for OBCs. Contract is initially given for period of 5 years and is extendable by another 5 years based on satisfactory service.

Marriageable Age

2414. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission in its 205th

Report has recommended that, the age of marriage for both boys and girls should be 18 years;

(b) if so, whether the Government has examined the said report;

(c) if so, the details and status thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in finalization the action of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) The Government has examined the proposed amendment in section 2(a) of the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006** as recommended by the Law Commission and not accepted it because the age difference for boys (21 years) and girls (18 years) was deliberately inserted keeping in view the social realities.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Opening of Dealership/Distributorship by OMCS

2415. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of gas, petrol and diesel distributors who were provided dealership/distributorship by each oil company and public sector oil undertakings in the country during the last two years and in the current year;

(b) the details of performance of the said distributors in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether oil and gas distributors who have been given dealership by public sector oil companies are unable to work properly; and

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

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

PRASADA): (a) to (d) The number of Retail Outlet (RO) dealership and LPG distributorship commissioned by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) during the last two years and current year are as under:

OMCs	No. of RO dealerships	No. of LPG dealerships
IOC	2125	76
HPC	739	56
BPC	641	80

Considering the market conditions and potential available in the trading areas, on the whole the performances of RO dealerships and LPG distributorships set up by OMCs during last two years and current year are satisfactory.

OMCs regularly monitor the performance of the dealers/distributors as well as investigate any complaints made against them. Based on the finding of the investigations, corrective action, including guidance/counseling, action as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/dealership/distributorship agreement are taken. In cases of proven multiple/serious irregularities, dealership/distributorship involved are suspended/terminated by OMCs.

Late Running of Trains

2416. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains running late due to fog during the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the steps taken by the Railways to avoid delayed operation of trains due to fog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Approximately 9273 trains were late due to fog during the last three years and the current year.

(b) Action taken to avoid delayed operation of trains due to fog are:—

- (i) Intensive, round the clock monitoring of trains at all three levels viz., Divisional, Zonal Head Quarter and Railway Board.
- (ii) Launching of punctuality drive.
- (iii) Improvements in time table to provide a clear path.
- (iv) Improvement in standard of maintenance of assets to reduce equipment failures.
- (v) Counseling and motivating staff to ensure punctual running.
- (vi) Up-gradation of technology of track, rolling stock and signal.
- (vii) Deputing additional staff to alert the drivers through placement of detonators before the stop signals.
- (viii) Improving the visibility of the signals.

[English]

Export of Cotton

2417. SHRI AMARNATH PRADHAN:

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Textile Associations have appealed to the Government to ban cotton exports;

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

(c) whether the price quoted for Indian cotton in the international market was lower than the price for the international varieties;

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

(e) whether it is also fact that cotton arrivals have been delayed because of rains in many parts of the country; and

(f) if so, the effect over the domestic demand for cotton in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. Textiles Association's appeals are based on increase in price in the domestic cotton market and the high level of export contracting.

(c) and (d) No Madam. At present the domestic cotton prices are lower than the international prices. Domestic cotton prices depend on the demand and supply situation domestically as well as demand for cotton world over. Moreover, with globalization the domestic cotton prices are fully integrated with international prices. Hence, the domestic cotton prices are moving in tandem with international prices.

(e) and (f) No Madam. The cotton arrivals had been delayed mainly due to delayed sowings in most of the cotton growing tracts because of delayed rains. No direct co-relation appears to exist between the low arrival and domestic demand for cotton.

[Translation]

Sale of Surplus Land at Airports

2418. SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that land of many airports has been sold at a price much lower than their market value;

(b) if so, the details of such land and the names of the airports to which this land belongs;

(c) whether the rules regarding sale of land have been followed; and

(d) if not, the details of those violating these rules alongwith action taken in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Fixation of Gas Price

2419. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed a Spanish Consultant to explore the possibilities of uniform gas pricing in the country;

(b) if so, the time by which the said agency is likely to submit its report; and

(c) the present mode of fixing gas price both for public/private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Government has asked GAIL (India) Ltd. to undertake a study on pooling of prices of natural gas in the country. GAIL (India) Ltd. has engaged M/s Mercados EMI Pvt. Ltd., a premier consultancy organization, for the same.

(b) The report is likely to be submitted by end of December 2009.

(c) At present, there are broadly two pricing regimes for gas in the country, i.e., gas priced under Administered Price Mechanism (APM) and non-APM or free market gas. The price of APM gas is set by the Government. As regards non-APM/free market gas, this could also be broadly divided into two categories, namely, (i) imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and (ii) gas produced from New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and pre-NELP fields. While the price of LNG imported under term contracts is governed by the Sale Purchase Agreement (SPA) between the LNG seller and the buyer, the spot cargoes are purchased on mutually agreeable commercial terms. As regards NELP and pre-NELP gas, its pricing is governed in terms of the provisions of Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed between the Government and the Contractors.

Construction of Rail-Over-Bridges

2420. SHRI K. SUGUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to construct Rail Over Bridges at Eachanari, Mullupadi and Vadugapalayam in Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The work of ROB at Eachanari and Mullupadi are already sanctioned but there is no proposal for construction of ROB at Vadugapalayam.

(b) Works of Road Over Bridges at Eachanari in lieu of LC No. 150 between Podanur and Madukkarai stations and at Mullupadi in lieu of LC No. 134 between Pollachi and Kinathukadavu stations are already sanctioned. There is no proposal for construction of ROB at Vadugapalayam at LC No. 125 between Pollachi and Kinathukadavu as the traffic density at LC No.125 does not qualify for replacement by over bridge on cost sharing basis.

Setting Up of PCPIR

2421. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved the proposal of the Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR);

(b) if so, the details thereon; and

(c) the details of assistance, technical, financial or otherwise, is going to be extended by the Union Government for setting up PCPIR in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes, the Union Government approved the proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of a Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) in February 2009;

(b) The Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) in Andhra Pradesh will be located at Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts (Visakhapatnam-Kakinada Rajamundry region) covering an area of 603.58 sq. kms.

(c) As per the PCPIR Policy, Government of India is to ensure availability of external physical infrastructure linkages to the PCPIR including Rail, Road (National Highways), Ports, Airports and Telecom. The infrastructure is to be created/upgraded through Public Private Partnership (PPP) to the extent possible approximately. The Central Government will provide necessary viability gap funding (VGF) of Rs. 1267 crore through existing schemes. As per the PCPIR Policy, Government of India will also support the Government of Andhra Pradesh concerned and its agencies in the dissemination of information with a view to promoting domestic as well as global investment in the PCPIR.

Grievances of Prospective Investors

2422. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the current mechanism to address the concerns of the steel industry;

(b) whether there exists any statutory regulator to consider grievances of prospective investors in the Steel Sector of the country; and

(c) if not, the steps the Government proposes to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The concerns of steel industry are addressed in the Ministry of Steel, as and whenever represented, either directly or through the concerned Ministries of the Union Government and the State Governments. In order to monitor and coordinate various issues, including state related issues concerning major steel investments in the country, an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted in the Ministry of Steel, under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Steel).

(b) No Madam. There is no statutory regulator to

consider the grievances of prospective investors in steel sector in the country.

(c) Currently, the concerns of the steel industry are addressed as in answer (a) above.

ROBs in West Bengal

2423. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) constructed in West Bengal so far;

(b) the number of new ROBs likely to be constructed in the State in the current financial year; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The State of West Bengal is being served by Eastern, South Eastern and Northeast Frontier Railways. In all 143 works had been completed in this State by these Railways detailed as under:—

Eastern Railway	—	78
South Eastern Railway	—	46
North East Frontier Railway	—	19

143

(b) and (c) Out of the total 41 works of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) sanctioned on cost sharing basis falling in the State of West Bengal is given in the Statement enclosed, following 4 works are likely to be completed during the current year.

- (i) Durgapur ROB—ROB in lieu of LC No. 113B/T at Km. 169/39 in Asansol Division.
- (ii) Dankuni ROB—ROB in lieu of LC No. 8 Spl. at Km. 15/5-7 in Howrah division.
- (iii) Miapur ROB—ROB in lieu of LC No. 23/B/T at Km. 212/1-2 at Miapur near Jangipur Railway station in Malda Division.
- (iv) Rebuilding of BNR Bridge (ROB No. 533 between Burnpur-Asansol at Km. 322/13-14 on GT Road on South Eastern Railway.

Statement

Sl. No.	Railway	Name of Work	Rly's share (in crore)	State Share (in crore)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Eastern	Liluah ROB—ROB in lieu of LC No. 1/1A at Km 4/25-29 at Liluah	4.22	6.90
2.	Eastern	Lake Gardens ROB—ROB in lieu of LC No. 3/S/T at Km 7/24-26 on SDAH-Budge Budge Section near lake Gardens	5.09	15.13
3.	Eastern	Bondel Gate ROB—ROB in lieu of LC No. 3/S/T at Km 4/3-5 on SDAH-BLN section near Bondel Gate	4.28	7.49
4.	Eastern	Sonarpur ROB—2 lane ROB in lieu of LC No. 13/S/T at Sonarpur	6.49	10.17
5.	Eastern	Birati ROB—2 lane ROB in lieu of LC No. 5/A/T at Km 13/5-7.	4.24	7.74

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Eastern	Dum Dum-Barasat ROB—Dum Dum-Barasat ROB in lieu of LC No. 12/T at Km 21/25-27	4.24	5.73
7.	Eastern	Madhyamgram ROB—2 lane ROB in lieu of LC No. 9/T at Km 17/25—27 at North 24 Parganas	4.51	5.68
8.	Eastern	Baghajatin-Garia ROB—ROB in lieu of LC No. 9/A/E at Km 10/5-7	4.39	10.87
9.	Eastern	Bardhaman-ROB in lieu of LC no. 50 at Km 104/27-29	8.77	12.27
10.	Eastern	Ranaghat-ROB in lieu of LC no. 57/T at Km 73/33-35	2.47	4.65
11.	Eastern	Simlagarh-ROB in lieu of LC no. 19 at Km 66/5-7	2.47	4.65
12.	Eastern	Memari-ROB in lieu of LC no. 33 at Km 82/9-11	2.47	4.65
13.	Eastern	Bauripara-ROB in lieu of LC no. 21/B-T at Km 25/23-25	2.47	4.65
14.	Eastern	Rasulpur-ROB in lieu of LC no. 38 at Km 87/1-3	2.47	4.65
15.	Eastern	Nalikul-ROB in lieu of LC no. 14 at Km 15/12-13	1.92	4.10
16.	Eastern	Baruipur-ROB in lieu of LC No. 21-B/T at Km 24/39-25/1	5.92	14.30
17.	Eastern	Durgapur-ROB in lieu of LC No. 113 B/T at Km 169/39	6.96	9.35
18.	Eastern	Ballygunj-Jadavpur ROB—ROB in lieu of LC No. 7-A/E at Km 6/25-27	4.90	8.75
19.	Eastern	Belgharia-Agarpara ROB—ROB in lieu of LC No. 2-B/2-T	4.16	6.36
20.	Eastern	Rishra-Srirampur ROB—ROB in lieu of LC NO. 4 at Km 17/0	4.16	6.36
21.	Eastern	Baruipara-Kamarkundu ROB—ROB in lieu of LC No. 27 at Km 33/5-7	4.16	6.36
22.	Eastern	Dankuni ROB—ROB in lieu of LC No. 8 Spl at Km 15/5-7.	6.08	7.91
23.	Eastern	Jaugram-Masagram ROB—ROB in lieu of LC No. 59 at Km 70/19-21	3.33	4.98
24.	Eastern	Samudragarh-Nabadwipdham ROB—ROB in lieu of LC No. 14 at Km. 64/12-13.	3.33	4.98

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Eastern	SDAH division—New ROB No. 66A (Baroda Bridge) with completed girders	5.60	0.00
26.	Eastern	Bardhaman—Rebuilding of bridge No. 213 in plate-form yard	15.00	0.00
27.	Eastern	Miyapur ROB—ROB in lieu of LC No. 23/B/T at Km. 212/1-2 at Miapur near Jangipur Railway Station	7.09	6.59
28.	Eastern	Howrah Replacement of existing old Chandmari ROB with new one	56.65	—
29.	Eastern	Howrah Division—Limited use sub-ways in lieu of LC (40 Nos.)	0.00	0.00
30.	South Eastern	ROB at Kharagpur (Puri Gate) and L.C. No. 1	8.88	14.80 (State's share-Rs. 888.25+IIT's share-Rs. 592.16)
31.	South Eastern	Bheduasol-Bankura near Bhadul More on NH-60 (L.C. No. 89)	14.13	15.63
32.	South Eastern	Burnpur-Asansol Rebuilding of BNR Bridge (ROB No. 533) on G.T. Road	2.27	1.51
33.	South Eastern	Bagnan-ROB connecting NH-6 in lieu of B-Class level crossing No. 39 on HOW-KGP section	8.29	8.29
34.	South Eastern	Rangamati ROB on State High-Way in lieu of L-xing No. KA-7 at southern end of Midnapure	6.11	7.43
35.	South Eastern	Balichak ROB and LC No. 52 on Village Road	7.74	8.71
36.	South Eastern	ROB at Jhargram and L.C. No. 82 on Town Road	6.38	6.58
37.	South Eastern	ROB between Contai road - Nikurseni (Belda) and L.C. No. 26 on PWD Road	7.43	7.93
38.	South Eastern	ROB in replacement of existing ROB between Jhantipahari-Chhatna stn. In Adra-Midnapore sec.	3.05 (Accommodation work)	—
39.	Northeast Frontier	Katihar Divn.-Limited use subway (RUB) in lieu of LC No. 25, 42 and 51	2.00	—
40.	Northeast Frontier	Alipurduar Divn.-Limited use subway at U/M LC No. NN/23 at Km. 39/10-40/0 bet. Jalpaiguri Rd-New	1.94	—

1	2	3	4	5
		Domohani, NN/40 at Km. 73/7-8 bet. Kalaigram-Salbari and NN/50 at km. 94/2-3 bet. Falakata-Gumanihat		
41.	Northeast Frontier	Alipurduar Divn.-Prov. Of limited use subway in lieu of LC No. SK/187 at km. 52/4-5, SK/206 at Km. 14/8-9 and SK/207 at km. 13/6-7	1.94	—

Voluntary Retirement Scheme for AAI Employees

2424. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) proposed by Airport Authority of India (AAI) with some modifications;

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

(c) the salient features of the revised VRS Scheme; and

(d) the number of AAI employees opted for VRS after approval of said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government of India has approved the Voluntary Retirement Scheme proposed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) for those general employees, upto the level of DGM, who were working at IGI airport, Delhi and CSI airport, Mumbai. The details of the scheme are given below:

(i) Ex-gratia—@60 days salary for each completed year of service rendered or salary for the number of months service left, whichever is less. (ii) Additional monthly benefit @100% of the Basic Pay (BP) drawn on date of voluntary retirement for those employees whose age is 58 years and above; 80% of BP for above 50 years and upto 58 years and 60% of BP for below 50 years of age to be paid for a period equivalent to the service rendered or till notional date of superannuation or 10 years whichever is least. (iii) The

compensation under VRS will be in addition to the terminal benefits. (iv) Cash equivalent of accumulated Earned Leave and Half Pay Leave as applicable as per the existing rules of Authority. (v) Encashment of unavailed Casual Leave on pro-rata basis upto the date of relief of employee. (vi) Gratuity as per AAI Gratuity Regulations, 2003. (vii) Transfer benefit for self and family by the entitled class as per AAI TA/DA Regulations, 2003. (viii) Medical facilities for self and spouse as per AAI Medical Attendance Regulations, 2003 on attaining the age of superannuation.

(d) 601.

Logistics Parks

2425. SHRIMATI POONAM VELJIBHAI JAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to set up 20 logistics parks across the country;

(b) if so, the locations identified for the same particularly in Gujarat; and

(c) the time by which the logistics parks are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways is engaged in discussion with various State Governments including Government of Gujarat to facilitate setting up of rail-linked Logistics Parks with financial participation of private sector logistic service providers at sites found suitable by both State Governments and private sector stakeholders. The number and location of such sites are yet to be finalized.

[Translation]

**Expenditure on Advertisements by
PSU OMCs**

2426. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and Oil India Limited issue advertisements to print and electronic media every year;

(b) if so, the details of amount spent by each of these companies in the years of 2008 and 2009 on advertisements in print and electronic media separately;

(c) whether these companies have advertised on all television channels during the said period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The details of amount spent by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and Oil India Limited on advertisements are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Television channels are chosen as per objective of the campaign and the target audience to be addressed, which varies with each campaign.

Statement

*Expenditure on Advertisements by Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)
Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)*

(Rupees in lakh)

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies	Expenditure			
	2008-09		2009-10 (upto October 2009)	
	Print	Electronic	Print	Electronic
Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	4305.69	2036.00	4971.52	1055.00
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	120.87	154.35	66.70	4.30
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	724.62	241.45	365.43	756.48
Oil India Limited (OIL)	409.00	Nil	944.00	134.00

[English]

Multi Member Upstream Regulatory Body

2427. SHRI R. DHROUVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make Directorate General of Hydrocarbons a multi-member

upstream regulatory body in view of the increasing workload;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

of Hydrocarbons (DGH) is a technical arm of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Normally, a regulator in any field is required when a level playing field to all the parties (private and public) needs to be provided. However, in Indian upstream sector, the policies such as New Exploration Licensing Policy and Coal Bed Methane Policy already provide a level playing field to all companies, private or public, Indian or foreign to participate and obtain blocks for exploration of oil and gas in the bid rounds through international competitive bidding process.

Reservation Quota for Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg Stations

2428. SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any reservation quota has been increased for Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg stations of Maharashtra in Konkan bound trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. An analysis of utilisation of available reservation quota from May 09 to October 09, at Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg stations by various trains, has revealed that the same is adequate to meet the present level of demand.

[Translation]

Incidents of Emergency Landing

2429. SHRI LALJI TANDON: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of emergency landing of aircraft have increased due to technical or any other fault during the last one year in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry of all such incidents;

(d) if so, the results thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As against 02 incidents during 2008, 06 incidents of emergency landings were reported due to various reasons, including technical snags in the year 2009.

(c) and (d) In the preliminary findings, the above 6 incidents of emergency landing were found to be caused due to hydraulic failure, avionics smoke warning, engine flame out, fuel emergency and aft cargo smoke warning (2 incidents).

(e) Safety recommendations emanating from investigation of incidents are followed up for implementation with the concerned agencies for preventing recurrence of such incidents in future. The manpower in Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has also been suitably augmented to strengthen its safety oversight capabilities and ensure better discharge of surveillance responsibilities.

[English]

Financial Assistance to Chemical Companies

2430. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

SHRI P. BALRAM:

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

(a) the number of chemical companies functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the financial assistance given to them during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the financial position and the working conditions of these companies;

(d) whether any Memorandum of Understandings has been signed by them with other countries to set up chemicals units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) There are two Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) under the administrative control of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals which deal with chemicals viz. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL) and Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL). HOCL units are located in Rasayani, Maharashtra and Kochi in Kerala. A subsidiary unit of HOCL namely Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited (HFL) is located in Medak, Andhra Pradesh. HIL units are located in Bhatinda, Punjab, Rasayani, Maharashtra and Kochi in Kerala.

(b) and (c) As per enclosed Statement.

(d) No.

(e) Not applicable.

Statement

Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL) and Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL) had become sick as their net worth had become negative and stands referred to the BIFR. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meetings held on 9th March, 2006 and 27th July, 2006 approved the revival proposal in respect of HOCL and HIL respectively.

Financial Assistance for HOCL:

- (i) Government of India to provide equity of Rs. 250 crores in the form of 8% redeemable non-cumulative preference shares to be redeemed @ 20% each year from 4th year onwards and this amount to be utilized by HOCL for (i) repayment of high cost overdue Bonds; (ii) introduction of fresh VRS costing Rs. 36 crores for estimated 590 employees; (iii) repayment of VRS loan of Rs. 31 crores availed from Bank of Baroda in 2001 for 685 employees and (iv) Rs. 8 crores towards part repayment of Bonds.
- (ii) Waiver of penal interest and interest on interest upto 31-3-2005.
- (iii) Continuation of Government of India Guarantees of Rs. 100 crores for full term of 10 years (issue date 19-12-2001) to be utilized to liquidate high cost debt.

- (iv) Further, CCEA, in its meeting held on 8-2-2007, approved the release of Rs. 20 crores from the Budget Grant 2006-07 for restarting of Caustic Chlorine Plant of HOCL at Rasayani, Maharashtra. This amount will be repaid back to the Government by HOCL from the sale proceeds of their land at Panvel, Maharashtra.

Financial Assistance of Rs. 6 crore in 2007-08 and Rs. 3.56 crore in 2008-09 as loan was sanctioned by the Government.

Financial Position and the working conditions:

As a result of rehabilitation package, company made a profit of Rs. 17.04 crore during 2006-07 and Rs. 13.61 crore in 2007-08. The company came out of BIFR in May, 2008.

(Rs. crores)		
Year	Sales and other income	Net Profit/Loss
2006-07	591.25	17.04
2007-08	666.59	13.61
2008-09	620.90	(-25.27*

*Due to global downturn.

Financial Assistance for HIL:

- (i) Waiver of Government of India loans amounting to Rs. 66.40 crore and to convert the remaining GOI loan of Rs. 31.55 crores as on 31st March, 2006 into equity;
- (ii) Writing off the interest amounting to Rs. 126.69 crores on GOI loans as on 31-3-2006.
- (iii) Providing GOI guarantee to HIL for raising loans amounting to Rs. 20 crores from Financial Institutions for implementing VRS;
- (iv) Providing support to HIL, in case Corporate Guarantees of Rs. 22.65 crores furnished by HIL as on 31st March, 2006 are invoked by the Financial Institutions.

- (v) Settling the litigation with DDA over Delhi unit land, out of Court.
- (vi) Ministry of Finance to make a provision for subsidy of Rs. 5 crore per annum to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which would be utilized for reimbursing HIL against supplies of DDT. This provision would commence with effect from 2005-06 and would continue up to 2011. The subsidy of Rs. 5 crore would be pegged to HIL producing at its present level of production of about 8200 MT of DDT annually. Shortfall introduction of every 20% from this level would entail a reduction of the subsidy amount by Rs. 1.00 crore.

Financial Assistance of Rs. 7.15 crore in 2006-07, Rs. 8.50 crore in 2007-08 as loan was sanctioned by the Government.

Financial Position and the working conditions:

As a result of revival package, HIL made a profit of Rs. 5.66 crore in 2006-07, Rs. 6.52 crore in 2007-08 and Rs. 2.71 crore in 2008-09. The company has come out of BIFR in September, 2007 and thereafter it has been making profit regularly.

(Rs. in crores)		
Year	Sales/Turnover (Rs. in crores)	Net Profit/ Loss
2006-07	200.57	5.66
2007-08	210.19	6.52
2008-09	215.35	2.71

**Setting Up of New Oil Projects by
GAIL India Ltd.**

2431. SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL India Ltd. has entered into Joint Ventures with State Government of Gujarat to set-up new projects in oil fields of Vadodara, Bharuch and Kachch districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the joint ventures have been approved by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) GAIL has 50% Participating Interest (PI) in Cambay Onland E and P Block (CB-ONN-2000/1). GSPC is the Operator of the block with the remaining 50% PI. Crude Oil is being produced from the block from its Ingoli field in Ahmedabad district.

GAIL has 20% PI in another E and P block in Gujarat (CB-ONN-2003/2) where GSPC is the Operator with 50% PI. The block is in Ankleshwar district. Oil discovery has been made in the block and further exploration activities are in progress.

(c) and (d) Formation of Joint Ventures does not require any approval of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) under the PNGRB Act 2006.

Inter-Ministerial Task Force

2432. Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any action to improve civic amenities and increasing economic opportunities in minorities concentrated cities/towns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any programme for minorities dominated towns/cities on the basis of the inter-ministerial task force headed by Dr. B.L. Mungekar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) On the basis of the inter-ministerial task force headed by Dr. B.L. Mungekar, 338 cities/towns having a substantial minority population

were identified and action has been taken to improve civic amenities and to increase the economic opportunities by giving priority in locating existing schemes/programmes in these cities/towns. These include opening of new Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), upgradation of existing ITIs, Basic Service to Urban Poor (BSUP), Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP), Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMTs), National Rural Health Mission and Urban Health Mission, opening of new branches of Public Sector Banks and improving the flow of credit to minorities.

[Translation]

Freight Rate of Urea and DAP

2433. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the secondary freight rate of Urea and DAP;

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to include DAP and Urea in the list of decontrolled fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Madam. There is no concept of secondary freight under the Uniform Freight Policy for subsidized fertilizers, including urea and DAP.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question do not arise.

(c) and (d) DAP is already under the list of decontrolled fertilizers. Urea is under statutory price control and its movement is partially controlled. There is no proposal at present to change the current status.

Halt Station at Rani Bazar, Uttar Pradesh

2434. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal regarding the construction of a halt at Rani Bazar Station in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A request has been received for opening of a halt station at Rani Bazar between Burhwal Junction and Bindaura station on Barabanki-Gonda railway line.

Diversion of Mahanadi Express

2435. SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the route of the Mahanadi Express from Bhopal to Bilaspur has been diverted via Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Railways to run the *Mahanadi Express* on the previous route via Nagpur;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether any other train is proposed to be run fair the passengers at the said time?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Madam. However, in place of Bilaspur-Bhopal Mahanadi Express, 8239/8240 Bilaspur-Nagpur Express was introduced between Bilaspur and Nagpur from 15-07-2005.

[English]

Fertilizer Advisory Forum

2436. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Fertilizer Advisory Forum has been formed by the Government;

(b) if so, the composition thereof; and

(c) the details of functions and status of this Forum?

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

(b) The Composition of Fertilizer Advisory Forum is as under:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| i. Minister (C and F) | Chairman |
| ii. Minister of State (C and F) | |
| iii. Agriculture Minister of all States/UTs | |
| iv. Secretary, Department of Fertilizers | |
| v. Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation | |
| vi. Joint Secretary (INM), Department of Agriculture and Cooperation | |
| vii. Joint Secretary (F and P), Department of Fertilizers | |
| viii. Joint Secretary (A and M), Department of Fertilizers | Member Secretary |
| ix. Joint Secretary (P and P), Department of Fertilizers | |
| x. Chief Executives, Apex Marketing Federation of all States | |
| xi. MDs/CMDs of all fertilizer producing Companies/Coop. Societies | |
| xii. Two representatives of farmers to be nominated by Department of Fertilizers from each State | |
| xiii. Two representatives of dealers from each State | |

xiv. Two representatives for each Fertilizers manufacturing Industry

xv. Two officials of State Government at the level of Secretary and Director Agriculture

(c) The function of Fertilizer Advisory Forum is to provide a platform for all stakeholders for deliberating on issues such as promotion of balanced application of fertilizer nutrients, bio fertilizers and organic fertilizers with the objective of realization of optimal benefits by the farmers which will help the Department of Fertilizers in formulation of farmer friendly policies.

The constitution of Fertilizer Advisory Forum was departmental initiative with the approval of the then Minister (Chemicals and Fertilizers and Steel) and it was constituted in the year 2004. Fertilizer Advisory Forum meets once a year and till date three meetings have been held so far.

Export of Jute

2437. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in import of jute during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity and value of jute produced in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(d) the present status of implementation of Jute Park sanctioned for Assam;

(e) whether the Government is considering to set up more jute parks in Assam; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The details of import of jute and jute products, during the last three years are given below:

Qty. : M. Ton/Value: Rs./Lakhs

Period	2008-2009		2007-2008		2006-2007	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Value	59,042	8,900.31	1,71,800	19,672.39	94,363	15,031.15
Jute Products	70,935	20,299.48	57,688	13,809.41	60,932	17,162.87

Import of Raw Jute during 2008-09 has shown declining trend by 66% in quantity and by 55% in value terms. Import of jute products registered an increasing trend by 23% in quantity and by 47% in value terms as compared to 2007-08. As per EXIM Policy, import of raw jute and jute products into India has been treated as free items without duty. Bangladesh has higher

availability of superior grades of jute, some of which Indian enterprises jute importing for batch-fixing and to help production of better quality yarn and fabrics for value added products. Import of jute products is resorted to supplement domestic demand.

(c) State-wise production of jute during the last 3 years is given below:

Period: July-June/Area: '000 Hectares/Qty: '000 Bales

State	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09 (Estimated)	
	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production
West Bengal	595	8411	610	8216	584	7900
Bihar	127	1253	131	1251	147	1402
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	58	559	60	657	61	674
Orissa	5	48	6	50	11	104
Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	(0.1)	1
Tripura	1	4	(0.5)	4	1	8
Meghalaya	4	35	4	35	6	50
Nagaland	2	6	3	6	2	21
Others	—	—				
Total	792	10316	814	10219	812	10160

The value of Jute produced in the country is not available.

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

JTM provides for "Setting up of Jute Parks for the Diversified Sector". As regards setting up of Jute Parks in NE Region, Expression of interest (EOI) and Detailed Project Report (DPR) were invited through insertions in newspapers allowing extension of time for submission of EOI supported by DPR till 31st October, 2009. A few EOIs were received against the newspaper insertions, when they were asked to submit DPRs of their proposals. Since no DPR has been received till date, no proposal could be considered.

Under the scheme, 4 Jute Parks are to be set up in N.E. States and other Tribal Areas to encourage setting up of such Parks, the minimum land requirement for establishing Jute Parks in N.E. States and other Tribal Areas was reduced to 10 acres land.

A fresh notice inviting EOI, supported by DPR, has been released in (i) Assam Tribune, (ii) Sentinel and (iii) Asomiya Pratidin on 16th November, 2009. No EOI has yet been received.

Operation of Container Trains

2438. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of operators obtained licences to run container trains in country so far;

(b) whether the Railways have permitted foreign partnership to these operators;

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

(d) whether the Railways are considering to permit Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in rail infrastructure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Sixteen operators have been given licences to run container trains so far.

(b) and (c) As per policy any person individual or a joint venture or a company registered under the Company Act, 1956 shall be eligible to obtain the permission to operate container trains.

(d) No proposal for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in railway infrastructure is pending with Ministry of Railways at present.

(e) Does not arise.

Derailment of Mandor Express

2439. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 17 bogies of Mandor Express derailed near Jaipur recently; and

(b) if so, the details of casualties alongwith the amount of compensation paid to aggrieved families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. On 14-11-2009 at 01.33 hrs., while the Train No. 2462 Jodhpur-Delhi Mandor Express was on the run between Jhir and Jatwara stations of Jaipur-Bandikui section of Jaipur division of North Western Railway, its 15 coaches derailed, out of which 03 coaches capsized.

(b) In this accident, 7 passengers lost their lives, 5 passengers suffered grievous injuries and 15 sustained simple injuries. An ex-gratia amount of Rs. 5 lakhs to the next of kin of each deceased, Rs. 1 lakh to grievously injured and Rs. 10,000 to simple injured has been announced. An amount of Rs. 40,60,000 has so far been disbursed to the next of kin of the deceased and injured passengers. Compensation is payable only after a claim is filed before the Railway Claims Tribunal and a decree is awarded by the Tribunal. No compensation claim has so far been filed in Railway Claims Tribunal for this accident.

[Translation]

Smoking in Trains

2440. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken concrete steps to check smoking in trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of cases where penalties were imposed on people found smoking in trains during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Smoking has been banned in trains and railway premises and is a punishable offence under the provisions of Railways Act, 1989 and the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003. Regular drives are conducted to check smoking in the trains and on railway premises and persons so caught are charged as per relevant provisions of the law. However, no separate statistics are maintained in this regard. In addition, public are educated through various media, not to smoke in trains and railway premises by displaying notices at prominent places both at the stations and inside the coaches.

[English]

Transportation of Trucks

2441. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to increase the number and availability of fleet wagons to facilitate transport of huge trucks etc. to different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of operational fleet wagons presently with the Railways?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Approximate holding of flat wagon as on 1-10-2009 is as under:—

BRN	—	6950 wagons
BRH	—	2190 wagons

However, these wagons are not suitable to carry, huge trucks on Indian Railway system due to limitation of Schedule of Dimension (SOD).

[Translation]

Railway Projects in Bihar

2442. SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:

SHRI ARJUN ROY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of district-wise ongoing and pending railway projects alongwith the survey conducted for any project in Bihar;

(b) whether some projects are running behind schedule;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways for timely completion of these projects, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) 33 New Lines, 5 Gauge Conversion, 12 Doubling projects are in progress in the State of Bihar. The works are progressing as per availability of resources. 15 Number of Surveys for new lines have been conducted in Bihar in last three years.

Details of projects in Bihar which are presently lagging behind schedule are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of project	Cost as per Budget Pink Book 2009-10 (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure upto March 09 (Rs. in crore)	Outlay in Budget 2009-10 (Rs. in crore)	Reasons for delay
1.	Koderma-Tilaiya New Line	418.17	36.18	20	Delay in land acquisition and forestry clearance.
2.	Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi New Line	232.15	171.48	45	Delay in land acquisition. Delay is also due to severe floods, failure of contractors and change in scope of work based on recent floods. Also there was constraints of funds.
3.	Jaynagar-Darbhanga-Narktiaganj Gauge conversion	393.55	270.45	60	Jaynagar-Darbhanga-Sitamarhi commissioned. There is delay due to time taken in finalization of tender, slow progress by contractors and floods. Also there was constraints of funds.
4.	Mansi-Saharsa and Saharsa-Dauram Madhepura Purnia Gauge conversion	257.01	197.60	49.10	Mansi-Saharsa commissioned. Affected due to flood.
5.	Begusarai-Khagaria doubling	105.57	79.58	10	Delay in due to failure of contractors.
6.	Kursela-Semapur doubling	55.20	30.67	10.23	Delay is due to slow progress due to floods.
7.	Thanabihpur-Kursela doubling	45	39.86	5	Delay is due to slow progress due to floods.

Land acquisition, forestry clearance, monitoring of progress, execution of works are regularly being pursued with concerned agencies for timely completion. Steps have been taken to modify contract conditions to bring in efficiency in contract management. District-wise data is not maintained.

[English]

Powerloom Clusters

2443. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister

of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up powerloom cluster in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the time by which it is likely to be setup;

(c) whether there is also any proposal to set up Bix Handloom Export Zones in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) 45 Powerloom clusters have been identified throughout the country, Out of these, 3 centres namely Erode (Tamil Nadu), Bhiwandi (Maharashtra) and Bhilwara (Rajasthan) are being developed as powerloom mega clusters under Comprehensive Powerloom Cluster Development Scheme. Besides this, Government has also taken up development of eight clusters, under Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Cluster Development, as under:—

(1) Burhanpur (Madhya Pradesh) (2) Nalgonda (Andhra Pradesh) (3) Ranaghat (West Bengal) (4) Umargaon (Gujarat) (5) Amritsar (Punjab) (6) Karur (Tamil Nadu) (7) Bhilwara (Rajasthan) and (8) Mau (Uttar Pradesh)

The scheme will be implemented in next 5 years.

(c) There is no proposal to set up Handloom Export Zones in the country.

(d) Doesn't arise in view of (c) above.

Abolition of Travel Agency Commission

2444. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some airlines have declared abolition of Travel Agency commission and have advised to earn their income by charging the clients additional fees ranging from Rs. 350 to Rs. 10,000 over and above the ticket fares;

(b) if so, the details of airlines and the reasons for such abolition; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to correct the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY

OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) As per the records available with the Government, sixteen foreign airlines so far viz., KLM, North West Airlines, Air France, Qatar Airways, Singapore Airlines, Silk Air, Lufthansa, Air Canada, Continental Airlines, Japan Airlines, Austrian Airlines, Delta, British Airways, Fin Air, Swiss Air and United Airlines have substituted remuneration of travel agents by transaction fees paid by their customers instead of agency commissions.

(c) The matter is presently sub judice and the Government is assisting resolution of the matter.

Setting Up of Spinning Mills

2445. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up the spinning mills in the backward and tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of spinning mills that came up in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) any data regarding the financial status of such spinning mills, State-wise; and

(e) any special packages likely to be given for the proper operation of such mills?

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

(c) The details of State-wise number of spinning mills during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 including Andhra Pradesh is as follows:—

No. of spinning mills enlisted

State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Andhra Pradesh	5	13	14

State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Dadra Nagar Haveli	0	2	2
Gujarat	6	1	3
Haryana	3	1	0
Himachal Pradesh	2	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	0	1	2
Maharashtra	7	2	4
Punjab	4	7	11
Rajasthan	1	2	1
Tamil Nadu	116	90	82
Uttar Pradesh	1	1	0
Uttaranchal	0	0	2
Total	145	120	121

(d) Such data is not available.

(e) No, Madam.

Himachal Handicrafts

2446. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for providing access to global marketing cover to Himachal handicrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to set up special outlets/hold exhibitions for Himachal handicrafts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any effective measure has been taken to develop and increase the handicrafts and hand looms exports of Himachal Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However the existing schemes of the Government to provide global access to the Handicraft of the country is also applicable to the Himachal Handicrafts.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. However, there is a scheme of Marketing Support and Services Scheme in the Handicrafts Sector, which is being implemented in the country including the State of Himachal Pradesh, under which there is a provision to hold exhibitions and setting up of new emporium and renovation of emporium.

(e) and (f) The measures taken to develop and increase the exports of handicrafts and handlooms including the State of Himachal Pradesh include: participation in Fairs/Exhibitions abroad; organizing Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair twice a year, organizing Thematic exhibition, Organizing programmes for packaging and export procedure, organization of buyer-sellers meet, workshop/seminar and Stand Alone Shows for brand image promotion of Indian Handicrafts abroad;

organizing seminars/workshops in important Weaving Centres by Handloom Export Promotion Council.

Train Accident at Bassi

2447. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a train accident occurred near Bassi town in Rajasthan recently;

(b) if so, the number of persons died or have sustained minor/critical injuries;

(c) whether any compensation has been paid to all those who have died/injured and any probe been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. On 14-11-2009 at 01.33 hrs., while the Train No. 2462 Jodhpur-Delhi Mandore Express was on run between Jhir and Jatwara stations of Jaipur-Bandikui section of Jaipur Division of North Western Railway, its 15 coaches derailed, out of which 03 coaches capsized.

(b) In this accident, 7 passengers lost their lives, 5 passengers suffered grievous injuries and 15 sustained simple injuries.

(c) An ex-gratia amount of Rs. 5 lakhs to the next of kin of each deceased, Rs. 1 lakh to grievously injured and Rs. 10,000 to simple injured has been announced. An amount of Rs. 40,60,000 has so far been disbursed to the next of kin of the deceased and injured passengers. Compensation is payable only after a claim is filed before the Railway Claims Tribunal and a decree is awarded by the Tribunal. No compensation claim has so far been filed in Railway Claims Tribunal for this accident. Statutory inquiry into above accident is being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Western Circle and its final report is awaited.

(d) Measures taken to prevent derailments include track patrolling on vulnerable sections, intensification of regular inspections, training and monitoring of working

of the running staff to sensitize them about vulnerable areas etc. However, further necessary action shall be taken on receipt of the Report of Commissioner of Railway Safety.

Export of Fibre based Products

2448. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to augment the export of man-made fibre based products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to have a fibre neutral policy; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. The Government has been taking various steps for augmenting the export of textile and clothing products as a whole, including man-made fibre based products. Some of the important measures taken by the Government are as follows:—

- (i) Extension of the Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme upto December 31, 2009;
- (ii) Restoration of the DEPB rates for Synthetic textile items such as polyester viscose yarn, polyester yarn, viscose yarn, polyester filament yarn, etc.
- (iii) Increase in Duty Drawback rates on knitted fabrics and on specified categories of yarn;
- (iv) Providing pre and post-shipment credit assistance in rupees as well as in dollars;
- (v) Reduction in import duties of raw materials; and
- (vi) Reduction in interest rates on export finance; etc.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply given at part (c) above.

[Translation]

Public Amenities at Railway Stations in Jharkhand

2449. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received representations from various sources for improvement of railway services particularly in respect of passengers amenities in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the total number of said representations disposed off during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the effective steps taken for quick disposal of representations, and suggestions received to the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Representations are received from time to time regarding provision and upgradation of passenger amenities at stations including stations located in Jharkhand. Such representations are examined by the Railway Administration and suitable action taken wherever justified and feasible. At present 7 New Line, 1 Gauge Conversion and 8 Doubling projects are in progress in the State of Jharkhand. Statistics about representations received or disposed are not maintained.

[English]

Appointment of Judges

2450. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring

changes in the procedure of appointment of judges in the higher judiciary and also intends to come out with a comprehensive bill to deal with complaints of corruption against judges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The existing procedure for appointment of judges of Supreme Court and High Court is based on the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 in the case of Supreme Court Advocates on Record and Anr. Vs. Union of India, and the Advisory Opinion of the Supreme Court dated October 28, 1998. There is no proposal at present before the Government to reconsider this procedure. The Government is considering bringing in a fresh legislation on the subject of accountability of Judges.

Flights from Port Blair

2451. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the demand for flights from Port Blair to Chennai and Kolkata during peak seasons and off peak seasons during the last three years and flights made available; and

(b) the steps taken to meet the demand especially by Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) To meet the demand for flight from Port Blair to Chennai and Kolkata during the last three years, the details of scheduled air services including Air India are as under:—

Airline	Details of Air Services from Port Blair			
	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	2	3	4	5
Air India	Daily air service to Chennai and Kolkata			
Jet Airways	Daily air service to Chennai and Kolkata		Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
JetLite	Daily air service to Kolkata			
Air Deccan	Daily air service to Chennai and Kolkata		Nil	Nil
Kingfisher	Daily air services to Chennai	Daily air service to Chennai and Kolkata		Daily air service to Chennai
Spicejet	Nil	Daily air service to Chennai and Kolkata		Nil

(b) 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. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the 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.

[Translation]

Production of Gas KG D6 Block

2452. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

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

(a) the estimated average annual production of gas in the country after Reliance Industries Ltd. has started gas production from D6 Gas basin;

(b) the percentage of Administered price Mechanism (APM) gas production to the total gas production; and

(c) the percentage of gas being produced by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. alongwith its average sale price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The present average production of gas from all sources in the country, including flaring and internal use, is around 139 mmscmd.

(b) Out of the total gas production, 37% is sold by ONGC and OIL at Administered Price Mechanism (APM) rates.

(c) Out of the total gas production referred in (a) above, ONGC and OIL produce 44.3% and 4.47% respectively.

The gas produced by ONGC and OIL is being sold to power and fertilizers sectors at APM rate of Rs. 3200/mscm (thousand standard cubic meters) outside North-East and at Rs. 1820/mscm in North-East. As regards other APM customers, i.e., Court mandated customers and customers up to 50,000 scmd (standard cubic meters per day), natural gas is sold at Rs. 3840/mscm outside North-East and at Rs. 2304/mscm in North-East. Further, the gas produced by ONGC and OIL is sold at non-APM rates of US\$ 4.75/mmbtu (million British thermal unit) in Gujarat, Maharashtra and along HBJ, at Rs. 3200/mscm in North-East and at US\$ 3.86/mmbtu in the rest of the country. The mentioned price excludes royalty, transportation charge, taxes, etc.

[English]

Zero-Taxing for Fertilizers

2453. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of Value Added Tax (VAT) has increased the prices of fertilizers in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any plan to introduce zero-taxing for fertilizers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) After implementation of Value Added Tax (VAT), there is no increase in Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of any fertilizers in the country.

(b) and (c) Currently, there is no proposal of Zero taxing of fertilizers.

E-Marketing

2454. SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched E-Marketing web portal that will enable an interested customer to buy different varieties of handlooms and handicrafts products across the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of built-in-system under this project to acquaint the weavers and others associated with this sector about the demand of the consumers across the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Web portals for E-Marketing have been launched by various organisations under the Ministry of Textiles viz. Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIC), New Delhi Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Ltd. (HHEC),

New Delhi, where the buyers across the country and the world can place online orders for different varieties of handicraft and handloom products.

(c) There is an in-built vendor console module in the web portal of HHEC for artisans to register themselves and list their products on website. All artisans are provided with unique username and password so that they can also login to the vendor console section to see the demand of their products from the consumers across the world. Automatically an email is sent to artisans wherever an online order is placed for their products.

Gauge Conversion in Karnataka

2455. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing broad gauge conversion and doubling of rail lines in Karnataka as on date including future proposals;

(b) the time schedule for their completion of these projects; and

(c) the reasons for delay, if any, in adhering to the time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b): Details of ongoing gauge conversion and doubling of rail lines falling fully/partly in the State of Karnataka and outlay provided for these projects during 2009-10, expenditure incurred upto 31-3-2009 thereon and status alongwith target date for completion, wherever fixed, is given as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Status and target date for completion, wherever fixed
1	2	3
1.	Bangalore-Hubli and Shimoga Town-Talguppa (630 km)-Gauge conversion	Gauge conversion of Bangalore City-Hubli and Birur-Shimoga has already been completed. Work on balance portion i.e. Shimoga Town-Talguppa (97 km) has also been taken up. Work on Shimoga-Anandapuram (57 km) is targeted for completion during 2009-10.

1	2	3
2.	Kolar-Chikballapur-Gauge conversion	Earthwork, bridge works and ballast supply have been taken up.
3.	Bangalore-Whitefield-Bangalore City-Krishnarajpuram (23.08 Km)-Doubling	Work will be taken up after obtaining requisite clearances.
4.	Dharwad-Kambarganvi (26.68 Km)-Doubling	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridge work and ballast supply have been taken up. Work on Mugad-Kambarganvi (10 km) is targeted for completion during 2009-10.
5.	Arsikere-Birur (44.28 Km)-Doubling	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridge works and ballast supply have been taken up. Work on Arsikere-Devanur (22 km) is targeted for completion during 2009-10.
6.	Ramanagaram-Mysore doubling (91.50 km) including electrification of Kengeri-Mysore-Doubling	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridgework and ballast supply have been taken up.
7.	Raichur-Guntakal (81.1 km)-Doubling	This work is being implemented by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). Land acquisition, earthwork, bridgework and ballast supply have been taken up.

Surveys for doubling of lines in certain sections have been done/taken up. The doubling works will be taken up as and when sanctioned.

(c) Railways have a huge throwforward of ongoing projects under New Lines, gauge Conversions, Doublings, Railway Electrifications and Metropolitan Transport Projects. Due to limited availability of resources, the projects take long time for completion. The targets for projects are generally fixed on yearly basis based on the availability of resources and progress achieved and many of the projects get completed in phases.

Facilities in Bangalore Local Trains

2456. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Railways has been drawn to the inadequate facilities in Bangalore local trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways propose to run trains equipped with modern coaches and to modernise all the stations of Bangalore local trains;

(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) No, Madam. Basic facilities as per norms have been provided in all the coaches of these commuter trains.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) At present, there is no proposal to change the design of coaches of DEMUs/MEMUs. The existing coaches are of Integral Coach Factory (ICF) standard design and working satisfactory over Indian Railways.

Upgradation of passenger amenities at stations is a continuous process and the same is provided on requirement and subject to availability of funds etc.

Common Effluent Plant at Tirupur

2457. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated any steps to set up a common effluent plant at Tirupur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time-frame within which such plant is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The common effluent treatment plants at Tirupur are not being set up by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Progress of Pharmaceutical Industry

2458. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Pharmaceutical Industry is making fast progress on the globe and is set to become a global power;

(b) if so, whether it will add to lakhs of new jobs opportunities in the country as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of infrastructural facilities/pharma hubs that are proposed to be developed across the country to achieve the objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) The Indian pharmaceutical industry, now over to Rs. 1,00,000 crores (US \$ 20 billion) industry, has shown tremendous progress in terms of infrastructure development, technology base creation and a wide range of products. It has established its presence and determination to flourish in the changing environment. The industry now produces bulk drugs belonging to all major therapeutic groups requiring complicated manufacturing technologies. Formulations in various dosage forms are being produced in GMP compliant facilities. Strong scientific and technical manpower and pioneering work done in process development have made this possible.

The country now ranks 3rd worldwide by volume of production and 14th by value thereby accounting for around 10% of world's production by volume and 1.5% by value. Globally, it ranks 4th in terms of generic

production and 17th in terms of export value of bulk actives and dosage forms. Indian exports are destined to more than 200 countries around the globe including highly regulated markets of USA, West Europe, Japan and Australia. By making right investment in creating Pharma Innovation Hub in the country, the country can reap the benefits both social and economic which would also include creation of additional high value research jobs.

Judicial Ombudsman

2459. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

SHRI S. ALAGIRI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a Judicial Ombudsman;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether there is any mechanism to hear the complaints against Supreme Court and High Court Judges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The issue of Judicial Accountability was discussed at the Conference of Chief Justices held in 1990 and on the basis of the broad consensus emerging out of the deliberations, the Chief Justice of India summed up the position as follows:

"The Chief Justice of the High Court has the competence to receive complaints against the conduct of the Judges of his court and when he receives any he would look into it for finding out if it deserves to be closely looked into. Where he is satisfied that the matter requires to be examined, he shall have facts ascertained in such manner as he considers appropriate keeping the nature of allegations in view and if he is of the opinion that the matter is such that it should be reported to the Chief Justice of India, he shall do so.

The Chief Justice of India shall act in a similar manner in regard to complaints relating to conduct of Judges of the Supreme Court and in regard to conduct of Chief Justices of the High Courts. On the basis of the facts ascertained, the Chief Justice of the High Court or the Supreme Court, as the case may be, shall take such appropriate action as may be considered proper, keeping the interests of the judiciary as the paramount consideration."

The complaints received against the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts are dealt with in the manner indicated above.

[Translation]

Land Acquisition for Setting Up of Steel Plants

2460. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of land acquisition and forest clearance applications for iron ore mines and steel plants are lying pending with the Government;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal to set up steel plant near iron ore reserves situated in forest areas of the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to set up steel plants near Surjagarh iron ore mines located in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Large integrated steel projects are resource intensive involving land acquisition, forest clearance, allocation of raw material resources, power and water supply. These issues are dealt by the concerned Ministries and State Governments, in accordance with the relevant Acts, Rules and Policies. Ministry of Steel is, however, closely monitoring the issues in respect of the Public Sector Units under its administrative control. According to the

information available, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) have no pending land acquisition. NMDC Limited, which is setting up a 3.0 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) steel project at Nagarnar in Chhattisgarh has a land requirement of 1772.16 acres, out of which 995 acres of land is in its possession.

The detailed status of forest clearance application under process in respect of SAIL and NMDC Limited are enclosed as Statement.

(c) There is no specific provision regarding locational set up of the plants, as long as the location is in compliance with forest, environmental and other such relevant legal provisions. Therefore such proposals do not require the approval of the Central Government.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected from the Government of Maharashtra and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

Forest Clearance Status of Steel Authority of India Limited and NMDC Limited.

Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)

Chiria Iron Ore Mines, Jharkhand

1. Budhaburu Area—823.624 Ha was sent by the SAIL for forest clearance on 06-01-2006 to Government of Jharkhand.
2. Ajithaburu Area—Proposal for forest clearance of 323.887 Ha is with Ministry of Environment and Forests since end of August 2009.
3. Sukri-Latur Area—609.813 Ha was sent by SAIL for forest clearance on 06-2-2008 to Government of Jharkhand.

Gua Iron Ore Mines, Jharkhand

1. Duargaiburu Area—Stage I approval was accorded for 1443.756 Ha by Ministry of Environment and Forests in May 2009. Compliance report pertains to Stage 1 renewal was submitted to DFO, Saranda on 29-10-2009.

2. Topailore Area—14.17 Ha was sent by the SAIL for forest clearance on 06-09-2006 to Government of Jharkhand.
3. Jhillingburu-II Area—30.44 Ha was sent by the SAIL for forest clearance on 03-07-2008 to Government of Jharkhand.
4. Jhillingburu-I Area—210.526 Ha was sent by the SAIL for forest clearance on 03-07-2008 to Government of Jharkhand.

Kiriburu-Meghahatuburu Iron Ore Mines, Jharkhand

1. Lease-I Area—1936.06 Ha was sent by Government of Jharkhand for renewal of mining lease for forest clearance on 12-10-2009 to Ministry of Environment and Forests.
2. Lease-II Area—879.00 Ha was sent by the SAIL for forest clearance on 12-11-2008 to Government of Jharkhand.

Barsua-Kalta Iron Ore Mines, Orissa

1. ML-130 Area—2486.38 Ha was sent by the SAIL for forest clearance on 05-01-2008 to Government of Orissa.
2. ML-162 Area—77.96 Ha was sent by the SAIL for forest clearance on 26-05-2008 to Government of Orissa.
3. ML-139 Area—25.98 Ha was sent by the SAIL for forest clearance on 17-09-2009 to Government of Orissa.

Bolani Iron Ore Mines, Orissa

1. 5.1 Sq. Mile Area—1321.45 Ha was sent by the SAIL for forest clearance on 30-06-2008 to Government of Orissa.
2. 6.9 Sq. Mile Area—Stage I for 1786.74 Ha approval accorded by Ministry of Environment and Forests on 24-2-99.

NMDC Limited

Bailadila Iron Ore Deposit—13—413.745 Ha was sent by the NMDC Limited for forest clearance on 15-10-2008 to Government of Chhattisgarh.

[English]

Corporate Frauds

2461. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

SHRI ARJUN MUNDA:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints/cases of corporate frauds during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details of the companies against whom the Government has taken action;

(c) whether the Government has set up an Investor Education and Protection Fund in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The complaints against companies regarding fraud, financial irregularities etc. are received from various stakeholders. Based on findings of scrutiny of the complaints and involvement of public interest, investigation by Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has been ordered in respect of thirty seven companies during last three years and five companies in the current year involving serious Corporate Frauds.

(b) Serious Fraud Investigation Office has filed prosecutions against the following companies during last three years and current year:

1. M/s. Shonkh Technologies International Ltd.
2. M/s. Shonkh Technologies Ltd.
3. M/s. Morepan Laboratories Ltd.
4. M/s. Satyam Computer Services Ltd.

(c) and (d) Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) has been set-up under Section 205C of the Companies Act, 1956 by way of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999. As per the Act, the following amounts, which have remained unclaimed and unpaid for a period of seven years from the date they became due for payment, shall be credited to the IEPF:

- a. amounts in the Unpaid dividend accounts of companies;
- b. the application moneys received by companies for allotment of any securities and due for refund;
- c. matured deposits with companies;
- d. matured debentures with companies;
- e. the interest accrued on the amounts referred to in clauses (a) to (d) above;
- f. grants and donations given to the Fund by the Central Government, State Governments, companies or any other institutions for the purposes of the Fund; and
- g. the interest or other income received out of the investments made from the Fund;

The Fund is utilized for promotion of investors' awareness and protection of the interest of investors.

[Translation]

Customer Care Cell

2462. SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted customer care cell to check those dealers of gas agencies who are supplying less gas to the consumers by pilferage the gas after breaking the sealed gas cylinders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps being taken for direct supply of sealed cylinders to customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have introduced a customer friendly grievance redressal mechanism to receive complaints/grievances of consumers including supply of partially

used cylinders/under-weight cylinders/pilfering product from LPG cylinders. The common number for registering the complaints/grievances throughout India is 155233. The call centers are being operated region-wise to facilitate the customers to lodge complaints in local language.

All complaints received by OMCs are investigated and if a complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the erring LPG distributor(s) in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

Surprise Quality Control Checks which includes weightment of cylinders are carried out at the distributors godown as well as enroute weight checking of filled cylinders available in delivery vehicle is being done by the field officers to check pilferage/presence of any underweight cylinders. The distributors have also been instructed to satisfy the customers about correct weight of cylinder by weighing them, to ensure that the seals are verified and shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced free of charge by the OMCs.

Consumption of Petroleum and Natural Gas

2463. SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH:

SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA:

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

(a) whether the annual consumption of petroleum and natural gas is increasing continuously in the country;

(b) if so, the details of last five years thereof;

(c) whether there is wide difference between demand and supply of natural gas in the country;

(d) if so, the measures taken to bridge the demand and supply gap of natural gas;

(e) whether the Government have to spent a huge foreign exchange for import of petroleum and natural gas; and

(f) if so, the time by which our country is likely to

be self-reliant by increasing domestic production of these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The consumption of petroleum products and natural gas in the country has usually increased in the last five years. The details of the consumption of petroleum products and natural gas in the last five years is as below:—

year	Consumption	
	Petroleum Products (TMT)	Gas (in mmscm)
2004-05	111634	34049
2005-06	113213	37870
2006-07	120749	39778
2007-08	128946	42322
2008-09	133400	42215

TMT:—thousand metric tons

mmscm:—million standard cubic metre

(c) The demand of natural gas in the country is more than the availability. However, there has been a substantial increase in domestic availability with production of about 50 mmscmd gas from KG D6 fields currently which is likely to increase to 80 mmscmd in 2010.

(d) The Government has adopted multi-pronged strategy to increase availability of natural gas in the country, consisting *inter alia* of the following:—

- (i) Intensification of domestic Exploration and Production (E and P) activities through New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) Rounds
- (ii) Coal Bed Methane (CBM)
- (iii) Underground Coal Gasification
- (iv) Gas Hydrates
- (v) Expansion in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

infrastructure and increase in LNG tie-up.

(vi) Gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.

(e) The requisite quantity of petroleum products and natural gas are imported to meet the domestic demand.

(f) No time limit can be set to become self-reliant in the production of petroleum products and natural gas.

[English]

Heritage Stations

2464. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to maintain the historical character of certain railway stations, the Railways have decided to declare them as Heritage Stations; and

(b) if so, the names of such stations alongwith amount earmarked or spent on these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) In order to maintain historical character of old Railway Stations having good architectural features, guidelines have been circulated to Zonal Railways.

Promotion of Usage of Water Soluble Fertilizers

2465. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is formulating a new policy that seeks to promote the usage of water soluble fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether water-soluble fertilizers are being imported from Israel, Norway and other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and price at which these fertilizers are being imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Presently, Department of Fertilizers administers Concession Scheme on decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers. Accordingly, Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), 12 grades of NPK Complexes, Mono Ammonium Phosphate (MAP), Triple Super Phosphate (TSP), Ammonium Sulphate (AS) and Single Super Phosphate (SSP) are provided to the farmers at the subsidized rates. Water soluble fertilizers are not covered under the Concession Scheme of decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers. However, the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 incorporates liquid and 100% water-soluble fertilizers, which are allowed to be sold as fertilizers in India.

(c) and (d) The main exporting countries of water soluble fertilizers are Israel, Norway, Belgium, The Netherlands, China etc. Indian Importer import Water Soluble Fertilizers from these countries for marketing in India. It is estimated that import of Water Soluble Fertilizers in India is about 37000-40000 MT annually at present. Prices of water soluble fertilizers vary from time to time and from country to country. However, the current indicative prices of some of important water soluble fertilizers as indicated by the Fertilizer Industry Association are as under:—

Water soluble fertilizer/ Product (US\$/tonne)	Price
NPK 19:19:19	950
Potassium Nitrate (13:0:45)	900
Calcium Nitrate	375
Mono Ammonium Phosphate (MAP) 12:61:0	800
Mono Potassium Phosphate (MKP) 0-52-34	1000-1200
Sulphate of Potash (SOP)	700

Narayangarh Railway Station

2466. **SHRI PRABODH PANDA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to develop Narayangarh railway station as a model station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) At present there is no proposal to develop Narayangarh station as model station. However, all Minimum Essential Amenities are available at the station.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Price Determination of Natural Gas

2467. **SHRI VARUN GANDHI:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to implement internationally accepted benchmarks for price determination and utilization of natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Internationally accepted benchmarks for price determination and utilization of natural gas have been implemented by the Government in the context of Indian market and requirement of natural gas in the country. Price of natural gas produced under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime is determined as per provisions of PSC.

Upgradation of Kandla Airport

2468. **SHRIMATI POONAM VELJIBHAI JAT:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for the upgradation of Kandla airport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Yes Madam. The proposal is to upgrade the facilities at Kandla airport for B-737/A 320 type of aircraft.

Double Track in Maharashtra

2469. SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway propose to construct double track between Mumbai CST to Sawantwadi in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work of double track is likely to be started and completed?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise

[Translation]

Short Supply of Gas to Small Scale Industries

2470. SHRI LALJI TANDON: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gas based small scale industries are adversely affected due to short supply of gas to these industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any requests from the State Governments for supply of gas to these small scale and medium industries; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Requirement of natural gas by small scale industries is more than the availability of natural gas for the sector.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) From gas produced from Panna Mukta Tapti (PMT) fields, 2.13 mmscmd (million metric standard

cubic metres per day) and 1.1 mmscmd has been allocated to Gujarat Gas Company Ltd. and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. respectively for supplying *inter alia* to their small scale industrial customers. Further, it has been decided to allocate 2 mmscmd KG D6 gas on fallback basis to City Gas Distribution entities for supply to their industrial and commercial customers, whose total consumption of natural gas (including KG D6 gas) does not exceed 50,000 scmd.

[English]

Subsidy on Fertilizer Production

2471. SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that most of the fertilizer producing companies receiving subsidies in various States of the country are non-existent;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has investigated/proposes to investigate the irregularities prevalent in fertilizer subsidy of various States including Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Department of Fertilizers is administering New Pricing Scheme/Concession Scheme for urea and decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers, whereby the fertilizers namely urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), MOP, Muriate of Potash (MOP), NPK Complexes, Mono Ammonium Phosphate (MAP), Triple Super Phosphate (TSP), Ammonium Sulphate (AS) and Single Super Phosphate are provided to the farmers at the subsidized rates. At present, 77 SSP manufacturers of SSP, 29 manufacturers/importers of other P and K

fertilizers and 29 urea units are claiming payment of subsidy/concession under the above said schemes. As on date, Department of Fertilizers is not aware of any non-existent fertilizer companies in any State receiving subsidies under the above said schemes.

(b) to (e) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Shelter for Orphans

2472. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme like providing shelter etc. to look after orphaned children of those railway personnel/passengers who lost their lives in rail accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details regarding number of orphaned children who have been rehabilitated in such scheme during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam. However, at some places administration provides assistance to Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) of repute for rehabilitation of children found roaming in railway premises.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Compensation to Family of Victims

2473. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have disbursed the compensation of rupees one lakh and a job as promised for a member of the family of the 12 persons who died in a collision of train and tractor trolley at Unchahar railway crossing in Rai Bareilly district, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Enhanced ex-gratia at the rate of one lakh each to the

next of kin of all the 12 persons who died in this accident has already been paid by Northern Railway. Extant instructions do not provide for giving employment to the dependants of those killed in Railway accidents.

[English]

Imposition of Cap on Iron Ore Exports

2474. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Steel had requested to impose cap on iron ore exports;

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

(c) whether the Government had assessed the demand and supply of steel and iron ore projection for 2020;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to meet the growing demand of steel and iron ore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. In 2007, Ministry of Steel had suggested a cap on iron ore exports at current level except on ore of Goa and Redi region, with progressive reduction in the cap year after year in consonance with capacity created in the domestic industry. The matter was later discussed by Group of Ministers (GoM) to consider National Mineral Policy, 2007, in which there was an agreement that iron ore resources of the country should be conserved for the use of domestic steel industry. It was decided that although conservation of iron ore resources of the country is of paramount importance, the same may not be achieved by banning or capping the export of iron ore but by taking recourse to appropriate fiscal measures. This was approved by the Government.

(c) to (e) National Steel Policy 2005 had assessed a steel consumption of 90 million tonnes with a production capacity of 110 million tonnes by the year 2019-20 and projected a requirement of 190 million

tonnes of iron ore by 2020 to support such steel production. However, over the past four years, Indian steel sector has grown at a much higher level and the projections made in the National Steel Policy 2005 appear to have been surpassed. As of now, based on the details of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed by the investors with various State Governments, the steel capacity in India is expected to be about 295 million tonnes by the year 2019-20. Considering the standard consumption of 1.6 tonnes of iron ore for production of 1 tonne of steel, the iron ore requirement for supporting a production of 295 million tonnes of steel would be about 472 million tonnes.

To meet the growing demand of steel, public sector undertakings of Ministry of Steel (Steel Authority of India Limited and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited) are undertaking expansion of their steel capacities. Similarly, private sector units are also planning to set up additional steel capacities in the country. To facilitate and coordinate their capacity expansion projects, an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has been established in Ministry of Steel.

As regard iron ore, Government has imposed export duty on iron ore at various rates from time to time, to discourage export of iron ore. The present rates of duty on iron ore exports w.e.f. 7-12-2008 are following:

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| (i) Iron ore fines (all sorts) | Nil |
| (ii) Iron ore other than fines
(including Lumps and pellets) | 5% ad-valorem |

Increase in Prices of Natural Gas

2475. SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have a proposal to raise the prices of gas in the country;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have access its impact on public transport and on power sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) At present, there are broadly two pricing regimes for gas in the country, i.e., gas priced under Administered Price Mechanism (APM) and non-APM or free market gas. The proposal to increase APM price is under consideration of the Government, in order to make it economically viable for Oil and Natural Corporation Ltd. and Oil India Ltd. to make investment in nominated blocks for production of natural gas.

(c) and (d) The proposal is under consideration of the Government and the impact would be assessed after decision in this regard is taken.

Torching of Mahananda Express

2476. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken notice of an incident of torching of five coaches of Mahananda Express at Hathras Junction (Uttar Pradesh) in September, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the loss suffered by the Railways in that incident; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. On 30-09-2009 local people and supporters of different organizations agitated demanding stoppage of Gomti and Malgadh Express trains at Hathras. During the course of agitation, train no. 4083 (Mahananda Express) was stopped and hose pipes were disconnected due to which the train could not proceed ahead. The passengers were detrained safely and security arrangements were made by the civil/local police/ Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) authorities. The agitators burnt 06 sleeper and 05 general bogies causing loss amounting to Rs. 1,83,56,000.

(c) A case vide crime no. 155/09 U/s 147, 336, 427, 436, 307, 353, 332 IPC and 151, 152 Railways Act and Government Property Damage Act was registered by GRP/Hathras against 82 offenders out of which 47 were arrested.

Setting Up of Airports in Rural Areas

2477. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private sector firms have approached the Government to develop airports in the rural parts of the country;

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

(c) the time by which such airports are likely to be developed?

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

(b) and (c) Government of India have accorded 'in-principle' approval for setting up of new greenfield airports at Durgapur in West Bengal and Dabra/Gwalior (only for Cargo operations) in Madhya Pradesh. The schedule of commencement and completion of projects is finalized by the promoters themselves.

Judicial System

2478. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Malimath Committee constituted for reforming the criminal justice system has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main findings and recommendations of the Committee;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to make the judicial system effective and ensure speedier trial in criminal case and improve the conviction rate therein?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI

M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Malimath Committee gave its report in April, 2003. It made 158 recommendations that can be broadly categorized into legislative, administrative, economic and the functioning of courts. Apart from the recommendation for amendment to various provisions of the Code Of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, the Committee has suggested change in trial procedure with a view to providing speedy and effective trial of cases; right of a victim to participate in cases involving serious crimes and to adequate compensation; protection of witnesses, arrears eradication schemes, measures to check offences against women, enactment of Central Legislation to deal with crimes of inter-State and/or International/ transnational ramification in List-1 of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, establishment of Federal Courts for trial of under-world criminals, making more offences compoundable, abolishing the differences between cognizable and non-cognizable offences, reduction of vacations of the Supreme Court and High Courts etc.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Sections 223 and 228 of Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 have been amended through the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005 and Sections 309, 313 and 320 of Criminal Procedure Code have been amended through the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2008, which provide for speedy trial of criminal cases thereby improving the conviction rate. The provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2008 are yet to be notified.

Short Supply of Raw Materials to Fertilizer Industries

2479. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chemical and Fertilizer based industries are facing problems due to short supply of raw materials;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum of raw materials provided to each unit during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide the sufficient raw material to this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The chemical sector in India is de-licensed and 100% FDI is permissible in respect of most of the products. All the items are under Open General License (OGL) and are therefore freely importable. Hence, there is no problem of short supply of raw materials for the chemical industry. Since the industry is de-licensed, question of provision of raw materials by Government does not arise.

Feedstock for production of urea includes natural gas (NG), Liquefied NG, naphtha, Fuel Oil, etc., available in the country. Any shortfall in a particular type of feed/fuel is made good from the alternative feed/fuel such as spot gas, LNG, naphtha, etc. to maintain committed level of production.

Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers are decontrolled and are under OGL. The country is heavily dependent on the import of raw materials/intermediates in Phosphate sector, as indigenous availability of inputs is very limited. The source of Potash in the country is non-existent. Accordingly, the raw materials such as Rock Phosphate, Phosphoric Acid, Sulphur and Ammonia are imported by the fertilizer companies to manufacture fertilizers. Government provides concession only on finished fertilizer products, which are supplied to the farmer by the companies. As such, the Government does not provide raw materials to the fertilizer companies. As Phosphatic and Potassic inputs are on OGL, the indigenous manufacturers of Phosphatic and Potassic Fertilizers import raw materials/intermediates on their own based on their installed capacity and production requirements. However, availability of Rock Phosphate/Phosphoric Acid and Potash is limited to a few countries. Some of the companies producing Phosphatic fertilizers presently have joint venture projects in foreign countries, such as Jordan, Senegal, Morocco etc. to off-take Phosphoric Acid etc. Due to closure of these producing units for certain periods in 2008-09, supply of inputs was affected. Further, the availability of raw materials in the country gets affected due to tight availability and highly volatile prices of these materials in the international market. At times, this may result in short supply of raw materials to the fertilizers production units in the country. However,

the gap between indigenous production and requirement is met through import of fertilizer.

(c) With respect to feedstock/raw material under OGL, the companies are responsible to tie-up/import of inputs. However, the Department of Fertilizers is encouraging the Indian entities, PSUs as well as private entities, to enter into long-term Joint Venture and off take arrangement for supply of fertilizer raw materials/fertilizers from various foreign countries. Government has reduced import duty on critical fertilizer inputs such as rock phosphate and sulphur from 5% to 2% to reduce cost of import.

Hindustan Cables Limited

2480. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether operations of Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL) have come to a standstill due to lack of working capital and facing financial crunch;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken for the welfare of employees of HCL particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL) was producing Polythene Insulated Jelly-filled Telecom (PIJF) cables and a few other products such as computer cords and coiled cords for telephones. The production operations in all the three units of Company are suspended for the last six years due to steep fall in demand, higher cost of production and product obsolescence. On account of closure of operations, the Company is facing serious financial crunch and its operations have come to a standstill not only because of lack of working capital.

(c) Budgetary support is being provided by Government of India from time to time to meet the salary/wages and statutory dues requirement of the employees.

**Demand and Supply of
Petrol and Diesel**

2481. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply of petrol and diesel in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether there is a gap between demand and supply of these products in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of petrol and diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) The estimated demand of petrol and diesel during 2009-10 is given below:

Figure in Thousand Metric Tonnes

Products	Demand
Diesel	54355
Petrol	12271

The above demand will be met through supply of products either through domestic production or through imports in case of deficit. The State-wise details of sales of Petrol and Diesel during April-September 2009-10 are given in the Statement enclosed. There is no gap between demand and supply of Petrol and Diesel.

Statement

*State-wise Cumulative Sales of MS and HSD during
April-September 2009-10 (Provisional)*

Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT)

State	MS	HSD
1	2	3
Chandigarh	42	38
Delhi	412	571

1	2	3
Haryana	277	2143
Himachal Pradesh	46	204
Jammu and Kashmir	61	258
Punjab	274	1519
Rajasthan	306	1712
Uttar Pradesh	576	2863
Uttarakhand	72	261
Assam	63	294
Arunachal Pradesh	9	33
Manipur	11	28
Meghalaya	20	110
Mizoram	7	16
Nagaland	9	16
Tripura	11	31
Sikkim	5	21
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4	45
Bihar	114	766
Jharkhand	94	559
Orissa	134	756
West Bengal	171	1061
Maharashtra	865	2799
Gujarat	444	1498
Madhya Pradesh	269	1032
Chhattisgarh	102	443
Goa	43	166
Daman and Diu	7	24
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6	35

1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	594	2467
Kerala	337	832
Puducherry	42	182
Karnataka	418	1628
Andhra Pradesh	471	2711
Lakshadeep	0	7
Total	6315	27127

Sales figures are based on Industry Performance Review and do not consumption through private imports.

Silk Export

2482. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has failed to achieve

silk export target fixed for 2008-09;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the targets fixed and achievements made in the export of silk items during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether any decline in the export of silk item recorded during the said period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, item-wise alongwith the reasons for such decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) While exports of readymade garments of silk have grown steadily during the last three years, exports of natural silk yam, fabrics and made-ups and silk waste have shown a declining trend during the last five years as may be seen from the Table-'A' below. However, due to economic slow down in the USA and EU markets, exports of silk has shown a decline viz-a-viz the targets fixed during the last three years as may be seen from the Table-'B' below.

Table-A

	2004-05 US\$ Mn	2005-06 US\$ Mn	2006-07 US\$ Mn	2007-08 US\$ Mn	2008-09 US\$ Mn
Readymade Garment of Silk	189.54	260.72	264.37	271.78	312.59
Natural Silk yarn, fabrics and made-ups	404.69	428.06	436.55	382.93	361.80
Silk Waste	03.3	4.50	5.03	3.02	1.14
Total	594.56	693.28	705.95	657.72	675.53

Source: DGCI and S Kolkata (Provisional Figures)

Table-B

	2006-07 Targets US\$ Mn	2006-07 Achievement US\$ Mn	2007-08 Targets US\$ Mn	2007-08 Achievement US\$ Mn	2008-09 Targets US\$ Mn	2008-09 Achievement US\$ Mn
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Readymade Garment of silk	—	264.37	—	271.78	—	312.59

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Natural Silk yam, fabrics and made-ups	—	436.55	—	382.93	—	361.80
Silk Waste	—	5.03	—	3.02	—	1.14
	712.00	705.95	753.00	657.72	780.00	675.53

Source: DGCI and S Kolkata (Provisional Figures)

Profit Margin on Urea

2483. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the retail price of urea has not revised since 2002;

(b) if so, whether the profit margin of manufacturers of urea has remained same as it was in 2002;

(c) if so the details in this regard; and

(d) the measures taken/propose to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the manufacturers of urea in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) There is no change in the MRP of urea since March 2002. The urea units are allowed 12% post tax return on capital employed in the costed year for arriving at the retention price before group averaging. The return allowed is not depended on MRP of urea. It is based on costed year capital employed/networth of the units.

(d) The Government has taken various measures to encourage efficiency and safeguard the interest of urea producing units. Under NPS-III, pre-set energy norms have been notified for all the urea units. Savings in energy consumption achieved by the urea units with respect to pre-set energy norms are incentivized by payment at the weighted average basic rate of inputs consumed.

Setting Up of Special Purpose Vehicles

2484. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister

of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) have urged upon the oil companies both in the private and public sector to set up Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for developing an integrated refinery and petrochemical plants in India and the overseas market;

(b) if so, whether GAIL proposes to form a consortium of Indian companies to build a strong entity to meet the needs of the domestic and overseas market;

(c) if so, whether any talks have been held with the concerned companies to come on conclusive decisions on the above aspects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Independent Directors in CPSEs

2485. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether almost a third of all listed Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) do not have the required number of independent directors on their Board;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the names of such CPSEs which do not have required number of independent directors on their board;

(c) whether Standing Conference of Public

Enterprises (SCOPE) has desired that the number or independent directors and their performance should be reviewed;

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

(e) steps taken/being taken for filling up the vacancies of independent directors in the CPSEs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per available information, 32 listed Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSFs) do not have required number of non-official Directors on their Boards. The list of these 32 CPSEs is given in the Statement enclosed. The appointment of non-official Directors on the Boards of CPSEs is a continuous process and the main reasons for non-appointment of required number of non-official Directors on the Boards of CPSEs is non-submission of proposals for appointment of non-official Directors by the concerned Administrative Ministries in time and delay in obtaining approval of competent authority on the recommendations made by Search Committee/Public Enterprises Selection Board in this regard.

(c) Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) has not furnished any formal proposal to Government in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The concerned Administrative Ministries have been requested to furnish the proposals for appointment of non-official Directors at least six months in advance of occurrence of vacancies and are being periodically reminded to furnish proposals for filling up vacant positions of non-official Directors on the Boards of CPSEs under their administrative control.

Statement

List of listed Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) whose Boards do not have required number of non-official Directors

Sl. No.	Name of the CPSE
1.	Andrew Yule and Company Limited

Sl. No.	Name of the CPSE
2.	Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited
3.	BEML Limited
4.	Bharat Electronics Limited
5.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
6.	Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Limited
7.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
8.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
9.	Engineers India Limited
10.	GAIL (India) Limited
11.	Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited
12.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited
13.	HMT Limited
14.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
15.	Indian Oil Corporation Limited
16.	IRCON International Limited
17.	ITI Limited
18.	Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited
19.	Madras Fertilizers Limited
20.	Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited
21.	MMTC Limited
22.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
23.	National Fertilizers Limited
24.	NMDC Limited
25.	Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited
26.	Oil India Limited
27.	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited
28.	Power Finance Corporation Limited

Sl. No.	Name of the CPSE
29.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited
30.	Scooters India Limited
31.	Steel Authority of India Limited
32.	State Trading Corporation of India Limited

International Status to Airports

2486. SHRIMATI POONAM VELJIBHAI JAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for granting International status to any airports in Gujarat including Bhuj airport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Ahmedabad is the notified international Airport.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Auto Hubs

2487. SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKER

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to set up auto hubs in the various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the number of auto hubs likely to be opened, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Railway are setting up auto hubs in different parts of country with a view to increase its market share in transport of automobiles with private participation. Foundation stone for the first auto hub has been laid at Shalimar in Kolkata area. Another 9 such auto hubs

are proposed at New Jalpaiguri (Siliguri), Guwahati, Nasik, Pune Area, Bangalore, Chennai Area, Ernakulum, Rewari and Ahmedabad. In each zone, one auto hub will be set up as per requirement.

Withdrawal of Subsidy on Fertilizers

2488. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision for withdrawing the fertilizer subsidy being given to farmers;

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

(c) the steps taken to prevent the hike in prices of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) in view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) The MRPs of fertilizers are constant since March 2002. There is no proposal to change the price of fertilizers.

[Translation]

Pending Food Processing Projects

2489. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing and pending food processing projects in the country, State-wise particularly in Jharkhand;

(b) the details of funds allocated and spent by each State, projects-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to promote food processing industries in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard and to provide employment to the unemployed youth in these industries?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The data on Food Processing Industries/units in the country, including that of Jharkhand is not centrally maintained. Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the country in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of food processing industries.

(b) Since financial assistance under above schemes is project oriented, no funds have been allocated State-wise. The financial assistance is provided to the various units under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of food processing industries. The details of financial assistance provided to the units State-wise during last three years is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Government has formulated and is implementing several Plan Schemes to provide financial

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

Food Processing Industries 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 unorganized sector across the supply chain. Direct employment provided during the last five years has grown from 3.9 million to 4.4 million and indirect employment has grown from 6 million to 9 million.

Statement

Number of project approved and financial assistance provided during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 State-wise

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10 (As on 13-11-2009)	
	Approved	Amount released	Approved	Amount released	Approved	Amount released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	43	947.49	48	908.999	28	581.86
Andman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	1	17.67	0	0
Assam	12	442.17	17	176.79	2	22.315

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bihar	5	83.915	2	42.3	1	25.00
Chandigarh	6	138.08	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	0	0	10	163.725	4	54.455
Delhi	0	0	7	160.65	2	50.00
Goa	1	17.00	1	24.57	1	24.26
Gujarat	32	544.06	39	714.81	4	37.36
Haryana	19	418.72	23	349.415	34	553.34
Himachal Pradesh	12	325.09	5	152.745	9	224.52
Jammu and Kashmir	9	109.855	3	22.05	6	54.741
Jharkhand	2	9.09	0	0	3	44.09
Karnataka	34	529.62	35	629.895	17	251.375
Kerala	47	876.8	32	545.37	16	281.185
Madhya Pradesh	10	172.32	14	201.87	11	152.655
Maharashtra	95	1696.805	121	1802.633	85	1216.895
Manipur	3	61.74	3	45.51	4	79.825
Meghalaya	1	8.19	2	159.57	1	13.86
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	1	11.00
Nagaland	1	27.485	4	178.205	0	0
Orissa	6	129.41	2	38.68	4	56.72
Pondicherry	2	31.3	0	0	0	0
Punjab	32	481.45	61	841.36	12	143.055
Rajasthan	35	566.075	44	551.975	18	227.827
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	53	951.79	36	594.355	31	471.140
Tripura	2	39.98	1	13.86	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	63	1123.425	43	875.475	18	308.320
Uttanchal	9	339.78	6	163.15	4	23.550

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
West Bengal	35	653.56	19	390.135	4	77.226
Total	569	10725.2	579	9765.767	320	4986.574

[English]

Exploration in Deep Water Blocks

2490. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether operators in deep water blocks have requested the Union Government for drilling moratorium for a period of three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Madam. Under the production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, three operators, namely, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, Reliance Industries Limited and ENI have requested for drilling moratorium in deep water blocks for a period of three years w.e.f. 01-01-2008 to 31-12-2010.

(b) and (c) The request has been made by them on account of worldwide shortage of deep water drilling rigs. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Competition from Low Cost Airlines

2491. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have evolved any policy to meet the competition from the low cost private airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other initiatives taken by the Railways to attract more passengers?

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

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

Handloom Kiosks

2492. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up handloom kiosks to promote the sale of handicrafts and handloom items at Delhi Metro and other major railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the targets fixed for sale of handicrafts and handloom items through these kiosks; and

(d) the time by which these kiosks are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A proposal to establish 160 kiosks at different stations of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation to promote sale of handicrafts and handloom items has been approved by the Government.

(c) Presently no target has been fixed for sale of handicrafts and handloom items through these kiosks. It is expected that with establishment of these kiosks, sale of handicrafts and handloom items will get a boost.

(d) A time of 18 months has been fixed for the project.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now papers to be laid.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 929/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934:

- (i) The Aircraft (15th Amendment) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 757(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 2009, alongwith an explanatory note.
- (ii) The Aircraft (13th Amendment) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 744(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th October, 2009, alongwith an explanatory note.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 930/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Competition Appellate Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and other Members) Second Amendment Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 827(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2009 under sub-section (3) of Section 63 of the Competition Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 931/15/09]

- (2) A copy of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India for the year ended 31st March, 2009, published in Notification No. F. No. 104/29/ Accts.-Report of the Council-in Gazette of India dated the 16th September, 2009, under Section 40 of the Company Secretaries Act, 1940.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 932/15/09]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India for the year ended 31st March, published in Notification No. G/18-CWA/9/2009 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd September, 2009, under Section 40 of the Cost and Works Accountants Act 1959.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 933/15/09]

- (4) A copy of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India for the year ended 31st March, 2009 published in Notification No. 1-CA(5)/60/2009 in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2009, under Section 30B of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 934/15/09]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and

English versions) of the Central Wakf Council, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Wakf Council, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 935/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Raigarh, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Raigarh, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Raigarh, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 936/15/09]

- (2) A copy each of the Statements (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited for the years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective accounting years.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 937/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 938/15/09]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 939/15/09]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Institute of Textile Management, Coimbatore, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Textile Management, Coimbatore, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 940/15/09]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 941/15/09]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Handloom Export Promotion Council, Tamil Nadu, for the

[Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi]

year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Tamil Nadu, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 942/15/09]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Man-Made Textiles Research Association, Surat, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Man-Made Textiles Research Association, Surat, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 943/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the KIOCL Limited (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the KIOCL Limited (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 944/15/09]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 945/15/09]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Steel-works Construction Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 946/15/09]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the MSTC Limited, Kolkata, including its subsidiaries for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the MSTC Limited, Kolkata, including its subsidiaries for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 947/15/09]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 948/15/09]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the MECON Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the MECON Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 949/15/09]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 950/15/09]

- (h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Manganese Ore (India) Limited, Nagpur, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Manganese Ore (India) Limited, Nagpur, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 951/15/09]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA*

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Madam, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Legal Metrology Bill, 2009 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st December, 2009."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed

to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st December, 2009 agreed without any amendment to the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 25th November, 2009."

2. Madam, I lay on the Table the Legal Metrology Bill, 2009, as passed by Rajya Sabha, on the 1st December, 2009.

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

1st and 2nd Reports

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Madam I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs:

- (1) 1st Report (15th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Indian Affairs for the year 2009-2010; and
- (2) 2nd Report (15th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2009-2010.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

1st to 3rd Reports

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Sriperumbudur): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways:—

- (1) First Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in their Thirty-sixth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants-2008-09 of the Ministry of Railways';

*Laid on the table.

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

- (2) Second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in their Fortieth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Review of Plan Performance and 11th Five Year Plan Projections'; and
- (3) Third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in their Forty-first Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Review of Special Railway Safety Fund'.

on all plant systems of the Reactors and radiation levels were found to be normal. There was no radioactivity release to the environment or public. The search for source of contamination zeroed in on a water cooler located in the service building. The water cooler was found to have contaminated water. It was immediately sealed and put out of service.

2. Urine samples of about 800 personnel working in the area were analysed and 92 were found to have tritium content "higher than normal". In the event of uptake of tritium by the human body the flushing processes of the body like urination, perspiration, and excretion, brings down the excess tritium. This process can be hastened through medication. Immediate medical attention was given to the affected people and the workers are now attending to their normal duties and no one is hospitalized. At this stage two persons are having tritium in their body that can cause their extrapolated annual radiation exposure to marginally exceed the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board specified limit of 30 millisievert per year. However, even in the case of these two persons further medical management will bring down their potential radiation exposure to less than the AERB specified limit in a short time. (The limit prescribed by the International Commission on Radiation Protection is 50 mSv per year, whereas AERB has prescribed a lower limit of 30 mSv per year as a matter of abundant caution.)

3. The NPCIL constituted a committee under the Chief Superintendent to go into the details to identify the cause and come out with reasons and remedial actions. The interim report of the committee indicates that some heavy water containing tritium was deliberately added to the drinking water cooler with *mala fide* intent.

4. As regards the investigation, the local and central agencies are at work and the evidence like log books, close circuit TV footage, analysis of water samples, etc. are being used to ascertain the facts. In view of the initial conclusion regarding the possibility of mischief by an insider, an FIR has been filed on 151 December at local Mallapur Police Station. Action would be taken against those found responsible for the incident.

5. In summary:

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Issue of radioactive contamination of drinking water at Kaiga Atomic Power Station**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Madam, Kaiga Atomic Power Station near Karwar in Uttar Kannada District Karnataka has got 3 nuclear power reactors and fourth one is under construction. Service building for the Reactor Units-I and II is a combined building. The service building is separate from the reactor building and consists of electrical/mechanical/instrumentation shops, chemical labs, health physics unit, decontamination centre, clothing cribs, change rooms, etc. The radioactivity levels are regularly monitored even in the service building as part of the normal safety procedures. Urine samples of the employees are also routinely tested as part of this. On 24th November the results showed "higher than the normal" traces of tritium (heavier isotope of hydrogen) in the urine samples of some of the personnel working in the service building. Following this, checks were made

- All the plant systems are operating safely. There is no damage to the plant whatsoever. There is no release of radioactivity to the environment. There is no effect on the health and safety of the public. There is no breach of security of the plant.
- The limits of exposure of radiation workers in India are specified by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The AERB limit itself is more stringent than the limits prescribed by most countries. The exposure of the two radiation workers is currently assessed to be marginally above the AERB limit. However, as the normal biological processes continue to discharge the tritiated water from the body regularly, the final exposure will get reduced with time. All workers continue to be on their regular jobs.
- Help of local and central agencies has been taken and the evidence available (log books, CCTV footage, analysis of water samples, etc.) would be used to identify the culprits. An FIR has been filed on 1st December, 2009 at the local Police Station.
- The processes, procedures and human performance aspects of all Stations of NPCIL are being reviewed again to carry out reinforcements as appropriate.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 953/15/09]

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Zero Hour. Mulayam Singhji I have to convey to you that...

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE (Uttar Kannada): Madam Speaker, we want clarification on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): That day, I had raised this question in the Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You give a notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Madam Speaker, we want clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: No clarification will be given at this time. Now it is Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam Speaker, please give me two minutes' time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please give a notice for that.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shree Mulayam Singh ji.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: We had to hear Shree Mulayam Singh Ji in the Zero Hour, I had permitted him.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: All right. You take your seat please.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, you also please sit down. I have told him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM (Mumbai North): Madam Speaker, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not raise point of order during the Zero Hour. Now, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, I have to say something to you.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down. I am saying something to Mulayam Singhji.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam Speaker, if you have given a ruling for giving a notice, then I would like to know whether Mulayam Singhji has given a notice. *...(Interruptions)* Mulayam Singhji speaks, I do not have any objection, but I am talking rule only. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You sit down. I had contended in the beginning.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Zero Hour cannot *...(Interruptions)*. If there is any important subject, then permission should be given for that. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You also know that both of these are allowed. There is no such regulation for the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam Speaker, I have also given notice. *...(Interruptions)* why am I not being called. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: I always call you, you always speak. You will also be called.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I want to tell you that the ruling related to the Zero Hour is totally on the discretion of the Speaker and we have made a provision of ballot also. Apart from the ballot, if there is any other very important matter, we keep provision for that also. Provision is for both.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Speaker. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, you please listen to me for a minute.

Earlier, during the Question Hour, the Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs said that they were ready for discussion on this issue and B.A.C. will fix

the time if you give notice for the same. You can speak in detail during the discussion. I just wanted to tell you the same.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Speaker, allow me to speak for a minute.

MADAM SPEAKER: O.K. but please be brief. You can speak in detail later on. Then let the Zero Hour continue.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Speaker, a case regarding K.G. Basin Gas dispute is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and Hon'ble Minister of petroleum and natural Gas, Shri Murli Deora has submitted an affidavit against the N.T.P.C. in this case. This is an important Question, because when the same question was asked by me the leader of the House had assured the House that N.T.P.C. would not be trusted to private sector. On the one hand, the leader of the House assures that N.T.P.C. will not be handed over to private sector, on the other it is being handed over to the private sector. N.T.P.C. is as Navratna company. If it is handed over to the private sector, it will suffer huge losses. Therefore, we wish you to interfere in the matter and save this Navaratna company which is one of the best companies in the world. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar): Madam, I want to raise a very important issue.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please let me know what it is. Then, I will give you a chance. You please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I am not aware what your matter is. I have not received any notice.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I am not aware what it is. Let the Zero Hour go on. I will give you a chance. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let me also call other hon. Members. Mr. Bandyopadhyay, please Sit down.

[Translation]

During the Zero Hour, other Hon'ble Members are also to speak. Let me call them first.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Harsh Vardhan.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, please give me a chance first. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I will give you a chance.

[Translation]

SHRI HARSH VARDHAN (Maharajanj, Uttar Pradesh): Madam Speaker, Metro rail services were launched in Delhi to provide better transport facility to the common man and reduce congestion in Delhi. The importance of Metro Rail will increase further during the forthcoming commonwealth Games. The kind of its day to day operations and its management is causing problems to the common man. According to the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister in this House construction cost of underground metro line for the first phase was 360.28 crore rupees per km. 268 crore rupees per km for the second phase. This is the cost of underground construction. With regard to elevated and underground levels. Hon. Minister has categorically started in his reply.

[English]

"Separate cost for elevated and underground levels has not been worked out by the DMRC."

[Translation]

I fail to understand that payments are being made for the work carried out by contractors and till date DMRC has not worked out that cost. This is beyond my comprehension. Operation on the NOIDA line started on 12 November last year. It is taking 3 to 4 times more time presently compared to its scheduled time. There were reports in the news papers about it's

derailments and seepage in the boggies. This is a serious matter because public money has been spent on the same at the rate of Rs. 360 crore per km. This is the money which belongs to poor people and which is being borrowed. Despite all that there are problems in its operation. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister that huge money is being spent, still there are problems in the operation. It is my request that necessary action may please be taken for it smooth operation keeping in view the Common Wealth Games to be held in Delhi in 2010.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Mithilesh Kumar—Not present.

[English]

Shri K. Sugumar.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, we remain ignored as we are keeping mum. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: But I do not know as to what you want to talk about.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, we have given notice. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I have not received any notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, the big leaders are allowed to speak without giving any notice. ...(Interruptions) I have given a notice to raise the matter during the 'Zero Hour'. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I have received their notice, but I have not received any notice from you. Therefore, I do not know as to what it is about. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I have not received anything.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: I have given notice. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: When did you give it? Nothing has been received by me?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: We have given our notice. It is...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: But let me know as to what it is. I just cannot go ahead and permit something that I do not know about.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Would you let me know as to what it is about? ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I will call you. But, first let me know as to what it is about.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please allow me also to have knowledge of what it is about.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I am in the dark at the moment as to what issue you want to raise.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, Shri K. Sugumar to raise his matter.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: You always get a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. SUGUMAR (Pollachi): Hon. Speaker: Madam, out of 1,200 mechanized coir units functioning all over Tamil Nadu, 500 are based in Pollachi. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Dr. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR (Barasat): Madam Speaker, this is a very serious matter. People are being killed there everyday. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the hon. Member. He is raising an important issue in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Let him continue with his 'Zero Hour' submission.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. SUGUMAR: Hon. Speaker Madam, out of 1,200 mechanized coir units functioning all over Tamil Nadu, 500 are based in Pollachi. Most of the units contribute high volume of coir fiber for export to China and other countries. They utilize unwanted thrown-away quality of brown husk as raw material for extraction of coir fiber.

During the last one year, 20,000 tonnes of coir fiber was exported from Tamil Nadu, and it indirectly provided job opportunities for two lakh workers, especially, women. All means of coir extraction in Tamil Nadu is operative due to the fact that there is demand of coir fiber from China and other countries. But, the neighbouring State Kerala is not purchasing brown coir fiber all along.

A ban on coir fiber export, as is being insisted by Kerala, will be a blow to the workers mainly working in Pollachi coir fiber industries, and it will also cripple the new export units in this trade. There is also a good procurement of raw materials in the offing. So, the issue of supplying inadequate white fiber to Kerala will be

settled soon. Hence, the call by Kerala for a total ban on export of coir fiber is unwarranted.

Earlier, Kerala used to get around 400 tonnes of white fiber from Pollachi. But, of late, it is getting only 100 tonnes, which is inadequate as the need is around one lakh tonnes of white fiber per year. This is generally a misunderstanding that due to the exports by Tamil Nadu coir units, the supply of coir fibre to Kerala has come down. Tamil Nadu is exporting mainly brown fibre to other countries and not white. Due to the fall in the price of coconut, shortage occurred for green husk resulting in low production of white fibre. This is a temporary phenomenon. This will be rectified in the month of January when coconut bumper crop starts.

Tamil Nadu fibre producers export brown fibre at a very low rate just to provide job opportunities and also to keep the factories run continuously. Producing white fibre or selling it to Kerala is a more profitable business for the coir producers. Only the price fall in coconut resulted low profit or nil profit for coir producers in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu is playing a significant role in the export of coir fibre. Out of Rs. 550 crore worth of export from the country, Rs. 130 crore alone is from the state of Tamil Nadu. Moreover, with respect to coir pitch, last year, the export amounted to Rs. 85 crore, while this year the target is Rs. 120 crore.

Around 150 new industries have come up in the state. Many of them have invested around Rs. 50 lakhs on their export-oriented units.

A ban on the export of coir fibre will affect lakhs of employees working in 479 these units. The problem faced by Kerala is only temporary and, hence, it is requested that the Government at the Centre should act on war-footing to continue the present status of free export of coir fibre from India/Tamil Nadu. Any agitation in Kerala against the export of coir fibre from Tamil Nadu is unwarranted and politically motivated.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Akbarpur): Madam, after 62 years of independence, while this country is making, the condition of farmers and labourers has worsened

day by day instead of improving. Even after 62 years of independence farmers do not have ownership of their land, they are tilling. Whenever the Government wishes their land is acquired for different purposes i.e. for road, electricity, for private and Government institutions, at throw away prices and the amount is credited to their account without fixing market rates of their land. The compensation is meagre and the farmers either have to go from pillar to post of the concerned department to get the compensation or they run old fighting, while the case is in the courts of law. After 62 years of independence their names are recorded somewhere as Bhumidhar, somewhere as 'Sirdher' and some where as G¹/₁, G¹/₃, G¹/₄. The large chunk of land in forest area under the possession of the people belonging to the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe category is also being acquired by the Government. In such a situation, the condition of the farmers is turning from bad to worse day by day. The percentage of farmers is highest amongst the total number of persons committing suicide due to financial hardships in the country.

Through you, I, therefore, urge upon the Government that we have no objection if the Government acquires our land but its owner should get land owners and the compensation should be given as per the prevalent market rates and jobs should be given to the wards of the farmers in the institution for which land is being acquired. The compensation should be given immediately and it should be as per the market rates. Through you, I, therefore, demand that the Union Government should immediately intervene in this regard and take steps to give ownership of land to the farmers. Land of farmers is being acquired at throw-away prices in the name of development and for developing cities and the same land is being given to private capitalists at throw away prices.

At the time of acquiring land for developing colonies, it is acquired in term of Bigha and accordingly rate is fixed, but the people whose land has been acquired here to buy dwelling units constructed on that land at the rate of thousands of rupees per square yard. Therefore, through you, I urge that irrespective of whether the land is acquired for development of cities. Construction of roads, setting up power plant or for Government Institutions, dwelling units should be

[Shri Rajaram Pal]

purchased at cheaper rates to the people whose land has been acquired and the people who are losing their land holding should be provided reasonable compensation to save them from starvation.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I would like to raise a very important and urgent matter for the consideration of this House relating to the status of the children that our country is facing.

Recently, the UNICEF's State of the World Children Report has ranked our country as low as 49th in a list of 194 countries. It is a damning indictment of the Indian State though there is no denying of the fact that the figures have bettered since the country signed the Convention of the Rights of the Child in 1992. This improvement is just not good enough.

Five thousand children under the age of five still die every day in our country. One million deaths within the first month of birth and another million within the age of five, every year take place. One of the reasons for the high rate of child death is malnutrition. Even relatively developed States have more than a quarter of their children underweight. Though the Government has several nutrition programmes, doubts are there about their implementation.

Many hurdles remain in the protection of children, especially among the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste community. On the health front, even though immunization is considered one of the most cost effective interventions, only 54 per cent of the nation's children are fully immunized and nearly 11.3 per cent have not received any form of vaccination. The fact that a large number of child deaths can be prevented through simple measures should jolt the authorities out of their complacency and slumber. Madam, 55 million children under the age of five are underweight.

I would urge upon the Government to address the problem at the grass root level, and urgently it should fulfill its responsibility towards the children. Thank you, Madam.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

Hon. Members, Dr. Ram Chandra Dome and Sk. Saidul Haque are also associating with the matter raised by Shri B. Mahtab.

Now, Shrimati Jyoti Dhurve.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, there is a limit for everything. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I have told you something. Do not get so angry.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Do not get so angry.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I have told you, I will call you. But there are people who have given their notices.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Do not get so angry. Do not get so agitated.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: No, please sit down. I have told you, I will call you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Why do you not call me? ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I will call you.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: When?

MADAM SPEAKER: I will call you.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: No, please sit down. Do not get so agitated. Please sit down. I have said I will call you, and I will call you. When I say I will call you, I will call.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Other hon'ble Members have

not been able to make their points due to interruptions. You as well as other hon'ble Members have to make their points. All the hon'ble Members have to speak, so, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not get annoyed. Please calm down and be seated.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let me continue. I will give you a chance.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shrimati Jyoti Dhurve.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I will call you. You will have a chance.

...(Interruptions)

12.30 hrs.

At this stage Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: No, I will call you.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

12.31 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA in the Chair]

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

RE: Deteriorating law and order situation in the State of West Bengal resulting in death of innocent persons

[English]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar): Mr. Chairman. Sir, we were assured that we would be allowed to speak but the House was suddenly adjourned. I will take only two minutes of your time. We just want to place something before the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You said you wanted to speak on a point of order.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Yes. Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please say what you have to say. Others may please sit down.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: It is actually a submission and a piece of information to the House also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Others please do not disturb him.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, just a few days back, hon. Home Minister announced on the floor of the House that a Central team of the Ministry of Home Affairs was in West Bengal to actually assess the situation of violence and what was happening over there. I want to bring to the attention of the House the most unfortunate and disgraceful thing that happened there. Even while the Central team is touring in the State, three persons have been brutally killed in the last two days, one inside a court compound. I want to record their names. One is Mansoor Mollah of Bishnupur, South 24 Pargana; one is Robin Adat Kursura; another one is Atim Mitra who is from Bonga. What we want to say is that the West Bengal Government is not caring for any Constitutional obligation at all. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Stop the genocide in West Bengal. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to allow this. You made your point. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (Sreerampur): Stop the killings first. Stop the genocide in West Bengal. What is the Home Minister doing?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. There is an announcement to be made.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: The hon. Home Minister must come to the House and clarify the position.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down now. There is no point of order. I am not going to allow. The hon. Minister wants to say something.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): I heard the anguish of the hon. Member Shri Bandyopadhyay. The killing of people is a matter of concern. I will definitely convey the sentiments of the hon. Members to the hon. Home Minister. I will request the hon. Home Minister to look into the matter and justice will be done. ...(Interruptions)

Dr. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Bolpur): Sir, is this proper?

SHRI BANSA GOPAL CHOWDHURY (Asansol): Is this the reply of the Minister? This is a State matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)...

14.04 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the matters

*Not recorded.

**Treated as laid on the Table.

under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them may personally handover slips at the Table of the House within 20 minutes. Only those matters shall be treated as laid of which slips reach the Table, and the rest will be treated as lapsed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats, hon. Members.

...(Interruptions)

- (i) **Need to pass the pending legislation for providing proper medication to HIV/AIDS affected people**

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Wardha): Sir, I want to draw the attention of Government towards the pathetic condition of HIV/AIDS affected people in our country. Now the situation is such that HIV affected children and employees are turned out of the schools and work places and women have to face gross negligence discrimination and never ending atrocities. In hospital doctors hesitate in treating them. Despite constitutional guarantee to life and despite supportive policies of the Government in regard to health, equality and humanity. HIV is fast spreading in our country. If we have to successfully counter this epidemic, we need a stringent law.

In 2007, after a long process, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare prepared a draft of bill. But the bill is still under consideration with the Ministry of Law and Justice.

In these circumstances, I urge the Government that proper arrangement for treatment of HIV/AIDS affected people should be made and the bill which is under consideration with the Government for protecting the human rights of such people should be introduced and passed in the House at the earliest.

- (ii) **Need to enhance the minimum qualifying limits of income for BPL to facilitate benefits under the schemes**

SHRI SONAWANE PRATAP NARAYANRAO (Dhule): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important issue. The prices are skyrocketing in the country day by day. The prices of essential commodities are increasing every day.

Under the present conditions, those families are considered below the poverty line whose income is Rupees twenty thousand or less and only these families get the facilities meant for BPL families.

Because of continuous price rise and increase in the prices of essential commodities, this income limit of twenty thousand is quite less. Many families are unable to get the relief meant for the BPL families and they are deprived of the basic facilities because of price rise.

Therefore, through you, I would like to demand from the Government that in view of the continuous price rise and sky rocketing prices of the basic essential commodities appropriate action may kindly be taken to increase the income limit of poverty line to one lakh rupees.

(iii) Need to provide funds to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for deepening works of dams/ponds in Gwalior Parliamentary Constituency

SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA (Gwalior): Sir, in Ghatigaon block of my parliamentary constituency Gwalior, there are Raipur dam (40 hectare), Veerpur dam (70 hectare) Girwai dam (40 hectare), Mama ka dam (40 hectare) Hanuman dam (40 hectare) Baria dam (70 hectare) and Aami Aama dam (40 hectare) which are there from the time of princely state of Gwalior. Since all the dams are very old and these are not being properly maintained, the water storage capacity of these dams has reduced. All these dams come under the purview department of Water Resources, Gwalior. If these dams are desilted/regard/deepen the water table of the nearby rural areas including Gwalior will increase and it will improve the water supply of the Gwalior city. I would like to urge the Government to provide sufficient funds to the state Government to desilt dredge/deepen these 7 local dams/ponds.

(iv) Need to re-schedule the operation of flights between Delhi and Surat and introduce flights connecting Surat with other parts of the country

SHRIMATI DARSHANA JARDOSH (Surat): Sir Surat Airport is awaiting its development. The people of Surat are eagerly awaiting the time table of the flights connecting different parts of the country. There is a demand to change the time of existing flights connecting Surat with Delhi because that flight timing is not suitable to the passengers. But no progress has been made in this regard. Other parts of the country are connected with Surat, it will facilitate more and more people because the people from all parts of the country have settled down here permanently. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to reschedule the operation of this flight between Surat and Delhi as per the convenience of the people and take necessary steps to connect Surat with other parts of the country with air services.

14.06 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Impact of Climate Change

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have received a request from Shri Anant Kumar Hegde that instead of him, Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi shall be asked to initiate the discussion on 'impact of climate change'. I have permitted Dr. Manohar Joshi to initiate the discussion.

[Translation]

Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Varanasi): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to speak on the impact of climate change. Through environment is getting warmer world wide, it's impact is quite visible in this House today. It is a matter of serious concern, as global warming is a real threat. If this type of heated atmosphere continues in this House then it will be a threat to democracy. So my humble request is that this House should discuss on this issue seriously. Some questions regarding environment are of short term and some are of long

[Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi]

term. There are some short term effects of environment and some are long term effects. Long duration effects more serious than short duration effects. I shall discuss those later on. The first thing is that it has been mentioned in the very beginning of the Human Development Report 2007-08 that global temperature is increasing day by day. It is apprehended if the pace of global warming is not controlled then it may go up by five degree by the end of this century i.e. the year 2100. Some scientists have reservations that it may go upto 9 degree. An increase of 5 degree in temperature has been forecasted by a number of experts but some scientists in new M.I.T. research have apprehension that it may go upto 9 degree and this is not a question related to 21st century alone, it will have its impact in the 22nd and 23rd century also. One of the reason behind present condition is the outcome of the past acts done during the last hundred and fifty years or two hundred years. Even today we find particles of carbon dioxide emitted during the operation of first steam engine and the first thermal power plant. It means whatever we are doing will have its impact upto hundred fifty years or two hundred years and whatever we do in future will have its impact for longer times. Therefore, while reaching on any conclusion on environment we should keep all these things in our mind. It is being said if there is an increase of 2 or 3 degree in temperature, then its outcome will be very dangerous. The most dreadful thing is that it will have catastrophic impacts. No one will come to know this. Presently, at least we know something about the environment but then we will not be able to know anything about it. Nobody will come to know anything about it. The reason is that all the existing modeling methods have been put in place in keeping view the specific conditions. But if some more unknown factors mingle in it then it will be more difficult to find out a solution. Therefore, it is said that in these I.P.C.C. reports in which three different scenario has been mentioned—it has been said that there are 50 per cent chances that temperature may shoot up by more than 5 degree, it can be expected that the temperature may go up by more than 5 degree. This is a very serious matter because you do not know whether the temperature will increase by 3 degree or 5 degree. As I have told you our present concern is how to stabilise

emission at a particular level and how to put a check on that and how to know the factors that are responsible for rise in temperature. Energy is the biggest factor that is causing rise in temperature. Presently in this temperature rise energy contribute 25 per cent, change in land use and forestry collectively contributes 8 per cent, agriculture contributes 6 per cent, industrial process contributes one and half or two per cent and waste contributes one and half per cent. Data says that the contribution of industrial energy as one and half per cent but in this major part of energy is linked with industry which is contributing maximum in the energy sector. Of course, major contributors are the industrialized countries where industrialization started 200 years ago. I give you an example, total population of United Kingdom is 6 crores but the level of emission of carbon dioxide by UK is more than the carbon dioxide emitted collectively by Egypt, Nizeria, Pakistan and Vietnam whose total population is 47 crores. This country is emitting more carbon dioxide as compared to Netherland, Bolivia Columbia, Peru, Uruguay and the small countries of Central America. An American State Texas has the population of meagrely two crores but it is emitting 700 million ton carbon dioxide. Thus, this single state is emitting 12 per cent of the total carbon dioxide that is emitted by the entire U.S.A. This quantity is more as compared to the carbon dioxide emitted by Africa and Sub Saharan countries where total population is 72 crores. In New York there live only 19 million people but this single city is emitting more carbon dioxide in comparison to the 50 least developed countries where there live 74 crores people. Thus you can understand that the rich countries are significant contributors in this temperature rise or agent of change in environment.

You can see that the situation today is such that out of 1.6 billion i.e. 160 crore people, 70 crore people live in South Asia and Sub-Sahara region and they do not have energy, they do not have power. Twenty-two crore people live in East Asia. In Sub-Sahara Africa, 54 crore people are living without power. This is the power distribution scenario. We can see that so many people are living without electricity, there is no power. The number of people in India living without access to electricity is around 500 millions. We are provided with data of rural electrification that so many villages have

access to electricity now. You think that if wires were put and poles were installed, it means the village has access to electricity. But electricity is not available. Electricity is not available, energy is not available. You frequently say that development cannot take place without electricity. There are 1.4 billion people in the world who do not have any kind of modern power utilities. This is a pitiable condition that 6 million i.e. one forth of the people do not have any kind of energy sources. But where has the energy gone? All these sources have been grabbed by the rich countries. There are 8-10 major countries and around 20 large and small developed countries in the world who possess the entire energy, all the sources. They are occupying national resources and this is the reason that other countries are facing shortage.

Sir, it is being said now that it is alright if energy imbalances is being faced, environmental equilibrium has been disturbed but how now onwards we would take care of it. Now, they tell us let us plant trees, let oxygen generated so that carbon dioxide may be absorbed and let us produce oxygen. We will provide funds to you and you should plant the trees. You absorb carbon dioxide and convert yourself into such and we will generate it. Now-a-days, developed countries find solution to each of our concerns and problems basically which has been expressed in Copenhagen and other conference held prior to it and other organizations/institutions, in one thing that they should generate power.

They want us to let them generate power and we will be their market. They say let power generation be our forte and purchasing it be yours, we will generate carbon dioxide and you keep on maintaining forestation. According to them, we need not make any development, because they are developing. Their development and our destruction will go hand in hand. We need to understand this particular issue, which have arisen due to the act of balancing environment. This is threatening. I would also like to say if it is true that with wide forestation, more carbon-dioxide can be absorbed, but being a student of science, I would say that there would be a time when carbon dioxide absorption will cross its limit, law of diminishing returns would be applicable, because absorption capacity decreases and

ultimately it stops absorbing at all. It means that they will provide us funds for a short time till carbon absorption process goes on and then we would be the same poor country because then we would not be having any other way out. This is the adverse outcome of the development model of the West.

I remember when the country got independence, somebody asked Mahatma Gandhi that now when India was free, whether the country proposed to take the same path of development as the Britishers did. Mahatma Gandhi, then, replied aptly that England became rich grabbing riches from half of the world, how many planets it would take India to loot to be come rich?

[English]

How many planets?

[Translation]

If England can be rich by robbing half of the world, which has seven times less population than ours, we have to rob at least three and half worlds. In today's scenario, if each person wants to be advanced, if he goes for the same carbon footprint as developed countries are presenting, then, 6 planets have to be looted and robbed. One planet is hard to save, wherefrom six planets would be brought to be looted, huge number of people to be thrown into poverty, bulk of natural resources to be exploited, and the quantum of emission to be given to the world. The search for resources existing on planets other than the earth is going on. The Moon, the Mars are being explored to find out resources. It is being said to settle down in other world, being told that the other world is a better place to live. Resources exist there. Who knows when the said resources would be obtained? Our own world is a matter of concern for us. We have to see what is going to happen next to this world. What is going to happen in the coming 100, 200, 300 years, what is the future of coming generation? It would be ridiculous if we say that we can make development by following the existing development model.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Government that if the said existing model would be followed, if western pattern of development is

[Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi]

followed, environment issue cannot be solved. This would prove a threat to human existence. The whole world is going through a critical phase. A strange and complex situation would arise soon. Sixteen per cent of the population owns 80 per cent of resources, production and consumption of the whole world. Water is an issue of dispute all around. The half of the population of the World is deprived of potable water. I would like to briefly tell you regarding the problems, which our country and the whole world would have to face in case there is global warming. First, if the temperature continue to rise at the current pace it will result in decrease in snow covered area at the Polar region and then what would be the likely effects. Now it is being said that the rise in sea level will be double or triple to that what was assessed earlier and then what would happen to our Maldives, and what will happen to the various species of animals and our farming? Even today, the food production is reported to have been declining.

This deficit will be 8 to 10 per cent in the next 10-20 years. And it will be even more by the time we reach 2020. 51 per cent land of our country will be affected. We have the datas, the visuals and the satellite images, which show the situation of the world. We can see the areas of world, which are being converted into deserts. Forests are disappearing. Animals and birds are on the verge of extinction and new kinds of diseases are break out. The Department of Health have the view that Dengue and Malaria will spread rapidly. The number of people suffering from Dengue, Malaria and Kala-azar, will increase further and we can only imagine the situation of India. It will be difficult for you to provide medicines and it will be very difficult to discover medicines for new diseases. You are going to formulate patent law and you will be helpless where it is already existing, you are not aware but a scheme to colorize you is being run. I am afraid that if these impacts on the environment are not stopped. It will be very disastrous to the whole world, confrontation among the countries will start. This will create a chaotic situation. I am also afraid that this will also result in the extinction of many species of rains, plants and animals. Other members will also speak on this matter, so I will not take much time. The data is alarming and more deaths

are inevitable due to change in the climate, more people have been suffering from the problems of housing and rehabilitation all over the world.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister has written a letter to all the MPs in which he has disclosed the stand which will be taken by India. I am happy that these views of Members were solicited. The Minister stated.

[English]

"A shared vision for long term cooperative action including a long term global goal for emission reduction."

[Translation]

But who will agree? Countries are not ready for long-term cooperation. America is not ready to accept Kyoto Protocol. Would America agree for long-term global goal? America is a world power before whom we have given in we expect that this world power will ever believe in long term goals. At least I do not believe. But I have seen a very peculiar thing recently. When a Bill on climate was being passed in America an article of a renowned person Paul Krugman betraying the Planet was published. The Bill was passed but the Members who opposed the Bill further wrote about it. I will quote some text from this article. This happened during the month of June.

[English]

"But if you watched the debate on Friday, you did not see people who have thought hard about a crucial issue, and are trying to do the right thing. What you saw, instead, were people who show no sign of being interested in the truth. They don't like the political and policy implications of climate change, so they have decided not to believe in it—and they'll grab any argument, no matter how disreputable, that feeds their denial.

Indeed, if there was a defining moment in Friday's debate in America, it was the declaration by Representative Paul Broun of Georgia that climate change is nothing but a "hoax" that has been "perpetrated out of the scientific community."

[Translation]

This is his concern and even he got all praise. Krugman further wrote—

[English]

"I would call this a crazy conspiracy theory, but doing so would actually be unfair to crazy conspiracy theorists. After all, to believe that global warming is a hoax you have to believe in a vast cabal consisting of thousands of scientists—a cabal so powerful that it has managed to create false records on everything from global temperatures to Arctic sea ice."

[Translation]

If it is their view point then should we expect from them in future that in any developed or developing nation when they have been committing crime for the last 200 years, they would like to evade punishment or try to get freedom from these things and repent for their sins.

They can not be trusted at all. It has been further stated

[English]

"Still is it fair to call climate denial a form of treason? Isn't it politics as usual? Yes, it is—and that's why it is unforgivable. Do you remember the days when Bush Administration officials claimed that terrorism posed an "existential threat" to America, a threat in whose face normal rules no longer apply? That was hyperbole—but the "existential threat" from climate change is all too real."

[Translation]

All rules should be applied for this. Throw away all rules if there is threat of terrorism, if the crisis of climate change precipitates and the entire world get affected by their crime and should we be depressed for all this act and for this we are asked to cut down our emissions, to slow our pace of growth. These are serious questions and we have to talk about these things with utmost concern. I think we shall have to put forward our point of view strongly in Copenhagen. If we bow down there

even slightly, we shall be creating difficulty for the lives of future generation. We would be criminals in the eyes of future generations, as we are today also. Whatever we have done in these 60 years, the path on which we led the development of this country, there is no doubt that our emission is less, but we are still safe. If we follow this path and each person of this country starts to contribute the same amount of emission like an American, where per capita emission is 16-17 times more than the average emissions in our country. What would happen to this world and our country? If Bangladesh alone starts emitting the same amount of emission then what would happen? Can this model of development lead to sustainable consumption, can this provide dignified life to all the people, can this provide food, cloth, house, water, medicine etc. to all the people? If only 16 per cent population starts controlling the resources of the world, when two billion people are unable to subsist on more than two dollar per day, in such condition where this model of development will lead us? I request you to think over it seriously. In a recent conference of our scientists, it was discussed as to how to make the people understand this? He said a very good thing. This is Mr. John Rukstrum who is the Chairman of our Stockholm Environment Institute. He says

[English]

"The financial crisis happened because we allowed housing loans way beyond the stock levels that were available. Similarly, we are subsidizing our living standards to a level which the planet cannot afford".

[Translation]

The amount provided as housing loans was bigger than the amount deposited in banks. As a result your economy collapsed. We are spending more than our environment can afford and as a result, environment will collapse, our life will collapse. A close perusal reveals that the economic crisis was triggered by the same development model. The crisis was precipitated due to excessive consumption, and consumerism and the economy crashed. Due to the same, consumerism started environmental pollution and uninterrupted exploitation of

[Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi]

natural resources. Subsequently we have environmental crisis, crisis of humanity and existence. The economy, technology, the production system, market system, dependence on market created such economic and climate conditions and are required to be considered seriously.

[English]

The fundamentals of globalization and western guidelines to development are flawed. They are wrong.

[Translation]

This is not correct and these should be changed. I have been talking about it from the very beginning. I have forewarned and I am pleased that the present President of World Bank Mr. Wolfensohn has accepted that the world has become imbalanced. Addressing meeting of World Bank Governors in September 2003, he said:—

[English]

"Last week, in Paris, I met youth leaders who represented organisations with more than 120 million members worldwide."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Joshi, you may continue later. Please take your seat now. There is a statement to be made by the hon. Minister for External Affairs in today's List of Business.

Shri S.M. Krishna.

14.22 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS—Contd.

(ii) Visit of the Prime Minister to United States of America

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): Hon. Chairman Sir, I rise to inform the House of the visit of the hon. Prime Minister to the United States of America from November 22 to 26, 2009. I would like to share with this House the main outcomes of the visit.

As hon. Members are aware, the Prime Minister's visit to the United States marked the first bilateral Summit between India and the United States after the elections in America last November and our Parliamentary elections this year. It was also the first State visit to the United States by a foreign leader under the new Administration. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Sir, the statement has not been distributed to the hon. Members. We have not got copies of the statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is laid on the Table of the House. If you want, you may take it from there. Statements are not circulated always.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If anybody wants it, you may take it from the Table.

Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Varanasi): It is not the question of 'anybody' wanting it. It is a rule. All Members should have a copy of it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The statement is on the table.

Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: It is not sufficient to say that it is on the table. It has to be circulated.

I have been in Parliament for more than thirty years. It is not for the first time that a minister is giving his statement *(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Hon'ble Prime Minister and the US President reviewed all aspects of the India-US bilateral relationship. During their meeting, "the US Secretary of State, Ms. Hillary Clinton and I updated them" on the progress of the Strategic Dialogue that we had announced earlier this year on July 20, 2009.

The Joint Statement titled "India and the United States: Partnership for a Better World" issued after the talks outlines the main focus of the discussions. Trade and investment, clean and efficient energy, science and technology, space, high technology, education, health

agriculture and counter-terrorism have been identified as areas of special focus for our future cooperation.

Both India and the United States reiterated their intention to realize the full potential of the Agreement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation signed on October 10, 2008 through the speedy implementation of its provisions. We also agreed that it was particularly important to invigorate and strengthen high technology trade between our two countries.

The two sides agree to create conditions to facilitate the expansion of their economies. In this context, the opportunities for US participation in the infrastructure, information and communication technology, healthcare services, education services, energy and environment-friendly technology sectors in India were highlighted. They agreed to launch the US-India Financial and Economic Partnership to strengthen engagement on economic, financial and investment related issues.

Both sides agreed to facilitate greater movement of professionals, investors and business travellers, students, and exchange visitors between our two countries. We announced our intention to develop a Framework for Cooperation on Trade and Investment that would foster an environment conducive to technological innovation and collaboration, promote inclusive growth and job creation, and support opportunities for increased trade and investment—including for small and medium-sized enterprises.

The two leaders agreed to pursue their fruitful collaboration in research and science and technology. They launched a Knowledge Initiative with a total funding of USD 10 million that will be allocated to increasing university linkages and junior faculty development exchanges between U.S. and Indian universities, including greater emphasis on community colleges. The Fulbright-Nehru programme will be expanded to provide more student and scholar exchange grants. They agreed to cooperate in the area of women's empowerment.

Prime Minister and President Obama agreed to advance public health and biomedical research collaborations between the United States and India. A Memorandum of Intent has been signed on the establishing of a Regional Global Disease Detection

Center in India in partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This would facilitate co-operation between our doctors and scientists in discovering new and affordable technologies and treatments.

Through the India-US Bi-national Science and Technology Commission and the Endowment, it was agreed to give fresh impetus to collaboration in the cutting edge areas of scientific research, technology and development.

Prime Minister and President Obama agreed to increase India-U.S. agricultural cooperation through a memorandum of understanding on agricultural cooperation and food security with the purpose of promoting agricultural research, human resources capacity building, natural resource management, agri-business and food processing, and collaborative research for increasing food productivity. An important element of this co-operation is the joint development of technology that would improve weather forecasting, including predicting monsoons, and contribute to food productivity and food security efforts in our country.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: You are saying it is on the table. Will it not become chaotic if each member comes here to collect? Will there be order in the House?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, it may be the system in the other House. In Lok Sabha, the statement is not circulated. The Members are talking about the system in the Rajya Sabha.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Then, you must adopt a better system here also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can think of the system later. Now, the hon. Minister may continue with his statement.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Sir, an important objective of the hon. Prime Minister's visit was to reaffirm the

[Shri S.M. Krishna]

importance that India attaches to its relations with the United States, and to share our perspectives and concerns on key issues with the new US Administration.

President Obama conveyed to our Prime Minister that strengthening relations with India was one of the highest priorities for his Administration. Prime Minister conveyed to the President that the rapid socio-economic transformation underway in India holds several opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation between our countries in all areas. India is in a position to contribute to global economic recovery, combat poverty and underdevelopment and provide stability to a region plagued by terrorism and violent extremism.

It was also decided that both countries would collaborate in the application of our space technology and related scientific capabilities in outer space and also for development purposes—including in the field of agriculture.

A Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) Access Agreement between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and US Patent and Trademark Office was signed. This will help prevent misappropriation of traditional knowledge through mistaken issuance of patents as had earlier happened with *neem* and *haldi*.

An MoU to facilitate comprehensive bilateral cooperation on a range of IPR issues focusing on capacity building, human resource development and raising public awareness of the importance of IPR was also signed.

Prime Minister and President Obama discussed issues related to our region which are of immediate concern to both our Governments—particularly the threat of terrorism emanating from our immediate neighbourhood.

They reiterated the interest of India and the USA in the stability, development and independence of Afghanistan and in the defeat of terrorist safe havens in Pakistan and Afghanistan. President Obama conveyed that India's role in the reconstruction and rebuilding efforts in Afghanistan was very much appreciated by the US Administration as well as the Congress of the

United States. Both leaders were united in their commitment to continue—and enhance—the efforts of India and the USA to help the Afghan people in their development. Prime Minister's visit to the USA coincided with the eve of the first anniversary of the Mumbai attacks. Naturally, this subject was a priority in Prime Minister's discussions with President Obama. In their discussions, both of them—Prime Minister and President Obama—underscored the absolute imperative to bring to justice the perpetrators of this terrorist attack and the need for resolute and credible steps to be taken to eliminate safe havens and sanctuaries that provide shelter to terrorists and their activities. They decided on a Counter-terrorism Cooperation Initiative to expand collaboration on counter-terrorism, information sharing, and capacity building. India and the United States also agreed to continue pursuing mutually beneficial defense cooperation.

The two leaders reaffirmed their shared vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and agreed to work together, as leaders of responsible States with advanced nuclear technology, for global non-proliferation, and universal, non-discriminatory and complete nuclear disarmament. They also agreed to consult regularly and seek the early start of negotiations on a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty at the Conference on Disarmament. They discussed the important issue of nuclear security and the dangers posed by nuclear terrorism and clandestine networks.

Sustainable development and clean and efficient usage of energy being an important modern day challenge, it was agreed to enter into a Green Partnership to address the challenges of food security, clean energy and energy security.

Prime Minister and President Obama announced the launch of a Clean Energy and Climate Change Initiative. The Initiative includes cooperation in wind and solar energy, second generation bio-fuels, unconventional gas, energy efficiency and clean coal technologies including carbon capture and storage. Prime Minister and President Obama agreed on the need for a substantive and comprehensive outcome at the meeting of the

Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC in Copenhagen, which would cover mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology.

The two leaders committed themselves to strengthen and reform the global economic and financial architecture in the G-20, World Bank and the IMF.

They further committed themselves to achieving genuine reform of the United Nations including in its Security Council in a manner that reflects the contemporary realities of the 21st Century. Their discussions covered the need to have an open and inclusive architecture for cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

The two sides were unanimous that the 2.7 million strong Indian-American community are a powerful factor in strengthening India-US relations in all areas.

The hon. Prime Minister's visit has laid the foundation for further enhancing our relations with the United States across a broad spectrum of activities.

Prime Minister has invited President Obama to visit India, an invitation which the US President has accepted. We look forward to receiving President Obama in India in the near future, where a very warm welcome awaits him.

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14.47 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Impact of Climate Change—Contd.

[Translation]

Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Varanasi): Sir, I was telling that while addressing the conference of Governors of world bank in Dubai Shri Vosfonsan had raised this issue in 2003. He had stated at that time:

[English]

"Last week, in Paris. I met with youth leaders who represented organizations with more than 120 million members worldwide."

[Translation]

And then he stated that what these people have said before him is very important.

[English]

"But they also said, we do not want a future based only on economic considerations—there must be something more. They challenged us about values and beliefs...To respond to them, we must address the fundamental forces shaping our world. In many respects, they are forces that have caused imbalance. This world is out of balance."

[Translation]

This world is an imbalanced one. This is the statement of the President of the World Bank.

[English]

"In our world of six billion people, one billion own 80 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP), while another billion struggle to survive on less than a dollar a day. This is a world completely out of balance."

[Translation]

He further stated:

[English]

"Mr. Chairman, it is time to take a cold, hard look at the future. Our planet is not balanced. Too few control too much, and too many have too little to hope for—too much turmoil, too many wars, too much suffering."

[Translation]

He further stated:

[English]

"We all share one planet. It is time to restore balance to the way we use it. Let us move forward to fight poverty, to establish equity, and to assure peace for the next generation."

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[Translation]

He himself is saying that only 16 per cent people of the world have control over 80 per cent of the GDP.

[English]

Where is equity? Where is inclusive growth?

[Translation]

Where is inclusive growth in this country? The climate change will completely damage this inclusivity and increase the exclusivity if only 20 per cent people are developed and rest 80 per cent are under developed and undeveloped in this country. Your reports after reports show that number of people below poverty line is increasing, your resources and productivity are diminishing then which world you are talking about? Who wants to bring equity? Do these western countries want to bring the equity? Do they want to see this world on equal footing? It is now being stated that this entire atmosphere over the planet is a property of the world. That should be shared by all. Only you have shared in the last two hundred years. You do not want to face the consequences of the crimes committed by you and do not want to be punished for that. Let alone the point of punishment, you are not even repenting rather you are preaching us.

Hon. Minister Sir, I would like to state categorically that today the question before us is not only related to climate change of the entire world but it is a more broader issue. It is a question relating to developmental model, it is a question relating to technology and it is question to replace the market. Will market forces run the entire world? Will techniques of production be market oriented? You have written in your letter that you want

[English]

enhanced action on technology development and transfer to support action on mitigation and adaptation.

[Translation]

Who will provide you technology? Our Minister of External Affairs in his statement was saying that our

Prime Minister have had talks with the President of the United State of America. He has stated that

[English]

Prime Minister and President Obama announced the launch of a Clean Energy and Climate Change Initiative. The initiative includes cooperation in wind and solar energy, second-generation bio-fuels, unconventional gas, energy efficiency and clean coal technology including carbon capture and storage.

[Translation]

I would like to ask you

[English]

where are patent laws?

[Translation]

They will not provide you the technology free of cost, they will charge for it. First they will pollute our environment, thereafter they will provide us the technology to mitigate the pollution and will charge for it. Therefore, the first thing is that

[English]

we must change the technology.

[Translation]

Current technology is high energy and high capital technology. Energy is the main culprit in this. Therefore,

[English]

We must go to the low energy and low capital technologies.

[Translation]

Our country must undertake research in this matter. I am very optimistic about solar energy that if this energy is tapped properly then it will make our country self reliant and will prove to be a source of clean energy. The source of entire energy in the world is the sun. Our country gets highest per square kilometer energy from the sun. We have abundant solar energy.

You must utilize that but you will not do so. You will not pay attention to that. The areas you will pay attention to, are towards importing the crude oil and running gas based and thermal based plants, how would you run thermal plants? How many tonnes of coal are you going to import to run the present thermal power plants? If we make an assessment for the year 2030, we find that we will have to import 14 hundred million tonnes of coal. From where will you import it?

I have raised this issue for your consideration. We should change the entire developmental model. There should be sustainable consumption rather than sustainable development. We need such a development model that can provide every person of the world an opportunity of a reasonable dignified living. It should provide the basic facilities such as housing, clothing, medicines, food etc. alongwith all opportunities to come forward. You should disapprove model which is creating havoc in the world today. You should strongly raise your voice at Copenhagen and say how the entire world has suffered losses due to their developmental model, show poverty, diseases and unemployment have increased, how there is a lot of hue and cry over there issue and how the crisis of water and foodgrains has increased. You should ask them to change.

India should lead in this matter. India is a country in which a lot has been said about environment from Rigvedic time to the present time. You should make them to listen the Prithvi 'Sukta' of Atharvaveda. We have been saying this since thousands of years that "Maata Bhumi, Putro Prithvya Aham". The scientists in Amstardam had stated five-six years back that

[English]

this earth is a living system, it is not a dead spaceship.

[Translation]

this is not a spaceship in which we are orbiting.

[English]

It is a living planet.

[Translation]

It consists of all the elements, which are found in

a living organism. The life of this planet is just like our own life. We should not treat it as if it is a non-living thing and an inert thing. Rather, we should consider it as a caring mother and behave accordingly. If you treat the earth like your own mother as we Indians do then no one can plunder their own mother. Mother milk can be consumed but not her blood. This western model has propagated an exploitative model to ruin the environment of the earth. We reject this model. We want to say to the world that they must change their life style.

We should raise our voice that Western people should reduce their consumption and bring about a change in their consumption pattern. They should at least return the interest, if not the principal, to those persons whom they exploited and earned their livelihood. They should be told to first feel ashamed of the fact that they exploited the whole world. Now, this exploitation will not last for long. The five and a half billion people of the world are standing against the one and half million people. The concern for climate and environment has given the opportunity to India to lead the people who are helpless and craving for mercy. You have got the opportunity. I would be glad if the Prime Minister goes there and tell the whole world that India would lead the helpless people. India would bring equity in the whole world and pave the way for dignified existence of a reasonable level to the people all over the world. I would be happy to support you in this regard. But if you go on harping on the same development model and keep getting along with them and bring about some change in the same, then nothing is going to happen.

I would like to say something personal to you. I have been told that in one of your speech delivered in America you had said that "Yankees go home but take us with you". If it is true, then it is shameful for me but if it is false then I would like to hear the correct thing. I have no objection with regard to yankees going back home. Let them go anywhere in the world but you don't follow them. Don't attach yourself with those bringing this dreadful atmosphere and you be with India and don't go with them.

With this, I conclude my speech.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to put forth my viewpoint in the House on the discussion on climate change on behalf of my party. Before me hon. Joshiji has brought out a reference as to what kind of situation would arise before us with respect to climate change. Even today, science and the scientists are not unanimous over the fact as to what will be the extent of the consequences in the wake of the changes taking place on the earth and its environment for the last 150 and 200 years which are becoming visible now and how these can be measured. But perhaps there has been a unanimity in the whole world to a large extent towards the fact that the conditions are undergoing a change and that too unfavourably. We don't know whether the temperature would change by two degrees, three degrees or four degrees in the next fifty-sixty years or the sea level would increase by three inches, six inches, or nine inches or the glaciers, which are the source of rivers, would dry up in forty years or eighty years or the water being supplied today would be reduced by twenty per cent or 40 per cent. We don't know whether the river Ganga, which not only supplies water to the whole country, but also gives identity to it and is the heritage of our culture would be able to flow after fifty years or not. There is only a difference of degrees in this discussion. The fourth international level report published has firmly put forth this point that we no longer need discussion on the fact that we have to face the crisis, it would definitely come but the point is by when it will happen and to what extent and the report has finally mentioned this before the world that whatever we think otherwise, we need to go together in this matter.

Joshiji has told one thing about the Western civilization that the odd circumstances which are before us are the consequences of the ways and means and the life style adopted by them doing the last several years. This is true. The consumption model, the industrialization model, the energy production model chalked out by them led to these circumstances. But, one thing I would like to submit humbly is that if the negative effects have been there, then there have been some positive effects also. It is not so that the foreign

techniques have been completely wrong. They also adopted certain ways and means in the technology. However, it has been peculiar to this country that we have always tried to adopt better things from every country, every culture, every civilization and moved forward imbibing them in our ways, culture, values, and life style. I am sure that we will keep this in mind during our future course of action too. The hon'ble Minister knows it very well. He himself believes in this. First of all, we should make America and the European countries accept that they have committed mistake and the whole world is suffering due to this.

15.00 hrs.

Joshiji, I hold that they have committed mistakes. If you go through various reports and statements of the American government, you will find that they though hesitantly, have realized that they have committed mistakes over the 150-200 years, not deliberately but unknowingly and at this juncture our people too have to change their thinking. He, perhaps, had referred to a statement of one Senator, in which he had said that whole climate change was a hoax. If a Senator there says that it's a hoax then there are so many others in that society and the governments who are opposed to this view. We must accept that it is more difficult for them to say like this. One who is used to all sorts of luxuries like airconditioners and mercedese cars, would find it very difficult to accept any reduction in these luxuries whereas people like us can easily adjust. I want to put forth this matter in a practical perspective. Mutual bickering is not going to solve this problem because each and every country of the world has to fulfil its responsibilities in this regard however small or big these responsibilities be.

It has been said it has been accepted in Kyoto Protocol that the countries responsible for creating this situation, which have caused the maximum pollution, have to take the most important and effective steps. But the countries like ours, which are eager to go ahead on the path of development, I am not saying that, this is an assessment of a foreign country that the contribution of India is only 3-4 per cent in this pollution and if in future our per capita emission of 1.12 ton

increases, our share in pollution will increase to 6 or 7 per cent. I am not saying that we should put a curb on that but at least we should take steps with caution in this regard. Now-a-days, an English phrase—"Tipping over" is very much in vogue in management. I do not know where this tipping over is. If that tipping over becomes a reality, as Joshiji has rightly said, we will be the first to bear the brunt of it. So our responsibility should be to safeguard our people and not others.

15.02 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*]

I want to say only that if we show any sign of weakness, other countries will try to take benefit of it and like that we put more steps forward than them. But I know the intention of the Government. A lot of statements have been made by the Prime Minister and Jairam Ramesh who often reveals his mind in his own style. He has been my friend. I feel privileged to have got his guidance. I know that Jairam Rameshji always expresses his views in such a style that sometimes people interpret them in different ways. But despite that, if we go through his statement seriously, we will find that interest of country has been taken care of therein. If we take a look on the National Plan on Climate Change announced by the Prime Minister and the National Solar Mission which refers to improving the efficiency, the issues of water at national level and construction of energy efficient buildings then it will certainly inspire us to take a step forward in our country. But circumstances at international level are quite different. Today, I feel that countries of the world especially the Western countries which are responsible for destroying the environment of this planet to the extent of 60-70 per cent, feel that this problem is created by them but now they are vigilant also.

So whatever statements are coming from those countries, are from responsible persons, who know that they have committed a mistake and have to take corrective steps. But they are apprehensive that they may have to take such steps as they may find difficult to. I want to say a couplet, which I had heard long ago. It goes like this:

"Dhone ki hai Reformer jaba ki,
Kapde par hai jab talak ki Dhabba baki,
Dho shauk she kapde ko, par itna na ragar,
Dhabba rahe kapde par, na Kapra baki."

Let us not move forward to the extent that the countries which we need the most to participate in this process, shun their responsibilities in the apprehension that they may be pushed so much back that they may find it difficult to take care of their masses.

They are also democratic states. Demagoguery is to be run there also. They also have good speakers perhaps better than us. They also have an alert media looking after their every interest. They also have a strong private sector, which perhaps has even more resounding presence than that of our's. We have to balance all things. I entirely agree with Joshiji that India is among those few countries who have always been among the frontrunners in leading a life which is in sync with nature by considering all others as part of one extended family and will have to be guiding force in this regard. The very principle of 'Vasudhav Kutumbkam' enunciated by our country contain it. We have to assume the mantle of leadership but leadership does not only mean usurping the top slot but that lies in allowing and encouraging others in discharging their responsibilities in their own ways. This is a big opportunity for us. The top leaders of our country are sitting here, respectable Advaniji is also present and I would like to appeal to other to lead the country on the right path of progress. Once Gandhiji said

[English]

"There is never enough to satisfy every man's greed but enough to satisfy every man's need".

[Translation]

His statement is very much relevant today in the face of this problem. We share common goals with other countries of the world. We also want that there should be a school in our villages where the child should not face heat during summer. We also wish that our roads should be smooth. We also want that the farmers need

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not toil hard, they should have tractor instead of bullock-cart, if he cannot get AC, he should at least get a fan. He should have these alternatives for him to choose it is altogether different if he is to adopt them or not. However, there is a word of caution for the kind of development model that we want to follow towards achieving this objective in that if we imitate model of other countries perhaps we will be in danger of losing our world in it's

[English]

present form can leapfrog entire generations of development.

[Translation]

We have couple of option to lead and one of them is to decide that we have to move alongwith the other countries of the world and to say that today climate change is our common but differentiated responsibility. These are very important words. Common but differentiated responsibility cannot be fulfilled with mutual conflicts. I would like to give an example. In this House we often talk about common issues. But if a person sitting in opposition alleges the treasury benches or vice-versa then we start fighting even on national issues. If we fail to evolve consensus on our own issue how can we expect that all countries of the world would follow the similar path. We have to make effort to arrive at consensus. The western countries have to play a greater role. I agree that they are to be blamed for the present state of affairs in the world. They are the culprits but only they possess the technology, which can undo the damage. They have better technology though not perfect, which is better than developing countrie and with that we can achieve our goal. If we need new sources of energy, if we need new plants, we have to improve new technologies to less the emissions of methane, nitrous oxide or land related green house gas emissions in the agricultural field. We can learn new methods to produce one lakh MW or 2 lakh to 2.50 lakh MW of electricity. If we use coal we can produce better coal. We discussed about Solar energy. There is a target of producing 20 thousand MW of Solar energy under National Solar Mission. I went to say humbly that

I had visited abroad and attended 3-4 seminars on this subject and during a conference of a Potsdam four physics laureates have presented their paper in which they staked that if we adopt Solar Photocell technology and are able to absorb the solar energy within 200 sq km area theoretically we can fulfill the energy demands of the whole world, the fact about which even Hon. Minister is aware. They have the ideas, they have the technology and they may have taken the first step towards implementing it but the question is—how we could get the technology. We may get it only through co-operation. We have to move with them but we should be alert also. Joshiji has rightly pointed out that they should not impose such condition on us, which could hamper our development without them having to compromise on their model of development. But I am hopeful that the performance of our Prime Minister during the last five years in running the country and the capability of Sh. Jairam Naresh will also hold their sway in Copenhagen and it will take the world on the path of development. I am sure that he will not allow the potential of development of the country to be compromised.

On the issue of nuclear deal a number of apprehensions had been expressed in this House regarding the Prime Minister. I am not going in the politics. There were a lot of apprehensions and at one point of time it seemed that the whole country was jittery on the issue but the way talks with various countries one by one being proceeded by the Government and assurance given by the Prime Minister in the parliament showed the Government's determination. I have full faith that he and his Government will always protect the interest of the nation or the issue of climate change also.

I would like to say something on the issue of climate change. First thing is that when the Minister would reply to the discussion, in the evening he should accept that we all are in the state of confusion on this subject, we are trying to understand the situation. We get to read about it in the newspapers. Television channels are also presenting a very horrifying picture. Today, I watched a programme on climate change in which a big oraguling like animal was being shown in the programme. Initially I took it as if any show of zoo

had been going on but that was a show on climate change. They are depicting the situation in horrible way. But some people are putting the information in a sensible manner. Today children are getting a plethora of information on climate change. Sometime people are forming opinion without any knowledge. People are interpreting it differently. People are predicting it as a catastrophe as mentioned in our mythological books. People are fearful. I would like you to put the actual facts before the country through the House. The real picture should be presented. If the picture is beautiful it should be shown as beautiful and if the scenario is that much horrifying it should be presented as it is but we should get to know the true picture. You have the scientists and heave of entire world's knowledge with you, it should come before the people.

Second thing, I would like to know that it has been stated by the Prime Minister that our per capita emission will never be more than that of developed countries. The average emission in India is presently 4.5 or 4.2 and we will not cross this stage. But, these figures are still in the air as we don't know the options of technology which are available to us and we will be able to meet our targets of development of the country and our people and whether in that case we will be able to estimate the minimum level of emission of green house gases as per the present scenario? Without having any idea of that figure there is no use of talking about any figures. I don't know very much about it as it is a technical matter. I, therefore, would like to request the hon'ble Minister to pardon me if I mention some wrong figures. If we are talking about 1.12 tonnes and if we set the target at eight tonnes, whether this target of eight tonnes will hamper our growth? Whether there are possibilities that we restrict our emission at eight tonnes, we will be able to develop our country? Whether we can restrict our emission at four or six tonnes? Hence, first of all, we should know about our limits. Atleast, we should know our ability to what extent we can do in better way, the Minister do not have any such information then he should apprise the House accordingly. If he does so, atleast we will be able to know about the matter we are discussing here. Reaching at any conclusion without giving any information would be like positioning two teams of kabaddi without having

any knowledge of middle line and what are the areas of both the teams. So, first of all we should know about our limitation.

Hon. Minister has given a submission and the Government of India has also put forth the UN framework document and I will urge upon the hon'ble Members to go through, who have not studied that 50-60 page document. There are some points in the document of UN framework, those points should also be mentioned. They have talked about seeking some guidelines from foreign experts regarding mitigation technology. It contains the details or the amount the world will require on this technology. I read in a document that perhaps there is a need of estimated 1.1 trillion dollars to mitigate the effect of climate change and it has been stated that this is a huge figure. One of my colleagues asked me in the morning today, how much funds America has to spend to keep its forces in Afghanistan. I told him but he stated that this figure amounts to one billion dollars per day. During the last three years America has spent around 1.1 trillion dollars to maintain its forces in Afghanistan, this is as much amount as is required to mitigate the effects of climate change. If these figures are correct it means that the world have the capacity to mobilize the fund which is required. If America can spend such a huge amount in Afghanistan, the other developed countries will not have any problem in collecting this much amount and we can have a vision of better world after few years from now.

I request the Hon'ble Minister to mention one more thing in his reply. I have found in many documents that on our behalf we have taken several action to mitigate the effects of climate change. There is a proposal of increasing the efficiency of cars and construction of energy efficient buildings and there has been mention of utilizing four or six technology. It has also been proposed to take some steps in agriculture sector, all these matters should also be mentioned letting the people of country to know what steps we are taking from our side.

Hon'ble Minister has mentioned about a very important point of financial transfer in his document. He has mentioned that it should be included in the United Nations framework and it should also be mentioned as

[Shri Sandeep Dikshit]

to how we can equitably distribute the funds that will be required and transfer the required technology. Minister should also mention the issue of equity raised by Joshiji. At the time of talking about equity he was talking about equity keeping in mind the disparities in development between the countries. When we talk about climate change we probably do not talk about economic equity. We talk about equity of responsibility toward the matter of climate change and I think America has no feelings towards humanity, but it is the problem of entire world. Hence, it should be mentioned that what are the parameters of equity.

I want to ask very few questions from the Minister since it is a new field. When we talk about environment we came to know that after few years, not in my lifetime but, my daughter or her friends or relatives might be living in a different world. Probably Jaipur, to which we call a desert area may become a coastal area. Presently the areas to which we call a jungle may tomorrow convert into desert and the present time desert areas may be turn into forest areas in the future? Hon'ble Minister, as per his knowledge of Science should mention something about the changes that could take place in the coming ten, twenty or thirty years.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Sandeepji, you are raising a very important issue, but, keep in mind the time also.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT: It has been said that developed countries will cut down 25 to 40 per cent of their emission below the level of 1990 but, now probably the target will be extended upto the year 2020. Three to four conferences have been held like Berlin, Jeneva etc. and you have stated that one conference was held in Delhi also. How much we have progressed in the direction of talk and according to the records to what extent the countries which are emitting more pollution are committed to cut down the emission. Hon. Minister should also mention our three-four non-negotiable points in Copenhagen.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Madam Chairperson, I am very thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. At present the entire world is concerned about climate change. There is no

difference of opinion in this regard. If global warming continues, our universe is not going to survive. We are also suffering from the climate change. We are victim of the climate change to such an extent that earlier the drought which would take place once in 10 or 15 years, in the country, now the drought like condition is taking place in the country every two-three years and we have witnessed that its impact was so severe that due to deficient rain most of our agriculture was affected be it in northern India, eastern or western India. This year production of foodgrains be it paddy or wheat will be so less that India will have to import it. Our country which was self reliant in this regard will be dependent on foreign countries and it is an evidence of this fact that climate change has severely affected our country also. Through you, I would like to tell the entire house particularly to Shri Jairam Rameshji, our hon'ble Minister that yesterday I had asked this question from Shri Prithviraj Chavan, he evaded the reply and told me that today you would reply that question. It is a matter of concern that one billion and ten crore population of India will be severely affected from it. We want to make contribution from our side to check the emissions of CO₂ gas which is spreading rapidly in the environment of our universe. But, whether is it possible? Our world is divided in two parts, one is those of developed countries and other one is of developing countries, which include India and China also. 77 countries or G-77 group are also included in this.

I cannot deny this fact if you do not bow before their pressure and lead the G-77 group, large number of countries may come with you. As far as your point is concerned China and America together spread 16 per cent emission while, India emit just 4 per cent pollution. In such a situation against whom restrictions are imposed? It is India and G-77 countries. Which country has developed the technology we are using presently? This technology has been developed by developed countries. Whether it is America or European countries they have given this technology to the world. What will be the stand of India in this regard? Billions or dollars will have to be spent in this regard. Hon'ble Minister will tell this thing in his reply that India do not have the sufficient resource to check the emission of

polluting gases. We need external assistance to do so. Whether America and Europe are prepared to give us financial assistance? If they are prepared then how much assistance they will provide us? It is only their technology which is polluting our environment and presently America and Europe are the biggest polluters of the world.

They want to impose it on the developing countries like India, China and the G-77 countries. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to what would be India's stand in Copenhagen during the hon'ble Minister's visit to Copenhagen as he is also accompanying the Prime Minister. It should be clear. Today this House should know what India is going to do? Whether India will bow to pressure of western countries or it will be able to win over them. It will be possible only if you seek the help of G-77, and lead them. It is a big group of developing countries. You put forward your points, put pressure on U.S. and European countries on how much emission they are going to reduce. We cannot match them. We are a developing country. They are developed countries and they are biggest polluters and they want to impose the responsibility thereof on us. I believe India should also owe responsibility to this. India believes in 'Vasudhev Kutumbkam'. India believes in humanity not today but since time immemorial.

Madam, Mr. Jairam Ramesh has spoken out his mind on certain issues from time to time. I would like to remind him that India had participated in Geneva summit and an Action Taken conference was held at Bali. America says that it will not abide by the Kyoto conference. Why is it so? If U.S. does not abide by that does it not become our responsibility to save the universe and humanity? U.S. wants us to acquiesce this proposal. I want to read out with your permission what Mr. Jairam Ramesh has said—

[English]

"India has argued at these ongoing negotiations that the developed country Parties must take actions in accordance with the principle of equity and "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities" in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention. Such actions of the

developed countries (Annexure I Parties to the UNFCCC) should include deep and ambitious targets for emission reduction in the second commitment period (Post-2012) of the Kyoto Protocol. India is engaged constructively in these negotiations and is committed to work according to the principles and objectives of the Convention."

☛ [Translation]

What I am saying is conoborated from your reply and your stand is the same. If Prime Minister attends the conference then will he repeat the reply given by you in the House or he may toe another line under the pressure? Will he succumb to pressure and compromise the sovereignty of the country?

[English]

"While India has already taken a number of steps to adopt and mitigate climate changes, impact in the interests of sustainable development. India will take a further voluntary and nationally appropriate action for addressing climate change. The Pact is in fact actually in accordance with the priorities and objectives laid down under National Action Plan for Climate Change."

"While India has already taken a number of steps to adopt and mitigate climate changes, impact in the interests of sustainable development. India will take a further voluntary and nationally appropriate action for addressing climate change. The Pact is in fact actually in accordance with the priorities and objectives laid down under National Action Plan for Climate Change."

[Translation]

You have said this but I would like to state that sectors in which emission is taking place in India such as generation of thermal power from coal for industrialization.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Madam, I am speaking on behalf of my party. If you don't allow me, I will sit down.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I know that but several hon'ble Members are waiting for their turns to speak.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: I will not utter even a single word. I am speaking on behalf of my party. You have given sufficient time to those who had initiated the debate.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to your party is over, therefore, I am asking you to conclude. I am not asking you to stop at once.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Please don't ask me to conclude because I listen to you, whenever you speak.

Madam, this issue will not be taken up for discussion in this House again. This issue is being discussed before Copenhagen summit. I would like to request you to extend the time for this debate till tomorrow if need be. It should not be a time bound debate. It should not be restricted upto 7.30 p.m. today. The Members of Congress, B.J.P. and other parties want to speak on this issue.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: We have to accommodate everyone, therefore, please be brief.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Kindly extend the time for it. I would like to remind Mr. Jairam Ramesh once again that India is a developing country. India, China, South Africa and Brazil have formed a new group in the recent past.

I said it yesterday also. they were representing the G-77 but China slipped away and stated that whatever decision or terms would be finalized there in will be acceptable to her. Now, only Brazil and South Africa are with you and there is G-77 also. Have you evaluated your emission level and whether you will construct thermal power stations run on coal. I agree that you will use washable coal therein in order to cut down the emission level but at the same time you may take certain other steps also. In this regard, I would like to give the example of Delhi where Mass transport system has not been much developed. Here, each house and each family owns three to four vehicles. You may be aware that diesel and petrol produce Green House Gases. Will you impose a ban on these vehicles so

that people may use mass transport system or the whole family will use one vehicle only. Otherwise, you may impose heavy taxes on such families who are maintaining more than one vehicle. Nowadays, it is very difficult to drive on the roads of Delhi. Delhi having maximum numbers of vehicles in comparison to the total number of vehicles of three metropolitan cities i.e. Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai, do you propose to take any steps in this regard?

Besides, you have also mentioned about afforestation. I was reading as to what percentage of the area has been brought under forest cover but at the same time, I would like to remind this House that earlier Cherapoonji received the maximum rainfall in the world but today forget about the rain, people here have to be in queue to get drinking water. Earlier, Cherapoonji used to receive highest rainfall. Have you done anything for that area? The tribals in all the north-eastern states are living in the forests. These forests are being cut down. The forests which showered millions of tones of water are being felled indiscriminately. The trees are being cut down in India as well. Have you put a check on them? Are you competent enough to deal with such a situation? What type of work is being done in NREGA. You are constructing roads, drains, Khadanjas etc. Why do not you have any provision under the NREGA to plant such trees which will benefit the eco-system. You are not doing that, you are not doing any practical thing.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Raweti Ramnn Singhji, more than 25 Members want to speak. If you continue with such a speed then this debate is not going to conclude even by tomorrow.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Madam Chairman, I will obey your command. I will conclude soon.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Early means within two minutes.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: I will conclude within five minutes. The Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forest Shri Jairam Ramesh has said—

[English]

"India's total greenhouse gas emission was 1228 metric tonnes of CO₂ equivalent as per the official

statistics reported in the first national communication of India to the UNFCC (NATCOM) in 1994, In per capita terms, India's CO₂ emission in 1994 was 1.02 tonnes as compared with world average of 4.25 tonnes. Further estimates in this regard have been made by researchers which are not confirmed officially."

[Translation]

According to the survey conducted in the year 1994, India's emission was 1.02 ton but what is the position of the country in 2009. We and the country would like to know that—

[English]

"Total CO₂ emissions constituted 65 per cent of total GHG released in 1994. On a sectoral basis, the energy sector accounted for about 61 per cent, agriculture 28 per cent, industrial process 8 per cent, waste disposal 2 per cent and land use and land use change 1 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions. CH₄ and N₂O respectively account for 31 per cent and 4 per cent of the total GHG emissions in terms of CO₂ equivalent".

[Translation]

I am giving these figures in order to prove that the insecticides, pesticides and chemical fertilizers which we use in the major sectors like agriculture, particularly in the production of paddy, produce methane.
...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please put your points and leave the rest to the others Members, they will say that. Please conclude within one minute.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Madam Chairman, I will conclude within two minutes. I would have concluded in less time than you consumed in stopping me. I want to know why the Government is not developing the bio-fertilizer? Today, more emphasis is being laid on opening chemical fertilizer factory which you import but the Government of India has not been able to open any standard bio chemical factory in the private sector.

Even, there are no figures to show that during the five years it will produce by same quantity of fertilizers as produced by the chemical fertilizer factory. The Government of India has not made any efforts in this regard. Similarly, the ponds in the villages have been encroached upon. Today, there is no water in the ponds. Earlier, each village used to have three to four ponds. I had asked during the budget as to how many pond, you would dig and in response it was stated that 100 ponds would be digged in the entire country. You make it practical. It should be done in such a way that level of gas emission is minimized and at the same time the pace of industrialization is also not hindered. Do not compromise under the pressure of the USA or the European countries under the pressure of the USA or European countries and do not hinder the industrialization process in India. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAMASHANKAR RAJBHAR (Salempur): Madam Chairman, many many thanks for providing me an opportunity to speak on an important issue like climate change. I will not take much time while putting forth my views. Today, we are having discussion on such an important issue that if we do not wake up now in this regard, its consequences could be discussions. We should have two pronged approach on this issue. One thing is, what we are doing in regard to climate change in our country and what the world is doing for this? We are Indians, but when the whole world is facing the danger then be it the rich countries of the world or any other country all would have to make efforts unitedly. We are Indians, no doubt, but all the countries on this earth will have to think over this. We would have to fight on two fronts. All the countries on the earth should be prepared to combat climate change and let us also make efforts towards this goal.

Madam, the USA was the largest carbon emitting country in the 20th century. Now China has gone ahead of it. Today, this is the situation of the rich countries. Our scientists say that there are two main reasons for climate change. One is increasing population and the other is lavish lifestyle. The developed countries like the USA, which is a major carbon emitting country today have created such a situation in the field of industry, transport and energy, that not only India but the whole earth is in danger. Today, we have got the opportunity

[Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar]

to ponder over the fact that whatever agreements we have made, the USA has always backed out on those agreements and there is no doubt about it. Developed countries have caused stumbling blocks in implementing these agreements in the past. I want to say that our Government and the hon'ble Minister, who is very conscious towards environment, had made efforts to give his Ministry an environment friendly look. Hon'ble Minister is definitely very much concerned about environment. It would be our biggest success, if we make this concern a global concern. Two enemies may quarrel, but if there is a death in any of the family, the enemies also take part in the last rites. Where the earth is in danger, then it is the prime duty of all the countries to save the earth unitedly. The nature has only vented out a little bit of her anger and we are so shaken. Suppose if we have subjected to her full fury then what will the outcome be? All of us on the earth have to think of it. No doubt, we in India can do a lot about it. Respected Kumar Sahib has rightly said that those who are fond of buying a separate car for each member of the family really don't know about the their contribution to the carbon-emission levels. Similarly, those who fit ACs in each nook and corner of their home, should be made to understand what they are doing to the climate through such actions. India is a land of natural endowments. The Mother nature has given us Peepal tree and Tulsi which produce oxygen day and night. Both the trees do emit carbon-dioxide even at night. We are proud of having both to in a country with vast natural resources. We must strictly adhere to our environment policies and programmes to protect the climate. A Central Research report on scientific experts of climate change released on 30th June, 2008 has suggested to adhere to strict policy measures to check increasing levels of carbon-dioxide due to industrial production and transportation. I would like to call upon our country to take effective initiatives in this direction and awaken the rest of the world thereto also. The world shall but suffer Nature's wrath if it is not done. Only 1 or 2 degree rise in the temperature has brought us to this condition. It is reported that in our country, a network comprising of 127 institutions including universities, R and D institutes, NGOs, voluntary organizations and

other non-government private agencies are working towards environmental research and study of climate-change but I think no report from them has yet been submitted to the government. If the said network of 127 agencies are really undertaking such a work, the government should ask for their report. I would like to say that this is certainly a issue on which the government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please ensure a good climate in the House as well.

SHRI RAMASHANKAR RAJBHAR: Madam, this is such an important issue that the scientist have warned that by 2030, Ganga and Sarayu rivers will dry up and by 2050 undoubtedly such circumstances would prevail. Scientists also say that only 2.5% of water on earth is fresh and the rest is in saline water. Out of fresh water, 70 per cent part is in the form of ice. The melting of this ice and depletion of ozone-layer due to global warming threatens the environment. We have to make resources available for making India a developed country. But, if we take this issue of climate change seriously, we must accord it due importance in our process of creation of resources. We must have to march ahead, no problems with that, but we should do it with due discretion and not blindly. Every member of world community whether rich or poor, developed or underdeveloped, has to understand this simple thing. You march ahead with developmental work but be warned, lest it should anger our Mother Nature and She may devastate you with rise in the number of earthquakes and tsunamis.

I would like to urge the hon. Minister to kindly apprise us of the real progress on this issue and your policy framework, while you make your statement, this is a common problem facing the world fraternity and let the countries of the world agree that we should not develop indiscriminately otherwise the outcome shall be ferocious. It is our government's duty to call upon the world for this. Thank you very much for providing me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL (Jhanjarpur): Madam Chairman, in the whole world concern over climate change is being expressed. It is true that it is a global problem and it is a sensitive issue too.

Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi ji has explained the world is divided into two parts but intact the world is divided into three parts—one which is affluent, prosperous, splendid and leading a luxurious life and the other which is poor, the developing countries fighting against the poverty. Third world is poverty stricken and pauper, whose voice is suppressed at the moment. The affluent and prosperous American and European countries had once strongly supported GATT to make this world a big market. India had also agreed to that and WTO was born out of GATT. For long China did not become its member and India opposed it very boldly. Today, India is not only a member of and a leading country in the WTO: But due to its leadership capability it leads the developing and backward countries in the WTO but this problem of climate change is worrisome.

Today, in the whole world a fear is being created regarding climate change. India and developing countries are being frightened, though India's share in the green house gas emission is not as much as that of other countries. America and China alone contribute 20 per cent of the total green house gas emission in the world. However, America opposed the Kyoto Protocol, they alleged that it is in favour of China. 14% of the countries belong to Europe and countries like our's with 4.9% emission are with Russia. Our share is minimum, but it is being said that a joint strategy should be chalked out and there should be a consensus. Those who have brought the world to such a situation in the last 200-300 years, should be subjected to severe ban. Today the question of climate change is being hotly debated. This world, the Mother Earth is being destroyed. People responsible for this devastation also that India and China should share equally in the joint strategy as that of G-8 countries. Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi has mentioned about Shri Jairam Ramesh. He is an efficient and knowledgeable person. His views were valuable. Sometimes he got into controversies. The Prime Minister has enunciated the Government's policy on many fora very clearly. We are presuming that India will neither lose nor it will compromise its interests, as poverty is our problem and the problem of America and Europe is their luxuries. The burden of green house gas effect on the world is caused by the luxurious life style of America and Europe and not because of our poverty.

But in our campaign to eradicate poverty, a conspiracy is on to derail the campaign by advocating equal share holding in the joint strategy but it's not going to happen as it has become clear from the statement of the Prime Minister regarding the policy of government against that conspiracy. But one thing about Bali declaration. First the Kyoto Protocol was rejected by the congress. It was not ratified by it. Shri Jairam Ramesh was mired in a controversy on this issue, later, they agreed upon it. In the Bali resolution it has been said that if technical and financial assistance is provided to India, it can share the burden of effect of green house gases. Technical assistance will be provided for a new technology to filter Carbon dioxide emitted by coal based industries.

Madam, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshiji rightly asked are we willing to become a market? In name of climate change America and Europe want to make India a market. They urge not to produce Carbon dioxide beyond a certain limit. And to filter, the Carbon dioxide being produced, its technology, they are willing to sell. Therefore, it is my expectation from all of you, not to make India their market.

Madam, we also face dangers of climate change. We also experience unseasonal floods and drought. This scientist have enumerate several changes in nature precursor to climate change. These are: increase in the sea level and irregularity in rain cycle.

These changes are taking place in India. Another characteristics is raising level of humidity. It is widespread. Changes in the onset and the end of seasons. Incidence of natural disasters like flood, drought, thunder storm and cyclone and their reoccurrences. Change or unnecessary delay in the growing pattern of forest and grass. More incidents of fires in forest. Scarcity of potable water and decline in agricultural production. Increase in desertification and occurrence of different types of diseases or their symptoms. This is a global problem, but situation our country is also changing.

Madam, people talk about melting of glaciers. The sea level would rise as a result of melting of Himalayan glaciers. Glaciers are melting. But in today's newspaper, a report regarding Antarctica has been published. The

[Shri Mangani Lal Mandal]

scientist are of this opinion. So far, the scientists opined that Antarctica was melting. But, due to the change in climate westerly winds are blowing in Antarctica. This has arrested their melting. In this way opinion of scientists change.

15.58 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman Sir, I urge upon the Government to protect the interests of the country in international fora. Initially we were apprehensive of GATT and WTO. There was a fear that we would become a market, but it did not happen. Similarly, on the issue of climate change, the Government should take care that we should not enter into any agreement on the conditions laid down by America. Hon. Minister might be knowing that a team of Members of Parliament has been constituted on this issue. Hon. Prime Minister, hon'ble Ministers and a team of hon. Members is likely to visit Copenhagen. The propaganda in this regard in the country makes us believe that India is going to lose its identity. Therefore, I urge that the Government should stop such propaganda. Climate change is our problem, but we should not compromise on the issues of eradication of poverty and unemployment. We should have ten development, increase the production of electricity and increase its per capita consumption. Although a developing country, we have to become a leading economy in the world. There should be no compromise on this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that he is a knowledgeable person, having scientific aptitude and he is courageous and intelligent also. If the interests of India are compromised the people of the country will not forgive you. We will not compromise on the issue of development and will move forward facing the challenges of climate change. With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

Dr. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR (Barasat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to participate in the discussion on

the global climate change. At the outset, I do so with a very heavy heart because mother earth is in danger. The earth that was formed millions of years ago, possibly through the big bang or conglomeration of molecules, not yet decided, is staring at the face of the Third World War.

16.00 hrs.

The third world war is going to be fought shortly, may be in our lifetime, because of shortage of water. Water for farmers used for farming, water for industry, water for livestock, and water for human consumption is going to be in such shortage that countries particularly of the African Continent and others are going to be engaging themselves in this ravaging war. Who is going to stop it? Is it the developed world who were watching quietly when enormous heat was being produced and Hiroshima and Nagasaki were burning? When nuclear fission and nuclear fusion were causing mutations, chromosomal deletions and aberrations, the so-called developed world was watching. Enormous heat was being produced. This heat was being absorbed by mother nature. Mother nature is very patient but now we are getting it back.

Mother nature is giving it back to us, when we are suffering because of the rising level of the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Holes are being formed in the ozone layer. This carbon dioxide layer is engulfing the atmosphere in such a fashion that the temperature that is rising out of industry cannot escape; radiation is being stopped. Eventually, possibly, the world will see a rise of global temperature up to four to five degrees, which is going to be very high. Humans possibly might not survive. We do not know whether intracellular vesicle formation is going to cause cell lysis; whether more malignant patients are going to come up; whether there are going to be chromosomal abnormalities in the paddies that we grow, in the wheat that we grow, in the livestock; whether the milk supply of the cows and buffalos that feed the children is going to stop. So the world are in great danger.

We should all work together to come to terms with this new situation, and we should all do it together in the forthcoming meetings that are coming through. We really do not know what had been happening in the

previous meetings. One had been held in Geneva also. So what we should now altogether do, have to bring down our lifestyle. India is a country of sages, of hermits, of great wisdom and mythology. We have always been very stringent in our methods. We have always promulgated recycling. We have followed our Father of the Nation, and we have always tried to conserve energy by recycling and using renewable resources. We should pay more attention to the wind, the water, the solar energies, and try to derive our resources from these renewable sources so that we can give some respite to this carbon dioxide that is fanning in the atmosphere.

The so-called developed world have been undertaking missions when required, when not required. They have been trying to develop programmes for animals in the jungle when the Third World did not have enough to feed the people. So we should also talk to them regarding what they want to do. As a joke we say that every man who crosses the streets of Manhattan every morning splashes on himself after-shave lotion worth five dollars. I do not think they are going to try and come away from these methods, these lifestyle patterns that they have developed for so long. We have to take care of the incidents that have plagued the world in the past few years, in the decades.

Look at Russia. They did not even know how they were dealing with their nuclear fusions, nuclear fissions, and the waste. That is why, Chernobyl has occurred. We do not even know where the waste of the Chernobyl is dug and buried and how it is affecting the nation, the world and us. We should all get together and try to prevent these calamities.

West Bengal has seen Aila, in which thousands were rendered homeless; thousand homes were broken down. The seacoast is being washed away. We have seen Tsunami in which holidayers, honey-mooning couples and little children were washed away by the wrath of the nature in an instant. We have to take care of it. I think that the scientists should all get together and try to take care of it. The particular mention that I want to make is that in West Bengal, we have the Sundarbans. The Royal Bengal Tigers are not available

anywhere in the world. They are precious species. They are going to be extinct. There are hundreds of islands; 54 islands are being inhabited by 45 lakhs of people. In the last Aila, some of the islands were washed away. Forty-five lakhs of people are going to be washed away. All the islands of the Sundarbans are going to be inundated and submerged in water because of this global warming.

This is a very serious subject. I wish to draw the attention of this august House that the world should sit up and do something very seriously. But on the other hand, we cannot down all our developmental projects because India is a nation of hermits, sages and mythology. We have been following paths in which we have suffered. But the time has come when we have to feed our people. India, the great nation, is not at the dearth of knowledge, is not at the dearth of industrious and laborious citizens. We have to take up from here and continue with our developmental process, the infrastructure required to bring down the carbon dioxide emission will take some time. The developed world has done it. We also will develop that infrastructure. Here we are suffering, and we are at the receiving end of what they are emitting. So, we have to have our share of time in development. Our nation will surge forward towards development. We will develop the infrastructure by which we can cut down the carbon dioxide emission. That will take time. So, we cannot take the order of any other nation as far as our developmental projects are concerned.

We will carry on with our projects. Those countries that have been emitting more carbon dioxide than our nation in the past decades will have to show us the path, will have to take forward this kind of a movement in which we can save the world altogether.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (Palakkad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this discussion on climate change is being held in the context of the forthcoming global Summit on climate change in Copenhagen.

Sir, I think, this is an important discussion and this will enable the Government to take the sense of this House before going to Copenhagen for negotiations.

Sir, this climate change will be the single largest

[Shri M.B. Rajesh]

threat to the existence of humanity. Alarm bells have already been raised. The IPCC has pointed out that Green House Gas emissions and Green House Gas concentrations are approaching such levels beyond which devastating climate changes could occur. There will be erratic rainfalls, frequent floods and droughts, rise in sea levels, and devastating cyclones.

Sea levels have already started rising. Scientists have pointed out that sea levels of Maldives have risen by eight inches in the last 100 years. Sir, India is also vulnerable to these changes. India will be one of the worst affected regions. Scientists have pointed out that the North West Himalayas has become warmer by 1.4 degree Celsius in the last 100 years.

Drastic changes will occur in our lifeline, the Monsoon. The rivers may dry up; the rivers may even disappear in the long run.

Sir, there is an apprehension that there will be a sharp decline in our food production and millions of people may go starving. When this global warming and climate change is affecting the entire humanity, it will be the poor who are going to bear the burden of this climate change. According to an international study, by the year 2015, 375 million people, majority of them from the developing world including India, are going to be affected by this global warming and climate change. The year 2015 is just six years away.

Who is responsible for this kind of a situation? Is it the developing nations? The developed countries have been responsible for 72 per cent of Greenhouse gas emissions between 1952 and 2000. Our *per capita* emission is only 1.1 tonne as against 20.1 tonne of the United States. So, it is clear that the developed nations are responsible for this kind of a situation. This kind of a situation has been created because of the illegal appropriation and mindless exploitation of natural resources and global commons. Global commons include the global carbon space. Seventy-five per cent of this global carbon space has been occupied by the developed countries though their share in the world population is only 20 per cent.

Now, I would like to deal with some of the policy issues.

There is much talk about flexibility; which our hon. Minister of Environment and Forests, Shri Jairam Rameshji is appearing to be targeting widely. I would like to know what is the basic minimum, non-negotiable minimum of India in the forthcoming Copenhagen negotiations. To what extent will this flexibility lead to? To what extent this will change our positions? Our minimum should be clear.

First of all, the developed countries must begin to cut drastically their Greenhouse gas emissions. I feel that there is no flexibility on this question. I hope that the hon. Minister will clarify whether there will be flexibility on the question of demanding more drastic cuts from the developed countries. I would not go into the detail because of time constraint.

Sir, the developed countries want to erase the distinction between the developing and the developed countries. The distinction between the developing and developed countries, as far as this climate change negotiations are concerned, is fundamental. The Kyoto Protocol United Nations Framework has underlined the common but differentiated responsibilities. So, the developed countries should make drastic reduction in their emissions. According to this principle, the developing countries need only voluntary actions. The developing countries are not responsible for the global warming and they cannot be treated identically with the developed countries in this regard.

So, it is in this background that I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to why he has promised that our NAMA and NAMOS will be available for international consultations.

What is the basis for making such kind of a promise? Another thing on which I would like to seek a clarification is regarding the contradictory statements of the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Minister of State for Environment and Forests. The Prime Minister has stated that our per capita emissions will not exceed the per capita emissions of developed countries. It is a well-known statement from the Prime Minister. But subsequently we have seen a statement modifying the

statement of the Prime Minister by hon. Jairam Ramesh ji. The hon. Minister has stated that our per capita emissions will stay below the per capita emissions of developed countries. I feel that these contradictory statements, especially the statement made by hon. Jairam Ramesh ji opens our position or opens our policy to needless pressure and bargaining by the developed countries. So, I think that there cannot be any flexibility on this question.

Another aspect that I would like to highlight is regarding the unilateral action on the part of the Government of India. Our Minister is more enthusiastic in announcing unilateral action. Global warming and climate change is a global phenomenon. So, our unilateral actions will not help us from escaping the impact of global warming and climate change. It is tantamount to gifting away our carbon space.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Sir, I am concluding in 3-4 minutes.

Now, it is suggested that India may also cut emissions. Numbers like 20-25 per cent are being thrown around. Where do these numbers appear from? Where do these numbers come from?

I would like to remind the hon. Minister that, yes, of course, India is a great nation but India is not a carbon super power. So, our policy should be based on this sober reality.

Another critical issue is regarding the market driven solutions. Developed countries are forcing purely market-driven solutions. What will be our position to these market-driven solutions? The Government is also enthusiastically talking about carbon trade, especially through carbon offsets of CDM under the Kyoto Protocol. This carbon offset, carbon trading is equivalent to selling our carbon space cheaply at the going market prices. So, we should not allow the developed countries to meet their emission reduction commitments through offsets nor should we accept these carbon offsets as a means of meeting financial commitment to the poorer countries. So, I would like to know the position of the Government on this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: I am concluding. I am coming to the last point.

Despite confusions in our evolving climate policy, the Prime Minister has reiterated the basic minimum that India will insist on at Copenhagen, especially the question of an equitable burden-sharing arrangement firmly within the boundaries set by the Kyoto Protocol, UN Framework and also Bali Action Plan. So, we should stand firmly with China, Brazil, South Africa and other G-77 countries. I do hope that the Government of India will stand with the G-77 countries. But at the same time, I recall with great concern the experience of WTO/GATT negotiations when India deviated from the G-77 positions more than a decade ago.

The Copenhagen negotiation on climate change is deeply connected with the equitable, sustainable and prosperous future for a great majority of people in the world and also a great majority of people in this country. Therefore, the Government has the foremost responsibility of protecting the interest of poor people and the interest of the country in the Copenhagen negotiations. I hope that the Government will keep the promise given to the people.

Sir I may be allowed to lay rest of my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, those who want to lay their written speeches may lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

*SHRI M.B. RAJESH: This discussion on Climate Change is being held at an important juncture. We are heading for a Global Summit on Climate Change in Copenhagen. The phenomenon of Climate Change has already started affecting the world as a whole. It is an issue which has already started affecting the entire earth. The single largest threat to the existence of humanity will not be anything but the catastrophic effects of Global Warming and Climate Change.

The alarm bells have already been raised. The IPCC has pointed out that the concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere is rapidly approaching levels beyond

*Speech was laid on the Table.

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which devastating Climate Changes could occur. There will be erratic and unseasonal rainfalls, frequent and severe floods, drought and devastating cyclones. It is feared that land will go under the sea following the melting of ice masses. Sea levels in Maldives have already risen by eight inches due to ice melt.

India is likely to be among one of the worst affected regions. Indian scientists have found that North Western Himalayas has become 1.4 degree Celsius warmer in the last 100 years, a far higher level of warming than the 0.5 to 1.1 degree Celsius for the rest of the Globe. There will be drastic changes in our lifeline, monsoon. Rivers may dry up and even disappear. These changes will badly affect our agriculture and crop behavior. Sharp drop in food grain production will affect the food security and the livelihood of millions of people.

Though the Climate Change is a threat which is affecting the entire humanity, the poor will have to bear the greater burden. According to a study by an international organization, by 2015, Global warming will adversely affect an estimated 375 million people, the majority of them from developing countries including India. That is six years away Sir.

Who is responsible for this kind of a situation? The developed countries have been responsible for almost 72% of the emissions between 1950 and 2000. Our per capita CO₂ emission is only 1.1 tonne as against 20.1 of United States.

I don't want to go into further details. Sir, this kind of a situation has been caused by the illegal appropriation and mindless exploitation of global commons by the developed countries.

There is a global "carbon space" and this is like a Global resource. Unfortunately the developed countries have already taken an overwhelming share, roughly 75% of the Common Carbon Space that has been occupied so far, even though their share of the world population is only 20%. Sir, the important issue relating to the Global warming and the question of development is that.

the developing countries are in dire need of Carbon space. Despite the progress of science and technology, the developing countries cannot undertake the task of development without creating emissions of CO₂ and other Green House Gases.

The first great difficulty in the climate change negotiations is to pressure the developed countries to give us and other developing countries a fair share of the remaining carbon space. And fair share can only mean a division of the carbon space equitably in proportion to the population of each nation. The second great difficulty is to ensure that the developed countries compensate the developing world, in terms of both finance and technology for the common carbon space that space equitably in proportion to the population of each nation. The second great difficulty is to ensure that the developed countries compensate the developing world, in terms of both finance and technology for the common carbon space that they have unfairly occupied.

There is much talk of flexibility in climate change negotiations, which our Minister for Environment and Forests appears to be propagating widely. Ahead of Copenhagen we need to ensure that, as a nation, we fully understand, and of course this means that Parliament understands and ensures, what is the basic non-negotiable minimum for India at the negotiations. Flexibility cannot mean that we give in to all the demands of the developed countries and they escape their responsibilities.

Our minimum therefore should be clear:

First, the developed countries must begin to cut their emissions drastically, in line with the scientific recommendations of the IPCC. We cannot be flexible on this question. Despite the enthusiasm of the global corporate media, what the United States has offered so far is a pittance, a flea-bite, compared to what they need to do. The US tries to fool the world by saying it is reducing by 17% below 2005 emissions. Actually they have been steadily increasing their annual emissions between 1990 and 2005. What the US has offered is actually a reduction of 4% below 1990 levels by 2020 of annual emissions. But scientists have made it clear

that countries like the US should reduce to 40% below 1990 levels by 2020. So on this question, of drastic reductions by developed countries there can be no flexibility.

Second, the developed countries want to erase the distinction between the developing world and developed countries. They are trying to do this in many ways; even through all kinds of clever tricks, like common schedules or registries, or a single document in which all countries will put down their commitments. These commitments will then become binding on all signatories in one way or the other. There are not simply technical niceties or simply theological objections as our Minister refers to them.

The distinction between the developed and developing countries on the issue of global warming is fundamental. The Kyoto Protocol and the UNFCCC are very clear on this. Under the principle of "common and differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities" it is very clear that developed countries should make drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Developing countries need make only voluntary actions to fulfill their share in safeguarding the world's future. But they do not bear the same responsibility and cannot be treated identically with the developed countries in any way. So India cannot be flexible with any attempt to treat all nations without distinction on this issue.

It is in this background that we would like to ask why has the Minister, Mr. Jairam Ramesh, promised that India's domestically undertaken Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) or Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Outcomes (NAMOs) should be available for "international consultations." This is an ambiguous phrase, which, as we know from long experience, the US and the other developed countries will treat as an opportunity to force India to binding commitments.

The Minister has introduced further ambiguity in the same statement by modifying what the Prime Minister had stated earlier. In contrast to the Prime Minister's well-known statement that India's per capita emissions will not "exceed" that of the developed nations, the Minister has stated that India's per capita emissions will stay "below" that of the developed nations.

This opens our country's policy to needless pressure and bargaining by the developed nations. This is not flexibility—this is simply confusion on a critical matter.

But the most serious problem is our Minister's new and special enthusiasm for unilateral actions by India to combat global warming, while at the same time arguing for flexibility. But the special problem in global warming is that unilateral commitments for emission reductions by us alone are of no use. If we voluntarily cut emissions, even if we have the most environmentally sound path of development and yet the developed nations do less than their share—then we will still suffer the consequences of climate change. Such unilateral action will be tantamount to gifting away our carbon space and voluntarily restricting our developmental choices in the future. Of course we recognize that even if the developed nations cut their emissions drastically, developing nations also have a responsibility to do their share. It is better to begun early in this matter rather than delay action. Such initiatives would also enthuse our scientists and engineers and promote a sound environmental and sustainable basis for our development. But while doing this we need to bring even greater pressure to bear on the developed countries, not talk of flexibility.

As the nations of the world ready for Copenhagen, we are happy that a major developing nation like China and others like Brazil or Indonesia, have all demonstrated how seriously developing countries take the question of doing their fair share to combat global warming. We must also tell the world what India is doing and what India can do in the future. But we cannot do such things without careful thought and discussions and democratic consultations across a broad spectrum. Even for the Prime Minister's commitment that our per capita emissions will not exceed that of developed nations, we do not know what is the technical and economic basis for this commitment. The government has not shown the nation any document to justify this.

Even today the government is not undertaking broad consultations. The Government still thinks of global warming as a foreign policy issue rather than a serious development issue. It talks more to foreign delegations than it does to the people, their organizations, political

[Shri M.B. Rajesh]

parties and civil society in this country. Now it is suddenly suggested that India may also cut its emissions intensity of GDP and numbers like 20-25% are being thrown around. Where do these numbers appear from?

Numbers of this kind should be put out with care. They should not be put out under the urge to show the world that we are also a superpower. India today has a dramatically lower share of carbon space compared to its fair share and improving our share is a very difficult task. We have many constraints, which are different from those faced by China, Brazil, Indonesia. In this respect, India is a great nation but not a carbon superpower. Our policy should be based on this sober reality.

Another very critical issue in the climate negotiations is the obsession of the advanced nations to force purely market-driven solutions. But this is one issue on which our government is noticeably silent because in many ways, unfortunately, it shares the same obsession with markets. Our government has also displayed a great deal of enthusiasm for carbon trading especially through the carbon offsets of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol. This is equivalent to selling our carbon space cheaply at the going market prices. With carbon offsets, developing countries will undertake the reduction of emissions while the credit will go to the account of the developed nations. This is simply a means by which the developed countries are trying to pass their responsibility on to the developing nations. The developed nations are also trying to pass off carbon trading as a means of providing finance for developing nations to combat climate change. We should not allow developed countries to meet their emission reduction commitments through offsets nor should we accept it as a means of the developed countries meeting their financial commitments to the poorer nations to combat global warming. The developed nations must provide finance through the multi-lateral mechanism of the UNFCCC as decided in negotiations and not through market mechanisms or institutions like the IMF and the World Bank.

In the area of forestry, slowing down and stopping

deforestation are undoubtedly of value and importance. But going for afforestation through market based solutions as envisaged in REDO or REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries) is not the solution. Forest management must be based on the democratic rights of tribals and other forest-dwellers and must involve them in the relevant processes. Afforestation that is driven by carbon trading carries the danger that it will become a further instrument of their oppression.

Despite much confusion in our evolving climate policy, the Prime Minister has recently reiterated the basic minimum that India will insist on at Copenhagen, especially the question of an equitable burden-sharing arrangement in dealing with climate change, firmly within the boundaries set by the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Bali Action Plan. India should stand firmly with China, Brazil, South Africa and all other G-77 nations to and resist pressure from the developed nations at Copenhagen and force them for drastic reduction of their emission levels. It is critical that the government of India should stand by these commitments when it is most essential at the negotiations in Copenhagen. We recall with great concern the abandoning of the G-77 positions by the government in the GATT negotiations of a decade and more ago. The negotiations in Copenhagen are deeply connected with an equitable, sustainable and prosperous future for the great majority of the world's peoples and the great majority of the people in this country. The government has the foremost responsibility of protecting their interests in the Copenhagen negotiations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the next speaker is Shri Prem Das Rai. Please be brief while making your speech.

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (Sikkim): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I would not take more than two minutes to speak.

The seriousness of Climate Change being witnessed around the world can be measured in the form of increasing trends in temperature; shifts in rainfall pattern; glacier retreats and deglaciation; rise in sea-level; increased intensity and frequency of extreme

weather conditions; changes in crop patterns; and the spread of vector-borne diseases to name a few.

I would like to bring to the notice of the House the ongoing international debate on climate change; its possible outcomes; the urgent need to deliberate on such issues; chart-out well-constructed paths to control adversities posed by climate change; and design strategies to work towards better energy management. In this endeavour, my focus will remain on understanding climate change through the lens of the mountain paradigm.

The reason I say this is because my friend Mr. San deep Dikshit had talked about some bears. Actually, as recent as a few weeks ago, there was an invasion of bears in the urban setup in Gangtok in Sikkim. They came out of their natural habitat because of want of food as a result of non-flowering of certain acorns that they used to feed on. Therefore, the bears had to actually come searching for food before the hibernation. In this process, one senior forest officer almost laid down his life, and his whole face and body was lacerated.

I have a very long 14-page document, which I will lay on the Table of the House, but I would like to read one excerpt from this document, which to my mind would capture the essence of what I would like to place before the House. It is as follows. In view of our stand taken, I would like to stress that within the country we also must 'walk the talk'. The North-Eastern States including Sikkim, and especially, the Eastern Himalaya cater to perhaps a third of the biodiversity reserves of the country. The people of the region are considered to be backward. However, the biodiversity and other natural resources are, in many ways, being protected and so it manifests itself in the overall resources in terms of potential hydro-power, forest-cover and the like. Therefore, there is a need to look at the 'common but differentiated responsibilities' principle domestically as well as in the treatment of these States. One way would be to enhance considerably the allocations via the 13th Finance Commission by way of transferring of more resources as incentives for the upkeep of forest and biodiversity cover as such.

Therefore, I would conclude by saying that I do not want to say much more because much has been already said in this connection. Our Minister, Shri Jairam Ramesh, carries a heavy burden of 1.1 billion people, and to safeguard the interest of this big nation.

***...*Global Debate**

Fate of the Kyoto Protocol

3. The Ball Action Plan that initiated the process towards an "agreed outcome" in Copenhagen was followed by five agreements' Protocols from Japan, Australia, Tuvalu and Costa Rica and an implementing Agreement from the United States. Inputs from these countries make the demand for a new legally binding instrument under the Framework Convention on Climate Change certain. However, it leaves the future of the Kyoto Protocol and its relationship with such an instrument ambiguous.

4. With the Kyoto Protocol slated to expire in 2012, doubts about its future have increased in the global community. The United States of America, which has signed the Kyoto Protocol but not yet ratified it, has long been seeking its replacement. The European Union, in addition to Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan and Russia has begun lobbying for a single integrated instrument that would replace the Kyoto Protocol. The US among others believes that the Kyoto Protocol is ineffective and unfair as it fails to include mitigation commitments of major population centers like India and China.

Single integrated instrument

5. The single integrated instrument is likely to attempt to be 'sensitive' to the needs of all countries and not just a few. It will have certain parts of the Kyoto Protocol incorporated and some parts discarded. There are high chances that the Kyoto Protocol compliance system will be done away with and in its place a regular independent review by expert panels will be installed. This panel in most likelihood will be unable to lead to a compliance procedure that could entail any (limited) punitive consequences.

... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

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Proposals by some of the Developed Countries

6. The Single integrated instrument thought is echoed primarily by Australia, the US, Japan and Canada.

7. The schedule approach, as conceived by Australia, is reflective of the need to be sensitive to all and dictates that each party would have a national schedule containing its long term emissions pathway, and its mitigation commitments and actions. Mitigation commitments and actions would be tailored to and shaped by national circumstances. This proposal thus seeks to extend mitigation commitments to developing countries.

8. This approach has potential to attract the US and other developed nations. The US in the absence of the domestic legislative support, is reluctant to undertake mitigation commitments. The US proposal requires all parties, except the least developed countries to provide annual inventories as well as all parties to report on their low carbon strategy. The developed countries have also been lobbying to breach the distinction under the Bali Action Plan by advocating the same types of actions, same legal character and offering the same flexibility across parties.

9. Most developing countries perceive the Bali Action Plan as distinguishing between developed country mitigation commitments and developing country nationally appropriate mitigation actions. This distinction is viewed as a 'firewall' by the developing countries, while some of the developed nations, notably the US prefer to see it as a 'bridge'. The US and Australia proposals seek to create a new set of Parties and also attempt to extend mitigation "commitments" to developing countries, contrary to the Bali Action Plan that prescribes only mitigation "Actions" for developing countries. Commitments signify acts that bind, while actions do not. This approach led to the notion of a general mitigation applicable to all countries being discussed for the first time in Bangkok and became a part of Non Paper-28, which collated proposals from the US, Australia, Japan, and Canada. The Australia approach differs from the US one as while the former is seeking

to extend "commitments" to a wider group of Parties, the US is seeking to extend "actions" to all Parties.

Position of Developing Countries

10. The developing countries on the other hand, have been arguing that they should be compensated for the damage caused by carbon emitted as developed countries have grown rich. Instead of imposing restrictions on developing countries. It would be more prudent to first determine the available carbon space that developing countries have in physical terms and then proceed to determine the optimal developmental roadmap to attain the goals set.

11. The G-77 nations also fear such an instrument as it could have a fundamentally different character. Moreover, developed parties are not likely to agree to targets for a second commitment period altering the burden sharing arrangement captured in the FCCC and Kyoto Protocol.

Domestic Issues

12. With this brief synopsis of the ongoing international debate and view of different stakeholders, it becomes pertinent to address some of the glaring climate related issues at home.

Glacier Retreat and Deglaciation: Causes and Concerns

13. India is witnessing a dangerous result of global warming in the form of Rapid de-glaciation and glacial retreats. Deglaciation is a loss of glacial mass and glacial retreat is the retreat of the glacial snout.

14. Surveys based on satellite images and ground investigations by ISRO's Space Application Centre (SAC) Ahmedabad have established that in Himachal Pradesh alone, the glaciers have reduced from 2,077 km² to 1,628 km² an overall deglaciation of 21% in four decades. According to SAC as many as 127 glaciers of less than 1 km² size have lost 38 per cent of their geographical area since 1962. The larger glaciers, which are progressively getting fragmented, have receded by as much as 12 per cent which is truly alarming. Data on glacial recession from the IHR are available only for last 150 years. These reveal that the Himalayan glaciers

are retreating at an average rate of 18-20 m yr⁻¹ (Mazari 2006).

15. Snout Recession in Himalayan Glaciers: The Department of Science and Technology, GOI, under the Himalayan Glaciology Programme (HGP) has been carrying out a multidisciplinary study on the mass balance, recession, ice thickness, glacial discharge, sediment transfer, isotopic and chemical characteristic

of snow, ice and melt water and geomorphology mapping under the leadership of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology since 1986. During the first phase information has been generated on Chhota Shigri glacier in Himachal Pradesh, Dokhriani in Bhagirathi Valley and Chorabari in the Alaknanda basin of Uttarakhand. These glaciers are being monitored regularly to detect all changes.

Name of glacier	Period of measuring	Period (in years)	Recession (in m)	Average rate
Milam glacier	1849-1957	108	1350	12.50
Pindari glacier	1845-1966	121	2840	23.40
Gangotri glacier	1962-1991	29	580	20.00
Tipra bank glacier	1960-1986	26	325	12.50
Dokriani glacier	1962-1991	29	480	16.5
Chorabari	1991-2000	09	161.15	18.0
Shankulpa	1962-2005	41	238	5.8
Poting	1881-1957	76	518	6.8
Glacier no-3 Arwa	1906-1957	51	262	5.13
Bara Shigri	1932-1956	24	198	8.25
Chhota Shigri	1956-63	07	219	31.28
Sonapani	1987-89	03	54	18.5
Kolai	1909-1961	52	899	17.2
Zemu	1912-1961	49	800	16.3
	1977-1984	07	193	27.5

Glacial Retreat in Sikkim

16. Sikkim has 84 glaciers covering an area of 691 sq. km. Most glaciers in Sikkim originate from the Kanchenjunga and in turn give rise to streamlets. This is also a source of the Teesta River, which is one of the main source of water for the State of Sikkim, Rangit, an important tributary of Teesta is fed mainly by the Rathong Chu and the Prek Chu glaciers in North West

Sikkim. The Teesta is fed by the Onglokthang glacier.

17. Global warming has resulted in faster rate at which snow melts in the Sikkim glaciers, leading to huge quantities of water into glacier lakes. Once the water level in these lakes rises beyond the normal ranges, breaches of the dam formed of ice, boulders and sand give way. The surge of water and debris caused by outbursts of glacier lakes can change entire course of

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rivers also leading to a rise in the river level and causing floods in severe magnitudes in the Himalayan region.

18. What needs to be noted by the House is that a study (Source : Sikkim Human Development Report 2001) conducted by scientists in 1995 found that the Onglokthang and Rathong Chu glaciers are receding at a rapid rate, threatening the fragile economy of Sikkim. Studies have further revealed that since the Ice Age the Onglokthang glacier has retreated by about 500 metres, while the Rathong Chu glacier has retreated by about 600 metres. As per a study carried out in collaboration with JNU, the Zemu glacier has retreated by 963 metres from the year 1909 to 1999. Between 1998 and 2008, there has been a vertical thinning in the ice cover without any significant change in the snout position. This data indicates that there has been a continuous retreat at the rate of 13.6 metres per year between 1909 and 1965. Post 1965, the rate of retreat has been slower with an average of 5.8 metres per year between 1965 and 1999, without a significant change in the snout position from 1999-2008. These figures are in line with global figures trends. However, there remains an urgent need to have a permanent snout monitoring station near Zemu Glacier which would help in quantification and assessment of figures on an annual basis.

Pollution Increase

19. It Another impending problem is the increase of pollution in the Plain regions of Bengal and Meghalaya owing to excessive industrial activity. Understanding fully the need for increase in industrial activity in these States as one of the only means of attaining socio-economic development and progressing on the path of prosperity, I would at the same time I like to point out that the coal based projects (especially in Garo Hills, Meghalaya) and other industries have become a threat to the health of the glaciers in Sikkim and Eastern Himalaya. Pollutants emitted by the operational industries in the South West and South East regions of Sikkim are carried by the South West Monsoon winds from their destination of emission to the glacier lands of Sikkim. This advance of pollutants has the potential to considerably increase deglaciation by

causing a decrease in the albedo (reflective capability) of ice, and increasing the acidity of precipitation making it absorb more energy and thus making the glaciers melt faster.

Perenniality of Rivers

20. The continuation of glacier retreat and deglaciation can lead to initially massive floods in the region and then the eventual drying up of Mountain Rivers.

Research on Status of Glaciers and Drying up of Mountain Rivers

21. I would like to bring to the attention of the House that a much needed National Research Programme on Himalayan Glaciology, initiated by the department of Science and Technology, Government of India (1986) has covered Himachal Pradesh and Garhwal Himalayas. There is an urgent need to follow similar programmes at the national level in the Eastern Himalayan belt as it is closer to the tropic of Cancer and is thus at a greater risk of melting faster. At the same time there exists a need of similar urgency to renew the study of Western Himalayas in order to get the latest figures on glacier retreat and deglaciation and consequently deliberate at the policy level on how to avert a national calamity in the making.

22. I would thus implore the House to acknowledge the lack of availability of data on the issue of glaciers and Mountain Rivers and also recognize the existing lack of field experts and glaciologists in the country. Although Sikkim has taken the proactive step of instituting a Committee of esteemed experts on this issue, the State would require the Government of India to take up this issue at the national level.

Issues of National Concern and their Potential Inclusion in the National action Plan on Climate Change

Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)

23. The phenomenon of jokulhlaup or glacier leap, also called Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) is a frequent occurrence in Sikkim, the State is dotted with numerous glaciers, and thus the issue of GLOF remains a serious concern for the people of the State.

24. The river bank/front development programme being included as a part of the National Missions on water resources is also suggested with special emphasis given to the problem of Glacier Lake Outburst Floods and Land Slide Dammed lake Outburst Floods. A monitoring mechanism using sensors and satellite technology for prevention of glacial lake outburst floods and for an early warning system should also be assisted by the Central Government.

25. The study of Moraine Dammed Lake formed in Lonak Glacier has revealed that the glacier area has reduced from 7.56 sq. km in 1965 to 5.77 sq. km in 1976 and 5.506 sq. km in 2004. The area of the lake has increased from 21 hectares in 1976 to 86 hectares in 2005 due to glacier melt. This example shows that there exists a need to continuously monitor such lakes in order to avoid GLOFs.

26. It must be duly noted that the Eastern Himalayas are more prone to GLOFs. Addressing of Natural Disasters in the Mountains is thus an imperative. Negligence on part of India can lead to a calamity like situation that was witnessed at the time of the Kosi floods which caused great harm to the lives of scores of people in both India and Nepal.

Landslides

27. Landslides (caused by land mismanagement, particularly in mountains, steepening of slopes by erosion or human modification, heavy rains, earthquakes, soil erosion and alternative freezing or thawing) represent about 80% of all geological hazards occurring in mountain lands. Sikkim in particular being part of the Himalaya—a young Mountain range is seismically active and characterized by frequent landslides. As steep slopes are very sensitive to any geo-environmental changes, even sudden rainfalls can destabilize the soil-rock balance and cause landslides (Source: Sikkim Human Development Report, 2001). This problem has been aggravated due to climate change and frequent torrential rains as experienced in the year 2007. There is thus an urgent need to have a special focus on landslide rehabilitation among the Missions of National Action Plan on Climate Change.

28. I would like to thus request the Government of India to give priority to Sikkim in provision of technical

and financial support through the Eight National Missions constituted as part of the NAPCC.

Alpine Lakes and Wetlands

29. I would request the Government of India to consider complete funding for the scientific management of Alpine lakes and wetlands which are a major source for water in Sikkim Himalayas. An equal thrust is required for identification of ground water recharging zones and measures for augmenting water supply in natural springs.

Reduction in Snow Cover

30. Month-wise snow mapping in Sikkim has shown that in one year from February 2007 to February 2008, the percentage of snow covering the geographic area of the State has decreased from 50.6% to 41.67%. Thus further highlights the need to focus on the issue of snow cover reduction in the State.

Solar Passive Houses and Micro Hydel Projects

31. There is a dire need for adoption of appropriate technologies for solar passive houses in Alpine and high altitude regions of the Himalayas. The same regions are also in need of a network of micro hydel projects. Provision of these development measures should be undertaken as part of the missions of the National Action Plan on Climate Change.

Geo-Informatics Centre and Regional Institutes

32. Natural resources and climate change can be addressed better through extensive use of Remote Sensing and GIS for preparation of scientific database. With the above aim in mind a Geo-informatics Centre must be set up with special focus on the volatile regions of the North East. I would also like the Government of India to note the need for a Regional Institute on Glacier and Climate Change study for the entire North East region which should be set up in Sikkim.

Inclusion of Three Benchmark Glaciers

33. I would like to suggest the inclusion of at least three Glaciers of Sikkim in the National Action Plan on Climate Change for long term monitoring of glaciers for the next 20 years.

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Other Impacts due to Climate Change in Mountain Ecosystems

34. Impacts of reduced catchment capabilities in Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) is likely to be far more serious on cities, towns and villages downstream including Himalayan foothills that depend completely (or partially) on mountain streams and rivers.

35. Water provided by the hill aquifers in the form of springs is responsible for sustaining domestic livestock and agricultural activity since the ancient times. Already access to safe potable water is limited in the IHR. Under the changed precipitation conditions, leading to increased run-off and less infiltration; coupled with removal of forest cover, has already started showing signs of depleted hill aquifer regimes in the IHR.

36. Shifts in precipitation patterns coupled with elevated temperature would have direct impact on Crop Productivity. As the glaciers disappear and summer runoff diminishes, much of the catchment areas are likely to face aridity. Changes in climate would affect the quality of horticultural crops such as apple and apricots. There may be shifts in fruit belts but there exists very little scope for expansion. Flowering and fruiting phenology of many species would alter. Rangeland forage quality and quantity would be seriously affected, suggesting an increased requirement for feed supplements for livestock. At higher altitudes increased temperature and heat stress may influence livestock production. As livestock diseases are much influenced by climate change. Transmission of winter borne Foot and Mouth Disease viruses may increase.

37. Climate change is likely to enhance the frequency and intensity of forest fires in the mountains, exacerbating problem of carbon emissions, haze and habitat destruction. The factors listed for plants and crops in general also largely apply to forests. (ii) A depletion of soil moisture may cause productivity of major species to decline. Productivity of moist deciduous forests could also be reduced. (iii) Global climate change has prompted serious concern over the potential consequences to the world's ecological systems and wildlife.

A Look at Mountains in India: Critical Analysis of Policy Making and Guidelines Review. Reference Paper: Report to Task Force on The Mountain Ecosystems (Environment and Forest...in the 11th Five Year Plan)

38. Recommendations of the Task Force on The Mountain Ecosystems (Environment and Forest Sector) for the 11th Five Year Plan need to be considered. These are:

39. Establishing a network of meteorological stations and adequate infrastructure for integrated climatologically research across the IHR, Revamping Clean Development Mechanism across IHR: Monitoring glacial recession and extending glaciological programmes to Eastern Himalaya; Disease surveillance and developing forecasting system for vector borne disease; Bio-prospecting for future crops, and Long term ecological research on climate-endangered species-ecosystem relationships.

40. There is a need to strengthen the State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) including strict compliance of Environment Management Plans and Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plans.

41. There is a need to promote Integrated River Valley Authorities for management of river basins, considering upstream and downstream inflows and withdrawals by season, interface between land and water, pollution loads and natural regeneration capacities to ensure maintenance of adequate flows, in particular for maintenance of in-stream ecological values, and adherence to compliance of MPEs.

Conclusion

42. With most proposals by developed countries indicating that emerging economies must not let their emissions rise beyond a stipulated date, countries like India will have to begin reducing growth of their emissions with immediate effect and finally cap them within a few years. Thereafter, it would be required to keep its emissions at the peak level in perpetuity or reduce them further. The deadline suggested is 2020 or 2025. India records very low level of per capita

emissions when compared to industrialized countries. With this clause of peak emission coming into action, India's access to reasonably priced energy would be limited, thereby stunting its growth process.

43. Although, we should strongly oppose taking legally binding emission cuts, India must be willing to take greater and more serious steps to combat the threats of global warming. There remains an urgent need for to make all possible efforts to tackle their menace at the domestic level as it will ultimately benefit us and our future generations. We have already embarked on an enhanced energy efficiency mission which will reduce carbon emissions. We should take this opportunity at the Copenhagen summit to showcase our efforts in the direction of environment protection and conservation to convince the larger global fraternity about our seriousness on this fragile issue without compromising our national interests.

Interventions on study of Glaciers by the Government of Sikkim

44. The Sikkim Government has constituted a commission to study the status of Glaciers potential impact of climate change in mountain eco-systems and water systems. Sikkim State Council of climate change has been constituted to provide policy directions and institutional mechanisms for effective implementation of programmes under the National Missions on Climate Change. I would like to place on record in this House that the proactive nature with which Sikkim Government has acted should be lauded and taken cognizance of and funded to the extent of double of what we have already expended.

45. Other initiatives by the State Government include snow cover mapping, inventory of glaciers for the entire State, Glacier Field Studies for Zemu Glacier, study of impact of climate change on cardamom plantations, study of people's perception of climate change on various animal diseases and effect on mil production, Mass balance and snout monitoring studies for East Rathong Chu Glacier. At this point I would like to acknowledge the initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India which has included East Rathong Chu Glacier of Sikkim as one of the ten

benchmark Glaciers of the country for long term studies. Joint initiatives have also been undertaken with the Indian Space Research Organisation, Department of Space, Government of India for installation of a network of 15 Automatic Weather Stations for monitoring weather parameters and with Indian Meteorology Department, Ministry of Earth Science, Government of India for installation of Doppler Radar System for greater coverage of weather prediction and snow and glacier monitoring.

Initiatives by Sikkim for addressing Challenges in Climate Change and Sustainable Development

46. Having presented a synopsis of my suggestions I would like to conclude by highlighting the achievements of Sikkim with special focus on Climate Change Control and Sustainable Development with the aim of pitching it as a model State of the country and requesting more attention for its growth through technical and financial assistance by the Central Government. The list below presents only some of the achievements of the Sikkim Democratic Front Government headed Dr. Shri Chamling, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, among a far wider range of development initiatives that were successfully adopted and implemented.

47. Sikkim has successfully banned the use of non-biodegradable materials like plastic and poly bags, green felling in forests has been prohibited and a ban has been imposed on grazing in reserved forest areas. The year 1999, saw the State Government provide for mass sapling plantation, Smoking in public places is also prohibited in the State.

48. The State Government has announced a Comprehensive State Policy on Forest, Environment and land use based on basic principles of conservation and sustainability. There is today significant increase in the forest cover over Sikkim.

49. In order to generate a respect for environment, compulsory Environment Education has been introduced for schools.

50. The State government has further made mandatory Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), Environment Management Plan (EMP), and Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan for all Hydro Electric Projects

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(HEP). Eco governance has been strengthened by launching a CM online Website. For community participation in Forests, Environment, and Wildlife and Natural Resources, protection and management has been institutionalized through the creation of a network of Joint Forest Management Committees in 1998, which would involve NGOs/Panchayats and women participation.

51. A Network of Protected Area Network of National Parks, Sanctuaries have been created.

52. At the State level to avoid landslides, land slip and erosion of soil, treatment has been made a part of all State Project Planning.

53. Sikkim Green Mission was launched in 2006 post which all roads have green plantation components. 2% of the budget of SPWD and RNDD and 1% of all other Departments have been earmarked for the Green Mission.

54. Power Projects Proponents have made sufficient provisions for Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plans by imposing an Environment cess of one paise per unit of electricity sold, and Catchments Area Treatment Plans.*

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Purvi Champaran): Sir, climate change is being regarded as the most serious challenge to the process of all round development in this century. Now, we see the adverse effects of industrial development taken place in western countries during nineteenth and twentieth centuries, because green house gases emitted by innumerable industrial factories have concentrated in the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is the main factor responsible for higher level of greenhouse gases concentration. Carbon dioxide is emitted during farming activities and burning of wood, petrol, diesel, coal, gas and kerosene. Due to concentration of higher level of carbon in atmosphere climate change has already taken place and as a result drought has become frequent phenomena due to less rainfall or a few year back a devastating flood occurred in desert of Rajasthan. Moreover, temperature has increased. Besides, the incidences of hurricane,

cyclone, tsunami and forest fire are increasing rapidly. Now, increasing emission of green house gases will worsen this situation. There are two main causes of emission of greenhouse gases. First due to increasing of population consumption of fossil fuel etc increased which causes higher atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. This situation is prevailing in most of the developing countries. Secondly, in spite of less population, due to luxurious life style consumption of energy is more in developing countries and this causes higher levels of carbon emission. In all developed countries this is the situation where use of air conditioners, aero planes, computer, various electronic equipments, using electricity is rampant. It means that per capita energy consumption and carbon emission is more in developed countries. This is the reason why average global temperature has increased by almost one degree Celsius.

According to the report of I.P.C.C. (2007) due to increase in emission of greenhouse gases global surface temperature would increase by 2 to 4.5 degree Celsius by the end of this century. The changes caused by this will mostly affect food and water security. It is being presumed that South East Asian countries, Africa and Latin America will be worst affected where a huge population is dependent on agriculture. With the rise of sea level situation in island countries will be more serious and the country such as Maldives will be submerged. It is feared that only a rise of 1 to 2 degree Celsius in atmospheric temperature will cause major decrease in food production in tropical countries. Causing manifold increase in starvation and water borne diseases. Due to famine and flood people living in Himalayas and Andies regions will have to face many problems. There are apprehensions of erosion of human life, forestry and bio-diversity in the coastal areas and countries. In view of climate change achievement of millennium development goal would become more difficult.

Emission of greenhouse gases mainly result from coal energy (60 per cent) degradation of forest cover (18 per cent) agricultural (14 per cent) and Industrial activities (4 per cent). Developing countries having 80 per cent population of the world have contributed only 20 per cent in emission of greenhouse gases during

the period from 1751 till date. Even today major developing countries such as India, China, Brazil and South Korea are contributing many times less emission in terms of per capita emission compared to developed countries. According to the World Bank, developed countries per year per capita emission is 13 tonnes whereas it is less than 3 tonnes in developing countries. Per capita emission in the U.S.A. is 20 times more than India. The rich countries having only 15 per cent population of the world are responsible for more than 47 per cent emission of carbon dioxide.

The issues and challenges of climate change in India are more serious. Being a developing country the effect of climate change on economy is a matter of serious concern for India. A major section of population depends on agriculture which is most sensitive to climate change. And being a developing country, the consumption and demand of energy will continuously increase in India and the efforts being made to present climate change will create obstacles in its development and progress. However, it is being presumed that emission level may not increase more in India because service sector is major contribute in Indian economy but as energy, electricity, water, education and other basic facilities are not available to half of the population of the country, the demand for energy will continue to increase. Effects of climate change will be serious in many sectors. It will mostly affect the areas under agricultural economy. 55-60% of India's population still depends on agriculture. Although its contribution in the economy is continuously declining (only 17.8% in 2007-08). For years, we have been struggling with declining productivity in Indian agriculture for several reasons. More than 2 degree Celsius increase in the temperature can lead to 9% of decline in gross agricultural revenue and this decline can go up to 25% in case of more than 3-5 degree Celsius increase in temperature. Still the vicious circle rising cost, declining productivity in agriculture and income in during the last decade has led to many farmer's deaths whereas climate change leading to uncertain monsoon has affected several states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Assam for several years with drought and other states like Rajasthan, Maharashtra etc. have been devastated by the floods. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have been

the most ironical example of first getting hit by drought and thereafter facing the flood fury. It is the effect of climate change that the flood affected state of Assam became the state to declare the situation of drought this year.

The declining availability of water is not only affecting the agriculture but all the dimensions of life. India's 70% ground water is being used for agriculture purposes and out of this almost 70% water is used for paddy cultivation. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is of the view that the water scarcity can only be ensured by restoration and better management of traditional water sources and recharging of ground water but such efforts are rarely visible in our country. The level and quality of ground water have been affected due to its excessive use. The states in which the water was available at the level of 20-25 feet, has now gone below 100 feet. In states like Punjab and Haryana, the agriculture and industry entirely depend upon the excessive use of ground water and the situation is alarming. In several states, the subsidy given on diesel this year has been curtailed and restriction has also been imposed on irrigation through pump sets and electricity. Drinking water crisis is deepening in these states. The management of traditional sources have been largely ignored and the construction of new roads, colonies and rail lines have hampered the augmentation of fuel sources. The problem of drinking water is getting serious day by day and the packaged bottled water has found its way even in the villages.

Though, the direct impact of climate change on human health has not been clearly established, yet the lack of proper food is leading to a declining trend in immunity from diseases which has given rise to unprecedented increase in diseases. Several data on the state of Malnutrition of women and children are available in almost all the states. In spite of the Government's non-acceptance, the starvation deaths have occurred in several states due to poverty and these are still taking place. The state of human health in flood affected states is all the more serious because of the diseases spreading through polluted water. The quality of ground water has declined in the drought affected states as well. The presence of unacceptable level of

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arsenic in water in several states is just not bearable from health point of view. Furthermore, the deaths occurring due to such serious incidents can easily be assessed. The number of those dying of heatwave in summer and those dying of cold wave in winter is increasing every year. The number of deaths occurring due to paucity of funds and lack of treatment in the absence of health facilities are out of the purview of official statistics.

In India, livestock have immensely contributed to agriculture, trade and the households. Changing seasons and decline in agricultural production has directly affected the livestock. The declining grazing field and the declining fodder production has made the livestock a misery for the farmers instead of their earlier pride of place. The animals are not getting fodder in sufficient quantity. The fodder is also getting poisonous with the use of chemical manure and pesticides. Rising temperature has also affected the health of animals. Now the animals often fall sick and die quite young. The farmers are facing double whammy because of livestock. The farmers are compelled to sell their animals at throw away prices. Not even one fourth animals are now left in the villages.

The climate change has a multi dimensional effect on women. The responsibility of farming, food, fuel and energy mostly rests with the women. A good part of women's daily chores include arranging food, water and fuel due to declining farming and family income. The water sources situated far away from homes pose a great challenge to the women's time and labour. A total time is also spent on health care. Several adverse social, economic and family impact are visible on the women due to decline in the family income. The situation of women migrating from their homes is quite alarming. Security is also a big issue besides other problems in those families where able men have left their villages for work leaving their aged women behind. Climate change has adversely affected poverty. Those communities and people who were slightly above the poverty line have come under it. The poor have been mostly affected by decline in agricultural production, food and water security, malnutrition and declining per capita income. The migration from villages to cities is quite

increasing in number. It has put pressure on the basic amenities and infrastructure in the cities and has also compelled the migrants in the cities to lead miserable life. There is an apprehension that migration will take place on large scale with the rise in sea level. As per the assumption of Government of India, a rise of one metre in sea level can compel 70 lakh people to migrate. The recurrence of floods, droughts, sea storms can also considerably increase the migration. In view of the sensitive situation prevailing in Bangladesh, there is an apprehension that there will be migration on large scale from Bangladesh to India.

The fifteenth conference of the Member nations (COP 15) from 7 to 18 December is surely to be held at Copenhagen in Denmark. It is being considered an important conference because it involves discussion on the targets to be set for emission reduction on the part of developed countries after the year 2012 (when the Kyoto protocol's term will come to an end). It is expected the world over that the developed countries will declare their commitment in view of their targets in the conference which has not become possible so far. There is also a possibility of in-depth discussion as well as differences of opinion on the issues of providing economic resources and technique and cooperation. This conference of Copenhagen is extremely significant in view of the lack of unanimity in almost all the previous conferences and the failure of the conferences due to rigid stand of the developed countries.

The country expects its policy makers to look after the country's interests and not to succumb to any pressure or influence. There is a need to look at discussion on climate change and efforts from the economic, social and environmental justice point of view. The interest of small farmers, agricultural labourers, fishing community and women and Dalits should find representation in the policy making and desired national goals. Because of very limited resources available to these communities, their adaptability towards climate change is very poor. The women are worst victims due to scarcity of agriculture, economic resources, foodgrains and water and poor health of the members of the family. There is a need to strengthen the polluter pays principle at international level so that emphasis can be laid on economic and technical cooperation in view of the

historical emission by the rich and developed countries. There should be no concession on the 25-40% reduction prescribed under the Bali Action Plan. Apart from it, our position should be clear on, certain main aspects of international discussion. For example:—

- The changes likely to be brought in after 2012 will be discussed in the meeting of COP15. Taking into account the dependence of population in developing and agriculture based countries on agriculture, it is necessary to have a detailed discussion on agriculture and adaptability. All the developed countries want to avoid discussion on agriculture and blame it for playing an important role in bringing about climate change. Although the truth on the other hand is that agriculture and forestry is the only industry which is capable of bringing about reduction in emissions and emitted particles.
- By purchasing one third carbon credit in bringing down emissions, the rich countries want to continue their lavish life style with the power of money. This should be stopped. The developing countries should make a demand that the reduction in emission purchased through carbon credit should not be more than one third of their total emission reduction and any type of marketing policy should also be opposed.
- A certain amount of the Adaptation Fund should be fixed for agriculture. The developing and underdeveloped countries should make their commitments on economic and technical cooperation clear to the developed countries and a time frame should be fixed. Sir, moreover, we also need to make honest efforts on national level also for this, e.g.:—
- Research and investments on alternative energy sources is an imperative. These should be given acceleration in the wake of ample potential of solar and hydro power resources in India. We should make economically and environmentally balanced use of the available

amounts of energy and the communities having no access to energy should be given priority than the industrial sector.

- A clear view on the objectives, means and resources on climate change should be adopted. The state Government should also participate in the decision on policy-framing and effort thereof.
- The poor in the most affected class because of change in climate. Small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, fishermen, dalits, Scheduled Tribes and women of all these sections are the most affected by this. Their interests should be given due priority under the Adaptation strategies.
- Integrated development in India is mostly dependent on agriculture. Therefore, adaptation in the agro sector is a priority. With success in agro sector, a vast majority of farmers and general population will be automatically developing its adaptation potential.

Sir, with this, I fully hope that the government will be protecting the interests of villagers, peasants and farmers, who represent the real India, in the Copenhagen meet seated to be held in December.

[English]

*Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE (Bardhaman-Durgapur): Climate change is nowadays a major challenge. The whole world is concerned about it. The problem of climate change has reached crisis proportions. The level of Green House gases in the atmosphere is now getting very high. The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has estimated that between 1750 and 2005 the atmosphere concentration of carbon dioxide increased from about 280 to 379 parts per million and has recently been increasing at a rate of 1.9 parts per million per year. As has been estimated by 2100, the global average surface temperature could rise by between 1.8 and 5 degrees. As a result, changes in climate will affect all of humanity and worst effects would be felt by the poor, especially in developing countries.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Sk. Saidul Haque]

India is likely to be among the worst affected regions with erratic and unseasonal rainfall, melting of Himalayan glaciers, floods and droughts, changes in crop behavior including sharp drop in production of rice, wheat, cereals and rising sea-levels inundating coastal areas.

It is estimated that the Himalayan glaciers are shrinking at a rate of 10 to 15 metres per year. This will affect water supply in India, with the Ganges expected to lose two-thirds of its flow in between July and September and thereby affecting one-third of India's irrigated land and causing water shortages of more than 500 million people in South Asia. As a result of the rise of sea-levels while storms and cyclones will become more frequent, 27 million families depending on coastal resources will face the threat of their lives and livelihood.

Climate change has had an affect on the monsoons too. India will experience a decline in summer rainfall which is crucial to Indian agriculture.

Average temperature changes are likely to cause some of India's forest areas to die back. Climate change will also endanger the significant number of plant and animal species. Hence, Climate change will have great impact in India. People in India, especially the poorest are very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, mainly because the nation's economy is so closely tied to natural resources. For example, more than 56% of workers are engaged in agriculture and allied sectors while many earn their living in coastal areas through tourism or fishing.

Apart from that rise in temperature and change in humidity will adversely affect human health in India. It will Physiological functions, metabolic processes and immune systems. It will increase the range of vector borne diseases such as malaria. Hence, there is an importance of the forthcoming Global Summit on climate change in Copenhagen in December, 2009 for India. The Summit is expected to finalize international Treaty arrangements under the auspices of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to reduce

global emissions and restrict Greenhouse Gas concentrations.

In 1997, when Kyoto Protocol set up internationally agreed targets of limiting Green House Gases emissions by industrialized countries, the biggest emitter of these gases, the United States of America, refused to come on board. United States is still resisting any imposition of targets. U.S.A. and other industrialized countries are undermining the UNFCCC framework of "Common but differentiated responsibility of developed and developing countries" wherein the former are required to undertake binding emission cuts, while the latter would be assisted through funds and technology transfer to adapt to climate change and adopt low carbon development strategies. Now the advanced countries led by U.S. in fact seek to shift the burden of the crisis on to developing countries especially India, China and other so called emerging economies. The refusal of the advanced capitalist countries to provide funds as compensation for the environment damage caused and imposition of Intellectual Property Right restriction on transfer of technologies are part of the overall attempt to perpetuate the inequalities in the global order.

IPCC has called up on developed countries to commit to deep emission cuts of 40 per cent by 2020 and 90 per cent by 2050. But developed countries are continually diluting even their earlier commitments, the EU offering a mere 20 per cent and the US just 3 per cent with respect to 1990 levels. Most damagingly in the run-up to Copenhagen the U.S. and its key allies are seeking to altogether abandon the UNFCCC framework and Kyoto principles of differentiated responsibilities for developed and developing countries, instead, putting them in the same bracket.

India has adopted a National Action Plan on climate change 2008. The action plan outlines eight missions in specific areas of Solar Energy, Enhanced Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Habitat, Water, Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-System, Green India, Sustainable Agriculture and Strategic knowledge for climate change. India has recently announced and likely to go to announce a series of measures to conserve energy and reduce emissions. It is the need of the hour, no doubt, to do so. But that should not be unilateral; as climate

*Speech was laid on the Table.

change is a global phenomenon, not just a national one. It should be based on reciprocal actions. i.e. conditional upon the U.S. and other developed countries adopting the deep emission cut goals recommended by the IPCC.

In the light of the above I urge upon the government that:

1. India firmly resist pressure from the USA and other advanced countries to abandon the Kyoto and UNFCC frame work and sticks to the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities for developed and developing countries.
2. India should continue to press for fund and technology transfers from developed to developing countries as compensation for damage caused by historical emissions and freeing of technology transfers from IPR restrictions.
3. India take up and announce measures for control and reduction for growth rates of emissions not unilaterally that only conditional upon advanced countries undertaking deep emission cuts as called as called for by the IPCC.
4. India work closely with the O5 group of large developing countries and with G77 and maintain the unity of the developing countries. The recent meeting of India, China, Brazil and other countries and decision taken therein would do a lot if fought jointly and unitedly.
5. India move pro-actively on adoption measures and to reduce energy inequality within the country so that India's climate policies serve to advance the interests of India's poor and protect them the worst effect of climate change.
6. India should take action for developing forest area and also continue afforestation scheme in a planned manner.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I stand here to deliberate on the impact of climate change just before

the Copenhagen Summit. While going through the papers that have been circulated, I come across two statements of the Government and I want to quote:

"India is fully alive to its global responsibilities. Prime Minister has already stated that India will never allow its per capita emissions to exceed that of the developed countries.

Another statement is:

While India is willing to accept monitoring, reporting and verification as per agreed procedures for those actions that are supported by the international community in terms of finance and technology through agreed channels, its voluntary actions financed from its own domestic resources cannot be subjected to international review."

These two statements of the Government, I think, are very pertinent for us to take note of and accordingly we should frame our view.

The moment of truth, no doubt, will be upon us in a few weeks. In a few days from now, delegates from practically all the countries of the world will meet in Copenhagen for two weeks of negotiations. It will perhaps be the biggest meeting that has ever taken place. The results of this Conference will not only leave their mark on the face of the earth, but also they will influence the fate of hundreds and millions of people.

The issue at stake in Copenhagen is the very foundation of our existence protecting the earth's atmosphere from a dangerous rise in temperature. If human economic activity continues at its present rate, the average global temperature on the earth would rise by up to seven degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial era. Therefore, the concern today is of global warming and climate change.

The last agreement as has been stated here today in this House, the Kyoto Protocol as it is being understood, expires in 2012. This agreement did not have American and Australian ratifications. Yet, many European countries tried to bring down the levels of emission. The Copenhagen Meeting is designed, as far as I understand, to finalize and replace the agreement

[Shri B. Mahtab]

which would have the consent of all countries, particularly the United States, which is the world's biggest emitter.

There is incontrovertible scientific evidence that global warming, a result of carbon dioxide emission, is making a far-reaching impact on our lives and will jeopardize the future of the planet. Rapid glacial meltdown, reduction in snowcaps of both the Poles, and rising sea levels, for instance, would lead to the submergence of large parts of the globe which are currently under dense population. Changing patterns of monsoon, frequent cyclones and typhoons of unprecedented velocity are already causing destruction and change in agricultural patterns; rainfall preoccupation varying from flood to drought. This trajectory is unsustainable.

Current lifestyles and economic activities all over the world are based on the intensive use of fossil fuel. Fossil fuel energy has high levels of emission of carbon dioxide which results in global warming. Scientists say the per capita emission by 2050 needs to be around two tonnes of carbon dioxide as a global average. This implies that the developed countries must cut their emission by 90 per cent from 1990 levels by 2050 with intermediate targets to be reached by 2020 and 2030.

But developing countries would also need to make substantial cuts. That is because even if their emission today may not be beyond two tonnes of carbon dioxide, as economic growth picks up this will rapidly rise above the stipulated target. For a country like ours the emission is a modest two tonnes. But a sustained growth rate of nine per cent will see a dramatic rise in per capita emission. Though India is not one of the biggest polluters, we are not far behind. We secure the fifth position behind China.

The Government has drafted a National Action Plan on Climate Change in June 2008. It looks great on paper. The basic foundation of the plan is faulty. It is complacent of the fact that the average per capita emission of India is only 1.5 tonnes, much lower than the world average of 4.5 tonnes. This hides the fact that about 150 million Indians have adopted lifestyles

of developed countries and are already on high carbon pathway.

Let us look at the energy and transport sectors. The share of coal in power generation is 67 per cent and the plan is to increase this with building more ultra-mega thermal power plants with capacities of 4000 MW each. Any industry that comes up, puts up a captive power plant and tries to get a coal block. Coal produces more carbon dioxide—this is elementary knowledge—than any other fossil fuel. Efficiency of these captive power plants is very low. The technology being used for these captive power plants is of Chinese origin. It is backyard technology called Boiler Turbine Generation technology. This does not conform to any world standard of production procedures. Why are we allowing it? Are we going to put a check on it? Instead of addressing the issue of increasing the efficiency of the existing thermal plants, the Government, especially the Power Ministry, is eager to establish more coal-based power plants, and Orissa is becoming a victim of it.

In the transport sector, the Government is creating conditions to propagate private vehicles that add to carbon footprint and cause health problems. In our country, buses are subsidised to the extent of Rs. 33 lakh per day; cars are subsidised at Rs. 72 lakh per day; and two wheelers are subsidised at Rs. 151 lakh per day. This is stated in a study. Instead of minimising these anomalies which actually favour the automobile industry, no attempt is being made to evolve policies to support public transport.

The biomass based economy of the rural households in the countryside is less prone to emission of greenhouse gases in comparison to the fossil fuel based economy of the urban rich in our country. The plan fails to recognise the positive contributions of the rural community and support them through policy initiatives. We know that energy is unlike any other commodity. The entire economy depends on access to dependable, affordable energy. Without this, nothing else can be successful. Today we have a genuine opportunity to build clean energy prosperity, if we act decisively. So, what can we do to capture this opportunity and how should our self interest be reflected in international negotiations?

There is a need to take advantage of efficiency and renewable energy technologies that are available today. Simple policies can help bring change. Adopt standards for efficient lights, compact fluorescents and LEDs.

Dr. Jayant Sathaye of Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory has calculated that energy efficiency would save this nation over Rs. 2.4 million crore by 2017, by eliminating blackout, that cripple the economy.

Secondly, let us accelerate the implementation of programmes to adopt clean technologies such as solar. Germany and Spain have special prices called 'feed-in tariffs', that have made solar and wind mainstream options. In our country it is still being contemplated. Why can not we act? Long-term Government-backed power purchase agreement will create the appropriate environment for financing so that private sector can develop innovative solutions.

India should lead in the negotiations during Copenhagen Summit. Government has spelt out that India cannot accept a cap and that the ultimate carbon abatement, per capita, must converge for the rich and poor nations. But we need to do more. We need to become leaders in progressing the conversation and the best way to do this is to take our self-interest seriously. then commit to it internationally.

Let us come to the basics. We know generation of power from thermal power plants is a dire necessity in many countries particularly those which are endowed with large coal mines. Generation of one MW of power requires burning of 15 tonnes of coal per day. The installed capacity of thermal power in India is 70,000 MW. Government is further in the process of installing 50,000 MW thermal power plants by the year 2017. Then, India will be burning 18,00,000 tonnes of coal daily.

India also consumes 80 million standard cubic meters of gas daily. China consumes quantities of gas and coal 3.5 times more than India. In this juncture, what should be our strategy in Copenhagen? I am of the opinion that India's growth compulsions should not be overlooked. I would like to know from the Minister

this. We should reduce emission but what is the process and institution to verify that this reduction has actually been carried out. Unless there is objective measurement and verification of reduction in emission, how can we move forward?

Before concluding, I must state that the issue of carbon emission targets seems to be heating up just ahead of the Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change. The United States is followed by China. The Prime Minister's envoy on Climate Change, Shri Shyam Saran, has said that India need not follow China. The targets announced by all these countries are only statements of their intent. Then, what purpose do these emission targets serve? Clearly, voluntary targets are aimed at, as far as I understand, avoiding any legally binding carbon reduction goals. What is our stand? Are you going to announce today or are you going to do it in Copenhagen? Will the Government spell it out before going to Copenhagen?

With Brazil, South Africa, in Beijing, Mr. Minister has stated that the substantive draft declaration has listed their non-negotiable demands. The four non-negotiable demands are; the countries would never accept legally binding emissions cuts, un-supported emission actions, international measurement, reporting and verification of unsupported mitigation action and the use of climate change as a trade barrier.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken 16 minutes.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: This shows how far we have travelled from Kyoto Protocol. The Minister had said that we are not going to Copenhagen to exit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not concluding your speech. Please conclude because there is a long list of speakers.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I do not grudge the distance we have travelled from Kyoto Protocol to this Statement but I am concerned about the 980 million people of this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mahtab, please take your seat now.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, this is the last point. I am

[Shri B. Mahtab]

concerned about 980 million people of this country to develop without heating the planet above 2 degree centigrade. We need to find ways. There is a need to build social justice in this country. With hope, I conclude.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (Baramati): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to participate in one of the most crucial issues of global warming and climate change concerning the entire globe today. I am very happy to see that most of the Members have shown a great concern for this. We have all been under a situation that global warming and climate change are even today in India extremely elite subjects. If you go to the common man of this country, in any village, he does not even know why this climate change is occurring. He just thinks these are deliberations or issues which do not concern him. He does not realise that he is suffering all this with no fault of his at all.

Many of my colleagues have raised questions about the forthcoming Copenhagen Summit. But I am very confident, especially after the hon. Prime Minister's statement where he reiterated, 'to achieve an ambitious global target supported by equitable burden sharing which has to be very fair'. I think, he has made it very clear in Port of Spain that India will certainly not compromise any of its integrities, values or things which are important for our country at the cost of any pressure, be it a super power. I do not think it has ever happened in 60 years in this country and I do not think it is ever going to happen, be it the UPA or the NDA, nobody is ever going to compromise on India's benefits.

The major problem which really occurs to us in the global warming is the equity issue, the development issue and the crisis issue. It is just unfortunate that the poor people of this country, who are suffering the most, have not created any of this. It is really the gap between the developed countries and the developing countries that is going to be the issue in Copenhagen. I am very confident that our hon. Minister Shri Jairam Ramesh, who has brought in global warming at the top of the agenda of this country, will surely look and protect all the interests of our State.

Much has been said before me. So, I will not be repeating most of these points but I think the biggest concern of climate change for all of us, like my colleague Dr. Kakoli mentioned is water and second, which Kunwar Rewati Raman Singh said is about the food security of our country. I think, if we just look at the simple example of wheat, even if there is an increase in temperature of one degree the wheat production will go down almost by 6 million tones per year. I think, today global warming is not just about our livelihoods but it is about food, water and all our natural resources which are very crucial for all our existence.

While we get into this, it is not just a rural or an urban issue now. In a nutshell I would like to share this because this happens in every tier two and three-cities in India. In Pune, which is the fastest growing city of this country, all the affluent—may be the solid waste, sewage or the transport and the air pollution—is unfortunately not well treated. It gets into all the rivers and reaches various dams which supply irrigation water to all the agriculture zones around. So, I think we have to address this. Copenhagen is a big step for our country and for the globe but we have to take this climate change awareness to the last person in this country who lives in every small village because it is his life which is getting affected by this. While we get into all this, I would like to ask from our hon. Minister some clarifications. Sir, there are eight missions. What is the time frame for these missions and how are you going to execute them. A lot has been said about solar energy but we do not see it reflecting anywhere on the field. The second is the role of the States. Today I represent Maharashtra but I do not think my State is doing much or is aware of climate change or it is on its agenda at all. Has the Government of India any plans to work with the States and see how we can take this programme to every State and have more interactions through discussions or through programmes there?

Thirdly, as regards tier cities, now all the big cities are unfortunately affected but what about the tier two and tier three cities. Today, if we even see garbage dumping, it has become a serious issue everywhere. But no city today has a proper garbage dump and all

these things have collected to climate change. Is there any climate sensitisation and these cities are resilient today. So, I think the Government of India has to have a plan for all these new growing cities. The other thing is citizen engagement. Unless we all contribute, help and are aware of climate change, I do not think only Government policies and discussions like this are going to make the change. The other project which we are all very proud of and happy but we do not know the status of is the 20 per cent reduction in energy intensity by 2020 which was in the 11th Plan. It was committed but we are not fully aware of the status of this. The other plan is about the REDD and the low carbon economy. There is much said in all the speeches before me about low carbon economy. Sir, we would like you to explain it to all of us about which country is showing the way for low carbon economy. How are we going to drive it in the future as well as the REDD Programme which is also being talked about in Copenhagen? We are not sure what are going to be the financial implications. Where is the money going to come from and if they expect us, all the developed countries, to put up 40 per cent, where are they going to get this money from and really make a change? I think we all have a right to development but we certainly do not have a right to pollute. I am sure India will definitely take a lead in making a difference in this entire nation. As we love our country, we love the Earth. I think the time is changing, especially I come from Maharashtra and I want to say that we are not only citizens of a State but of our country. I think the time has come when we all need to be global citizens.

[Translation]

*SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Thank you, Sir for giving me this opportunity to speak on climate change. Hon. Member from the Treasury and Opposition benches have detailed the subject very well. Delegates from 192 countries are going to engage their minds on climate change and 'Save Earth' measures in Copenhagen shortly. Global warming is the biggest threat to the environment. It can alter the climate cycles. There shall be abundance of Carbon dioxide and

methane gases in the air, the temperature of earth and environment will be very high and the glaciers will melt at a speedier rate. It will result in flooding of rivers and water level in the sea will increase which, in turn, would affect the lives of those living in coastal areas. By 2050, no country in the world will be able to stock drinking water. The river-water flowing from the Gangotri glacier will be reduced by 15 mm. We must stop the cutting of trees. This change in climate would reduce the arable land and the food production in the country will decline considerably.

Mrs. Hillary Clinton visited India in the recent past and she somehow convinced our Environment and Forests Minister that their efforts will save the jungles through the RED plan (Programme). In that case, a large scale of our forests will be occupied by the foreigners. It will mean the displacement of native adivasis, forest dwellers especially nomads who have been living in the forest for ages, and this will only lead to a great problem. The so-called RED programme will result in occupying forest and large scale of land and felling and cutting of trees and devastation. Moreover only 8 per cent forest has been left in India. It is said that it is 20% and is targetted to reach upto 30% by implementing the RED plan. We have had the Forest Rights Act, 2009 passed in this very House which is still to be implemented. The forest dwellers native tribes were the real protectors of forests who should be saved. The entire world is worried of this climate change. Carbon Dioxide gas does not allow the radiation from the earth to alleviate and the earth temperature rises.

A labyrinth has been started to reduce the Carbon-emission of developing countries. It has been advocated use certain indigenous green plantations to reduce the carbon and the World Bank is its biggest propagator. The RED programme is in fact the denial of forest-rights. The RED Programme would be violative of Forest Rights Act, 2006. I request the Government not to agree and support the RED programme and implement the Forest Rights Act in letter and spirit.

16.47 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—*Contd.*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Liberahan Ayodhya Commission of Inquiry along with Memorandum of Action Taken thereon (in Hindi version only) under sub-section (4) of section (3) of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 951-A/15/09]

16.47½ hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Impact of Climate Change—*contd.*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE (Uttar Kannada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I got the opportunity to speak first on this issue but our party decided that Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi would be the first speaker to speak in this regard. We are now going to Copenhagen with the roadmap chalked out in Rio, Geneva, Kyoto and Bali. Our agenda is fixed as to what we are going to do in Copenhagen. It's a different thing that mere discussion will take place here and some points will emerge out of it and we will include them in our agenda. But this is important as to what are the issues we are committed to. The hon. Minister has written in his letter and our Prime Minister had also stated in his statement when he went to US that 'RED' scheme implementation will have more importance in this regard. Red scheme means reducing emission from deforestation of the forest. We are going to be a signatory in Copenhagen on this very important agenda. The discussion will take place on this thing.

First of all, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi stated that the Western nations will continue to emit and Indians will be kept on being at the receiving end of their wicked actions and carbon sinking will continue to take place here. How will it take place, is this the only solution? From where the money for reforestation will come? Will

we do carbon trading? Are we going to do it on non-forest land or forest land? How much is the carbon capacity of the forests existing in our country. Are you going to do carbon trading at a place where there is no tree or are we going to do carbon trading by doing afforestation at the places of degraded forests? This is the question. How much money is available with us for afforestation? If we look at the budget of the year 2009-10, Rs. 500 crores was given to the Ministry for Forest Land and reforestation. Till now, this money used to come through ADB and other countries also which has never been spent in our country. For example, it was given to several companies for the forest land. We don't have compensatory forest fund, it has already been exhausted. Supreme Court directed to return five thousand crores of rupees, but the ministry doesn't have the money. In my opinion it is difficult for the ministry to earn rupees five thousand crores in one year. From where will you bring the reforestation fund? Will you sell our forests to MNC's or NGO's? Will he think in the name of Carbon forest? It is taking place around the world. India is thinking about it for the first time but it is taking place in the emerging nations of the world. It is taking place in Uganda, Kenya and Indonesia—the tribal community there is facing its negative impact. Will the same take place in our country also? The hon. Minister will have to give the assurance that the Red scheme being implemented will not cause a negative impact. We will not sell our forest. If the minister and government look at this aspect, they will come to know that the funds which Uganda and Indonesia are getting from Australia are being used for afforestation of 25 thousand hectare land in Indonesia. The forest dwellers have been uprooted from there. Will this thing happen in our country also? We would like the Hon. Minister to give a statement in this regard. Alright, we will implement the Red scheme but we will never uproot the forest dwellers. We will not take away their right towards the forests. The scientists on the basis of their research have already put forth before us the impact of global change. It is useless to repeat it. There is no need to repeat as to what will happen in Himachal region or in south or in Coastal line, what will happen to forests, what will happen to biodiversity, what will be the situation of drinking water, what will be the condition

of agricultural sector. We need assurance as to what will be our direction in the coming days? What was happening 100 or 200 or 300 years back, we are still facing its consequences. Today, the whole world is getting hotter. Sitting here today, we are thinking about the coming generation, not about ourselves. It is quite being question as to how many persons will be able to sustain by the year 2030 or 2050 or 2100. We are not thinking about ourselves, we are thinking in view of the future. If we implement that perspective in the right way and think about the future with deep sincerity will we be able to assure ourselves that whether our forests, our land and our water will remain in our control. Restreating the history of this country, one poet had said that 'tan bik chuka hai, man bik chuka hai, sirf kafi hai kafan, wah bi bikne ja raha hai'. We have sold everything only forests are left to be sold. Will we sell it also? This is a matter of concern and the moot point. We would like the minister to make a statement in this regard.

Sir, simultaneously we have to prepare a roadmap also keeking in view of our country. What are we going to do in the coming year 2010, our year 2015 or year 2020? Have we chalked out our road map? Is assessment being done? We are conducting a study as to how the globalisation is affecting this country? No data is available regarding the likely impact of globalization on a particular sector in this country. It is often told that we will inform later. We have no details and data base as to what is going to be the impact of globalization on agricultural sector, which crop will be affected, what will happen to industry, which sector will be affected and how? Will this climate change meet the same fate? Will we be making a data bank after 50 years and continue to feel concerned about it? When

will we start working about it? I don't want to take much time of the House. We would like the Minister to assure us that our rights in respect of our forests will remain with our country and no deal is done in this regard. From where the money for implementing our roadmap will come, will it come from outside or will we spend it from the funds generated within? The minister should give full details in the House. With this request, I conclude my speech.

[English]

*Dr. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI (Ahmedabad West): I am thankful to you and my party for giving me an opportunity to share my views on an important issue "Climate Change".

Climate change is the term used to describe, 'sustained change in weather patterns'. Several studies indicates a rise in average global temperature over the last century and it link this to an increase in green house gases such as Carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane.

Many scientists believes that there is enough evidence to indicate existence of climate change. It is believed to be due to human activities, such as

- burning fossil fuel
- industrial pollution etc.

Current Emission levels

Presently China has the highest volume of Green House Gas Emission in world, whereas USA has the highest per capita emission. Country-wise estimates of Carbon dioxide emission is given as:

No.	Country	CO ₂ emission	% of total emission	Per capita emission (tons CO ₂)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	China	6,071	16%	4.58
2.	US	5,769	22%	19.1

*Speech was laid on the Table.

1	2	3	4	5
3.	EU	3,926	10%	7.92
4.	Russia	1,587	6%	11.21
5.	Japan	1,326	5%	9.68
6.	India	1,324	4%	1.18
7.	World	28,962	NA	4.38

Stern Committee report stated that all countries will be affected by harmful consequences of climate change: the poorest countries will suffer earlier and most. The effect will include

- rising of mean sea level
- melting of glaciers
- flood
- drought and
- other, extreme weather related phenomena

Inter Governmental panel on climate change (IPCC) estimated the increase in the average global temperature at 0.3 to 0.6 degrees Celsius in last 100 years.

Risk to India

Studies such as Fourth IPCC Assessment Report, 2007 as well as India's National Communication to the

UNFCCC, mention adverse effects of climate change. Some effect includes.

- **Extreme Weather Phenomena:** Such as floods and droughts. This could further lead to severe health and livelihood problems.
- **Rise in Mean Sea Level:** Rising sea levels are likely to impact communities on coastal regions affecting their means to livelihood, health and habitat.
- **Effect on Agriculture:** According to Indian Council for Agricultural Research and IPCC, increase in average global temperature may reduce yields of food grains, such as wheat and rice.

A one degree Celsius increase in temperature may reduce yields of wheat, soyabean, mustard, groundnut and potato by 3 to 7%.

International Agreement:

Agreement	Highlights
1988-Inter-Governmental panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	Provide periodic assessment on the evidence of climate change.
1992-UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes that any multilateral agreement must be in accordance with the larger principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. • Developed countries committed to stabilize emissions to 1990 levels by 2000.
1997-Kyoto Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complimented to UNFCCC

Agreement	Highlights
2007-13th Conference of Parties (Bali Action Plan)	<p>37 developed countries committed to reduce collective emission by an average of 5% from 1990 level by the period 2008-2012.</p> <p>Highlighted four building blocks for negotiation, mitigation, adaptation technology transfer and financing.</p>

- India has ratified both UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.
- Till date UNFCCC has 194 ratification, Kyoto Protocol has 184 ratification.

U.S. is opposed to Kyoto Protocol and advocates the developing countries should also commit to emission-reduction.

Copenhagen Talks

In December, 2009, 192 countries are meeting at the 15th Conference of Parties at Copenhagen to negotiate a new global treaty on climate change. Some of the key issues to be raised are:

- (i) Setting specific emission reduction targets globally for 2020-2050 US+EU 50%.
- (ii) Measures for adaptation.
- (iii) Sustainable finance mechanism.

What is Carbon Trading?

It is market based approach to control and reduce the levels of industrial pollution in the atmosphere. The Government sets a cap on the level of emission for industries. Industrial entities are allotted emission certificates or credits for the amount they are allowed to emit.

If an industrial entity emits beyond its limit, it needs to buy credit from low polluting entity. Thus, low-emitter are financially compensated.

India's official position:

India's challenge to balance its economical and social development objectives with its response to climate change challenges.

Some points of India's stand are:

- (i) India is opposed to dilute or renegotiation of the core commitments under UNFCCC or Bali Action Plan.
- (ii) India is opposed to laying down of any legally binding.
- (iii) It state that, it is result of current emission by developed country is last over two centuries.
- (iv) India advocate, "per capita principle".
- (v) India's priority lies in socio-economic development of its people. India will maintain per capita emission below global average by 2031.
- (vi) Expectation from developed countries regarding commitment of financial resources and technology transfers.

Steps taken by India:

- Formulated National Action Plan on Climate Change in June, 2008, e.g., Solar Energy, etc.
- PM's Council on Climate Change will monitor national policy.
- Climate Change Agenda of Delhi 2009-2012 has 65 point agenda.
- India Network for Climate Change assessment involves over 120 institutes across the country.
- Energy Efficiency Law is proposed.

*SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving an opportunity to the House

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

to express our views on the impact of Climate Change. It is a subject which has far reaching ramifications for the world. I am happy that the August House is discussing it on the eve of the UN Summit on Climate Change being held in Copenhagen in a few days from now. Another conference on this subject was held recently at Geneva from 31st August to 4 September, 2009 organised by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). This underlines not only the magnitude of the problem but also the seriousness with which the international community is discussing it.

Climate change is a problem largely created by the developed nations of the world, but unfortunately affects one and all—and in particular a monsoon centric economy like ours which is largely intolerant to variations in the annual rainfall cycle. We are already experiencing a decrease in the number of rainy days coupled with an increase in the intensity of rainfall and some scientific models suggest this will only increase. While we may not have created the problem we must be a part of the solution and not create a bigger problem tomorrow.

Different studies indicate that if India does not take any steps to reduce its emissions over the next 20 years, India's Green House Gas emissions will grow from 1.5-2 billion tons of CO₂ at present [5.5% of world emissions] to anywhere between 4 and 7.3 billion tons in 2030, roughly China's present emissions, the largest producer of GHG today.

Experts also claim to have evidence of 20-40% drop in crop yields by 2025 in parts of Asia, including India, if temperature continues to rise. This is a serious threat for an economy with 26% of its GDP and 70% of its population relying on agriculture.

Though the situation appears grim, good news is that unlike developed nations, 80% of the India of 2030 is yet to be created and India may have a unique opportunity to pursue development while managing emissions growth.

I would like to take this opportunity to laud Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Minister of Environment and Forest for their very proactive approach in addressing

this issue and on launching the very progressive National Action Plan with a focused 8 point agenda to control India's emissions.

My understanding of India's emissions, from a recent independent study, is that almost 30%-50% of India's GHG emissions in 2030 will come from the Power sector, followed by Iron and Steel, Transport and Cement, while Buildings and Agriculture lead the lot in consuming products of these high GHG generating sectors.

I am pleased to note that the National Action Plan, along with the Nuclear Deal and the Nuclear Power Framework are general to address emission issues of most of these sectors.

The same study states that roughly 30-50% of expected menace in 2030 can be controlled using a series of initiatives, most of which are a part of the National Action Plan. The most impactful levers highlighted were—

1. In power sector:
 - a. Increase in Nuclear Power Capacity to 60 GW by 2030 (10% of total reduction)
 - b. Increase solar power capacity to 20 GW (6% of total)
 - c. Reduction in Transmission and Distribution losses (4% of total)
2. In building sectors:
 - a. Improved Building designs (3%)
 - b. 100% LED lighting penetration (2%)
 - c. Using highest efficiency appliances (3%)
3. In Industrial sector (cement):
 - a. Increased clinker substitution by fly-ash— as high as 30% (3%):
4. In Transport sector:
 - a. Increase rail and shipping based freight transport (2%)
 - b. Public transportation (1%)

5. In agriculture:

- a. Better irrigation techniques in irrigated areas (2%)
- b. Increase of electric-diesel pump efficiency (2%)
- c. Better agronomy practice to reduce tillage

I would like to highlight salient achievements of the government on the highest impact initiatives and would like to raise some challenges articulated to me by various experts and industrialists. Also, towards the end, I would like to articulate my views on India's position in the Copenhagen Summit later this month.

1. **Nuclear Power:** We, under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Dr. Manmohan Singh, have made a great leap in our Civilian Nuclear endeavors. The international power framework are great positives. That said, to achieve our targets of 30 GW Nuclear power capacity and any additions above that, it is important to create an economically viable ecosystem for attracting foreign and private sector investments. This involves creation of both power generation capacity and a local supplier base for supply of equipment and consumables required by generating stations. I have heard observations from various interested queries on issues like:

- a. Government support for funding the value gap between conventional power and nuclear power plants
- b. Non-availability of a single window application mechanism
- c. Long term visibility of tariffs and revenues for them to commit capex such setups require
- d. Availability and future outlook of a local supplier base

I understand that ensuring swift implementation requires coordination between Ministries of Power and Environment and Forests and these issues would come

under the purview of the ministry of power. That said, it would be helpful if the Ministry of Power could clarify how it proposes to take the current framework forward and ensure our Nuclear capacity targets for 2030 are not just met, but exceeded and almost doubled. This would be in the interest of both-meeting our power demand and also our obligation towards controlling emissions.

2. **Solar Power:** The recently released National Solar Mission document, a part of the National Action Plan, defines a target of 20 GW solar power by 2020. This again is a great step towards use of renewable non-emission energy. Cost of solar power through solar photovoltaic or solar thermal technologies has been falling rapidly. It is expected that with increased focus on these technologies and R and D commitments made by developed nations, cost of solar power will decline further, making it a cost-effective source of peak power (daytime power). It becomes even more attractive, if cost of fossil fuel rises in future. That said, there are challenges and issues which require clarification beyond the released framework. These are:—

- a. Land requirement and availability
- b. Connectivity to the grid
- c. Government support for funding value gap etc.

3. **Building standards**—The National Action Plan on Climate Change highlights developing building standards as a major focus area under the National Mission on Sustainable Habitat. It proposed the creation of an Energy Conservation building code to optimize energy demand of new and large commercial buildings.

- Cooling consumes 55% of power in centrally air conditioned commercial buildings. Efficient design with insulation, ventilation, natural lighting in itself can reduce 15-20% power requirement.

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

- Additional appliances consume 25-40% of power in various types of buildings and using the most efficient equipment can drastically reduce this energy consumption.

This code along with tradable energy savings certificates proposed under the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency, would go a long way in controlling requirements of this high consumption sector.

On this too, I would be grateful if Hon'ble Minister could, at an appropriate time, highlight what actions have been taken these proposals to implementation.

4. **Industrial sector:** My understanding from discussions with various climate change experts is that a majority of the abatement potential lies in steel and cement industries; in the form of increased energy efficiency and use of less energy-intensive materials. Taking up initiatives like—

- Steel:
 - Using improved motor systems or improving process control systems.
 - Optimizing energy use through processes such as pulverized coal injection and coke dry quenching and recovering waste heat from various processes.
 - Technology changes, using recycled raw materials and alternatives fuels e.g. use of direct smelting eliminating need for coking plants, moving to scrap based steel making and gas-based direct reduced iron can significantly reduce emissions from our steel sector.
- Cement:
 - Increasing the clinker substitution in cement with fly-ash can significantly reduce the energy requirement of this sector.

- Also, use of alternative fuels like blending coal with bio-waste, agri-waste or other combustible solid waste can lead to cost and energy saving in this sector.

The National Mission for Enhanced Efficiency and the Energy Conservation Act of 2001 have both set good frameworks to catalyze such initiatives, but it would be fruitful if these initiatives are taken up by respective ministries in a structured and coordinated manner with the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

5. **Transport:** It is expected that India's vehicle fleet would increase seven fold by 2030, leading to increased demand for fossil fuels. Since a majority of vehicles of 2030 are yet to be added to Indian roads, the government's existing initiatives like setting mileage standards and emission norms, if implemented properly, should lead to a significant reduction in the environment load of this addition. In addition, two major transport related initiatives could lead to significant benefits:

- Increasing the share of rail and coastal shipping in freight transportation mix— India's current freight transportation system is expensive and inefficient as almost 55-60% of transportation is on road. Compare this with 45-50% rail transport and 30-35% coastal water way transport in China. In addition, use of electric vehicles, especially trains, can significantly improve fuel efficiencies and reduce emissions. The proposed freight-corridor of the Railway Ministry is a good start, but an integrated freight and logistics policy is required. Also, this will require increased investment in building rail freight capacity and last mile rail-road connectivity.
- Increased use of public transport and setting up of metros in various cities: It is essential for us to take up metro and comfortable bus based mass transport projects in all Tier I, II and III cities which

can reduce the use of cars and two-wheelers by as much as 30% by 2030. These are big projects, which will require significant capital funding and support from the government, international organisation and a system for value gap funding, all of which I will address in the later sections of my speech.

6. **Agriculture:** Members of the House may be surprised to note this, but facts suggest Agriculture sector is one of the larger contributions to GHG emissions in India. Shallow-flooding techniques for rice production lead to under water degradation of old crops which releases methane gas into the atmosphere. Also, the sector uses 20-25% of all electricity produced in India, primarily for irrigation pumping. Measures like using—

- high efficiency pumps and efficient irrigation techniques (drip/sprinkler irrigation)
- improved cropland management in rice cultivation and
- improved agro-practices like conservation tillage can help reduce the environment load of this sector.

7. **Implementation:** The National Action Plan details an implementation methodology for various proposed missions under respective is prepared by various ministries and states and for regular monitoring of progress on them is required to ensure focused and dedicated effort towards achieving our emission reduction goals.

Over the last few days, a lot of discussion has happened on agenda for Copenhagen, Carbon Intensity cuts and Danish proposal to get commitment on absolute reduction in GHG emission in the next 40 years. [50% reduction over 1990 levels with rich nations accounting for 80% of this cut]. China has committed to a 40-45% CARBON INTENSITY cut over 2005 levels by 2020, while Brazil has committed to a 36-38% cut and press reports claim there is pressure on India to

make a similar commitment and that India may be in a position to announce a 20-25% cut.

For India, taking up emission reduction initiatives will require enormous capital investment—of the order of lakhs of crores of rupees over the next 20 years (hundreds of billion dollars)—an investment which will have to be shared by public, private and international players. In addition, several of these necessary investments are NPV negative and require Viability Gap Funding, e.g. if a both, a coal plant and a nuclear power required Rs. 100 to setup but pay back Rs. 5 and Rs. 2 per year respectively, where would private investment to go? This viability gap will need funding at domestic and international level.

- At a domestic level this may be fulfilled by providing a longer term view of tariffs and revenues to investors and
- At an international level, creation of long term and stable carbon markets where use of cleaner technology would have a direct positive impact on payback from a project.

In addition to capital, most initiative will require technology transfer and any commitment from India on emission cuts without securing guarantees on capital funding, viability gap funding mechanisms and technology transfers will squash us between a cliff and a valley.

Also, I totally agree with the Ministry of EF and the government's stand against the Danish demand for peak year commitment and absolute reduction in emissions. As I totally agree with the Ministry of EF and the government's stand against the Danish demand for peak year commitment and absolute reduction in emissions. As I mentioned earlier, we have not even created 80% of the India the world will see in the next 20 years—it is impossible for us to reduce our GHG emissions below 1990's absolute level when our infrastructure is expected to grow 5 times today's size.

In conclusion...

I believe we have a unique opportunity to control our emissions and be a leading part of the solution to a problem we did not create!

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

We have started in the right direction, with the Hon'ble Minister Sh. Jairam Ramesh and the Ministry of Environment and Forests leading from the front with a crisp National Action Plan. Also, our Civilian Nuclear Power programme, led by Hon'ble PM himself, is a great step in the direction on meeting our growing energy requirements while managing related emissions.

But at the same, time we face challenges related to capital funding, availability of technology, inter-departmental and inter-ministerial co-ordination and cutting bureaucratic red-tapes, which the government will have to address to ensure swift implementation of at least our top priority initiatives.

I am sure the House would appreciate, if the Minister of Environment and Forests could elaborate at an appropriate time, how it plans to address some of the issues raised by me today.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Bahrapur): Sir, I am very happy to participate in this debate on climate change.

Each and every Member of this House has been expressing their concern on climate change that has been taking place and every Member has suggested effective measures to be taken so that the people of our country will not be affected.

Sir, Planet Earth has been infected by fever and we may call it as green house gas flu. The body of the planet is warming day after day and it has been affecting the entire region of the planet.

17.00 hrs.

Now, this fever has assumed a pandemic proportion. Therefore, we need to have a very comprehensive and holistic approach to mitigate the effect of global warming on our country. Within a short period, all the political doctors of this planet are going to participate in the Copenhagen Summit. We are expecting that our hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh will also be joining them. We are expecting them to prescribe efficacious medicine to rescue the world as a whole from the impact of global warming.

The UN Climate Change Chief, Mr. Yvo de Boer, has stated that the Conference will reach agreements on four political essentials. First is, how much are the industrialised countries willing to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases? Second, how much are major developing countries, such as China and India willing to do to limit the growth of their emissions? Third, how is the help needed by developing countries to engage in reducing their emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change going to be financed? Fourth, how is that money going to be managed? If the Copenhagen Summit delivers on these four points, I think, it will be a mega event for the future of our country in particular and for the future of our planet in general.

Climate change refers to statistically significant variation in either the mean state of climate or in their variability persisting for an extended period of time. Climate change may occur due to natural processes or due to external forces or due to anthropogenic changes in the composition of atmosphere or in land use.

17.03 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the Chair*]

We all are aware that once upon a time the British colonials invaded our country to convert this country as an economic appendage of the British empire. They simply plundered and looted the raw materials of our country. After manufacturing the products in their own industries, they used to send them back to India for higher price. Again, we are witnessing now that we have been incurred by the vicarious sin committed by the western countries. The sin is committed by them. But the effect is bequeathed upon us. So, we may safely say that it is an environmental colonisation. So, we should put forward our concern that we need equitable allocation for the global environmental space. That should be our demand.

Our planet is such a place where unique environmental conditions exist to support our life—that is, oxygen, air, water and suitable surface temperature. But the fact is that the chemical compositions which exist in our atmosphere in the ratio of 78 per cent nitrogen and 21 per cent oxygen are needed for animals and

.036 per cent carbon-dioxide needs for plants. So, whenever we go to change the composition of this atmosphere, we are destined to suffer.

Energy from the Sun comes to the earth. We absorb 70 per cent of the energy coming from the Sun. After warming the surface, the sea and the mountain, a large portion of this energy again reflects back to the space. When it reflects back to the space, it is not lost entirely to the space. They are methane, ozone, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide which are named as the green house gases. They also receive it and re-emit it to the earth. If the reflected heat is allowed to be lost in the space, then, the temperature of this earth would have been reduced to—18 degree centigrade. So, the green house gases itself are not a villain. But when the proportion of the green house gases distort, exceeding the tolerance limit of environment, then it starts retaliating on us in the form of cyclone, hurricane, flood, drought in various forms of extreme environmental events, some of which are gauged, predicted and some are not.

The Industrial Revolution took place 150 years ago. The man-made activities added significant quantities of green house gases to the atmosphere. Atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has grown by 31 per cent; methane by 150 per cent; nitrous oxide by 17 per cent between the years 1750 and 2000. Over the last 140 years and 100 years, the surface temperature has increased by .6 plus, minus .2 degree Celsius. Increase in the level of green house gases could lead to greater warming. It could lead to climate change that is called global warming. We are facing that now. In essence, we are facing the double whammy of high vulnerability and low adaptability. ...*(Interruptions)*

Unsustainable consumption pattern of the rich industrialist nations are responsible for the threat of climate change. Only 25 per cent of the global population lives in those countries but they emit more than 70 per cent of the total global carbon dioxide emission.

They consume 75 to 80 per cent of many of the other resources of the world. It has already been stated by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi the fact remains that in per capita terms, the disparities are so large that an Indian

citizen emits less than 1.02 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide per year whereas a citizen of the United States of America emits more than 5.5 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide and the world average is 4.2 tonnes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, I would simply like to state that the anthropogenic activities have been contributing to the warming of this planet. It is also a cause for the warming. So, we should better review the Population Policy again because more consumption will lead us to producing of more Carbon Dioxide. Once upon a time, Gandhiji said that there is sufficiency in the world for man's need, but the world is not sufficient for man's greed. So, the greed of man has turned the plant slowly but steadily into an inhospitable terrain. That is why, I firmly believe that this Government, under no circumstances, would succumb to the pressure given by anybody, whosoever high and mighty.

Sir, our hon. Minister for Environment and Forests Shri Jairam Ramesh is an erudite person. Before his logic and arguments even Hillary Clinton bowed down. We have observed it and so we are proud of him. With these words, I conclude my speech.

*SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI (Aonla): Copenhagen should be called Dopeahagen because it is a meeting of hot air specialists who will add to global warning rather than solve anything. India's Minister for Environment Jairam Ramesh should look at Kamal Nath's pronouncements before Rio in 1992 including the untruth that India's forest cover has increased to 21% because he is simply copying Kamal Nath 17 years later. In fact everything including this debate has a dreary semantics to it, a second hand speech by Minister copied from one 17 years ago. And I have no doubt that everyone at Copenhagen is going to give the same recycled speeches of Rio.

For many years now India has been experiencing the problems of climate change. We lurch between terrible drought and unseasonal flood. The lentils I eat are now so expensive that they are a luxury. From an exporter of food, we have become an importer. At the same time, we are the largest meat and leather

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shrimati Maneka Gandhi]

exporting country in Asia. We are the largest milk producer in the world. The result is that we have no rain, no water, increasing heat, drying rivers and dying people. Do you feel powerless as an individual to stop the world from dying, at the mercy of politicians and their endless games? Let me explain how you and I could turn this around immediately. Methane and carbon dioxide are greenhouse gases which means their presence in the air traps heat and affects the earth's temperature and climate, making the planet warmer. As it warms, the climate changes and the glaciers melt. When the glaciers melt, the rivers first flood and then dry up.

The developed countries of the world are at fault for producing so much carbon dioxide and the developing countries like China, India and Brazil are being blamed for producing methane. In this political debate, we have stopped recognizing that this is one world and we are all going to die together.

Take methane, it's an easy problem to deal with. It is produced from 4 main sources: livestock and livestock manure, rice farming, coal mining and landfills. In all the international treaties that have come and are coming like the one in Copenhagen, the developing world has tried its best to keep methane out of the debate. And they have succeeded because the west is justifiably guilt-ridden about their carbon dioxide emissions. But the time has come for both the developed and developing world to recognize that reducing methane is the quickest way to stop global warming.

Methane concentrations have doubled in the last century and by now they are 20% of all greenhouse gas emissions. While carbon dioxide emissions have increased by 31% during the past 200 years, methane has increased by 149%.

What makes methane so lethal is that it may be less than carbon dioxide but it is 23 times more efficient in trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. This means that a methane emission has 23 times the impact on temperature of a carbon dioxide emission of

the same mass. Methane has a large effect for a brief period (8.4 years in the atmosphere), whereas carbon dioxide has a small effect for a long period. That means if we stop generating methane today, we will see the effect almost immediately.

The methane emissions for India, China and Brazil have doubled since 1990 and are expected to go up by 40% by 2020. There is only one reason—and it is not an increase in coal mining or in landfills. It is because these countries grow animals for meat and milk. In developing countries where people are told that to be rich is to eat dead bodies, the number of people eating meat and the amount they are eating every year has risen steadily. Between 1970 and 2002, annual per capita meat consumption in developing countries rose from 11 kilograms to 29 kilograms, according to the FAO. In developed countries, it has risen from 65 kilos to over 100 kilos. The annual global meat production will double from 229 million tons in 2000 to 465 million tons in 2050, in 2008, meat eating went up by 10%.

Meat eating increases both carbon dioxide and methane. Producing one piece of meat in a shop takes 60,000 calories of carbon dioxide producing energy—keeping animals, growing food for them, feeding them, transporting them, killing them, cleaning and packaging the meat, sending it by airconditioned vehicles to the markets which keep it in freezers, and then in fridges at home, cooking the meat. Forests are cut in Brazil, China, Indonesia, India to graze the animals. These forests absorb carbon dioxide so we are cutting down carbon sinks for meat. Carbon dioxide increases because it takes 11 kilos of grain to make one kilo of meat and wheat, corn and soyabean is mechanized and fertilizer-rich agriculture which burns fuel. In fact meat production produces 9% of the world's emissions of carbon dioxide.

Come to methane. Livestock produce 23% of all methane because the fermentation in their intestines produces methane gas in the animals and their manure. A single dairy cow produces between 550-700L of methane a day.

The world's top destroyer of the atmosphere is not the car or the factory—it is the meat-eating human.

And this monster is on the rise. The 400 page United Nations report has identified the growing herds of cattle/goats/pigs/sheep/chickens as the greatest threat to the climate. Livestock produce more than 100 polluting gases, including more than two-thirds of the world's emissions of ammonia, the main cause of acid rain. Grazing has turned forests, pastures and mountain ranges into desert. Cows soak up vast amounts of water: it takes 990 litres of water to produce one litre of milk. The pesticides, antibiotics and hormones used to treat them get into drinking water and endanger human health.

A meat eater contributes 1.5 tonnes more of greenhouse gases per year than a vegetarian. This means that your diet change will make more difference than if you sold your standard petrol car for an efficient hybrid car, which reduces annual greenhouse emissions by roughly one ton a year.

India's livestock of roughly 485 million contributes more to global warming than our vehicles—11.75 million metric tons per year—up from 9 million metric tons in 1994.

These cattle, pigs and sheep, chicken, goats did not want to be born—you created them. They do not want to be killed but you kill them to eat. In the process, you are killing the planet. Their wind and manure are warming the world 23 times faster than carbon dioxide.

We cannot reduce carbon dioxide in India. The costs are large because it needs technology. The cost of reducing methane is nothing. Simply stop eating meat. Replace rice (which causes 16% methane emissions) with other natural grains like millet or oats that are much better for you than just giving you starch.

You cannot stop global warming by switching off the lights after you leave the room. It has no impact at all. It will take decades to invent technologies to bring in zero—emission fuel sources. After all this struggling and pushing, the world has only got 3% solar and wind energy to tackle carbon dioxide. But you can change your diet today.

If you stop eating meat, you will stop the Gangetic glacier from melting and the Ganges river will stop turning into a stream. So will the Yangste and the Amazon.

Not only will you save the world yourself, you will stop so much poverty on the planet. You will bring better health, eliminate most cancers, free up masses of land for vegetables and grains, allow water for the poor—do you know that an average slaughterhouse uses 16 million litres a day—and one poor Indian family uses one litres.

Take the power into your own hands. You do not need machines or governments or international treaties. You can stop it today by yourself. Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, head of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which last year earned the Nobel Peace Prize, says that the quickest way to stop the climate changing is by turning vegetarian. How simple it is. May be this is the ultimate lesson that nature is trying to teach us. Don't kill and Don't killed. Government should stop meat export to begin with.

Every environmental scientist warns that meat no longer threatens just animals or human health but the planet's very survival. With grain prices at an all time high, 26 countries are suffering from food crisis. We have gone from grain exporter to importer. We are already in the midst of global warming, it is time to act.

The major greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. Methane is directly related to your food choice that determines its levels. While livestock production creates 65% of nitrous oxide better known as laughing gas (except there is nothing funny about a gas that has 296 times the warming potential of carbon dioxide), it is most dangerously responsible for methane.

Colorless, odorless and lighter than air, methane acts as a powerful heat trapper. Its Global Warming Potential (GWP) is the measure of any greenhouse gas's warming effects over time. One kg of carbon dioxide over 20 years has a GWP of 1 while that of methane is 23. Methane may have contributed to earlier major extinction events. In terms of human activity, the most significant source of methane is animal husbandry or the commercial rearing of animals which produces 37% of all human-induced methane.

Much of the world's livestock are ruminants whose

[Shrimati Maneka Gandhi]

stomachs bacteria break down food, generating methane as a by-product. On average, each dairy cow emits out 1500 litres of methane daily. The 60 million methane tons that cattle annually generate is one fifth of all global methane emissions.

Today, methane concentrations in the atmosphere are more than double what they've been for the past 160,000 years. That is a global warming vicious cycle. Warming already underway thaws permafrost soil that has been frozen for thousands of years. Thawed permafrost releases methane and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere which traps more heat which thaws more permafrost and so on. "The higher the temperature gets, the more permafrost we melt, the more vicious the cycle," says Chris Field of Washington's Carnegie Institution.

Let's look at methane emission and global warming in terms of India.

India has the world's highest cattle population and the highest (alongwith China) methane emissions. It has 11% of the world's total livestock which continues to grow in response to the demand for milk and meat. This livestock population consumes Rs. 2 crore of feed per day and produces 78% of India's total methane emission from the agricultural sector and 50% of overall emissions.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the result of greenhouse gas emissions would mean an average temperature increase in Asia of 3 C by 2050. How will this affect an agricultural country like India?

The Monsoon will be uncertain. Agricultural productivity will be hit by severe drought and flooding, soil degradation and pest infestation (bugs thrive in the heat). Even allowing for adaption options like shifting growing seasons for major crops, wheat yields could decline by as much as 28-68% and rice by 40%. The World Bank estimates that a temperature rise of 2-3 C will cause a 9-25% loss in farm revenues. This is borne out in Jammu and Kashmir where over the last two decades, temperatures have already risen almost 2 C,

paddy fields have turned into arid stretches and food production has fallen by 40%. Fisheries would also suffer as breeding cycles undergo a drastic change, as also the food processing industry since increased temperatures would hamper food storage. More refrigeration would mean more greenhouse gases and more global warming—a terrible Catch 22 situation! All in all climate change could cost India a GDP decline of upto 9%.

With a population of over one billion people, India is among those most threatened by climate change. Receding Himalayan glaciers could jeopardize water supplies while rising sea levels menace the low lying, densely populated 6500 km Indian coastline as well as major cities like Mumbai and Kolkata, plus neighboring Bangladesh which may result in an influx of refugees into adjoining Meghalaya. A one meter rise in sea level could inundate 1700 sq km of prime agricultural land in Orissa and West Bengal. Already several islands in the Sundarbans are submerged, displacing thousands of people. Increased landslides and flooding is projected in Assam.

It is predicted that 7 million Indians will need relocation per year starting from now. The Report of Orissa's coastal villages in the papers should come as no surprise. Temperature per year will rise more in Northern than Southern India, calculates that the yearly average of tropical disturbances in the North India Ocean could increase from 17 to 29 endangering 5760 sq km of land and 4,200 sq km of road.

Already the effects of climate change are evident if only one cared to notice. India's climate has become increasingly volatile and this trend is expected to continue with increasing frequency of hot days and heat waves and fewer cold days and cold waves. The incessantly rising temperatures and the unprecedented rains in Mumbai, Gujarat and Rajasthan clearly show that something new is happening. In the past decade, almost 67% of Himalayan glaciers have retreated, by 2025 they could virtually disappear. These glaciers are the source of water for nine major Asian rivers. Their melting would undoubtedly lead to increased summer flows and possible flooding followed, in a few decades, by a reduction in the flow as the glaciers disappear.

According to a 2007 WWF report, the end of the glaciers would mean the end of the Indus River causing a water crisis.

The urgency of the situation has not yet dawned on Indian policy-makers. There is not even an effort to understand the implications of climate change, let alone evolve systems to mitigate its impact. "We have not even put in place mechanisms to carry out an inventory of GHG emissions, as mandated by the UN. Although there is money coming from the global environmental fund, there is no system to plan and make use of the fund properly." India remains one of the world's top polluters.

Animal farming is responsible for 18% of all greenhouse gas emissions. Add to this the feed and transportation of animals plus the supplies and electricity consumed by farms and slaughterhouses. And, most damagingly, deforestation with 55 sq ft of tropical rain forest consumed for every hamburger. Once a carbon depository, the deforested Amazon is now a major carbon emitter. The total impact of animal farming on global warming is more than that of the world's entire transport sector—land, air and sea combined! The FAO has unequivocally stated that the meat industry is "one of the most significant contributors to today's most serious environmental problems". Yet politicians and even environmentalists prefer to ignore this, concentrating instead on carbon dioxide and its major sources—fossil fuels. Now it may be difficult to take cow flatulence seriously except that meat animals are walking gas factories. Consuming fodder and producing methane and nitrous oxides, gases far more dangerous than carbon dioxide. If this Government is serious about saving India Let (1) meat export stop (2) leather export stop (3) phase out animal based industries. In 8 years we will see the reversal of global warming.

SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY (Mathura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very relevant issue that has been raised in the House by hon. Members Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and Shri Anant Kumar Hegde in which I am also here to participate and air my views.

I would like to start by quoting Einstein who said, "Imagination is better than knowledge". I think the

peculiar situation that the hon. Minister is now faced with, he will require to take a flexible approach to the whole problem. I know, sitting in the Opposition Benches and hearing the way the debate has gone, typically the stance has been that we must ensure equity. I can probably speak for all Members of this House that we are constantly endeavouring to bridge the gap between the haves and have-nots and ensure access of resources to a child in Bihar or Eastern Uttar Pradesh or Orissa or Jharkhand and putting him on the same platform as a boy in Mumbai or Delhi or New York and that is the basic tenet of why we are all here.

Talking about climate change, when we propagate the argument that we are not the ones who caused it, I think, it is a moronic argument and it does not matter because we are all a part of this world. We can no longer view environment as an individual property. We have not got a document with stamp duty, saying that this is our river, this is our jungle etc. We own it.

[Translation]

But human mortality has become so and the system has become such that we do not have any right on even a single particle of the earth.

[English]

So, we must change that mindset. I think, we are still in denial mode. We are not facing the facts. Climate change is not something that may happen after 2020. It is not about going to Copenhagen and getting a good deal or gaining anything. We are already losing. It is about how much we have lost already, it is about how much we stand to lose if we do not take action today.

So, really, when we are not looking at gaining anything, our stance should be determined by how much we have to lose. Countries like India and China, with vast populations and agrarian economies, we have the most to lose.

Therefore, we should perhaps not be afraid to give up the most. You can ask the farmer in the interiors of this country. You do not need scientists; you do not need negotiators; you do not need administrators; you do not need committees, commissions or missions.

[Shri Jayant Chaudhary]

That simple farmer will tell you that in his experience of the last 20 years, things have changed dramatically.

In the papers we have recently read that there have been villages in Orissa who have had to move. Islands in Sunderbans are perhaps no more. So, it is a clear and present danger. It is no longer a choice. It is an imperative. It is not about national pride. I for one, talking on behalf of my party, will extend support to the initiatives that the Minister takes in this regard. While paying attention to the equity issues, we need innovative approaches. Now we have these Missions. If I just read them out to you, I do not think even the Members are aware of all these Missions, what these Missions intend to do, namely, National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency, Solar Mission that has been launched, Mission on Sustainable Habitat sustaining Himalayan ecosystems, Water Mission, Mission for Green India, Mission for Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change, and Mission for Sustainable Agriculture. It seems like a whole lot of fluff.

Also, recently, I was happy and amazed to see that our forest cover is expanding. In Uttar Pradesh, my experience has been that in Lucknow and in Noida, a lot of trees have been cut down. I do not see any trees being planted. Last time in 1992 when we went to Rio, I think our forest cover as per the statistics I was given was 21 per cent. While welcoming the statistics that have been presented, I would like to say to the Minister, the way the commodity prices are being announced say every week, inflation figures are announced regularly—this is something which is very important to us all—you should perhaps announce this figure of forest cover every month, every three months, every quarter. We should create an environment within our domestic structures through laws enacting important legislations and empowering these so-called Missions, to bring these issues to the highlight. What I would like to find out is, say, the Solar Mission has already stated that by 2022 they are going to create 20,000 MW of capacity. Our approach upto now has been that we will provide incentives; we will provide some subsidies and private sector will come up. I think, unfortunately, though that has not happened in the renewable energy sector:

Lot of the environmental standards that we already have are not being conformed to by industry because when they look at it from a cost-benefit analysis, it does not make sense. When they look at their income statements, balance sheet, cash flow, it does not make sense to invest in these technologies. Solar electricity has not taken off because people say it is expensive. When they are saying it is expensive, they are perhaps not taking into account the need for diversifying our energy sources; they are not taking into account the cost involved when there are regular floods, droughts, salinity of soil, loss of crop production and the threat that climate change poses. It is because, these cannot be quantified in sheer numbers.

Therefore the Government should consider having an asset-backed programme. Today when we are selling off our public sector enterprises, it may seem outdated. But if we just stand back and say the private sector will come up, it may not because it does not make sense for them to invest. So the Government-backed, asset-backed, some sort of creation of a fund will enable people to use these sorts of technologies. Perhaps the Central Government can look at becoming world's first green Government. Why do we not look at our Central Government buildings? Look at the footprint that they have in terms of emission, in terms of energy needs, and they can then be demonstrative. The good thing about solar technology is that it is democratic. The large distribution network, the large production facility, that model has failed in this country. Villages in our country, in any State you can talk about, they do not get more than four to six hours of electricity. There is wastage; there are people who are stealing electricity. It is not working. So, we should look at mini-grid setups. The Government should look at investing in it. Stepping up public investment through a public entity created for that purpose may not be such a bad idea.

We can do a sort of retrofit our public administrative offices. Let us have all the governmental buildings at least be demonstrative of the latest in green technologies. So, people who come there, the offices which come there, the general public who comes there, the NGOs who come there, the industry who comes there can see it and then look at implementing it.

I would also like to say lastly that we have created these missions but the bane of most of our governmental policies is always in the details, in the implementation, and in the entire ministerial coordination. So, I do not know about it. There is PM's panel on climate change. It does not have the resources, the teeth to sort out all these various differences. They need to talk to MNRE; they need to talk to the Environment Ministry; they need to talk to the Water Resources Ministry; and they need to talk to the Agriculture Ministry. ICR is conducting research on abiotics stress resisted varieties. We need to propagate that. We need to talk to the HRD Ministry. We have to inculcate these values in our children. We have to develop our curriculum which can be taught to our kids at the high school level, say or even below that at the primary level, and we have to create awareness about the environment.

Sir, if you go to a village,

[Translation]

You will find that when the electricity is supplied and it comes for 6 hours, the villagers let the lights on for 6 hours. The people are not aware of it. In a way, we have to educate them. First of all the Members of Parliament should be, I heard in the debate and I was astonished to find that we ourselves are questioning this fact that whether climate change is a reality or a sham? First of all the MPs should educate themselves.

[English]

We all need to read up these issues.

I am not aware of the technicalities but I have presented some thoughts. I will be thankful if the hon. Minister responds to these.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have 13 more Members to speak. The Minister will reply at six o'clock. Please remember the time constraint.

Now, Shri Prabodh Panda.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, we keep reading about rising temperatures and

sea levels in other parts of the world. But India is one of the most vulnerable countries when it comes to the effect of global warming.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme Study, which was conducted in 1989, in India the signs are already back up forecasts that as the mercury rises in the Indian subcontinent, home to one-sixth of humanity will be one of the most affected regions.

Sir, I am not going to narrate all the things so far as its effect and impact in the Indian context. It is particularly known to all that we have a vast coastal line. The Himalayan glaciers have started to melt. The melting glaciers will cause temperature and sea levels to rise, and resulting ecological disaster.

According to the Study Report, the rising sea levels have submerged already two islands in the Sundarbans, when tiger roams through mangroves forest in the Ganges river delta and a dozen more islands are under threat. It is recorded that 102 islands on the Indian side of the vast Sundarbans are under threat. Already two islands have been submerged.

The Jawaharlal Nehru University had conducted a study in 1993, and they calculated that if the sea level rose by just one metre, then as many as seven million people would be displaced and 5,764 square kilo metres of lands and 4,200 kilo metres of road would be lost.

So, this is the situation. I am not going to the other aspects of our country. So far as the States are concerned, not only Bengal but also Orissa suffers a lot.

As it is known to us that village after village, the Kendrapada district vanished into the Bay of Bengal. The intensity of droughts has increased. So, have the incidents of flooding. It is very difficult to predict the monsoons. So, the intensity of cyclones is already there.

The East-coast of India is being affected more. This is because the Bay of Bengal is landlocked from three sides and there is a huge delta of the rivers Brahmaputra and Ganga. This does not mean that the West-coast region will not immune. It will also get

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

affected. But the special characteristics are in the East-coast areas.

Therefore, in this scenario what would be the stand of our country with regard to the domestic plan and with regard to the international forums? Now, we are discussing this matter in this august House on the eve of the Copenhagen Conference. I think, 192 countries are participating in this conference. But it is not clear where exactly our Government stands on the question of climate change negotiations. The different spokesmen are posing different lines of argument. So, there is a confusion.

The Prime Minister has now put all speculations to rest with his statement at the Commonwealth Summit asserting that India wants the Kyoto framework to be made to work, and linking Indian domestic emissions control plan to the promised transfer of technology and resources from the rich countries.

So, this was the statement of the Prime Minister. Meanwhile, in Beijing, four leading developing countries met and they announced that the rich countries will not be allowed to steamroller the rest. It is clear that the responsibility rest with the rich countries, which have not met the emission reduction targets that they committed at Kyoto 12 years ago.

But Mr. Jairam Ramesh, our hon. Minister, who is a very beloved, prominent and beloved Minister of Environment...

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

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: He announced in Beijing with regard to 20 to 25 per cent cut in the Indian emissions per unit of GDP. China offers to cut emission by 40 to 45 per cent per unit of GDP with 2005 as the base. China's GDP rate is likely to grow at the rate of 9 to 10 per cent a year. But our GDP rate is much less than that of China. But even then, what was the basis of this announcement made by our hon. Minister in Beijing? It is admitted that the US did not ratify Kyoto but all the other countries, barring Austria, did it.

If the US offers, at least, 17 per cent cut based on 2005 emissions level, not 1990 level stipulated in the Kyoto protocol, it is expected to be the basis of negotiations.

I think we are for the negotiation. It is all right. We should honour, at least, the Kyoto Protocol. We should put mounting pressure on the US and on the rich countries, at least, to honour the Protocol. If that Protocol is not honoured, then what is the meaning of the negotiation?

Thirdly, we should not take any stand staking our development.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I would like to say just one point that so far as our country, India is concerned, in Green House Gas emissions, India is the sixth biggest GHG producer, five per cent of global emissions. But we are the world's sixth biggest Green House Gas producer. It has a per head emission of just two tonnes of carbon dioxide, and it is 66th in the world whereas the US is the fifth in the world with a per head emission of 20 tonnes of carbon dioxide in the world.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Panda Ji, if you want to lay it on the Table the remaining portion of your written speech, you can lay it. You please take your seat.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: So, I think the Minister, keeping all these views in mind, will bargain and he will effectively play the role in the negotiations so that he is not only leading our country itself but he will lead the developing countries also in a large scale. This is my opinion.

SHRIMATI ANNU TANDON (Unnao): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to participate in this discussion today on global warming and climate change, its effects and our participation in the World Forum to bring down the emissions. Whatever you may say, but it is basically to save mankind and our mother earth.

People have been talking about the increase in the average temperature of the earth. I do not want to talk about that but I just want to make one observation

which has also been the observation of IPCC, Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, that the increase since the middle of the twentieth century was caused basically by the increasing concentration of Green House Gases resulting from human activity, that is, you know, the burning of fossil fuel and deforestation.

When we talk of deforestation. I just want to divert on one point which Shri Jayant Chaudhary had raised about Uttar Pradesh. He was surprised that Uttar Pradesh was known to have increased its forestation. I think there is some anomaly there because I do not think that is visible.

Anyway, fortunately, there is one important thing that has happened is that the world has realized that global warming is a cause of concern, not just of one individual country but a world as a whole and I would like to thank today the United Nations for enabling the adoption of the Framework of Convention on Climate Change in the year 1992. After which, we have started this process of working towards it.

Before I proceed any further, there is one point that I want to assert on is carbon credit. Carbon credit is a key component of the national and international attempts to mitigate the growth in concentration of Green House Gases. As we all know that carbon credit is actually equivalent to about one tonne of carbon dioxide emission and carbon trading, fortunately or unfortunately, is an application of emissions trading approach and will be very relevant with respect to any negotiation that is happening in the future.

Based on the Kyoto Protocol that was adopted about 12 years ago, we are supposed to reduce five per cent of the emission from the base level of 1990 but this was ratified like everyone said by all the countries barring developed countries like the US and Australia. This is not very surprising.

I am restating a couple of known things as they are relevant to a point that I would like to raise. Since the recommendations of the Kyoto Protocol put a bigger burden on the developed countries to comply with the norms, they were not eager to ratify it. But it naturally was the opinion of all the other nations that since the

developed nations have been emitting more Green House Gases, it becomes their responsibility to reduce it also. That is a natural feeling. The Green House Gas emissions of the Western nations are far higher from the Eastern nations. That is very obvious. Why is it so? We also know that. They have been developing; they have developed; and they have contributed to this emission till date whereas we are still in the developing stage.

The financial implications that are involved in trying to reduce the CO₂ or other greenhouse emissions for that matter are very stiff, and it is not easy for a developing nation like ours to take that responsibility. But, fortunately, the developed nations or industries or corporate houses or multinational companies can participate—with the help of green projects or by carrying out COM (Clean Development Mechanism) projects in developing nations—and try to generate energy from renewable sources and other such green projects. Perhaps, the developing countries can be the host countries.

Since, the greenhouse gas mitigation projects generate credits, this approach can also be used to finance carbon reduction schemes between trading partners around the world. This is the reason why I was raising the point that carbon credits are going to become a very important factor. I feel that this itself should have been an incentive for the so-called rich nations, which talk only materially about whatever they want to do whether it is development or be it greenhouse gases and global warming.

However, an interesting and encouraging news—about which I was saying earlier also—is the fact that there are industries and some large enlightened corporate concerns that have come forward from the developed countries and they are working in Latin America and Asia. They are trying to help these countries, and probably gain carbon credits themselves, which will become useful for them to reach the targets set for 2012 vide the Kyoto Protocol.

Now, coming to the Copenhagen Summit and the climate talks there that are looming quite large, basically, the blame game has begun. I was sitting and having

[Shrimati Annu Tandon]

coffee during lunch time, and we were discussing about the blame game that has begun even within the States. For example, Assam has lesser; Madhya Pradesh is doing more; or Mumbai or Delhi is doing more; and Mizoram is doing less. Now, when this can happen within the country itself, then we can understand it happening in the world also. China is condemning Japan's climate plan; France is demanding that Canada and the United States should stop global warming; and Europeans are also squabbling amongst themselves. But where does each country really go from here? What is going to happen in Copenhagen? I feel that nobody really wants to take a stand unless they know what stand the other country is going to take. Is the other country going to advance? Is the other country going to retrieve? How do you decide as to what is going to be someone's stand? But after reading an article by Vandana Shiva of the Navdanya Trust I agree with her on one point that the science of climate change tells us that actually five per cent of reduction that we had talked about in the Kyoto Protocol is too small. If we want to maintain our air pollution levels and the temperature increase to within the 2°C and avoid the catastrophe that people are talking about, then we need on an average between 80 per cent and 90 per cent reduction in carbon and other greenhouse emissions. Now, a reduction of emissions between 80 per cent and 90 per cent is a large number, but it just gives you an idea as to the difficult situation that we are in. It is obvious that if this is understood in the way that the developed or rich countries will understand, then I somehow have this feeling that they might want to abandon the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol in the Copenhagen Summit. I would like to tell this to the hon. Minister. I have this odd feeling that these developed countries will desire another debate and will set new commitments, which will enable them to quietly slip away with some minor acceptances that can be magnified in the international forum that they are looking after this major responsibility, and throw the real major responsibilities on to the developing countries. They will make it appear as a moral responsibility that we should actually participate in considering this as an extremely

important and dangerous situation. Anyway, I am hoping that I am wrong.

Now, coming down to the reality, I would like to split my discussion quickly into two points. Firstly, what is our perspective and position—that should be there—with respect to the Summit in Copenhagen? Secondly, what is our responsibility as a nation towards our own people and towards the world at large?

Starting with our perspective and positioning in Copenhagen Summit, I would like to first congratulate our Government, our hon. Minister is present here, for always being ahead and proactive with respect to the world phenomena and accepting it as a very responsible nation that we need to take corrective and long-term action. India has already signed and ratified the Protocol in August, 2002, and that is good. Since India is exempted from the framework of the Treaty, now I am expecting that we gain from this Protocol in terms of Transfer of Technology and related foreign investments.

At the G-8 Summit in 2005, our hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh pointed out that the per capita emission rate of the developing countries is a tiny fraction in comparison to the developed world. Following this principle of common but differentiated responsibility, India maintains that the major responsibility of curbing emission rests with the developed countries which have accumulated over a period of time.

There were a lot of points that were coming up with other Members where they were a little apprehensive about what is going to be our stand. On the floor of this House, Ms. Supriya Sule also said, I would like to say that I am very confident of our nation, I am very confident of our Government, I am very confident of Dr. Manmohan Singh, and I am very confident of our hon. Minister who is present here that we will not be sacrificing anything with respect to India.

Before I end, I would like to bring out a very important point. While I agree that the responsibility to fight this and work towards a better environment for our future generation, we will happily and wholeheartedly participate, and the prime responsibility lies with the developed nations that have contributed. I do

not wish to go into the details of data that is already available. We also know about glaciers melting which means losing out on water, which is getting drained away, and also about the major floods that can occur at any time.

I want to bring out a point about our farmers. Farmers back home, even in my constituency, Unnao, are facing problems with respect to climatic change—lack of rain and timely rain. Farmers constitute 70 per cent of our population and most of us present here are representing them. I think we have to keep them in mind before we go to the Copenhagen Summit. I would like to bring out one important factor that it is our duty and responsibility to ensure that the Summit does not focus only on the macro level issues or concerns of the developed countries where farming is no longer the primary activity.

Climate change impacts every link in the agricultural supply chain. Quite typically in a developing country as also in India, the last and probably the weakest link in the supply chain is the small and marginal farmer who has about an acre or less land. A small landholding does not have the relative advantage of economies of scale. This farmer is not aware; he has followed the same path that his forefathers have been following—you sow now, you reap now, this is the particular month that you have to do; he does not know anything; he knows that rain will come in a particular season. But things have changed; the climatic change has brought about a lot of change.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mrs. Annu Tandon, you can lay the rest of your speech on the Table of the House.

SHRIMATI ANNU TANDON: It is not there, Sir. I will just make a few points. I would like to bring out the responsibility towards the farmer. Today, our farmers do not have *bijli*; tomorrow, he will have *bijli*. Today, he has a cycle; tomorrow, he will have a motorcycle. Today, he has a *kachcha makaan*; tomorrow, he will have a *pucca makaan*. Today, he has a *kuchcha sadak*; tomorrow, he will have a *pucca sadak*. All this amounts to greenhouse emissions and carbon emissions. So, the responsibility that we have towards him is very, very important because it is essential towards growth.

I just want to bring out one point. I would like to conclude with one thing. I would like to request the hon. Minister and the Government to keep in mind that while we agree to everything towards contributing to reducing this effect, we cannot forget the growth of our nation, which is of primary importance. We should not pay for it, but must get adequate contribution from the developed countries who must restrain from surviving on purchase of carbon credits from us, which have been created by us. I would rather hold on to them and have the developed countries work towards it such that they come to a convergence point with respect to growth and carbon credits with India.

That point must be achieved.

Before I conclude, Sir, I would like to say that we have an individual responsibility of participating as far as the solar energy is concerned. I think we can all participate in this in our own way, while the Minister and the Prime Minister are going there, by planting at least one tree each.

[Translation]

Dr. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are having discussion on a very relevant and contemporary issue in the house which is a much debated issue in the country as well as the whole world i.e. climate change. There is a global warming the glaciers are melting, in Antarctic islands will melt. The Government of Maldives held a underwater meeting and somebody organized a meeting on top of the mountain. The people and farmers of the country are worried about their fate. Earlier, we came to know that there is a hole in the ozone layer. Nowadays, there is no debate about the same, it seems that this hole has been reduced. There was a conference in Stockholm in 1972 and a number of people from around the world had attended that conference. There was a conference on the issue of Human Rights and Environment. Earth summit was organized in Brazil in 1992. Now, people are teaching us the lesson of globalization. Our forefathers have said.

*Ayam Nizah Paroveti Ganana Laghuchetsam
Udaarchantaamantu Vasudev Kutumbkum.*

[Dr. Raghuvansh prasad Singh]

Our culture is ancient and now people are teaching us values of environment. We have the trees of Pipal in our country and we believe that it is the abode of God, Brahma and Vishnu. It is our culture that we assume there lives a God on each leaf of the tree. Therefore do not cut down the tree of Pipal. Now, the scientist's came to know about this fact that Pipal is the only tree which supplies oxygen round the clock and nowadays, the other countries are teaching us the lesson of environment. A conference is stated to be organized in Copenhagen in December. The Minister of Environment and Forests is a famous economist of the country but he has been assigned the duties of the Ministry of Environment and Forests what will happen because an economist has been assigned the duties of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Later, we came to know that it is the era of green economy and green economy would benefit the country and the world as well. Now, the Minister is going to be tested in Copenhagen. There is an agreement between India and China. In the beginning, the people said that America is a developed country and all the developed countries emit more carbon dioxide in the world. Now, as the developing countries started to develop, the developed countries have begun to say that they check their carbon dioxide emission. We should not be bothered about their claims to check the carbon dioxide emission unless we would not touch the level at which the developed countries are emitting. They are saying to us that we must check our power generation and industry. They are joking with us. Every Member is concerned in the House about how to save the earth. The people are saying that unless it is done the sea level will increase and there will be a number of hurricanes like Katrina, Aila and there will be wild fires. Earlier, also there was a concept of Judgement day, even prophet Mohammad Saheb had said in 'Kuran' that there would be an Judgement day and these may take place and all these things are bound to happen in our life time. The world is facing the impact of Global warming and as a result somewhere it is drought and somewhere it is no rain at all. Earlier, it used to rain up to fifteen days at a stretch and river, drains and ponds were used to fill up by water but now- a-days the rain is reducing. Now-a-

days, people say trees are being cut down, therefore the hon. Minister is running a afforestation campaign. The Environment improves by the plantation of trees. I have noticed two things, firstly a new kind of knowledge is emerging at the international level with regard to the environment and secondly in the recent past there was a conference in the UNO. We hail from the rural areas, therefore the horrible picture presented with regard to environment draws a scary scenario. It is also said that there will be no rain than what will be the fate of sea water. Earlier, the people used to construct house on the bank of sea but nowadays it is said the sea level will increase and as a result there will be Tsunami. Thereafter, the people are feeling uneasy. Therefore we must counter this pressures tactics of the world. America is still releasing carbon dioxide and fixed the emission of carbon by 22.5 kilo which is known as Green House Gas and thereafter China and Britain became the followers of America. Kyoto and America are already not in a mood to accept these and now we are hearing that it has entered into an agreement with China. If China and America became united than rest of countries have no option but to unite. Therefore there is a need of well considered diplomacy otherwise there will be the same situation as emerged at the time of Dunkel when they tried to pressurized India. Now we are closely watching what will happen in Copenhagen. Therefore, this House and country are with you to adopt a well considered diplomacy and there should not be any assault on our national interests. We comprise 16% population of the world and our population is 120 crore, who can pressurize us? We have a glorious past and our per capita emission is less than ¼ in comparison to their per capita emission. We are on 4-59, a level whereas they are on 22 and 25. Therefore, how their law will be imposed on us?

We will put our per capita emission less than those countries. You can concede everywhere it is taking place, that it should be checked but what will be our fate? If there is a scarcity of electricity, than there should be power generation. The policy makers have not exploited the capacity of hydro power. Instead, coal has been used for the generation of power as a result of which smoke came out and polluted the environment. On the issue of solar energy, the people say that there should be solar energy. Hence there should be a little

smoke emission or no smoke emission but all hon. Members said that it should be stopped. 50% fuel was produced by using Gas in 1980. The bullocks ploughed the field, but today tractors are being used there. Everywhere such activities are going on which in return emit smoke, so there is smoke everywhere. Therefore, whatever agreement you sign abroad, we will support it but if you do anything against the national interests then we will not let off you. Therefore we have to undertake our work as per existing rules and regulations on environment in the country. The villagers and farmers have not been benefited. The national interests are paramount. With these words, I conclude.

*SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): I submit the following suggestions with regard to the discussion on climate-change being held in this House:—

1. India need not bow to the terms laid by developed countries on the issue of climate-change. In the ensuing conference in Copenhagen also, we should participate in the Climate Upgradation Programmes without compromising on our developmental policies. In the background of consensus which is emerging at international level on the issue of carbon-reduction, the developed countries are making promises of 15-20% Carbon-reduction, yet it is not decided as to who will monitor it. Hence, an International Monitoring Committee should be constituted in this regard. If such an agreement is reached, the development process in the developing countries could be hampered. So, it is needed on the part of developed countries that they should share the climate-friendly technologies with the developing countries alongwith financial assistance to promote other climate-upgradation measures, only then an agreement can be reached.
2. Developed countries are blaming developing countries for climate-change, which is quite wrong, whereas the developed countries have been the major polluters of environment and still they are doing so.

3. Indiscriminate cutting of trees should be stopped to avoid adverse effects of climate-change. There should be a provision for planting two trees in lieu of cutting one and also, the cutting of trees required for development work should be pre-planned.
4. Serious damage to climate can be averted by stopping illegal mining activity taking place across the country.
5. India is an agricultural country. The farmers should be discouraged for excessive use of fertilizers in the fields and encouraged to adopt organic farming so that the climate-quality may be enhanced.
6. In order to check climate pollution, sewerage treatment plants should be set up on those residential areas where such plants are not there.
7. Pro-active public participation in climate-conservation can also contribute a lot towards saving and securing our national resources. For this, village-level organizations have to be mobilized which can undertake work relating to protecting and promoting of natural resources in and around village area in a continuous and sustainable manner.
8. The emission and discharge of industrial effluents has badly affected the climate. This, particularly, has been a matter of concern for the society in the backdrop of developmental activities. Although, certain norms are prescribed for this from time to time yet they should be strictly followed and special arrangement should be made for monitoring.
9. The adverse impact on the climate can be checked by utilizing natural resources for the generation of Power. At present the generation of the solar and wind energy is minimal and there is always a huge scarcity of power in the rural areas. The funds being given as incentive for the rural areas to set up such plants is meager. Therefore the same should

[Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal]

he increased so that it can play a major role in improving the climate.

10. A ban should be imposed on the export of products which affect the climate. Such as export of timber and timber products should be stopped.
11. Developed countries should invest in power projects in the developing countries under the green currency (carbon credit) scheme that do not have any adverse impact on climate and emphasis should be given on solar energy, wind energy, geo thermal energy, atomic energy hydro-power and tidal energy projects.

[English]

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Mr. Chairman Sir, since 1992 there has been numerous meetings and conferences to discuss climatic changes but to no avail. Most of the meetings have failed. In 2002, 156 countries had come together to unanimously decide that there will be 5% cut in carbon-di-oxide emission. But USA and Australia did not go by the decision. I will request Hon. Minister that as he is going to Copenhagen, he should remember that role played by the big imperialist powers. The big liberal countries always think in terms of their own interests and thrive at the cost of the poorer countries. This may be repeated this time also.

Secondly Sir, after the Industrial Revolution, due to the invention of steam engine and various other discoveries, the western countries progressed at a fast pace and enjoyed the fruits of technology. They exploited the undeveloped and underdeveloped nations in order to grow. In the process they emitted CO₂, Methane and other greenhouse gases in large quantities for 200 years. On the other hand, the third world countries were left with disasters. natural calamities, cyclones like aila and scores of problems like paucity of potable water, famine etc. Therefore why can't we openly say to the developed nations that you have

**English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.*

exploited us like anything for such a long period; now it's your turn to take the responsibility of cleaning the air. You have progressed economically at the cost of underdeveloped countries—so you are now answerable to the entire world. Hon. Minister should raise this issue.

Thirdly we are accountable to the people of this country. Every time we say that we are with them through thick and thin. Thus it is absolutely necessary to uplift the social and economic condition of the people and for that agriculture should be given a boost. Due to lack of rainfall, agricultural activities suffer. Climatic changes affect monsoon and cultivation.

We know that people of the country need light but electricity is a dream for most of them. Hardly 20% of the villages have been electrified. You talk of solar energy but ordinary people do not understand what, it is all about. This is a big problem. Thus we need to have proper planning before we can introduce any kind of non-conventional source of energy in the remote corners of our country.

The under-developed and the developing worlds have to come close to fight the climate changes together. Unless we are able to do that, unless we are able to revolt against the atrocities of the first world countries nothing substantial can be achieved. We need to adopt the policy of afforestation which requires huge amount of money. In various places, there is rampant felling of trees and deforestation in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, parts of West Bengal and Uttarakhand. Forests are disappearing rapidly. Forest greens are to be protected by the State Government as well as the Central Government. The greenhouse gases have to be arrested in the soil. In order to do that, solar energy has to be used vigorously. But as I said earlier, common people do not know much about solar power. We have to explain it to them and create awareness among people about the fact that conventional sources of energy add to environmental pollution but solar energy is harmless.

Another pollutant is the vehicular traffic in the cities. Number of vehicles on the roads are increasing day by day resulting in heavy air pollution. It is adversely affecting our climate. We should all pay heed to this problem.

Though I had much to say on this yet due to time constraint, I do not want to speak at length I am thankful to you for giving me a brief opportunity to express my views and conclude my speech.

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The last speaker is Dr. Jyoti Mirdha. Now, it is 6.00 o'clock and if the House agrees, we will extend the time of the House till this discussion is over and thereafter we will also take up 'Zero Hour'. I think the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

[Translation]

Dr. JYOTI MIRDHA (Nagaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak on such an important issue. The earlier speakers have raised several issues in regard to our policies on climate and climate change. In our childhood we used to hear about climate. The average weather of the country was known as climate. Today that terminology has become meaningless because rainfall has become almost nil during monsoons. When winter season arrives we don't feel the need to wear full winter clothings. Just now an hon'ble Member said that in Cherapoonji where average rainfall used to be 11,000 millimeter, is witnessing draught and famine this time around. On the other hand, Barmer which used to receive only 100 millimeter of rain has received such heavy rainfall, Harishji is sitting here and he knows that the children of age group of 14-15 years got fainted; when they witnessed heavy rains in that area causing floods there. That rainwater is still there as the soil is unable to absorb the water due to the presence of granite underneath.

Sir, some people say that climate change is a myth, a hoax. Hon'ble Joshiji also told that during a conference he had said that such a big hoax was not created so far. Are you unable to see the impact of climate change? The floods, cyclones, that are coming today, cyclone in southern Atlantic that according to geography books had never witnessed such a phenomenon. However, for the first time in history, the Southern Atlantic witnessed a cyclone. Now the books on geography would be re-written. The reasons for

discussing international issues in the Parliament today is that an international summit is going to be held at Copanhangen and India will participate in it. The stand likely to be taken by the developed countries is almost clear now. There is an important, Kyoto Protocol, but they had shifted from it and they will shift from it today as well and send us back by giving small and petty assurances.

I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that this Ministry has never been given such importance in the past. The issue of climate change has become a very important issue now. Now-a-days you read about it in newspapers. Earlier, only educated people knew about climate change and its likely long term impact on the environment? But, I want to congratulate him that after he became a minister at least the status of this Ministry has been elevated considerably. Apart from that he has done a lot of other works also.

Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Varanasi): Since he has become a Minister there is flood in Barmer and famine in Cherapoonji. This is his contribution ... (Interruptions).

Dr. JYOTI MIRDHA: This is not due to him. It happened earlier. If you are saying that it is his contribution then I would like to inform you that there are eight missions under National Action plan. What my government has done, what his ministry has done under the solar mission is that they have fixed a target for generation of twenty thousand MW of Solar Energy by investing Rupees 76 thousand crores. There is no other such an ambitious programme in the world for Solar Energy. I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister towards a particular issue that we have to take the responsibility. If we are planning to become a world leader in future, we have to prepare for that from today itself because one who aspires to become a leader has to prepare from the beginning, they have to take a stand. Perhaps, I may be wrong but my view is that we have to go for carbon emission cut even if USA, Europe or Russia follow it or not. If we do that then there will be a moral responsibility on them because here no one can compete. You can't say that because USA has emitted that much amount of carbon dioxide then we will also emit equal to that amount. No

[Dr. Jyoti Mirdha]

competition like that can happen. Because it was a matter of past. It will be not possible to live on the earth if we do that.

You are talking about two degrees change in temperature. The two degrees change you are talking about that we want to contain climate change by taking two degree centigrade above. But even that two-degree change is not enough to reverse it and many good things will be happening. A major impact of this two-degree change will result that rivers like Amazon will dry by 20-40 per cent. And if the temperature increases by four degree, the 85 per cent of our population can perish. Anuji just said one thing that our farmers' carbon foot print is smallest but they are the most sufferer of it. Today, it is said that they should have motorcycle instead of cycle, they should have pucca house in place of kuchha house. If they are travelling in trains, they should travel in aeroplane. All such things will happen but he will be deprived of drinking water and will have no food to eat. It is due to climate change that today we are crying for water and food security. Our country have to take a very strong stand at micro level. America will also show their moral responsibility. If a poor and developing country like India can take a stand like this and say that we will cut it's carbon emission then it becomes the moral responsibility of America also to act. I hope, they will. Sh. Yadav told that you emitted carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and earned a lot of money. You became a developed country and you do this like a big brother and started asking others to cut carbon emission then it is not fair. They should be more responsible and they should cut their own emissions. I hope that America will also act responsibly. What are we doing in our country? Here one thing was said that our culture is a rich culture which was obviously damaged by the English because we were under their rule. We used to worship the nature so much, we used to worship the Peepal tree that we never fell these trees. We have Khejri tree which we never cut. We worship every tree. Here I will give example. The River Ganges flows through Lohari Nagpala. Here whether it is Hindu or Muslim he knows that Ganga is his identity. NTPC is constructing a dam at Lohari Nagpala on the

river Ganges. Similarly we had also constructed a dam at Tehri. This is an example that how we handle our resources. It was said that 2400 MW of electricity will be generated and its estimated cost was Rs. 2200 crores, but Rs. 6500 crores has been spent on its construction but not more than 100 MW of electricity has been produced so far. NPTC is again constructing a dam on Lohari Nagpala. It is told that 2500 MW of electricity will be produced. There is a plan to construct 55 dams on the river Ganges. I have been informed that hydel projects are renewable sources of energy but I fail to understand as to how it could be a renewable source of energy? Where the very existence of national river is at stake, how could it be renewable? If you construct a dam on it today, if you disturb the upstream then there will be floods in hidstream and drought in downstream. We have seen such things happening with several rivers. We have seen this in China but they don't learn from their mistakes. They have dried the most flowing yellow river. China makes ambitious plans. China is planning to bring the water of the Brahmaputra river to Gobi desert, which is 400 miles away from the river in north and will feed back the yellow river by digging a eight km long tunnel in the Himalayas. If whole of the Brahmputra is diverted then whole or Bihar, Bengal and Bangladesh will come under drought condition. You can assess the impact if the Ganges disappears. 40 crore people depend upon this river. What will be the consequences? The people of my constituency Nagaur, Rajasthan might be listening this. It is the first and foremost demand or that area because our party's in the power in the States as well as in the center. The only demand of my constituency is that the water of Indira Gandhi canal should reach Nagaur in any way. I might be able in laying of pipelines but I would not be able to make arrangements for the supply of water if work on this project goes on at present.

Mr. Chairman sir, it is my request that our natural resources should be utilized logically then only we shall be able to meet the demand. Today we talk about the environment, we cannot execute any project without assessing its environmental impact. This is a pre requisite for it. There be atleast some stable conditions, without which environmental impact cannot be assessed. Since the days we have started keeping the record of

temperature, year 2005 was the hottest. It is not surprising that 10 years out of last 12 years were extremely hot. The climate change and global warming is taking place rapidly. It is not that people were not aware of it earlier. Once there was a ice age and again temperature or the atmosphere increased and every thing return to normalcy. This cycle repeats itself as there is a cumulative effect of carbon dioxide. The carbon-dioxide produced today will not be recycled by the evening or with in two years or five years or in next 25 years. 20 per cent of it remains in the environment for million of years. It has a cumulative effect that ice age keeps recurring in its natural cycle and then again temperature of earth increases. Keeping in view, the pace of growth, consumerism and globalization, I do not think that the total resources of world would be adequate. We also commits mistakes that we provide subsidies. There is a simple example that the cost of supply of per kilolitre water in Gurgaon is 10 rupees and we charged 2.50 rupees per kiloliters. If Government revise the rates, then immediately the opposition would blame the Government for increasing the tariff. This is common with all the parties. It is the job of opposition to oppose. Today you are getting diesel, petrol, but environmental cost is not included in it. Even in the case of fossil fue, coal is not included. We shall have to move towards green energy, it is very good. Some body stated that our Minister has a commerce background and he understands these kind or economic very well. And its first and far most consequence is the National Solar Mission and National Mission for sustenance of Himalayan ecosystem is also the part of it. Project for the Gangas is also a part of it. I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister that the biggest contention we use to give is that we have spent funds, which we have so far spent Rs. 400 crore on that dam therefore, we should continue and construct the dam there. I want to state that as per economics. This is putting good money behind bad money. We should drop these ideas and drop any future plans of constructing dams. The developed nations are de-commissioning dams. Developed countries like America, Europe have decommissioned 500 big dam projects and we want to adopt that technology of constructing dam. Hydro electricity is not a cheap alternate. Instead of this we should switch over to Green energy. We talk about

CFLs. Punjab Government started a programme to exchange a bulb with a CFL. Bring a normal incandescent bulb and you will get carbon credit points. Which you can redeem in international market. I do not understand why you go for such redeem option, you directly give benefit to manufacturer and trader, why you are not giving the benefits directly to the consumers? You are giving the bulb free of cost to consumer. If you are manufacturing 30-40 crore of CFL bulbs then the cost of manufacturing would hardly be Rs. 5000 crore rupees and it would in turn save more than 11,000 MW energy. We have talent and studies show that today we have all the required technology and resources with us. Through which we can mitigate the impact of global warming. I have got much more to add. I will express myself whenever I get an opportunity in the House. Now hon'ble Minister is going to reply, therefore, I don't want to take more time of the House, I once again congratulate hon'ble Minister and urge to drop Lohari Nagapala dam project.

*SHRI ARJUN ROY (Sitamarhi): I want to ask those people who waste water, weather they have learnt the art of surviving without water and they should tell us about this so that it can be passed to our future generations. Otherwise whether it is justified to construct malls at sites of ponds. Exactly this is happening today. Those who are wasting water, I want to caution them that this water will not let you survive. Remember, today a drop of water is equivalent to a drop of blood. If you waste water, then in future your family member might be shedding his/her blood for water. Have you made yourself strong enough to see a member of your family loosing his or her life for water? If not, then start conserving every drop of water from this very moment. If you will not conserve water you will have to face consequences.

Global warming has become the biggest problem of the world. Not only human beings but every living creature is affected by it. World-wide efforts are being made to solve this problem, but instead of reducing, this problem is increasing day by day. It is only the beginning and if we don't take lesson our future would be disastrous. Before going ahead, after all we should know what is global warming.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Arjun Roy]

What is Global Warming

As it is clear from the name itself global warming is the continuous rise in the temperature of earth's atmosphere. Our earth receives heat from the sun rays naturally. These rays pass through the atmosphere to reach the surface of the earth and from here they get reflected back. The atmosphere of earth is made up of a mixture of several gases, out of which few are green house gases. Many of these gases form a natural cover over earth's surface. This cover absorbs a part of sun rays that gets reflected back from the Earth's surface and thereby keep the Earth's atmosphere warm. It is worth mentioning here that at least 16° Celsius temperature is necessary for the survival of living beings, and plants, Scientists are of the view that this cover over earth's surface gets thicker with the rise in Green house gases. And, this cover starts absorbing more and more sun rays reflected back from the earth's surface and ill effect of Global warming set on.

Reasons for Global Warming

The man and his activities are mostly responsible for Global warming. The man who consider himself most intelligent creature on the earth is knowingly or unknowingly is destroying his own abode, the earth. Activities of human beings are adding green houses gases like carbon dioxide, Methane, Nitrogen Oxide etc. in the atmosphere resulting in thickening of cover of these gases over the earth's surface. This cover is absorbing the Sun rays reflected by earth's surface which results in the rise in earth's temperature. The level of carbon dioxide is rising as a result of excessive emission from vehicles, Aircraft. Power plants and industries etc. Destruction of jungles on large scale is an other reason of this. Jungles control the quantity of CO₂ naturally but due to unrestricted felling of trees, this natural controller is also getting out of hand.

The other reason of this is CFC which is used in Refrigerators, fire extinguishers etc. It depletes and destroys the Ozone layer, a natural cover on the biosphere of the earth. Ozone layer obstructs the harmful ultra-violet rays coming on earth from the Sun. Scientists say that there has developed a big hole in

the Ozone layer due to which ultra-violet rays are coming directly on earth and are heating the earth consistently. The rising temperature has caused the melting of ice frozen on poles for centuries. The requirement of electricity is increasing in every country, be it developed or under-developed. Fossil fuel has to be used in abundance for electricity generation. Carbon Dioxide is produced as a result of burning of fossil fuel which increases the impact of Green House Gases. The result of this is global warming.

Impact of Global Warming

The temperature in the atmosphere will continue to rise. During the last 10 years, the average temperature of the earth has increased from 0.3° to 0.6° Celsius. It is being apprehended that the global warming would increase in the coming years. 5° Celsius temperature rise is estimated by the end of the 21st century.

Rise in Sea level

Temperature will rise due to global warming and ice accumulated on glaciers would begin melting. This process has begun on many places. Quantity of water will increase in sea due to melting of ice on glaciers, as a result the level of water in seas will increase year after year. Erosion of natural coasts will begin due to rise in sea level and a large part would be submerged. Thus, many people residing in coastal areas will be rendered homeless.

Impact Human Health

The maximum impact of climate change would be on human beings and many persons would die. Cases of infectious diseases like Malaria, Dengue and Yellow fever (a kind of illness) will increase. The time may come soon when maximum persons among us will not even get pure water to drink, fresh food for feeding and pure air for breathing.

Impact on Animals, Birds and Plants

Global warming will make huge impacts on animals, birds and plants. It is being estimated that animals, birds and plants will move towards northern

and hilly areas with the increase in temperature but in the process some of these would lose their existence due to ecological imbalance.

Impact on Cities

There is no doubt that the consumption of energy will reduce with the rise in temperature and it will reduce cold but the same will be consumed by air-conditioners. One has to make use of electricity in abundance for cooling houses. Global warming will increase with the increase in use of electricity.

How to save oneself from Global Warming

The concern towards the Global Warming is growing worldwide. It could be seen with the fact that the Nobel Peace Prize for this year has been bestowed on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the organization of UNO working for environmental conservation and AL Gore, the environmentalist and former Vice-President of USA. But the question is whether the problem of global warming can be tackled by only awarding Nobel Prize to the people working in the field of environment conservation? Not at all. For this we will have to make several efforts.

1. All the countries should follow Kyoto Protocol. Under it, emission of harmful gases have to be cut down by the year 2012. This is the responsibility of 36 countries.

2. This is not the responsibility of the government only. We all can also contribute in reducing the emission of harmful gases by using less petrol, diesel and electricity.

3. Deforestation has to be stopped. We all should plant more and more trees. By this way, also, impact of global warming can be reduced.

4. This may also be tackled by technical development. We should manufacture such refrigerators in which C.F.C. is not used and such vehicles should be manufactured that emit little smoke.

Sources of emission of green house gases:—

(1) From power stations 21.3 per cent

(2) From Industry 16.8 per cent

(3) From Traffic and vehicles 14 per cent

(4) From agricultural produce 12.5 per cent

(5) From using fossil fuel 11.3 per cent

(6) From residential area 10.3 per cent

(7) From biomass burning 10 per cent

[English]

*Dr. TARUN MONDAL (Jaynagar): It seems to me that this House of Politics has been turned into a House of Science, holding conference on climate change and our honourable members are expressing concerns as scientists, researchers, discoverers and climate experts. I salute the concern of our member for our motherland due to climate change. But over concern is bad, as bad the under concern is. Some members have expressed in such a way that the temperature and sea height will rise, is scaring me very much. Because if it really so happens I shall be nowhere. My entire constituency in Sundarbans along with the Royal Bengal Tigers will be inundated.

But the matter of global climate change is not so simple, as expressed by some members. It is a very complex and complicated issue. World Scientists have not ended their debate on it. Opinions are divided on global warming and carbon emission. So, our Prime Minister at Copenhagen should not commit anything. The Government should form a task force or expert group which should initiate a national debate involving people from scientific sections. Then only a consensus can be evolved on this critical issue.

I have certain observations which will go in contradiction to the views of global warming. Anthropogenic Carbon production is only 3% in the world. 97% comes from nature, by putrefaction of leaves, vegetables, algae of Seas etc and volcanoes. So, human contribution is minimal. Global temperature graph from history of climate change as published by NASA, VOSTOK, EPICA like organizations have shown maximum temperature rise our Globe had seen much

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Tarun Mondal]

before industrial revolution, when there were no questions of human carbon emission. In temperature graph that is called "Holocene maximum" and that was before 4-8 thousand years of present time. In historical temperature graph of more than 6 lakh years, there are cycles of high and low temperature period every lakh years, on an average. There also in each cycle 80,000 years are cold stage and 20,000 years are warm stage. Even the medieval warm period (900-1400 AD) was hotter than our present time. Now we are in the cooler phase of last 20,000 years of the warm stage. So we find no concern of further warming of the globe. Green-house gases are blessings to mankind. Without water vapour (H_2O), the major component of green house gases, responsible for contributing maximum heat and CO_2 , life can not survive. H_2O , (water) vapour gives a stable temperature as in the sea shores. It is the sea which gives maximum CO_2 exchange to the atmosphere. When temperature rises, sea emits CO_2 and when temperature goes down, Ocean absorbs CO_2 . It is also expressed as per the VOSTOK/EPICA graph that CO_2 is following temperature rise; but not temperature is following CO_2 . The great Al Gore has also used this graph in his Oscar winning production "An Inconvenient Truth" but did not mention this bare truth. Even NASA has changed a graph what they published in the year 1999 and again in 2007, which seems to be a crime to manipulate scientific data to hoodwink the world's concern.

Therefore, I find, may be this global warming theory is more Political than Scientific. Evidence, data, experimental truth have been overwhelmed by the political whims of the world economic leaders, the imperialists. Global warming may be theory to save the economy, capital of US imperialism. If we see the following comments of former US President Bill Clinton, we may doubt their intention. "It's a god send." he said, "It is not castor oil that we have to drink. It is in my view, for the United States, the greatest economic opportunity that we have had since we mobilized for World War II."

Numerous quotes can be given from Hillary Clinton,

Al Gore, George Soros, Tim Wirth who are promoters of US interest only. So we must be critical, well informed to reach a logical conclusion.

Malnutrition, Hunger, Unemployment, Diseases, lack of Housing are, I think, more important and imminent problems in the globe than global climate change.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman Sir. It has been a four hour short duration discussion. I would not have minded had it been of longer duration. I am prepared to sit here as long as the House wants and I am prepared to stand here on any day to explain the Government's stand on climate change.

We have had 18 speakers today on this subject. The opening batsman was a very distinguished physicist himself and one of the tail-enders was a very distinguished mathematician. A Ph.D started the discussion and a Ph.D almost ended the discussion today. I am referring to Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh who is a Ph.D. in Mathematics.

We have had some excellent interventions. I want to mention specially that today the younger Members have been truly outstanding. By Indian political standards, even I am considered young, but I am not young. But I think, Shri Sandeep Dikshit, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Shrimati Supriya Sule, and last but not least, Dr. Jyoti Mirdha made truly outstanding presentations and I want to compliment them for this.

Permit me to deal with many of the important issues that have been raised today. There are policy issues that have been raised and each individual Member has raised some specific issues. Today, I will deal with the larger issues of policy. I would like to seek the indulgence of the House to respond to the specific issues of each individual Member separately with the Member concerned, like the Loharinag Pala issue of Dr. Jyoti Mirdha. and the forestry issue of my good friend, Shri Anani Kumar Hegde. My colleague from West Bengal, including Shri Panda, raised the issue of Sundarbans. So, on specific issues, if I may be permitted I will respond to each individual separately in writing.

I want to spend this evening discussing some of the larger issues of policy that have been raised. I want to begin by saying that today I found remarkable degree of agreement that climate change is a serious issue. This is very important.

18.17 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI *in the Chair*]

You yourself are from Orissa. Your colleague from Orissa has also spoken. Members from Uttar Pradesh and Members from West Bengal have spoken. Cutting across party lines, cutting across States, there was a clear message today that climate change is a very serious issue.

On November 24th there was a Calling Attention Motion in the Rajya Sabha. In the Rajya Sabha, the issue was me. I am glad that in the Lok Sabha the issue is climate change, although some Members have made some reference to me and I will respond to them to the best of my ability. So, climate change is a very serious issue for India. Forget Copenhagen for the time being. Climate change is of great significance to our country. Ever since I became the Minister on 29th of May, I have been trying to spread this single message that the most vulnerable country in the world to climate change is India, not Maldives, not Bangladesh and not America, but India. There is no country that is as much impacted by climate change as India. Now, why do I say this? First, we are dependent on monsoons, the south-west monsoon and the north-east monsoon. They are the lifeline of our country. Two out of every three Indians still depend on agriculture for their livelihood. What happens to the monsoon determines what happens to our economy and what happens to our general mood. We are depressed when the monsoons fail and we are happy when the monsoons are good. Monsoons are not only part of our economy but also part of our culture and part of our civilisation. Now, the uncertainty caused by climate change on the monsoon is of first and over-riding priority for India.

Secondly, Sir, we have the Himalayan Glaciers—anywhere between 9000 and 12000 Glaciers. There is a great deal of scientific debate on what is happening

to these Glaciers but we do not have to wait for perfect science. The warning signals are already there. Most of the Glaciers are receding. Why are they receding? We cannot say it with hundred per cent certainty. Is it the natural process of cyclical change? Or, is it because of global warming? Scientists are still debating this issue. But what happens to the Himalayan Glaciers will determine the water security of our country. That is the second point of vulnerability.

Thirdly, we have vast critical ecological areas. My friend Shri Anant Kumar Hegde is not here. He also initiated the Short Duration Discussion. He comes from the Western Ghats. What happens to the Western Ghats will determine the future not only of Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Kerala but indeed of the entire country. Take our North East. The North East has only four per cent of India's geographical area but 25 per cent of our forest cover is in the North-East. What happens? People have talked of Chirapunji. Chirapunji used to be the world's rainiest place. It no longer is. What happens to the Western Ghats? What happens to our North-East? What happens to the Andamans? What happens to Lakshadweep? This is the third area of vulnerability.

Fourthly, if you look at the map of India, if you see where the forests are located, if you see where the coal mines are, where the bauxite is, where the iron-ore is, it is in the same region. The more coal we produce, the more iron-ore we produce, the more bauxite we produce, the more forests we will have to give up. We know that giving up forests leads to more green house gas emissions. There is no country in the world which has all these four dimensions of vulnerability. That is why, I have been saying time and again that India, of all the 192 countries in the world, owes a responsibility not to the world but to itself to take climate change seriously. We are not doing the world a favour. Please forget Copenhagen; forget the UN. We have to do it in our own self-interest. Our future as a society is dependent on how we respond to the climate change challenge.

Let me go to the second point. Today, the sad fact is that if you ask me what is going to be the impact of climate change on the Sunderbans. I cannot give you a good answer. I can only tell you Aila happened;

[Shri Jairam Ramesh]

Aila might happen. But I cannot give you a good answer. If you ask me what is going to be the impact of climate change on our monsoon, I can only say that there is uncertainty; monsoon in the North-West India might increase. monsoon in the North-East India might decrease. So, I cannot tell you. The reason for this is that so far, all the scientific studies on climate change have been done in the Western countries. India has made no investment in studying the impact of climate change on India. This is a very important point. Today, all our knowledge on climate change is derived from the Western publications.

It is derived from Western media, it is derived from Western political leaders and we have no independent source of information and data. This is a pathetic state of condition. A country like India, with its great scientific expertise, should have invested in climate change research 20 years ago.

Let me give you an example of what happened 20 years ago and Dr. Joshi will recall this example because he has been a distinguished Minister for Science and Technology. In 1990, the United States of America, a country with which I am allegedly very close to, issued a report saying that methane emissions from India's wet paddy cultivation was 38 million tonnes per year. This report caused international headlines. All the newspapers and the media went to town saying that Indian agriculture is contributing to global warming. There was one Indian scientist who disbelieved this figure. He is no more, a very distinguished physicist—Dr. Joshi knows him very well—Dr. A.P. Mitra, who was the Director of the National Physical Laboratory. I happened to work in the Prime Minister's Office at that time and Dr. Mitra came to me and said, 'I do not believe these numbers and I want to start my own experiment to generate my own data'. I went to the Finance Minister who happens to be our Prime Minister today and I said, 'Sir, we need to give this scientist and his team some money'. The money was sanctioned and a three-year project was started. At the end of three years, Dr. Mitra and his team conclusively established that methane emissions from Indian wet paddy cultivation was not 38 million tonnes per year, but between 2 and 6 million

tonnes per year and today I must inform the hon. Members that the internationally accepted figure for methane emissions from Indian wet paddy cultivation is about 4 million tonnes per year, which is the median of 2 and 6. This is what we need to do.

There is a lot of sensationalism that is going on in the name of science. We must, on our own, understand what is going to happen to our own ecosystem on account of climate change. I would like to inform the hon. House that on the 14th of October this year, we launched, what is called, the Indian National Network on Comprehensive Climate Change Assessment and I will circulate a copy of this document to all the hon. Members. We have created a network of 97 research institutions in our country, 250 scientists have been brought together as a team and every year they will conduct and make public an assessment of what is happening on account of climate change. The first report will come in November of 2010 and this will be a report which will give an assessment by Indian scientists on what is going to happen because of climate change to the Sunderbans, to the Northeast, to the Western Ghats and to our agriculture.

This is what India needs to have done 20 years ago. It did not do it for some reason. But I am not taking credit for it. I am only an instrument of policy. But what I want to say is, this is a very important step that we have taken. Forget Copenhagen; we must have our own scientific capacity to understand the impact of climate change. We are a very varied country. We can have positive effect in one region and negative effect in another region. Rainfall might increase in Punjab and Haryana but rainfall could also decrease in Assam and Meghalaya. India is very varied. So we must understand the impact of climate change in India in all its eco-diversity.

This is the second point I want to make because Members have raised this issue. One of the failures on my part amongst many other failures has been a failure to communicate to each individual Member of Parliament the full substance of what we have done. I thought that by putting it on our website, it becomes automatically public. I did not bargain for the reluctance of many of my colleagues to spend time on websites. I will now

ensure that in the next couple of days all this literature and material will be available to you in hard copy in your residential addresses so that we can establish a constant process of communication. I have also decided that we will now place on the Table of the House many important documents that we release from time to time.

My young friend Jayant Chaudhary referred to forests. Just four days ago, we released the State of the Forest Report in India, 2009. This gives you the most comprehensive assessment of what is happening to forest cover in different States of the country. I have asked for the permission to lay this on the Table of the House. I hope that once such documentation becomes available, many of the questions that have been raised by Members of Parliament relating to the impact of climate change would get answered. This is my second submission.

Thirdly, let me talk a little bit about the Copenhagen process because that is the real issue that everybody wants to hear. All this is a sort of prelude; the real *masala* is Copenhagen. I entirely agree with my young friend Jayant Chaudhary, but my advice to him is: "Do not be too bold at such a young age. It will create many problems for you. Go with the grain of conventional thinking before you become too much of an out-of-the-box thinker. Thinking out of the box in our country does not pay in the long run. You have to be in the box and occasionally get out of the box and come back into the box."

On the international arena, when I took over as Minister for Environment and Forests on the 29th of May, the Prime Minister's instructions to me were:

"India has not caused the problem of global warming. But try and make sure that India is part of the solution. Be constructive; be proactive." That was all he told me. Then I asked myself what is India's position when it comes to international negotiations. The only position India had: "Our *per capita* is very low; your *per capita* is very high; therefore we would not do anything." Sir, *per capita* is an accident of history. It so happened that we could not control our population. That is why, we get the benefit of *per capita*. When you divide anything by one billion, and that one billion is

increasing by 12 million every year, it is no great credit for us. Our single biggest failure in the last 60 years has been our inability to control our population growth rate. Now the only position we have is: "Do not touch us; our *per capita* is very low."

It is an important point because *per capita* is the only instrument of ensuring equitable distribution. But it cannot be the only point. That is the point. So, when I first started looking at this international canvass, I was struck by the fact that India's position was: "Our *per capita* is low and, therefore, we are entitled to pollute more till we reach your *per capita* levels. Since you have caused the problem, you must fix the problem". That was, broadly speaking, our position.

Sir, this is my personal belief, and you can question my judgment but do not question my motives. My personal belief is that India must negotiate from a position of strength; that India must negotiate from a position of leadership. I agree with Dr. Joshi that we must demonstrate an alternative model of growth; we must not follow the prosperity equal to pollution model of growth. I entirely agree with him. I may have political differences with him but on this I am entirely in agreement with him. It should not remain just a slogan; we have to take many important steps. So, I ask myself this question: Can we go beyond *per capita*? *Per capita* is the basic position. Our *per capita* is low. Our Prime Minister has said that our *per capita* emissions will never exceed *per capita* emissions of the developed world. I said that our *per capita* emissions will remain below that of the developed world. My friends from the Left Parties accused me of compromising the Prime Minister's statement. Sir, this is English language. This is semantics. I had a similar argument in the Rajya Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

I have listened to you. Please listen to me, and then we can have another argument. I had a similar argument in the Rajya Sabha. To my simple mind, I do not see any difference between 'will not exceed' and 'will remain below'. It is the same thing. This is all, tearing hair on the English language. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): It is a funny language
(Interruptions)

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: The curse is that, you know, we are experts in the English language. Therefore, that is the starting position of our negotiations.

The hon. Members have asked:

[Translation]

What issues you are going to discuss in Copenhagen. The main issue is that,

[English]

per capita emissions will always remain below/ never exceed per capita emissions of the developed world. But, Sir, we have to offer something more to ourselves, not to the world.

Let me now use this opportunity. A lot of Members of Parliament have asked me: "What are the non-negotiables for India at Copenhagen?" Sir, we are all patriotic. We all want to protect India's interests. I hope that much you will grant to me. I am not buying a ticket to Copenhagen to sell India's interest down the drain.

• Sir, I have gone out of my way to ensure transparency in this whole process. I have written to all the Chief Ministers on the 1st of October, an eight-page letter on our stand on Copenhagen. I have written to 80 Members of Parliament. I should have written to all the 700 and odd Members of Parliament but I admittedly wrote to only 80 Members of Parliament on what our stand on climate change is. Sir, I wrote, four months ago, to the hon. Speaker and to the hon. Chairman of the Rajya Sabha: "Please nominate Members of Parliament as part of the official delegation to Copenhagen". Sir, you will be pleased to know today how jokingly, one of my colleagues, who is not here, said that I should take all those who speak today to Copenhagen. Unfortunately, Sir, I cannot do that.

The hon. Speaker has nominated three MPs from the Lok Sabha; and the hon. Chairman of the Rajya Sabha has nominated two MPs from the Rajya Sabha. So, five MPs are going to be part of our official delegation to Copenhagen. Not only that, in 2030, 2040 and 2050, most of us will not be around, and we are discussing what is going to happen in years when most

of us will not be around. That is why, for the first time as part of our official delegation, I am taking two school children and two college going students. We had an essay contest and an essay competition. Call it the new gender empowerment, all the prizes were won by girls ... (Interruptions) We are taking two school children and two college going girls as part of our official delegation. Not as hangs on, but as part of our official delegation to convey to the world India's seriousness of doing something for the future generation.

Sir, we cannot have 70 years old or 50 years old like me, talking about future generation. We could have the younger people talking about the future generation. That is why in the composition of our delegation, I think, you will see not only political representation but also generational representation.

Sir, there was a lot of confusion and a lot of criticism on the so-called differences between what my position has been and what the Prime Minister's articulation has been. Let me say, I am a Member of the Union Council of Ministers. I am a relatively junior Member of the Council of Ministers and it is inconceivable that I will survive in the Council if I articulate views that are different to that of the Prime Minister. You must, at least, grant me that much common sense that I will not say anything, which does not broadly correspond to what the Prime Minister believes. Occasionally, I might express it in a language that is colourful, I might express it in a language that more conservative people would not do so. But the thought, the principle, the concept. I cannot make public unless I know that the Prime Minister shares these views. That is the principle of collective responsibility and the principle of leadership.

So, what are these new ideas that we have tried to bring into our thinking? We are going to Copenhagen in a positive frame of mind. Prepare to be—and I am using a word, which my Left friends are never happy with—flexible. I will define for you what flexibility means. We are going with a positive frame of mind; and we want a comprehensive and equitable agreement at Copenhagen. I am realistic enough to know that such an agreement may not materialise. But we will work

overtime with likeminded countries, with China and other countries to ensure that there is a comprehensive and equitable arrangement.

Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: You have been to China.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: I will come to that.

Sir, I went to China over last weekend. China, South Africa, Brazil and India have tabled a draft in Copenhagen yesterday on what the Copenhagen Agreement should look like. Denmark as the host country also has a draft.

But we participated in the discussions in Beijing and we came up with what we considered to be a draft which protects our interests. Let me also say for the information of the hon. Members that in the last few months, relations between India and China have had their ups and downs. But on the 21st of October, India and China signed a Partnership Agreement on Climate Change. This was the first agreement for China and the first agreement for India.

Now, China and India are not comparable. China is here with 23 per cent of world Green House Gas emissions. It is the number one emitter. India is here with 4.7 per cent of world Green House Gas emissions. It is number five in the world. So, we are not in the same boat as far as emissions are concerned. They have to do far more than what we have to do. But on negotiations, we are in the same boat. We have a strong alliance with China, a strong alliance with Brazil and a strong alliance with South Africa. We are also part of G-77.

At the same time, many MPs have said about *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*. What does *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* mean? *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* means, you do not have hostility to anybody. So, we have to engage with everybody. Just because we are members of G-77 does not mean that we do not talk to America, and every time we talk to America does not mean that we are selling our country down the drain. So, I would like my Left friends to please understand the geopolitical realities in which India is. We are a developing country.

We have global aspirations. We want to be recognised as a world power. But having global aspirations and assuming global responsibilities are two sides of the same coin. So, we are talking to everybody. We are talking to the Europeans. We are talking to the Americans. We have this agreement with the BASIC countries.

Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Minister, may I say a sentence? With flexibility, you will show the desired firmness.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: No, Sir. Let me explain. I am coming to this. If you have a little patience, I will explain to you what the contours of the flexibility are. Sir, there are some non-negotiables for us at Copenhagen. Let me categorically state what these non-negotiables are. My colleague, Mr. Mahtab is joining me in Copenhagen. This has not been fixed by me. This is a choice of the Speaker. He has already quoted what I have said on the non-negotiables. First one is

[Translation]

Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji, listen carefully.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Machhlishahr): You could have taken him along. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Had it been in my reach, I would have taken him along. ...(Interruptions) Only one person holding Ph.D. degree is sufficient. If two persons holding Ph.D. degrees are included, it will not be good.

Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: You better drop the person holding Ph.D. degree. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: No Sir, it will not serve any purpose without you...

[English]

The first non-negotiable is that India will not accept a legally binding emission reduction cut.

[Translation]

Legally we are not ready to sign any agreement that legally binds India for reduction in emission level.

[Shri Jairam Ramesh]

[English]

I want to say this absolutely, clearly and categorically. There is no question of India accepting a legally binding emission reduction target.

Second, there are some attempts by some countries to say that developing countries should announce when their emissions will peak. Let me say that this is the second non-negotiable for us. We will not accept under any circumstances an agreement which stipulates a peaking year for India.

[Translation]

If it will be said that the emission profile of the countries such as India will be at peak till 2025 or 2030, it will be impossible for us to accept this.

[English]

We will not accept this agreement. These are the two complete, dark, bright, red lines, and there is no question of compromising on these two non-negotiables.

There is a third non-negotiable. Today, it is non-negotiable, but depends on the concessions that we can get from the western countries. Perhaps, we could modulate our position in consultation with China, Brazil and South Africa. We are prepared to subject all our mitigation actions, whatever we do, which is supported by international finance and technology to international review. There is nothing wrong with it as we are getting money from outside and we are getting technology from outside. The technology-giver and the money-giver is asking

[Translation]

to a count for these things. We should not have objection on that.

[English]

The problem arises on the mitigation actions, which are unsupported, that is, which we are doing on our own. We certainly would not like the unsupported actions to be subject to the same type of scrutiny that the supported actions are subject to.

[Translation]

There should be some difference between what we do on our own and what we do with outside assistance. Raghuvansh Babu, you talked about monitoring for the last five years. We shall frame monitoring system wherein supposed actions and whatever action we take on our own will remain separate. We can consider it because we are a democratic country. We have the Parliament. We have civil society institutions, we have media, accountability in our country is more in comparison to many other countries. If we maintain transparency in our work, no one should raise any objections to it.

[English]

Hence, Dr. Joshi, very early on I mooted the concept of Nationally Accountable Mitigation Outcome.

[Translation]

I would like to tell you a little bit about the history. Under the Bali Action Plan, the responsibility of countries such as ours is regarding Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action only about action. My experience in my country has been that there is no dearth of action but it is that of results and of outcome. We are very expert in writing 500 pages regarding action but what is its outcome, and this is where we are beaten. That is why I had suggested that there should be Nationally Accountable Mitigation Outcome and accountability should be towards our Parliament and not towards any international institution. I had hoped that you all would congratulate me that we were accountable to our Parliament. I want that whatever we do, it should be done under the law of Parliament. I want that we shall be transparent and our accountability will be towards our Parliament. We will not do so under any international agreement. We will not be accountable to any international institution. We will be accountable to our Parliament. I fail to understand why there should be any objection to it. This idea struck to my mind when I was in Beijing in the month of September.

Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Certainly something would have gone wrong at that time.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: I would like to tell you the difference between our thinking and that of outer world. We should recognize it, because we believe that we know whole of science and what we do is the right thing. I would like to say that there are other countries also and they also think. When I had been to Beijing, I asked the Chinese Minister what was he doing, he replied that he would bring a legislation in the National People's Congress about what China was doing on the issue of emission. The National People's Congress in China is just like our Parliament. I thought that China and democracy are poles apart, but, if China can think about bringing a legislation in the National People's Congress, then why it cannot be done in our country because we are the largest democracy in the world. At that time this idea came into mind and since then, I have been subjected to criticism that I am echoing the view of some one else. But the reality is that in the Nationally Accountable Mitigation Outcome, the word 'Outcome' means that we would come to the Parliament and if we say that we will generate 20 thousand megawatt of solar power by the year 2022 then we should come every year to the Parliament and tell about the objections raised in this regard, the progress made so far, replies should be given. You must have the right to question such things. We should bring forth a legislation wherever it is required. There should be a law in this regard. I agree to that.

I am saying that whatever we do, we should do as per our own law and not under any international agreement, that is called leadership. Our tendency is that we do nothing till the last moment. We presume that we have plenty of time, we still have time and time keeps passing and when India does something, people feel that we are acting under pressure. We have to get rid of it. Therefore, we will have to make new plans so that we can put forward our views on international matters and for this timing is important.

[English]

China has announced a 40-45 per cent cut in emission intensity. Brazil has announced a 38 per cent cut in emissions. Indonesia has announced a 26 per cent in emissions.

[Translation]

What is our response? We are already below the per capita emission. What is our responsibility? We constitute 17 per cent population of the world and our contribution to green house emission is just 5 per cent and the world wants to know our response. It is O.K. that we have not polluted in the last 200 years but our contribution will increase in the next few years.

[English].

That is why I think we must be 'flexible'—I am sorry to use this word over and over again—without compromising our basic national interest. Basic national interest means to legally binding emission cuts, no legally binding emission peaking year and, as far as possible, distinguishing between supported mitigation action and unsupported mitigation action.

Let me take a couple of minutes because I know, in the last few days, There has been a lot of speculation.

[Translation]

What will you do before Copenhegan? I am saying explicitly that there is no pressure on us. We can go to Copenhegan and can say there that you enter into any international agreement if it is written that

[English]

per capita emission of India will never exceed the per capita emission of the developed countries.

19.00 hrs.

[Translation]

It was acceptable to us.

[English]

We are prepared to reflect in any international agreement where our *per capita* principle that Dr. Manmohan Singh our Hon. Prime Minister enumerated last year. But, Sir, for India to show leadership, for India to have a moral position, because today we talking about morality about Gandhiji. We are the and of

[Shri Jairam Ramesh]

Mahatma Gandhi who is considered to be the *Param Acharya* of the environmental movement.

[Translation]

Today, the Prime Minister and the President of every country of the world want to visit Copenhagen. Raghuvansh jee, when the first UN conference was held at Stockholm in 1972, Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the only Head of the State to attend it. The only other Prime Minister who attended the Conference was Swedish Prime Minister since Sweden was the host country. India has a long tradition in the field of environment and it is not expected that we will remain inactive in this matter. It will not convey a good message to the world.

[English]

Is this the India that wants to take a global role and a global responsibility? But more importantly, India must show leadership to its own people, to Sunderbans, to Western Ghats, to Uttarakhand, to Himalayas, to the North-East. We must show action. What is that action? That is the issue now.

In the last few months, the Planning Commission has been doing a variety of exercises as part of the Midterm Appraisal of the 11th Plan.

[Translation]

We also said that we will adopt low carbon strategy in the Twelfth Five Year Plan starting from April, 2012. As you told we should find new model. It is not possible overnight. A transition period is required. Next two years will be transition period and we are committed to formulate the Twelfth Five Year Plan based on low carbon growth. It will be first time and I understand that it is in the interest of the country, the citizens, poor people and the farmers of our country. The Planning Commission has made studies regarding low carbon emission, they have received data from many organizations and they arrived at a conclusion. I am saying it with full responsibility in this august House. I am not giving my personal opinion. We want to go for low carbon emission and as Joshiji and other hon. Members have said that if we have to adopt low carbon

path in the next 10-20 years and show the world an alternative development model, we have to check the emission intensity.

[English]

Between 1990 and 2005, our emission interesting declined by 17.6 per cent.

[Translation]

I am not talking about emission. No need to worry. Emission is increasing but emission intensity is decreasing. Intensity is equal to emission divided by GDP. The emission divided by output is called emission intensity. What is the meaning of emission intensity?

[English]

What does it mean? One of my colleagues said

[Translation]

to make it simple. I am trying to make it simple. If emission intensity decreases it means that less emission for one rupee GDP and also that we will get more GDP from one unit emission. During the last 15 years between 1999-2000, the emission intensity has decreased by 17.6 per cent. GDP has increased, emission has increased but emission intensity has decreased by 17.6 per cent. We are hopeful that it will further decrease during the next 15-20 years.

[English]

Based on the exercises that the Mid-Term Appraisal in the 11th Five Year Plan, if the emission intensity has declined by 17.06 per cent between 1990 and 2005, the Planning Commission has concluded that we can have a 20 to 25 per cent reduction in emission intensity between 2005 and 2020.

[Translation]

We are not taking this responsibility legally. We are not accepting it in writing in any international agreement. We are telling the world that India is ready to decrease emission intensity by 20-25 per cent during 2005-2020 voluntarily, unilaterally. It has been decreased

by 17.6 per cent in the last 15 years. In the next 15 years minimum decrease will be 20 per cent and it is most likely that we will achieve 25 per cent decrease. What will be the outcome of Copenhagen? This is necessary for our livelihood security and we are going to do that.

We will also show the reduction in our mid term appraisal of the Eleventh Five Year Plan and during the Twelfth Five Year Plan and we are sure that our emission intensity will reduce between 20 and 25 per cent. Emission will increase but gradually. It should be quite clear that unless the transition which Joshi referred to, does not take place during the next 10 to 15 years, emissions would go on increasing. But we certainly can take this responsibility that the pace of emissions will decrease and we can get more output from per unit emission. This is the meaning of emission intensity. Our economy can benefit a lot due to decrease in emission intensity. You may ask whether it is a political statement? Some homework has been done in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* I assure the House fully.

Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: He has been the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs so he has the knowledge of Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: He is the real master. ...*(Interruptions)*

Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Bring down the emission intensity, rest is fine. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: How will this emission intensity be cut? That is the question. We are planning a series of policy measures. On some of which we will come back to Parliament. I want to assure the hon. Members of the House that we will come back to Parliament on:

- We are going to legislate mandatory fuel efficiency standards for our vehicles by December, 2011.

We will come to Parliament. We will mandate mandatory fuel efficiency standards for all vehicles. This

will reduce and manage the greenhouse gas emissions from our transportation section.

- We will come back to Parliament with a model energy conservation building code and we will recommend to the States and to the Municipal Administrations mandatory green building codes.
- We are going to come to Parliament with amendments to the Energy Conservation Act to introduce what we call the energy efficiency certificate which will enable energy intensity decline in our industry.

We will come to Parliament. Parliament will discuss these amendments.

- I am going to lay this Report on Forests on the Table of the House hopefully next week. We are going to come to Parliament regularly to report on the state of our forest cover.

Today, in response to the question raised by many Members, our friends are absorbing 10 per cent of our annual greenhouse gas emissions.

[Translation]

The discussion is going on regarding carbon sink, every year 10% of Green House Gas emission is absorbed by our forest cover acting as a sort of carbon sink, so ten per cent need to be maintained.

[English]

I will come back to Parliament on that.

- We are going to ensure that increasingly more and more of our coal based power plants of the type that are coming up in my friend, Shri Mahtab's State which is causing him great concern, will come from clean coal technology.

This does not require law. It requires us to take decisions on super critical technology, ultra super critical technology, coal gasification—Dr. Joshi knows as when he was the Minister for Science and Technology many of these initiatives had started. We will ensure that 50 per cent of all new capacity that is going to come will

[Shri Jairam Ramesh]

be based on clean coal technology. That will substantially reduce the CO₂ emissions from our power stations.

So, we have an action plan in transportation, industry, buildings, forestry and in various sectors of our economy which will ensure 20 to 25 per cent cut in energy intensity between 2005 and 2020.

At Copenhagen if we have a successful agreement, if we have an equitable agreement, if we are satisfied with this agreement, we are prepared to do even more.

[Translation]

It is baseline for us. We will do this ourselves, not with the help of others. We will decrease the emission intensity by 20 to 25 per cent ourselves. If we get the help of international community, if the Copenhagen accord gets success, an equitable pact will come into force and our apprehensions will be allayed and then we will be able to say to the world that we can do even more than this.

Now, I summarize it in brief.

[English]

I separate domestic responsibility from international obligation. I want to be aggressive on domestic obligation and I want to be pro-active on international obligation because in international obligation there is only one thing that counts. Ultimately, when I go to Copenhagen, it is not G-77 or China or America or Brazil or South Africa, it is India's interest that counts. What is in India's interest? That is what ultimately is the only deciding factor. What is in India's interest, that is what we have to do. I believe that our negotiating position is strengthened considerably if we go to Copenhagen from a position of leadership, taking these pro-active measures and taking the responsibility as part of the 11th Five Year Plan, 12th Five Year Plan and thereafter between 2005 to 2020 our emission intensity would reduce by 20 per cent to 25 per cent on our own, in a legally non-binding agreement and to be reflected in any international agreement.

Sir, I want to thank the hon. Members for listening to me very patiently. know that many of your doubts may still be there but I do want to assure the hon. Members that when I used the word 'flexibility', it does not mean the sell out. Flexibility only means the ability to move to rapidly evolving international situations. We are not living in isolation. We are living in an international community. We have to see what is happening in the world. We are a large country. Let us not be defensive about ourselves. Let not any Minister who is going abroad be told: 'Do not sell the country'. It is an insult to my personal honour and dignity to be told: 'Do not go and sell the country's honour'. No Government, no Minister, no Prime Minister and no Minister for Environment will do that. We are going there to get the best agreement for India and the best agreement for India internationally is what we do domestically. What we do domestically, in my view, is an obligation to our own people that we have to undertake.

Now, I thank you for this opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you hon. Minister for your good reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, there is no need of any clarification. Please sit down. The hon. Minister has made everything clear. There is no scope for any clarification.

Now we will take up 'Zero Hour'.

Dr. ANUP KUMAR SAHA (Bardhaman East): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to one of the worst industrial disasters in our country that occurred 25 years ago on the night of December, 02, 1984 in Bhopal, internationally known as the Bhopal Gas Tragedy which killed about 3,000 people and left over 5 lakh people as victims, still awaiting rehabilitation. The darkness in the lives of these victims continues even today.

This industrial disaster that was caused due to leakage of Methyl Iso-cynate (MIC)—the deadliest chemical—not only killed three thousand people but an estimated 20,000 people died from complications due

to inhaling the dangerous gas and other chemicals in that night of terror. It is a matter of sorrow and also of anger that because of the compromising attitude of the Government at that time against the killer multinational US company, the case against Union Carbide was hastily settled by Indian Government for a pittance as low as just 470 million dollar. The desperate struggle of the survivors for payment of settlement and for medical treatment remained unfulfilled. The victims of the world's biggest ever industrial disaster have received only about one-fifth of the compensation provided to them under 1989 agreement. The factory continued to poison the water sources in the surroundings causing further damage to the health of the

Should we not listen to the voice of those victims even after 25 years?

The people of Bhopal still remember that night of horror and condemn the authorities for sheer negligence and indifference to their woes. We have even failed to bring the culprits, the Union Carbide, to book till date.

Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Government to kindly take up the matter seriously and see that adequate compensation is paid to the victims, necessary rehabilitation work is completed in a time-bound manner and the case against the Union Carbide is followed seriously and some new legislation is enacted to face such incidents in future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri M.B. Rajesh has also given a notice on the same subject. He may associate with him. Sk. Saidul Haque is also allowed to associate himself on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ (Garhwal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the transmitter of the All India Radio was inaugurated on 25-11-1996 in Pauri Garhwal, the headquarter of Garhwal Division. At that time, the approval was given to install the transmitter of 16 K.V. capacity but transmitter of only one K.V. was installed for this station. It is a matter of surprise that not any kind of upgradation or extension of that AIR Station has been done since 1996. All the posts in the Station are vacant. Because of this, this Station is on the verge

of closure. I wish to make a request to the Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting that concrete steps be taken to change the prevailing situation and status of the AIR Station, Pauri Garhwal and a powerful transmitter be installed there and staff be posted there at the earliest.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nripendra Nath Roy—Net present.

Shri Sanjay Bhoj would like to raise an issue which is a State matter and so it is not allowed.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHANKAR RAJBHAR (Salempur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hail from a very poor region. You know that people of my region have been raising the demand of Poorvanchal and Bhojpuria State. There is impeachable poverty and people have got fed up with the present set up. Four trains—namely Dadar Express, Godan Express, Bapudham Express, Durg Express pass through this region and thousands of persons of this region go to Ahmedabad and Mumbai. There are no pantry car in these trains. Passengers say food items from vendors which happens to be intoxicated and passengers belongings are looted. Passengers either have to remain empty for 48 hours as there is no pantry car in these trains or fall prey to thieves. I want to draw the attention of the House that one more train Lichchhvi Express passes through this region, by which I come to attend the sitting of the House but this train also gets late up to five hours. I have to say that there are many trains covering long distances in the country. Pantry cars should certainly be attached to these trains in the interest of the public and passengers of the region.

SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE (Betul): Sir, today, I want to throw light on the miserable life of the tribals. Today, the tribal people are very backward. The people live in adverse conditions in villages located in deep valleys and forests. Our tribal brothers and sisters—be it Birsa Munda or Rani Durgavati or Koley or Bheel—have contributed a lot for the freedom of the country. Today the condition of this tribal dominated society is very

[Shrimati Jyoti Dhurve]

serious and miserable. Their life is dependent on forests but in the forests, land is hardly available for their livelihood. Their life surely depends on Mahua and they consume it regularly and their life becomes very serious and miserable. Through you, I would like to say that there is no improvement in the life style of tribal people even after 60 years of Independence. To survive, they are not even able to get healthy and nutritious food which they require. From educational point of view, the modern education is not available to them in forests. Neither the health facilities are available to them nor the Government of India have provided electricity to them in forest villages. He comes across the electricity in the form of solar energy. But there is no electricity for agriculture so the farmers could not produce crops. In every district there are seven Tehsils and each Tehsil comprises 90 to 95 forest villages and these tribal people live there. The condition of these tribal people are very serious. The conditions of tribal people living in the remote areas of forests is not hidden from everyone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you want?

SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE: I want improvement in the conditions of tribal people. There are no reserved forests even today. It seems to me that such areas will be wiped out as forest land. I would like that Government should take note of it. To make their lives livable, the Government should make stringent law so that the successful implementation of the scheme could be ensured. This is what I want.

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA (Amreli): Sir, through you, I would like to cordially invite Hon'le Union Minister for Environment and Forests to Gujarat in connection with Girnar Ropeway Projects. I would like to heartily congratulate him for the commencement of suspended Ropeway Project with the help of Central Board of Wild Life, as the news items has been published in leading Gujarati Daily, Sandesh on 1st December, 2009.

Sir, Girnar is a historic, mythological and religious place. Hundreds of thousands of devotees from different parts of the world visit this place every year on Shivratri.

The importance which this symbol of faith commanded during the Mughal period, has been continuing even today. It has been informed through the Principal Secretary of Environment and Forests of the Government of Gujarat that Hon'ble Minister will be visiting Junagarh on 5-12-2009. I am sure that Hon'ble Minister will remove the obstacles coming before this Ropeway Project. At the same time, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to implement the Project through the Ministry of Environment and Forests for which Rs. 90 crore has been sanctioned; the project should be completed within the stipulate time. It is my request to the Hon'ble Minister to declare Girnar Ropeway Project as a National Heritage Site and efforts should be made to develop it as an international tourist spot. ...*(Interruptions)*. At the same time, similar facilities should be provided at Somnath-Junagarh. ...*(Interruptions)* I request the Hon'ble Minister to complete this project in the stipulated time and dedicate it to the nation and the people of Gujarat.

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI (Yavatmali-Washim): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to raise the problems of the farmers of Vidarbha region. Five to six days back when I visited my Constituency, Yavatmal- Washim which falls in the Vidarbha region, I went to the farmers in the field and asked the cotton growers about the cotton price the government is offering to them. They told us that the price the government is offering to them is very low. They put their demand before us. They told us that cotton is procured through NAFED and Marketing Federations. But they are procuring cotton below the minimum support price fixed by the Union Government. The minimum support price is Rs. 3000 per quintal. But the farmers are getting the price below it. They are offering the price of Rs. 2700 and 2800 to them. Through you, I would like to say that cases of suicides by farmers in Vidarbha region are increasing. The incidents of suicides by farmers are increasing because the farmers are not being provided remunerative prices of their cotton. There are CCI procurement centres but very few such centres are procuring cotton. The quantity of procurement by CCI is very little. The CCI is offering Rs. 3000 per quintal, but the NAFED and State Government are offering much less. I would like to say that farmers who grow cotton

and provide us clothing are not getting the remunerative prices. I, therefore, demand that we need to raise the minimum support price of cotton from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 4000 to prevent the incidents of suicide by farmers of Vidarbha...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You had given notice regarding the issue of cotton. You have already spoken on that issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI: As far as cotton is concerned, why problems of farmers are not being taken care of?...(Interruptions) Cotton is as important as sugar. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not be recorded. Only that portion of your speech will be recorded which relates to cotton.

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI: Hence, there is a need to raise the price of their cotton to protect the farmers of Vidarbha. The Government should consider this matter and take concrete steps urgently in this regard. Through you, I put forth this demand before the Government.

Dr. BHOLA SINGH (Nawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The State of Bihar which has given us the legendary personality like Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who made great contribution in the framing of the Constitution. Bihar is the symbol of democracy in the form of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan, Bihar is also the symbol of social justice in the form of Late Babu Jagjivan Ram and that Bihar has plunged into darkness for the last one week.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this august House is supreme. I am representing Bihar in this House, the highest court of this country and would like to state that Bihar is under darkness for one week. Patients are not getting treatment in hospitals, movement of trains is also being affected. The Government of Bihar has requested the Central Government to allot coal mines to run thermal power plants so that Bihar which is striving for development may generate electricity.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will be surprised to know

that NTPC plant of the Central Government is also on the verge of closure. We are not being allowed to use water from the Ganga river. Bihar which has shown its commitment and marching on the path of development along with the nation is presently suffering owing to its ideology and commitment.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I, through you, request the Government of India that Bihar believes in acting instead of reacting. The conspiracy is being hatched to victimize and starve the State of Bihar. Bihar is not being allowed to use the water of Ganga river. I, through you, would like to request the Central Government to stop victimizing Bihar. Bihar has richly contributed in national development. People of Bihar have enhanced the prestige and dignity of this country by way of making contribution to its revenue and taxes.

Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, I request the Government that Bihar should be protected from being victimized and steps should be taken to enable Bihar to use the water of Ganga river. A coal mine should invariably be allotted to Bihar so that a thermal power station may be run from that coal. This is the point towards which I want to draw the attention of the Government.

[English]

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki): Respected Chairman, the Thekkady Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala's Idukki district is the most important tourist destination in India and it is world famous too. Thousands of tourists are visiting Thekkady every year. It is a national pride to the whole country. But, after the tragic boat accident happened on 30th September, 2009 this year in the Thekkady Lake, boat service was stopped. Boat service for sight-seeing was the main attraction here and stoppage of the service adversely affected the tourism industry as a whole. The local people, traders, taxi and auto drivers, and tourist guides of Kumily Panchayat are now struggling for their livelihood. In my understanding, the boat service was stopped after some direction from the Environment and Forest Ministry and some clearance is required to resume the service. An immediate intervention is required from the Tourism Ministry as well as the Environment and Forest Ministry in this regard. I am requesting them to convene a meeting of all the

[Shri P.T. Thomas]

concerned to resume the boat service in the Thekkady Lake to save this world famous tourist destination.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: (Kaushambi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this very important matter of public interest during the Zero Hour in this House. The people's representatives of Panchayats of the country face a financial crisis and the local development schemes are also directionless.

Mr. Chairman Sir, it has been provided by way of 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution that the departments listed at serial No. 29 to 32 would be handed over to the three tier Panchayats, but, this has not been done as yet. The State Government provides an honorarium of Rs. 750 to the Gram Pradhans which is less than the wages given to a labourer. People's representatives should not be provided honorarium out of development fund rather there should be separate provisions for this.

Mr. Chairman Sir, Pradhan of 'Zila Panchayats' should be provided Rs. 7000 and 'Block Pramukh' should be provided atleast Rs. 10 thousand per month. Chairman of Zila Panchayat should be accorded the status of a Minister, only then importance of Zila Panchayats can be raised. The facility of purchasing mid-day meal at market rate should also be provided. The prices of all the commodities used in preparing mid-day meal have increased due to price rise. The cook should be paid honorarium from the NREGA fund. A labourer who works for a week under NREGA has to visit Bank repeatedly to get his wages. He faces a lot of difficulties to get his wages. He gets his wages after long delay due to which he is compelled to raise loans

from moneylenders.

Sir, the daily wage of a labourers should be fixed at Rs. 1000. As per the standard rates, he can earn just Rs. 40 to 50 per day. Hence, I urge upon the Government of India that wages of a labourer should be fixed at Rs. 100 per day. There is no 'pucca' work under NREGA. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Where has the NREGA come from in this matter.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman Sir, this matter is related to the development of Panchayats. There are no *Pucca* works under NREGA, only *Kuchha* work are done under it. Through you, it is my request to the Government that permission for undertaking *pucca* works should be given under NREGA so that development of rural areas could be achieved and arrangements should be made by the Panchayats itself for making the payment at market rates for the materials related to the development like iron bars, cement or the wages, only then development of villages could be achieved. Our three tier Panchayat system could be strengthened only after the development of villages and country will advance on the path of development. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 A.M.

19.42 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 4, 2009/ Agrayana 13, 1931 (Saka).

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