

The Journal of Parliamentary Information

VOLUME LIV

NO. 2

JUNE 2008

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

CBS Publishers & Distributors

11, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-2

THE JOURNAL OF PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

VOLUME LIV**NO. 2****JUNE 2008**

CONTENTS

	PAGE
EDITORIAL NOTE	127
ADDRESS	
Address by the President to Parliament	130
Address by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee at the 19th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth, London, 3 January 2008	147
Address by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee at the Valedictory Session of the 14th All India Whips Conference, Mumbai, 5 February 2008	158
Address by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee at the Orientation Programme for the Members of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly, Gandhinagar, 2 March 2008	167
PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES	
Conferences and Symposia	175
Birth Anniversaries of National Leaders	177
Exchange of Parliamentary Delegations	179
Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training	180
PRIVILEGE ISSUES	182
PROCEDURAL MATTERS	184
PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS	187
DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST	197
SESSIONAL REVIEW	
Lok Sabha	210

State Legislatures	236
RECENT LITERATURE OF PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST	240
APPENDICES	
I. Statement showing the work transacted during the Thirteenth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha	245
II. Statement showing the work transacted during the Two Hundred and Thirteenth Session (First Quarter of the Rajya Sabha)	249
III. Statement showing the activities of the Legislatures of the States and Union territories during the period 1 January to 31 March 2008	250
IV. List of Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President during the period 1 January to 31 March 2008	256
V. List of Bills passed by the Legislatures of the States and the Union territories during the period 1 January to 31 March 2008	257
VI. Ordinances promulgated by the Union and State Governments during the period 1 January to 31 March 2008	264
VII. Party Position in the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha and the Legislatures of the States and the Union territories	269

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Constitution of India provides for an Address by the President to either House of Parliament or both the Houses assembled together. Article 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the first Session after each General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first Session of each year, the President shall address both the Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform the Parliament of the causes of its summons. The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues. It also indicates the main items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought before the Parliament during the sessions to be held that year.

On 25 February 2008, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil addressed the members of the two Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House at the commencement of the first Session of Parliament of the year 2008. We reproduce in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Address delivered by the President.

Immunity to a member from any proceedings in any Court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in the Parliament or any Committee thereof, is an important privilege that goes with most representative institutions across the world. Privileges of Parliament are granted to members in order that they are able to perform their duties in Parliament without let or hindrance. As conferment of powers, privileges and immunities to individual members is for the efficient discharge of their duties and functions as members of the Legislature, a member has to act in an exemplary manner. In his Keynote Address on 'Parliamentary Privileges and the Right of Reply' at the 19th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth at London on 3 January 2008, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee stressed that privileges of Parliament do not place a member on a footing different from that of an ordinary citizen in the matter of the application of laws. The only purpose and justification for these privileges was that elected representatives should be enabled to discharge their responsibilities and duties to the people effectively and efficiently without any fear or favour and without any obstruction or

hindrance. Talking about the right of reply, he said that Parliaments across the world have upheld the convention that no allegation shall be made against a person who is not present in the House to defend himself. In our country, the Rules of Procedure provide that no allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a member against any person unless the member has given adequate advance notice to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply. The crux of the matter, according to Shri Chatterjee, was that a member should be fully responsible while making an allegation and he has to satisfy himself that the source is reliable and allegation is based on facts. We include in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee at the Conference.

Dignified conduct of the members of Legislatures, both inside and outside the Chambers, is a pre-requisite for the success of parliamentary democracy. The smooth and orderly conduct of the business of Legislative Bodies is necessarily of great significance. Addressing the Valedictory Session of the 14th All-India Whips Conference at Mumbai on 5 February 2008, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee said that the elected representatives, who represent the will and aspirations of the people in the highest Legislative Bodies, must spare no effort to ensure that the responsibilities entrusted to them are fulfilled in fullest measure. He solicited the cooperation and support from the Chief Whips and Whips, for the smooth running of the Legislative Bodies and for better management of their precious time. We include in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Valedictory Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee at the Conference.

On 2 March 2008, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee addressed the newly-elected members of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly at the Valedictory Session of the Orientation Programme organized for them at Gandhinagar. In his Address, Shri Chatterjee said that the extent of the effectiveness and efficiency with which the Legislature functions depends on how seriously each member discharges his legislative work and how he conducts himself as a legislator. Members must constantly relate themselves to their electorates and should be responsive to their problems and concerns since they are the link between the people, the Legislature and the Government. A legislator's performance in the House depends on how seriously he identifies various social and economic requirements of his constituents and how forcefully he

articulates them on the floor of the House. The primary purpose of all parliamentary procedures and devices is to help reinforce the concept of accountability of the Executive to the people's representative body, he added. We include in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha at the Orientation Programme.

We also carry in this issue the other regular features, viz. Parliamentary Events and Activities, Privilege Issues, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Documents of Constitutional and Parliamentary Interest, Sessional Review, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and Appendices.

In our constant pursuit of making the *Journal* more enriching and useful, we always invite and welcome suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome practice and problem oriented, non-partisan articles in the field of parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and all others interested in the field of parliamentary political science.

—P.D.T. Achary
Editor

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO PARLIAMENT

The Constitution of India provides for an Address by the President to either House of Parliament or both the Houses assembled together. The provision for addressing the highest legislative body in the country goes back to the year 1921 when the Central Legislature was set up for the first time under the Government of India Act, 1919. The President may address both the Houses of Parliament assembled together or either House of Parliament separately as per provisions of articles 86(1) and 87(1) of the Constitution. Under article 86(1), the President may address either House of Parliament or both the Houses assembled together, and for that purpose require attendance of members. Article 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the first Session after each General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first Session of each year, the President shall address both the Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform the Parliament of the causes of its summons.

The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues. It also indicates the main items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought before Parliament during the sessions to be held that year.

The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, addressed members of the two Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 25 February 2008.

We reproduce below the text of the Address.

—Editor

Honourable Members,

I convey my best wishes to all of you and to our people. The Parliament convenes at a time when the economy is on the move. My Government remains firmly committed to ensuring that the economic growth process is socially inclusive, regionally balanced and environmentally sustainable. The measures taken by my Government have created the necessary architecture of inclusive growth.

Several programmes have been launched to make the growth process socially inclusive and regionally balanced. These include *Bharat Nirman*, aimed at bridging the rural-urban gap in development; the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to soften the sharp

edges of poverty and offer basic livelihood security; *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, for giving equal opportunity to our children in realizing their potential; further strengthened through a universal midday meal programme; the National Rural Health Mission, offering the rural poor access to basic health care; and the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, promoting socially inclusive and economically manageable urban development. To make the growth process more participatory, responsive and accountable, Government has sought to strengthen *panchayati raj* institutions and has enshrined in law a Right to Information Act.

My Government's strategy of "inclusive growth" has been enabled by, and has in turn contributed to, the acceleration of economic growth. For the first time in history, the Indian economy has grown at close to 9.0 per cent per annum for four years in a row. The historically high investment rate, of over 35 per cent of GDP, and savings rate, of over 34 per cent of GDP, symbolize a new dynamism in our economy. I am confident that the creativity, enterprise and hard work of our young people will be able to sustain these high rates in the years to come.

This performance is all the more creditable against the background of high international oil prices and rising commodity prices, including food. It will continue to be the endeavour of my Government to sustain growth while keeping prices under check. My Government has endeavoured to insulate the Indian consumer from these global inflationary trends. World crude oil prices have almost doubled in the past two years to reach an all-time high of US\$100 per barrel, yet my Government has managed to moderate the impact on the domestic consumer.

The architecture of inclusive growth is further consolidated through the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The Plan has set a target of 9 per cent GDP growth for the country as a whole to be achieved in a manner that would provide equality of opportunity for quality education, for employment and for enterprise, free people from the burden of ill-health and eliminate discrimination.

The share of the Central Gross Budgetary Support allocation to key sectors is being substantially increased. The outlay on education goes up from 7.68 per cent of the Central Gross Budgetary Support in the 10th Plan to over 19 per cent in the 11th Plan. The outlays on agriculture, health and rural development have been tripled. Taken together with education, these sectors account for more than half of the Central Gross Budgetary Support as compared to less than 1/3rd

in the 10th Plan. This is a major structural shift in plan priorities, aimed at reducing disparities and empowering people.

The Plan hopes to raise the total annual investment in infrastructure from 5 per cent of GDP to 9 per cent. Public sector investment will continue to play an important role in infrastructure development supplemented by private investment wherever feasible. My Government will augment the skills and resources needed for enabling marginalized groups and regions to benefit from the processes of growth.

My Government has been paying special attention to the welfare of our farmers and has reversed the decline in public investment in agriculture. The target set in the National Common Minimum Programme of doubling agricultural credit in three years has been substantially exceeded. The target set for 2007-08, of Rs.2,25,000 crore, has already been achieved by December 2007. Government has taken up the revival of the Rural Cooperative Credit structure. Government had appointed an Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness under the chairmanship of Prof. R. Radhakrishna and its report has since been received. The recommendations of the Group are under Government's active consideration.

To bring the "financially excluded" population within the formal banking system, banks have been directed to utilize the services of self-help groups (SHG), micro finance institutions and other civil society organizations to this end. Over 5 lakh self-help groups are being assisted under the *Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana* and 52 per cent of the swarojgaris are women. Government has also introduced the Micro Financial Sector (Development and Regulation Bill) in Parliament. The *Swarna Jayanti Shehary Rozgar Yojana* is providing opportunities for skill development and employment for the urban poor, especially women.

My Government has taken two major initiatives for the agriculture sector in recent times: the National Food Security Mission and the *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana*. The National Food Security Mission has been set up to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes respectively during the 11th Plan period. The *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana*, with an outlay of Rs. 25,000 crore for farm revival, aims at stepping up agricultural growth to 4 per cent in the 11th Plan by incentivising States to invest more in the sector.

With the efforts of my Government, there has been a substantial increase in agricultural production. The combined resources for Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Resources including a major Flood Management

Programme will go up from Rs.46,131 crore in the 10th Plan to Rs.1,38,548 crore in the 11th Plan. My Government effected an unprecedented steep hike of over 50 per cent in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat and about 33 per cent for paddy in the last four years.

My Government aims at tripling the size of the processed food sector by 2015, and doubling its share in global trade. To achieve these objectives, 30 Mega Food Parks and an Integrated Cold Chain will be established. A National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management is being set up at Kundli as a knowledge institution for the sector.

My Government has placed great emphasis on the empowerment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes through increased access to education. Close to Rs.900 crore have been provided for scholarships for about 30 lakh children belonging to the Scheduled Castes and an amount of over Rs.225 crore has been provided for more than 10 lakh tribal children. The Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship and schemes for special coaching for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students are being actively implemented. The Indira Gandhi National Tribal University will be founded at Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh to promote studies and research in art, culture, tradition, languages, customs and medicinal systems of our tribal communities; besides promoting educational opportunities for tribal students.

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act is a landmark legislation aimed at correcting the historical deprivations of the tribal and traditional forest dwellers and restoring to them their rights on land. State Governments have been requested to implement the provisions of this Act expeditiously.

With a view to providing social security to workers in the unorganized sector, who constitute a majority of our workforce, my Government has introduced the Unorganised Sector Social Security Bill, 2007. The *Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana* to provide health cover of Rs.30,000 for every unorganized sector worker living below poverty line and for the family, the *Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana* to provide relief to about 1 crore families of rural landless labour in the first year itself and the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, entitling those below the poverty line and above 65 years to a monthly pension of Rs. 200, have been launched. Government has also enhanced the National Floor Level Minimum Wage from Rs.66 to Rs.80 per day. The eligibility limit for payment of bonus to the workers has been raised

from Rs.3,500 to Rs.10,000 per month. Workers employed by building contractors have also been made eligible for payment of bonus.

My Government has put in place a National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy with effect from October 2007 to address the long standing grievances of people displaced from their land by development projects. The policy provides for basic minimum requirements to be fulfilled in all the projects leading to involuntary displacement. In order to give statutory backing to the policy, a Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2007 and a Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 2007 have also been introduced in the Parliament.

Inclusive growth demands inclusive governance. The key instrument for this is *panchayati raj*. Government has strengthened *panchayati raj* through untied funds to support local area development planning in addition to reorienting delivery systems to work through *panchayats*. To address the problem of regional imbalances, my Government is helping less developed regions through the Backward Regions Grant Fund.

To provide access to justice, both civil and criminal, to our less privileged citizens at their doorstep, my Government has brought forward a legislation to establish *Gram Nyayalayas*.

The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme launched by my Government aims at ensuring that benefits of the development programmes flow equitably to the minorities. Certain proportion of development projects will be located in minority concentration areas and, wherever possible, 15 per cent of targets and outlays under various schemes would be earmarked for the minorities. To improve the economic and educational status of the minorities, several programmes have been launched based on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee Report. The 11th Plan provides Rs. 800 crore for Merit-cum-Means based scholarship for professional courses, nearly Rs. 3300 crore for post and pre-matric scholarship programmes for minority students and Rs. 3780 crore for the development of 90 minority concentration districts. The proportion of priority sector lending going to the minority communities will be stepped up from the present 9 per cent to 15 per cent. These initiatives are important pillars of the architecture of inclusive growth.

"Women hold up half the sky", it is said. Empowerment of women through female literacy is our single biggest challenge in the social sector. The National Literacy Mission will make acceleration of female literacy its key goal. We have moved closer to complete Legal

Equality for Women in all spheres by removing discriminatory legislation, amending existing legislation and by enacting new legislation that gives women equal rights of ownership of assets like houses and land. Amendments are being considered to the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, and the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. Laws pertaining to bonded labour, plantation labour, factory and migrant labour will also be made gender sensitive. Removal of age-old prejudices, particularly bias against women in society is the biggest challenge to achieve equality. My Government is committed to strictly enforce laws relating to dowry, female infanticide, female foeticide and human trafficking and to realize a gender-neutral India.

To ensure proper enforcement of the children's rights, a National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has been set up. Government proposes to launch a series of measures designed to address the serious issue of malnutrition among a large number of our children.

Our sportspersons are increasingly making their mark in a range of games. Preparations for the Commonwealth Games 2010 are in full swing. My Government will also launch the "*Panchayat Yuva Khel aur Krida Abhiyan*" to promote sports and nurture talents at the block and village levels.

Honourable members, as I mentioned earlier, the architecture of inclusive governance is defined by my Government's "flagship programmes". To strengthen the safety net provided by the Government for those seeking employment in rural areas, it has been decided to expand the coverage of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act from 330 districts to cover all rural districts of the country from April 2008.

Under this Act, 2.7 crore people were provided employment till the middle of January 2008 during the current financial year. Transparency has been made critical to programme implementation through social audit and for the first time even muster rolls are put up on the Internet. The programme has been courting public scrutiny to ensure that benefits flow to those for whom they are intended. We are confident that with the active support of State Governments, *panchayati raj* institutions and civil society collaboration, the NREGA will achieve its ambitious goal.

The *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* for elementary education is being strengthened with expansion of the midday meal programme for children to the Upper Primary level in 3,479 educationally backward blocks of the country. My Government seeks to provide universal access to

secondary education by supporting 6,000 new high quality model schools, with one school in each block in the country to set standards of excellence that can be emulated. Higher education will receive massive investment in the 11th Plan with 30 new Central Universities, 370 new colleges in educationally backward districts, and expansion in the number of technical institutions with 8 new Indian Institutes of Technology, 20 new Indian Institutes of Information Technology, 7 new Indian Institutes of Management, and 2 more Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research in addition to the three started at Pune, Kolkata and Mohali. The National Skill Development Mission will ensure employability of our youth and address the skill deficit presently felt in some sectors of our economy.

The National Rural Health Mission has been expanding the public health infrastructure and services in the rural areas of our country. So far 1.38 lakh sub centres, 22,669 primary health centres, 3,947 community health centres and 540 district hospitals have been supported with resources under this Mission. Nearly 5 lakh ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists) and Link Health Workers are now in position in our villages. Rural sanitation coverage has improved significantly from 22 per cent of rural households in 2001 to about 50 per cent today through enhanced peoples' participation incentivised by the *Nirmal Gram Puraskar*.

Bharat Nirman has sought to connect rural India to growth opportunities through connectivity to roads, electricity and telephones. From 2005 till the end of 2007, 17,000 habitations have been connected by all weather roads, over 44,000 villages have been connected to electricity, 40 lakh houses have been constructed for the rural poor, 2 lakh habitations have been provided drinking water supply and more than 36 lakh hectares have been provided irrigation. During this period the target for telephone connectivity to all the villages has almost been met, with only 14,000 villages remaining to be connected as of December 2007. Rural tele-density has improved dramatically.

The Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission has been widely welcomed by the States and cities covered by it. Projects worth Rs. 25,287 crore are under implementation in 51 cities across 26 States. Under its Basic Services component, more than 8 lakh houses have been sanctioned for the urban poor. The Central Government will promote affordable Housing through the National Housing and Habitat Policy.

Rapid modernization and development of our infrastructure have been a priority for my Government. Various measures, including the

allotment of coal blocks with the capacity to support 68,000 MW of power generation have been taken already. Nine sites have been identified in nine States for setting up coal-based Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPP) with capacity of 4,000 MW each, and work has started on the Sasan and Mundhra projects. Modern and environment friendly technology will be used in these plants. Units 3 and 4 of the Tarapur Atomic Power Station, India's first 540 MW e-nuclear power plant, were dedicated to the Nation in 2007, constituting a major milestone in our indigenous nuclear power programme.

Required policy initiatives are being taken to promote investment for the development of all sources of energy including hydro-power, other renewable energy and nuclear energy. National Policies on bio-fuels and renewable energy are being finalized. The Chief Ministers' Conference on Power Sector endorsed various initiatives aimed at capacity addition, economic pricing and power sector reform.

My Government has placed great emphasis on enhancing energy security through rapid exploration of domestic oil and gas reserves, combined with acquisitions abroad. Significant oil and gas reserves have been discovered in 15 blocks. The first commercial production of Coal Bed Methane began recently, and the first deepwater natural gas production will also commence in this year. Another 57 blocks are being offered through international competitive bidding under National Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)-VII. Our oil companies are actively acquiring blocks overseas. The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Authority has been made operational. The Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology has been set up to meet the shortfall of trained technical manpower in the petroleum sector.

A new Coal Distribution Policy has been notified to meet the full requirements of the defence, railway, power and fertilizer sectors. The increase of over 20 per cent in the royalty on coal and lignite will benefit the producing States. A new Mineral Policy, which will greatly expand the investment and employment opportunities in mining, is under finalisation.

The six-laning of 6,500 kms of existing National Highways has been approved. Under National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) Phase VI, 1000 kms of fully access controlled expressways will be constructed. Government has also approved widening and improvement of National and State highways in the North-Eastern region to ensure better connectivity to all the 85 district headquarters in the region. The traffic handled by the major ports has increased by

over 13 per cent in the current year. With the approval of the new Model Concession Agreement for private sector participation in the major ports and revised guidelines for tariff setting for projects under the Public-Private Participation (PPP) model, investment in this sector is expected to get a fillip during the coming year.

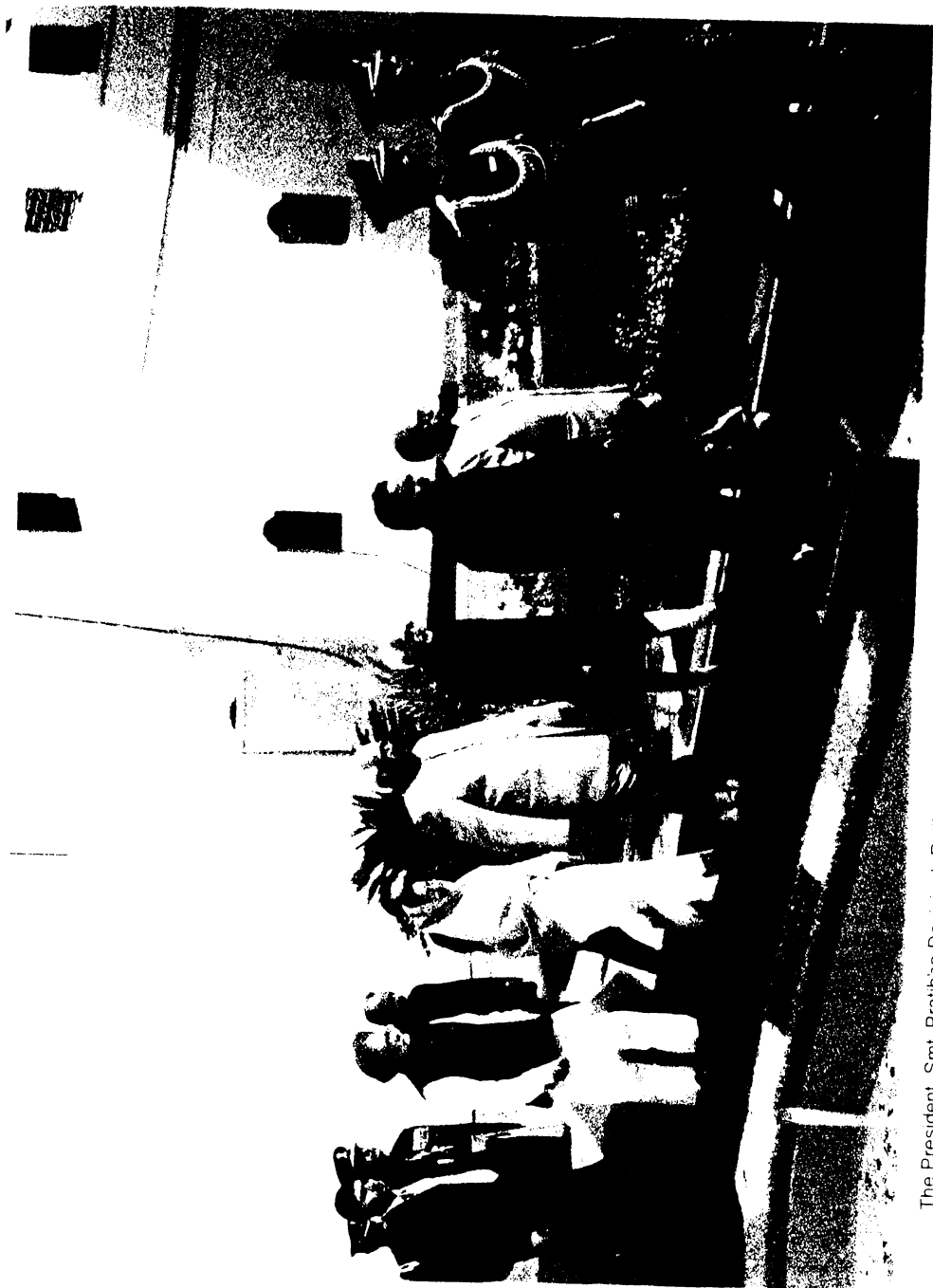
My Government has achieved a major turnaround in the financial and technical performance of the Indian Railways. To further improve rail connectivity and infrastructure development, 22 stations located at metropolitan centres and major tourist centres will be developed through the Public-Private-Partnership route. The Mumbai-Delhi-Kolkata Dedicated Freight Corridor will be a landmark in railway infrastructure, and will also support massive industrialization alongside.

The civil aviation sector is witnessing an unprecedented boom with both passenger and cargo traffic increasing at an exponential rate. Government has given priority to upgradation and modernization of Airport infrastructure and to increase availability of skilled personnel in the sector. New international airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad will be inaugurated this year. Construction of new terminals at New Delhi and other Metros is underway. Air connectivity to different parts of the country, including North-East has been increased.

The Indian telecom sector has emerged as the fastest growing in the world with the addition of over 7 million subscribers per month. A scheme has been launched to provide support for setting up and managing telecom infrastructure in rural areas to affordably and quickly expand mobile telecom services.

My Government has identified growth of electronics and IT hardware manufacturing as a thrust area. A special scheme has been announced to encourage semiconductor fabrication and other micro and nano technology manufacturing industries. The National-Governance Plan, to make Government transparent and citizen-friendly, is at an advanced stage of implementation all over the country. Use of information technology in about 13,000 district and subordinate courts across the country has been initiated. An Integrated National Knowledge Network to provide gigabit broadband connectivity will be set up to connect all institutions of higher learning and research in the country.

The climate for industrial development in our country continues to improve. To ensure that Indian industry generates more employment and becomes more globally competitive, Government has tasked the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council to suggest appropriate policies. The competitive position of Indian industry, especially in



The President, Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil arriving in procession to address members of Parliament on 25 February 2008

sectors like steel and metallurgy, textiles, automobiles and auto components, pharmaceuticals and bio-technology, petrochemicals and cement, is stronger than ever before. India's merchandise exports have shown a healthy annual growth at the rate of over 25 per cent from US \$ 84 billion in 2004-05 to US \$ 126.4 billion in 2006-07. A stable policy framework and continuous effort by the Government to reduce trade barriers and transaction costs have created a favourable environment for international trade.

My Government has placed great emphasis on ensuring a turnaround in the performance of our Public Sector Undertakings. Revival packages have been approved for more than 25 sick and loss making companies. The Net Profit of Central PSUs has shown a healthy growth of over 17 per cent last year. Profitability of public sector steel companies has gone up substantially from Rs.5,373 crore in 2003-04 to Rs.15,567 crore in 2006-07, energizing companies like Steel Authority of India Limited to go in for major expansion plans.

The Special Economic Zones promoted by Government have already provided direct employment to about 1,00,000 persons, with indirect employment estimated at twice as much. They have attracted investment of over Rs. 50,000 crore and are expected to generate exports of Rs.67,000 crore this year.

My Government is committed to the promotion of our Textile Industry. A technology mission on textiles will be implemented during the 11th Five Year Plan. Four Centres of excellence will be set up in key segments like Meditech, Geotech, Agritech and Buildtech. The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme has been extended for the 11th Plan.

My Government has taken various measures to promote Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. This sector is vital to employment generation, entrepreneurship development and balanced regional development, and Government will continue to provide financial, infrastructural and marketing support to it.

Government has placed great emphasis on science and technology development, substantially increasing financial support to S&T in the 11th Plan. A Nano Technology Mission has been launched.

The Indian space programme continued its march towards achieving self-reliance in space technology. The indigenously developed cryogenic upper stage of the GSLV was successfully tested on November 15, 2007. The INSAT-4CR, using our own Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle and INSAT-4B were both launched in 2007. Our space programme

has enabled us to extend tele-medicine, tele-education, tele-communications and other services both at home and abroad. A new Indian Institute of Space Technology has been established to build upon these successes. India's first unmanned Lunar Mission '*Chandrayan-I*' is scheduled for launch later this year.

My Government acted with urgency on the issue of climate change and set up a Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to plan and implement appropriate strategies for mitigating and adapting to climate change. A comprehensive National Action Plan on Climate Change is under preparation. India is willing to ensure that its per capita emissions shall at no time exceed the average per capita emissions of developed countries. At the Bali Conference on Climate Change, India constructively engaged with the international community to launch a comprehensive process on long-term cooperative action to deal with this issue in accordance with the provisions and principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The River Conservation Programme will be revamped to focus on cleaning of major rivers. An Earth Science Organisation Council has been created to guide policies of the newly created Ministry of Earth Sciences. A state of the art Tsunami Warning System has been commissioned.

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the First War of Indian Independence, the Red Fort was added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites. I am happy to note that the sacred "*Rigveda*" was included in the "Memory of the World" Register last year.

Government has focused on strengthening All India Radio and *Doordarshan* services in J&K and the North-East. The Urdu Channel of Doordarshan has commenced 24x7 services. Frequency Modulated Radio Channels have seen a huge expansion with 152 channels already operating and expected to grow to 266 soon. Community radio has been given a major boost through a new policy. The Indian Entertainment and Media industry including sectors like Print, Television, Radio, Film and Entertainment is witnessing a huge growth, contributing to large employment generation.

Tourism has high potential for generating both income and employment across the country. The "Incredible India" campaign has given a thrust to tourism in India, with foreign tourist arrivals touching 5 million for the first time. Foreign exchange earnings from tourism have touched US\$ 12 billion in 2007.

The overall internal security situation remains under control. My Government is fully alive to the threat of terrorism and Left-wing

extremism. The entire nation stood as one in condemning inhuman acts of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Assam. Government has been resolute in trying to stamp out Left-wing extremism. The Conference of Chief Ministers on Internal Security underscored the importance of Centre and the States working together to fight the menace of extremism and terrorism. Government is helping States affected by Left-wing extremism both on the internal security and the development and social empowerment fronts. Modernization of the police and security forces and of intelligence gathering systems is receiving high attention of Government.

In the face of extreme acts of violence against innocent people, including those near religious places, the people of India have stood as one in rejecting the politics of hatred. Their refusal to be provoked demonstrates once again the innate humanism of our people and their commitment to the unity and integrity of our nation, to our constitutional values of pluralism and secularism. It is largely due to this that an environment of communal harmony and amity prevails across the nation. My Government will remain ever vigilant against the machinations of any anti-social and anti-national groups seeking to disrupt law and order, communal harmony and the unity and integrity of our Republic.

My Government, working with the State Governments, is pursuing a multi-pronged strategy to ensure peace, normalcy and development in Jammu & Kashmir. The Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan is being implemented vigorously with focus on improving connectivity and infrastructure, including power, and generating employment. As part of this Plan a Housing Project for Kashmiri Migrants is under implementation in the State.

You are aware that my Government had held a series of Round Table Conferences with all segments of population in Jammu & Kashmir. These deliberations reflect a wide-ranging civic and political consensus on political and developmental issues. Government is working on a holistic approach aimed at confidence building amongst all sections of society, easier travel across the Line of Control, better governance and closer attention to the aspirations of the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Improving connectivity, expanding infrastructure and generating employment have been the focus of my Government's initiatives in the North Eastern Region. The North Eastern Council has been collaborating with the Airports Authority of India to upgrade 18 airports in the North Eastern Region. Greenfield Airports will be built in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The North Eastern Council has taken the initiative to establish

a dedicated airline for the region. Special Accelerated Roads Development Programme in North East (SARDP-NE), with a funding of Rs. 43,000 crore, has been formulated to construct, improve and widen roads in the region. A Trans-Arunachal Pradesh Highway will be constructed across the length of the State. A comprehensive plan for improving availability of power in the region is in the making. Broadband and wireless connectivity is being further enhanced to improve communications networks. New initiatives in education include setting up of new Universities and other institutions of national importance. Industrial development is being promoted through the North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy. Work on the Assam Gas Cracker Project, which will further contribute to the industrial development of the region, has started.

Government attaches great importance to the achievements of the People of Indian Origin in different parts of the world, and their contributions to the Nation. In recognition of their contributions, several initiatives have been taken up. The first People of Indian Origin University is on the anvil. To tap the resources of the Indian diaspora it has been decided to establish the Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of People of Indian Origin. To facilitate potential migrant workers and help those overseas workers who are in distress, an "Overseas Workers Resource Centre" and the "Council for Promotion of Overseas Employment" are being set up.

My Government has taken several steps to promote the modernization and welfare of our armed forces and ensure defence preparedness of the country. Our armed forces safeguard our frontiers, help in maintaining peace and security in insurgency affected areas and provide valuable aid to the civil authority in disaster management and in providing required relief and rehabilitation. The Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007, would provide a meaningful opportunity to service personnel for judicial review of the Court Martial decisions and grievances relating to service matters. The successful launch of Agni-III Missile and the induction of BrahMos Missile System into our armed forces constitute major milestones in the upgradation of our defence technology.

The foreign policy of my Government seeks to promote an environment of peace and stability in our region and in the world to facilitate accelerated socio-economic development and safeguard our national security. Government has made vigorous efforts to develop friendly and cooperative relations with all our neighbours and to strengthen engagement with major powers. Since the 14th SAARC summit in New Delhi in April 2007, India has made every effort to strengthen

SAARC, moving it from a declaratory to an implementation phase. Progress has been registered towards the establishment of the SAARC Development Fund, the South Asia University and the SAARC Food Bank.

Our goal remains a peaceful, stable and prosperous neighbourhood. India is committed to extending full support to Nepal's development during its political transition. India also stands ready to assist the Nepalese people's choices in the transition to a democratic, stable and prosperous State. As a close and friendly neighbour, India would prefer to see a peaceful, stable and liberal democratic Bangladesh. It is our hope that the people of Bangladesh will be able to exercise their will through free and fair elections for restoration of full democracy. There has been an unfortunate increase in violence in Sri Lanka. We are clear that there can be no military solution to the ethnic issue. It is necessary to find a negotiated political settlement within the framework of a united Sri Lanka that is acceptable to all sections of the society. We will continue to help Afghanistan in whatever manner we can in its reconstruction and in building a pluralistic and prosperous society. We are committed to peace, friendship and good neighbourly relations with Pakistan. A stable and prosperous Pakistan, at peace with itself, is in the interests of our entire region. When conditions permit, we will resume our dialogue process with Pakistan, aimed at building mutual confidence and resolving outstanding issues, premised on an atmosphere free from terror and violence. We hope that Myanmar's on-going national reconciliation and political reform process and the recognition of the need to expedite the process will make it more inclusive so as to ensure peaceful and stable democratization.

India attaches high importance to its bilateral relations with the People's Republic of China, with which we have a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. This partnership has been further enhanced and given a global dimension with the signing of a Shared Vision for the 21st Century during the visit of the Prime Minister to China last month. Peace and tranquillity have been maintained on our border with China and both countries are determined that this should continue.

My Government has made rapid improvements in our relationships with the major powers of the world. Our relations with the United States of America have improved in the past few years, and now span a wide spectrum including high technology, space, agriculture, education and trade and other linkages. It is our hope that civil nuclear cooperation with the USA and other friendly countries will become possible. Government

has been working to further develop the time-tested friendship with Russia. The visit of Prime Minister to Moscow in November 2007 contributed to further strengthening our strategic partnership with Russia. We attach importance to our relations with the member states of the EU individually as well as collectively. The 8th India-EU Summit was held in New Delhi in November 2007. Most recently Prime Minister of UK visited India and the President of France was the Chief Guest at our Republic Day.

Government has achieved significant progress in the implementation of its "Look East Policy" through participation in the implementation of its "Look East Policy" through participation in the ASEAN-India and the East Asia Summits in Singapore in November 2007. India continues to work with Japan to strengthen its partnership. India's increasing engagement with countries of Africa and Latin America received further impetus with the visit of the Prime Minister to Nigeria in October 2007 and the visits of the Presidents of Brazil and Mexico to India in 2007. Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the 2nd India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Summit held in Pretoria in October 2007. India will host the first India-Africa Forum Summit in April this year.

We have considerably enhanced our interactions with countries of the Gulf region that is home to over 4.5 million Indians and is an important economic partner and a major source for our oil and gas imports. The countries of West Asia have age-old links with India culturally and economically and are part of our extended neighbourhood. Developments in this vital region impact directly on our interests and security. India is keen on cooperating with these countries to promote peace and stability in the region. Government has been closely following events in Iraq and hopes that peace and stability would soon return in Iraq. Government has also supported a rejuvenated Israeli-Palestinian dialogue and looks forward to a peaceful resolution of issues leading to an independent State of Palestine living side by side at peace with its neighbours. Sadly, recent events in Gaza and the West Bank have caused deplorable misery and hardship to the people of Palestine. India will extend additional assistance to the Palestinian people and stands ready to help the peace process to move forward.

India has also been engaged with Central Asian countries in our extended neighbourhood to widen cooperation with them. As an Observer State, India participated in the Heads of State and Heads of Government meetings of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in August and November 2007, respectively. The India-Russia-China trilateral Foreign Ministers dialogue also continues to be productive.

India remains committed to universal, non-discriminatory and comprehensive nuclear disarmament as reflected in the Action Plan presented by the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and has called for renewed efforts for general and complete disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament.

To commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's birthday every year as the International Day of Non-Violence, India piloted a resolution in the UN General Assembly which was adopted by consensus. The First International Day of Non-Violence was observed at the UN on 2nd October 2007.

Government has played a constructive role in the Doha Development Round of WTO trade negotiations and carried forward negotiations for establishing trade and economic partnership agreements with important trading partners and regional groupings to create a better external economic environment for our growth. The negotiations on the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement are scheduled to be completed soon. India worked with the international community to address key global challenges such as terrorism, energy security, sustainable development and reform of the United Nations.

Honourable members, India is on the move. There is an air of optimism among our youth and of expectation among the less-privileged sections of the society. The challenge before us is to sustain the development process in the face of external and internal threats. The people of India have the potential to fuel the engine of global growth. My Government has been able to sustain historically high rates of growth through prudent and sound economic management. This has contributed to the stability of the growth process, and to predictability and transparency in the policy. This is reflected in the rising investment rate and in the buoyancy of tax revenues for both the Central and the State Governments. Your leadership can unleash the full potential of our people and ensure the stability and sustainability of our growth process. I sincerely hope, therefore, that the proceedings of the Parliament this year will be purposeful, peaceful and productive.

Today, more than ever before, the world watches this great hall of democracy with hope and expectation. Our ability to liberate millions of our people from poverty, ignorance and disease within the framework of an open society and an open economy has always had global significance. At a time when the democratic way of life has come under renewed pressure from the forces of intolerance, India's success as a plural, secular and inclusive democracy gives renewed hope to millions who are concerned about the rise of chauvinism, extremism and the ideologies of exclusion and hatred.

Honourable Members, each one of you must remember that as elected representatives of the people what you do, gives new hope not just to your own voters, but to all our people, and to all peace and freedom loving people in our region and around the world. Therefore, what you say and do in these hallowed portals of democracy will have a bearing not just on the destiny of our people but also on the future of democracy and free societies around the world. With these thoughts, I once again wish you well. *Jai Hind !*

**ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA,
SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE AT THE 19TH
CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING
OFFICERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH,
LONDON, 3 JANUARY 2008**

The 19th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) was held from 2 to 6 January 2008 at London, UK. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee was the lead Speaker on the theme 'Privileges and Right of Reply'. During the Conference, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee was elected Chairperson of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth for a period of two years till 2010. Also, India will be hosting the 20th CSPOC at New Delhi in January 2010.

We reproduce below the text of the Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

— Editor

*Hon'ble Chairperson; Hon'ble Speakers and Presiding Officers;
Ladies and Gentlemen:*

I feel privileged to have been extended this opportunity to initiate the discussion on the theme 'Privileges and Right of Reply', at this Conference. Privileges associated with membership in people's representative bodies have been a subject of discussion in democracies across the world. Parliamentary democracy, that was adopted in India for governance after Independence in 1947, is based on the inalienable rights of the citizens to equality before the law. The framers of India's Constitution did not contemplate conferring any greater rights on the members of Parliament *vis-à-vis* ordinary citizens except that it was accepted that without an adaptive and self-sustaining body of privileges and immunities from interferences, the Legislatures as well as the members individually and collectively would not be able to discharge their functions properly.

Privileges of Parliament are granted to members in order that 'they may be able to perform their duties in Parliament without let or hindrance'. They do not discharge the members from their obligations to the society which apply to him or her as much and perhaps more closely in that capacity, as they apply to other subjects. Privileges of

Parliament do not place a member of Parliament on a footing different from that of an ordinary citizen in the matter of the application of laws unless there are good and sufficient reasons in the interest of Parliament itself to do so.

In article 105 of India's Constitution, the privilege of freedom of speech in Parliament and the immunity to members from 'any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given' by them in Parliament or any Committee thereof are specifically provided for. The article also provides that no person shall be liable to any proceedings in any court 'in respect of the publication by or under the authority of either House of Parliament of any report, paper, votes or proceedings.' In other respects, however, clause (3) of this article as originally enacted provided that 'the powers, privileges and immunities of each House of Parliament, and of the members and the committees of each House, shall be such as may from time to time be defined by the Parliament by law, and until so defined shall be those of the House of Commons of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and of its members and committees, at the commencement of this Constitution', namely 26 January 1950. No comprehensive law has so far been passed by the Indian Parliament to define the powers, privileges and immunities of each House, and of the members and the committees thereof and in the absence of any such law, they continue to remain in actual practice the same as those of the House of Commons, U.K., and of its members and committees, at the time of the commencement of our Constitution. After its amendment in 1978, India's Constitution provides that the powers and privileges and immunities of each House of Parliament and of the members shall be, apart from freedom of speech, those as may be provided in law or as may have been in existence before the amendment.

Next only to the privilege and immunity of free speech within the House, the most important privilege of the House is the right of the House to regulate its own procedure, free from intervention by the Government or the Courts. This has been stated to be 'the exclusive cognizance rule' from the earliest time. The House retains the right to be the sole judge of the lawfulness of its own proceedings and to settle or depart from its own codes of procedure.

Immunity to a member from any proceedings in any Court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in the Parliament or any committee thereof, is an important privilege that goes with most representative institutions across the world. In addition to this, in India, each House also enjoys certain consequential powers necessary

for the protection of its privileges and immunities. These powers are: to commit persons whether they are members or not, for breach of privilege or contempt of the House; to compel the attendance of witnesses and to send for persons, papers and records; to regulate its procedure and the conduct of its business; members or officers of the House cannot be compelled to give evidence or to produce documents in Courts of law relating to the proceedings of the House without the permission of the Speaker; right of the House to receive immediate information of the arrest, detention, conviction, imprisonment and release of a member; exemption of a member from service of legal process and arrest within the precincts of the House and prohibition of disclosure of the proceedings or decision of a secret sitting of the House.

The power of the House to punish any person who commits a contempt of the House or a breach of any of its privileges is the most important privilege. Our Parliament is sovereign within the limits assigned to it by the Constitution. In the matter of judging the validity of its proceedings, the House has exclusive jurisdiction. Our Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, *inter alia* state, 'The House is not responsible to any external authority for following the procedure it lays down for itself, and it may depart from that procedure at its own discretion.' Articles 122 and 212 of India's Constitution state that the validity of any proceedings in Parliament shall not be called in question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure.

The question whether the Judiciary can interfere in matters of Parliamentary privileges or not has been examined by the Indian Judiciary at different points of time in different situations and it has been recognized that a House of Parliament or a State Legislature is the sole authority to judge as to whether or not there has been a breach of privilege in a particular case. It has also held that the power of the House to commit for contempt is identical with that of the House of Commons and that a Court of law would be incompetent to scrutinize the exercise of that power.

The Supreme Court of India, in a landmark judgment in 1970, (in the case of *Tej Kiran Jain vs. N. Sanjiva Reddy*) reiterated the immunity of parliamentary proceedings from judicial interference in the following words:

The article [105(2)] confers immunity *inter alia* in respect of 'anything said ... in Parliament', the word 'anything' is of the widest import and is equivalent to 'everything'. The only limitation arises from the words 'in Parliament' which means during the

sittings of Parliament and in the course of business of Parliament... . What they say is only subject to the discipline of the rules of Parliament, the good sense of the members and the control of proceedings by the Speaker. The court have no say in the matter and should really have none.

These observations of the Indian Court, largely reflected the views expressed in the celebrated and leading case on this point in *Bradlaugh vs. Gosset* (1883-84, QBD 271, 273-274, 278-86). In this case it was held that 'The House of Commons is not subject to the control of courts in that part of the statute law which has relation to its internal procedure only. What is said or done within its walls cannot be inquired into in a court of law'.

Lord Coleridge C.J. observed thus:

The jurisdiction of the Houses over their own members, their right to discipline within their walls, is absolute and exclusive. To use the words of Lord Ellenborough, 'They would sink into utter contempt and inefficiency without it'.

Stephen J. said:

I think that the House of Commons is not subject to the control of Her Majesty's Courts in its administration of that part of the statute law which has relation to its own internal proceedings, and that the use of such actual force as may be necessary to carry into effect such a resolution as the one before us is justifiable.

The only purpose and justification for these privileges is that the representatives of the people should be enabled to discharge their responsibilities and duties to the people effectively and efficiently without any fear or favour and without any obstruction or hindrance.

Our Parliament has not yet enacted any law to define the powers, privileges and immunities of each House, and of members and the committees thereof. In fact, the matter has been considered from time to time at the Conferences of Presiding Officers of our Legislative Bodies and various other fora. The main argument against the demand for codification is that parliamentary privileges are an integral part of the Constitution and, therefore, they belong to what is known as the 'fundamental law'. As the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has held, the provisions of article 105(3) emanate from constitutional laws and not ordinary laws made by the Parliament or the State Legislatures and they are, therefore, as supreme as the provisions of Part III, which deals with the fundamental rights available to the citizens. It is

also agreed that the parliamentary power to punish for contempt is more or less akin and analogous to the power given to the Courts to punish for their contempt. Besides, it is felt that once these privileges are codified, the Legislature's power to put in place a new privilege or adapt the existing ones will be curtailed substantially. All the same, considering the seriousness of the matter and consistent demands from various quarters, I have referred the issue of codification of parliamentary privileges and related matters for the consideration of the Committee of Privileges of the House of the People, which is now seized of the matter.

As in the case of contempt of court, our Parliament also acts as the prosecuting as well as the adjudicating authority in contempt proceedings. Though the Rules of Procedure do not make provisions for giving opportunity to the person who is alleged to have committed an act of contempt for being heard before proceedings are finalized against him or her, in practice, we do allow, following the basic principles of natural justice, such persons to make submissions in their defence, before the Committee of Privileges.

As conferment of powers, privileges and immunities to individual members is for the efficient discharge of their duties and functions as the members of the Legislature, for proper discharge of his or her functions a member has to act in an exemplary manner consistent with his position as the people's representative and he or she is necessarily obliged to conform to the highest standards of behaviour and decorum. The 'privileged position' of a legislator does not confer on him or her any licence in the discharge of his or her functions, in a manner inconsistent with the provisions of law or proper norms of behaviour. A legislator should be a role model and as such should not misuse his or her powers and privileges, both within and outside the House. The Legislature concerned has the right to take action against any erring member for acts of impropriety or misdemeanor being inconsistent with the privilege of a member and even to terminate his or her membership of the House by way of expulsion.

Recently, the House of People in India had the unfortunate experience of taking action against several of its members for acts of impropriety in the discharge of their duties and functions. As the Speaker, I appointed a Committee consisting of members of different political parties in the House to look into the complaints against the members concerned. The Committee went into the matter in great detail and after giving full opportunity to the members concerned held them guilty of misconduct. On such finding, the House passed a resolution for

their expulsion, which decision was subsequently challenged by them before the Supreme Court of India, which, after elaborate hearing, upheld the right of the House of People to expel its members. Thus, a member enjoys privileges and immunities only so long as he or she conducts in a manner consistent with the duties and obligations of an elected representative and can lose the membership of the House if he or she commits breaches of the same. This example also emphasizes the importance of the rights and privileges of the House as a whole in the matters of the discharge of its onerous duties and functions as an elected body.

While speaking of parliamentary privileges, the pre-eminence of Parliament in our parliamentary polity and the privileges extended to its members, I would like to emphasize that the various provisions of our Constitution set out the philosophy of separation of powers along with a well laid out scheme of checks and balances. The Constitution defines clearly the respective jurisdictions and mutual relationship among the different organs of State in intent, purpose and area of activities.

Separation of powers with the system of checks and balances is one of the most characteristic features of our constitutional scheme. Our institutions of governance have been intentionally founded on the principle of separation of powers as a bulwark against tyranny of any or more organs of the State and the Constitution does not give any unfettered power to any organ and all the three principal organs are expected to work in harmony. Parliament exercises political and financial control over the Executive, and there are inherent checks and balances to keep every organ within the limits of constitutional power. Commenting on the nature of separation of powers delineated by our Constitution, one of our most eminent Judges, the Hon'ble Chief Justice B.K. Mukherjea, in the Supreme Court, in *Ram Jawaya Kapur vs. State of Punjab* (AIR 1955 SC 549), observed: 'Our Constitution does not contemplate assumption, by one organ or part of the State, of functions that essentially belong to another.'

The Legislature has been accorded a pre-eminent position in our constitutional and political set-up, with power *inter alia*, to make laws, to exercise control over the nation's purse, to make the Executive accountable to the popular House, and when considered necessary, also to amend the Constitution. But obviously the Legislature has to function within the parameters laid down by the Constitution.

The framers of our Constitution took infinite care to provide for an independent and impartial Judiciary as the interpreter of the Constitution

and as the custodian of the rights of the citizens through the process of judicial review, which gives the mandate to the Judiciary to interpret the laws but not to make them, nor to lay down general norms of behaviour for the government or to decide upon public policy. The scope of judicial review is confined to the enquiry 'as to whether an impugned legislation or an executive action falls within the competence of the Legislature or of the Executive authority or is consistent with the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution or with its other mandatory provisions.

One of our most eminent Judges, Chief Justice, S.R. Das, in the famous case of A.K. Gopalan vs. State of Madras (1950 SCR 88) made it very clear and I quote:

Although our Constitution has imposed some limitations ... [it] has left our Parliament and the State Legislature supreme in their respective legislative fields. In the main, subject to limitations ... our Constitution has preferred the supremacy of the Legislature to that of the Judiciary... and the Court has no authority to question the wisdom or policy of the law duly made by the appropriate Legislature ... and this is a basic fact which the Court must not overlook. (unquote)

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has itself construed that the concept of Separation of Powers is a 'basic feature' of the Constitution. Each organ of the State has separate areas of functioning, into which no other organ can enter or intervene, unless permitted by the Constitution itself, and if it so does, it will be contrary to one of the 'basic features' of our Constitution.

There have been occasional disputes between the Legislature and the Judiciary on different issues. In recent years, however, we have witnessed several instances when parliamentarians and legislators have pointed out that the Judiciary has been encroaching into the legislative and executive domain. The judicial overreach has come in for criticism even from some learned Judges as well as from some eminent members of the legal fraternity, who felt that in the name of judicial activism, the Judiciary was tending to upset the fine constitutional balance which envisaged harmonious relations among the organs of State. As the Speaker of Lok Sabha, I have reiterated Parliament's pre-eminence in the constitutional scheme and in one instance, had to direct my Secretariat not to accept a notice which was issued by the Court. In fact, the subject of Legislature – Judiciary relationship was deliberated in the Conferences of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India where we, while reiterating our stated position on

harmonious relations, stressed the need for each organ to scrupulously operate within its constitutional jurisdiction. Recently in December 2007, the Lok Sabha held a structured debate on the issue of and need for harmonious relationship among the Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary.

Fellow Presiding Officers, as regards the question whether there should be a Right of Reply, Parliaments across the world have upheld the convention that no allegation shall be made against a person who is not present in the House to defend himself.

Some Commonwealth countries have introduced a 'right of reply' scheme to provide a form of redress for persons who believe their names have been unfairly taken in Parliament. The schemes involve a procedure whereby such a person has an opportunity to have response by him incorporated into the parliamentary record. In most Commonwealth schemes, the procedure does not involve the privileges committee deciding the truth of the statements made in the House or in the citizen's submission. The procedure was adopted first in the Australian Senate in 1988, and later, modelled on it, in the Parliament of New South Wales and in the Legislative Assemblies of Queensland, Western Australia, and the Australian Capital Territory. Recently, New Zealand has adopted a similar system.

The Indian situation comes close to the UK's practice. I understand that the Procedure Committee of UK's House of Commons, while recognizing the advantages of a system which proved 'a clear and relatively uncomplicated method for an aggrieved person ... to secure a rebuttal which enjoys something approaching the same prominence as the original allegation' and thought it 'might conceivably deter some members from making wholly unfounded remarks damaging to individuals, without formally proscribing their right to do so', was not convinced of the need to follow the Australian practice in this regard.

The Joint Committee of the Houses of Parliament, UK, (1998-99) regarding parliamentary privileges, after studying the Australian practice and after considering the merit of the proposal in detail came to the conclusion that the introduction of such a system of right of reply was not necessary in UK. The Committee felt that the 'introduction in this country [UK] of such a novel form of parliamentary procedure would suffer from the drawback of raising expectations that could not be fulfilled. Simply to publish the text of any reply would mean that the truth or falsity of the criticism would not be established. No financial redress would be forthcoming. The statement itself, even if published in Hansard, would not necessarily attract publicity matching the original

comments. Moreover, as a matter of principle, statements by non-members ought not, in any event, to have the benefit of the absolute privilege accorded to the official record of parliamentary proceedings.' It further added, 'When attacks are made, it is not the case that individuals have no right to respond at all. They are not precluded from defending themselves robustly outside Parliament, and the media are ever watchful over members' conduct.' Therefore, the Joint Committee concluded that, 'taken cumulatively, for the Westminster Parliament the drawbacks of a right of reply scheme outweigh the advantages' and accordingly recommended that a right of reply scheme should not be adopted.

In our country, the legislative intent behind the provisions of article 105 is that speech and actions in the Parliament may be said to be unquestioned and free; however, this freedom does not extend to any unrestricted license of speech on the floor of the House. Similarly, our Rules of Procedure and Directions by the Speaker have provisions to check unsubstantiated allegations and derogatory references by the members and expunction of unparliamentary expressions. For example, the Speaker may, at any time, prohibit a member from making any allegation if he is of the opinion that such allegation is derogatory to the dignity of the House or that it does not serve any public interest. Rule 353 of the Rules of Procedure provides that no allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a member against any person unless the member has given adequate advance notice to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply.

The crux of the matter is that a member should be fully responsible while making an allegation and he has to satisfy himself that the source is reliable and allegation is based on facts. In effect, he is required to make *prima facie* investigation into the matter before he writes to the Speaker or the Minister, and more so before he speaks in the House. I would like to add that the Chair may also *suo motu* object to the allegations being made where these are made without following the prescribed procedure. In appropriate cases, the member may be asked to withdraw them or the Chair may, in exceptional cases, even order the expunction of the allegations from the proceedings.

As regards complaints and imputations against Ministers and members, when both the member who made the allegations and the member or the Minister against whom those allegations have been made stick to their respective versions and are prepared for an inquiry

being held by the Speaker, they may be asked to adduce such evidence as may be in their possession in support of their statements. Similarly, as a convention, when a member makes an allegation in the House against a Minister or a member without giving advance notice, provisions of the rule on the subject are invoked and the member is called to order, and where any such allegations have gone on record, the Minister or member concerned against whom allegations have been made is allowed, if he so requests, to make a statement in the House clarifying the position either on the same day or later on and that brings the matter to an end.

It may also be mentioned here that where allegations are made in the House against a particular political party, the leader or the Chief Whip of the Party or Group in the House is permitted to make a statement in regard thereto. The member desiring to make the personal explanation is, however, required first to submit to the Speaker the text of the statement to be made by him. He can make the statement if the Speaker, after going through the statement, accords him the permission.

As I mentioned earlier, as a rule, our Presiding Officers do not permit making of casual allegations against persons who are not present in the House to defend themselves. Whenever a citizen feels aggrieved that his name has been brought in debate with a view to slandering, defaming or criticizing him, he may write to the member concerned giving him facts with a request to make necessary corrections in the House. He may also write to the Minister concerned giving him all the facts and the Minister may, after such investigations as he deems fit, make a statement in the House clarifying the position. While the Minister can refute the allegation made in the House by a member against an outsider, he cannot read the statement furnished to him by the individual. The aggrieved person can also make a representation to the Committee of Petitions of the House placing all the facts before it, and the Committee, after examining the case in all its aspects, may make a report to the House. It is open to the House to take such further action as it deems fit. An aggrieved citizen can also make a factual statement in the Press or circulate it to members of Parliament for their information. Where a public servant feels aggrieved by anything said in the House, he may, through proper channel, bring to the notice of the Minister concerned whatever he has to say in this regard. Thereafter, the Minister, if he considers it necessary, may, with the previous permission of the Speaker, make a statement in the House.

Thus, on the one hand, our parliamentary system provides for freedom of speech to the legislators while, on the other, it ensures that members themselves should conduct with a sense of responsibility while making charges and allegations against those who cannot defend themselves on the floor of the House. Even though we have not incorporated the right of reply in our parliamentary system, we have ample mechanisms to make sure that the citizens can bring to the notice of the representative bodies their position in respect of the allegations made against them. The various provisions that I have mentioned work as a deterrent against unsubstantiated allegations being made against any one. I am sure the distinguished Presiding Officers from Australia, as also from other Commonwealth Parliaments where they have provided for right of reply, will inform us of the procedure in this regard and how they have worked in practice during the discussions.

Excellencies, I am confident that the discussions to follow will give us a deeper insight into the varied dimensions of this important theme.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA,
SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE AT THE
VALEDICTORY SESSION OF THE 14TH ALL INDIA
WHIPS CONFERENCE, MUMBAI, 5 FEBRUARY 2008**

The 14th All India Whips Conference was held at Mumbai on 4 and 5 February 2008. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee delivered the Valedictory Address at the Conference on 5 February 2008.

Below we reproduce the text of the Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

—Editor

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting; Distinguished Whips in Parliament and the State Legislatures; Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to be in the midst of the distinguished gathering of Whips of our Parliament and of the State Legislatures. I am thankful to Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, for his invitation to address this Valedictory Session of your Conference. I convey my greetings and good wishes to all of you for the efforts that all of you are making, representing the different parties and groups in Parliament and the State Legislatures, to make our representative bodies functional, so that they are able to discharge their duties in a manner consistent with the obligations imposed on them by our Constitution and the people. I am sure the deliberations that have taken place during the Conference on various agenda items would go a long way in reinforcing and enriching the edifice of our parliamentary democracy.

I understand that the Conference deliberated in detail on the recommendations of the Thirteenth All India Whips' Conference held in Hyderabad in 2005. Some of the recommendations pertaining to subjects like, the duration and sittings of the Parliament and the State Legislatures, constituting of the Consultative Committees, implementation of assurances; maintenance of Quorum in the House, among others, are of crucial importance for the effective and smooth functioning of our democratic system. I trust that you have had meaningful discussions on all these issues.

Friends, the democratic form of Government has been acknowledged to be the most successful scheme of governance throughout the world, primarily because of the representative character of its institutions and of their pre-eminent position in the governance structure. No one in our country has suggested any substitute to parliamentary democracy, as our Constitution has provided, nor is there any better system for us. Thus, the elected representatives who represent the will and the aspirations of the people in the highest Legislative Bodies, must spare no effort to ensure that the responsibilities entrusted to them are fulfilled in fullest measure.

The smooth and orderly conduct of the business of our Legislative Bodies is necessarily of great significance. Dignified conduct of the members of our Legislatures, both inside and outside the Chambers, is a pre-requisite for the success of parliamentary democracy. I understand that one of the important issues that came up before the Conference was about the frequent disruptions in both the Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures. On many occasions, interruptions lead to pandemonium, with members coming to the well of the House, shouting slogans, even indulging in physical attacks, interrupting others from speaking and totally disregarding, if not even deliberately insulting, the Chair, causing forced adjournment of the scheduled business resulting in loss of the precious time of the House, which subverts the very process of the functioning of our Legislatures, thereby, undermining people's faith in them.

Very often, the Question Hour too is disrupted; the significance of the Question Hour lies in the fact that it is a crucial tool in ensuring Executive accountability to the Legislature which is the cardinal principle of the parliamentary system of government. Since the Question Hour is also the source of the most authentic information in respect of many policies and programmes approved by the legislators themselves, it becomes the responsibility of all the members to safeguard the sanctity of the Question Hour for the effective functioning of our parliamentary system.

In recent years, the issue of discipline and decorum in our Legislatures has been deliberated on different occasions in various fora. The All India Conference of Presiding Officers, Leaders of Parties, Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs, Whips, Parliamentarians and Legislators on 'Discipline and Decorum in the Parliament and State Legislatures' held in September 1992, had resolved that the political parties should evolve a code of conduct for their legislators and ensure its observance by them. We had reiterated our commitment to preserve and enhance

the prestige of our representative bodies at the Special Session of Parliament held to mark the Golden Jubilee of our Independence in August 1997. At the 64th Conference of Presiding Officers held at Chandigarh in June 2001, we had in-depth deliberations on the need to evolve a code of conduct for the legislators and steps to contain frequent adjournment of the Legislatures on account of interruptions. Another All-India Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies, Chief Ministers, Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs and Leaders and Whips of Parties, convened in November 2001 in New Delhi, also deliberated on the issue. After I assumed the Office of the Speaker in June 2004, I had convened two meetings of leaders of all the political parties in Parliament first in November 2004, and again as recently as in August 2007, to discuss this very important issue.

All of us, as stakeholders in our parliamentary polity, should be greatly concerned about the falling standards of parliamentary behaviour. As we all well know, scenes of unruly conduct attracts adverse public comments and we cannot lose sight of the fact that the loss of people's faith can damage our democratic polity. All of us must acknowledge that disturbances and forced adjournments should never be used as tools for articulating concerns on issues, howsoever grave they be.

A recent study has indicated that till the 11th Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, 21 per cent of the precious parliamentary time had been lost due to disruptions. With each minute of parliamentary time costing the public exchequer to the tune of about Rs.26,000/- such disruptions result in the mindless wastage of taxpayer's money and do a great disservice to the country and to its democratic order. To address this colossal waste, as the Speaker of Lok Sabha, I meet Leaders of Political Parties in Parliament before each Session, to seek their cooperation for the smooth conduct of the House and to facilitate amicable resolution of situations of stalemate and impasse.

Being the custodians of the interests of the entire nation, the conduct of the legislators has to be exemplary and must conform to the highest democratic traditions. Our Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha provide norms of ethical behaviour for the members. There is now a greater need to safeguard ethical standards in public life which underscores the greater relevance of effective Ethics Committees in our Legislatures for ensuring good and responsive behaviour of the legislators.

Friends, coalitions seem to be the order of the day in many democracies, including ours and at present, our polity is going through

a coalition era. We have at the Centre a coalition Government representing various political parties. In the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, we have 36 political parties representing different ideologies and varying shades of political opinion. In such a scenario, we must appreciate the crucial role which Chief Whips and Whips will have to play in making the Legislative Bodies work smoothly and successfully. The role of Whips assumes considerable importance in the matter of arriving at a consensus or in coordinating, the decisions of the different parties on major issues of national importance. In fact, it is recognized that the Chief Whips are the eyes and ears of the leaders of the party. Several of our States as in Lok Sabha have a large number of political parties represented in their Legislatures. In such a scenario, it is highly beneficial that the Whips of political parties meet periodically and make a review of their roles and responsibilities and strive together to strengthen democracy and our parliamentary institutions.

I find that one of the important items on the Agenda for consideration was about devoting a full day in a week exclusively for general discussion on issues raised by the members. What is of utmost import in this regard is that the given parliamentary time is utilized to the fullest. Practices and procedures are not and should not be static and stagnant, just as democracy and its institutions are constantly in a process of evolution. Parliamentary institutions and its procedures should evolve depending on the emerging situations and evolving conditions. Presiding Officers and Whips of Parties in particular should all endeavour to streamline the practices and procedures followed in our Legislative Bodies.

I fully concede the need for extending technological support for our legislators in the discharge of their important function. Considering the demand on their time from varied quarters, legislators cannot find adequate time to garner information on diverse subjects which come up for discussion in the Chambers and the Committees. Our Legislative Bodies should strive to provide adequate support to the members in this regard.

We have in our Parliament the Members' Reference Service which provides factual, objective and latest information to the members within the time stipulated by them. The information requirements of members are assessed keeping in view their multiple functional roles as a legislator, as member of a Parliamentary Committee or of a Parliamentary Delegation visiting abroad or as a Delegate to an International Parliamentary Conference or a Seminar. The working of Parliamentary Committees can also be improved greatly by providing the right

research inputs. For an effective research or information support system, it is imperative to have a modern and reliable library. I would suggest to the State Legislatures, which do not have a good library, to take the initiative to have one. Report writing in the Committees is the other important area where requisite research and study support can be a handy tool for objective analysis of subjects under scrutiny.

To be of assistance to our legislators in being effective elected representatives, we have started a Lecture Series in Parliament to enable the members to benefit from the considered views of experts on issues of contemporary parliamentary or national importance. Such Lectures have proved to be highly useful as they provide a sound insight to our parliamentarians into different topical issues of national concern.

I would also like to refer to the Parliamentary Forums, which we have set up in 2004-05, to provide a platform for exchange of ideas on issues and developments in some of the critical areas so as to equip the members with more information and specialized knowledge. I am sure, by providing such research and study support, we shall be enabling the members to discuss and raise those issues more effectively on the floor of the House and in turn we would get more meaningful inputs in policy formulations from our elected representatives.

To make available, objective and reliable information and authoritative data on a continuous and regular basis to the parliamentarians, a large number of index-based database of information is made available on the Parliament of India Home Page. Now, with the provision of computers to the members, offices of political parties and officers of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats, the dissemination of up-to-date information has become quicker and that too without involving much paper work. Many State Legislatures have already followed suit and I hope many more will make full use of the application of information technology in their day-to-day functioning.

Over the last few years in Parliament we have developed the Standing Committee System, which by and large is working very satisfactorily. I am happy that the Committees are doing extremely useful work and the most important fact is that the system is strengthening our democratic functioning of the parliamentary set-up. As we have all noticed, the reports of the several committees are mostly unanimous which shows a non-partisan approach being taken by the members in the discharge of their functions in the Committees. Except for the purpose of converting Ordinances into Bills and except in extremely special circumstances, all the Bills introduced in each House of

Parliament are referred to the Standing Committee for consideration and report and it has been noticed that the Government by and large accept the changes proposed by the Committee. I hope this attitude pervades in the functioning of our Parliamentary System as a whole, which will make it more meaningful, more effective and a true representative Institution of the People.

We are proud to belong to the largest working parliamentary democracy in the world. Our democratic heritage has given us sustenance not only since Independence but even from the days of Emperor Ashoka the Great and it is well-known in history that the basic democratic tenets were scrupulously followed by the former rulers in great measure. That principle continued throughout the Moghul period and during the days of Akbar, we have information about regular interaction between the Emperor and the people through which the Emperor kept himself informed about the problems faced by the people and about their needs. We are proud to be part of that heritage. It is our duty to strengthen and make it more functional. With a view to acquaint our members as well as our citizens of the development of the democratic ethos in our country which has been followed for centuries, we have now in our Parliament Complex, a Parliament Museum, which has started functioning from 14 August 2006 and was inaugurated by the then *Rashtrapati* Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, depicting the evolution of democratic principles in our country, with many things presented through the multi-media.

Parliament Museum is now acclaimed for providing exciting presentation of our past heritage and includes all the requisite information about our struggle for freedom, about the repression by the foreign rulers, about the great leadership provided by the Father of the Nation and other leaders and how our country achieved its Independence and also about the functioning of our democratic institutions like the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and also other organs of the State, namely, the Judiciary and the Executive. We are proud to provide such information through the Parliament Museum to the people of the country and I am happy to inform you that a large number of children and also visitors from abroad have seen the Museum and acclaimed it as one of the most well-organized and impressive ones. I would invite all of you to visit the Museum whenever you are in Delhi. It remains open five days (from Tuesday to Saturday) in a week throughout the year.

We have also introduced the Lok Sabha Television for faithful reporting about whatever transpires in the Chamber of Lok Sabha. It was felt that for strengthening parliamentary democracy it is essential

that the people of the country at large, who have constituted the Lok Sabha by electing their representatives as members, should have the right to know what was happening inside the House, how the members were behaving, what laws were passed, what issues were discussed, amongst other things. We have regular stream or visitors, who face considerable inconvenience these days to come inside the House to see the proceedings from the visitor's gallery. In view of the interest of the citizens of the country to know what is happening inside the House, we have in fact extended the visitors' gallery to the whole country and now people can see through the LS TV the Lok Sabha proceedings in full, if they so choose. During the time when there is no Session or the House is not working, very important programmes are organized to highlight the issues and problems faced by the people and to find out solutions therefore through discussion on important issues and to present exhilarating cultural shows and I am happy to inform you that the Channel is becoming more and more popular. It is a matter indeed of pride that since its inauguration in July 2006 it has been able to attract the attention of the people of the country generally. It is pertinent to mention here that it is the only such parliamentary television channel in the world, totally and independently managed by the Parliament itself.

I am extremely grateful to the Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni for introducing the relevant amendment in the Cable Network law of our country and making it mandatory for all the cable operators to make available the Lok Sabha TV Channel in their network.

I feel that, in view of the fact that the people of this country are entitled to know what is happening in the Parliament and that nothing should be kept out of the reach of the people generally, except matters of high security of the gravest nature, we are enjoined by our Constitution to function openly. Now that the proceedings of the Parliament are being telecast and people come to know of the same through the electronic media, my request to all the Hon'ble members, particularly the Chairmen of the Committees, is to allow the proceedings to be open at least to the media, so that a very substantial part of the functioning of the Parliament can be made available to the people. Earlier, I had mooted this proposal before a meeting of the Hon'ble Chairmen of different Standing Committees but at that time my proposal did not meet with general approval. I would request the Chief Whips and Whips of different Parties to persuade their Parties and the Chairmen belonging to different Parties and Groups, to allow media

coverage of the proceedings of the Committees, of course subject to the discretion of the respective Chairman. In my view, this will bring Parliament nearer to the people, who elect the members. This system is in vogue in countries like the U.K., U.S.A. and others.

Friends, all of us, owe a duty to our nation to uphold and strengthen parliamentary democracy. Our only connection with Parliament is as representatives of the people. We can justify our presence in the House for our actions or inactions by the role we play inside the House and also outside. I sincerely feel that all the members of Parliament and Legislatures should be role-models. It is their duty to dedicate themselves to the service of the people and sincerely and seriously try to uphold the basic postulates of democratic behaviour and to serve the people. Both, those in the Government or supporting the Government and also in the Opposition, should conduct themselves in a manner which strengthen the great edifice of a democratic State. We should not indulge in anything which invites people's contempt, ridicule or opprobrium. Therefore, I earnestly appeal to all and the Whips in particular that we should justify the faith that the people have shown in their elected representatives for serving the cause of the people generally.

I feel the leaders and members of different parties should identify some important issues as national issues having considerable bearing on the lives of the people and the affairs of the nation and it is my appeal to the Whips of all the Parties to arrive at a consensus to select some such issues, and to find time to discuss the same for finding out solutions, without any attitude of confrontation based on partisan consideration.

Hon'ble Whips, ours is the largest democracy in the world and our Legislative Bodies are required to play a key role in shaping the destiny of the nation. Our Legislatures symbolize the urges, aspirations and expectations of our people and have varied roles to play. Besides law-making, they are responsible for keeping a constant watch over the administration, for debating policies and subjects of public importance and for giving expression to people's grievances. As such, the success and effectiveness of these deliberative bodies greatly depend on their orderly functioning and also on the adherence to the highest standards of discipline, dignity and decorum. I solicit cooperation and support from all of you, who are Chief Whips and Whips, for the smooth running of our Legislative Bodies and for better management of their precious time. I am confident that the deliberations at this Conference will prove to be immensely productive and purposeful for all of us.

I would like to take this opportunity to heartily compliment the Hon'ble Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information & Broadcasting and also the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on successfully organising this Fourteenth All India Whips' Conference. I trust that this Conference will be an important step, among other things, towards ensuring decorum and discipline and smooth conduct of proceedings in our Legislative Bodies and thereby in helping to enhance our people's respect for democratic institutions in our country.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA,
SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE AT THE
ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR THE MEMBERS
OF THE GUJARAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
GANDHINAGAR, 2 MARCH 2008**

An Orientation Programme for the members of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 29 February to 2 March 2008. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee addressed the members of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly at the Valedictory Session of the Orientation Programme on 2 March 2008.

We reproduce below the text of the Valedictory Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

—Editor

Hon'ble speaker; Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat; Hon'ble Ministers; Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition; Hon'ble Deputy Speaker; Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly; Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a matter of great pleasure and an honour for me to be amidst you all and to have the opportunity to address you at the Valedictory Session of the Orientation Programme organised by your Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training, named after one of my most illustrious predecessors in the office of Speaker, Lok Sabha, the late Dadasaheb Mavalankar. The vision, farsightedness and sense of history with which he guided the destiny of the Legislative Wing of our Constituent Assembly and later of the First Lok Sabha still remain the guiding spirit for all those who were later bestowed the opportunity to preside over the House of the People. I pay my respectful homage to his memory as also to the memory of Sri Vithalbhai Patel, another distinguished son of this great State, who also contributed significantly to the evolution and growth of democratic institutions in the country.

I also extend my hearty greetings and felicitations to all of you on your election as members of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Speaker for his kind invitation to me to be here today and for the opportunity to meet you all and to associate myself

with this programme. I am sure, the Orientation Programme has been a highly rewarding experience for all of you.

Under our system of governance, the representative institutions at different levels are at the centre of our democratic structure. The extent of the effectiveness and efficiency with which the Legislature functions depends on how seriously each one of the Hon'ble members discharges his or her legislative work and how they conduct themselves as legislators. To be an effective legislator calls for various personal attributes on a member's part—commitment, knowledge, hard work and capacity to utilize available opportunities in the House are among them. Members are required to have impeccable character, great courage and virtuous conduct.

It is, no doubt, a great honour to be elected by the people to represent them in the Legislature. But the importance of being a representative of the people is not about the powers and privileges that go with it. It is essentially about the enormity of the responsibility you all are called upon to discharge as their representatives. It is no doubt, a very demanding and challenging job. It is as challenging as each one of you take it to be. A member of the Legislature has to perform a wide variety of roles and discharge several functions, both inside and outside the House. How successful a legislator is, depends ultimately on how well he or she is able to categorise priorities and then fulfil his or her obligations to the satisfaction of all concerned with sincerity and efficiency.

To my mind when one files a nomination paper in an election, be it for Parliament or the State Assembly, one implicitly gives an undertaking to the electorate that if elected, he or she will sincerely endeavour to be their worthy representative and will serve the cause of the people and the nation honestly and to the best of his or her ability. When the voters cast their votes, they express their hopes and aspirations that through the electoral process, the country will make progress and that the peoples' problems will be solved by their representatives.

Our Constitution places the Assembly at the centre of governance in the State which becomes the primary instrument of socio-economic change for all the people of the State. Membership of the House does not make the elected representative a superior class of person but rather he only places himself at the service of the people.

The members must constantly relate to their electorates and should be responsive to their problems and concerns. A member is

the link between the people, the Legislature and the Government. Gandhiji once said, and I quote:

It is an illusion to think that the MLAs are the guides of the voters. Voters do not send representatives to the Assemblies in order to be guided by them. On the contrary, they are sent there loyally to carry out the people's wishes. The people are, therefore, the guides, not the MLAs. The latter are servants, the former masters. Unquote.

Once elected, you not only represent those who have seemingly voted for you but your entire constituency. Of course, the legislators as members of political Parties are guided by their respective Party's manifesto and policies, but there are a large number of issues of development and public welfare on which, in my view, the Hon'ble members should work jointly for the benefit of the people, the State and the country. They have to ensure that the fruits of development reach every segment of the population, particularly to the socially and economically marginalized sections.

A legislator's performance in the House depends on how seriously he identifies various social and economic requirements of his constituents and how forcefully he articulates them on the floor of the House. He or she needn't be an expert on all subjects or even on any subject but a certain level of general awareness is expected of a member and an in-depth knowledge of the subjects on which the member speaks will certainly help in making contributions more effective. Developing some degree of expertise in subjects of a member's choice should be pursued from the beginning.

It is essential for members to be well conversant with the Rules and Procedure of the House regarding conduct of business. Rules provide a number of procedural devices to the members to raise various issues in the House. Only when members get well acquainted with the Rules of Procedure do they get the confidence to participate in the proceedings of the House and their participation becomes effective and meaningful.

The primary purpose of all parliamentary procedures and devices is to help reinforce the concept of accountability of the Executive to the people's representative body. Traditionally, in every Legislature, the members look forward to the Question Hour with great deal of interest, as the opportunity to raise question also provides you with the opportunity to obtain assurances from the Ministers regarding various developmental projects in your constituencies, which you are

expected to pursue in normal course. Of late, I find that the growing confrontational politics takes the upper hand, often provoking a demand for the suspension of the Question Hour, to raise issues which could very well be raised later in the day without sacrificing the Question Hour.

It is one of the important privileges of a legislator to ask questions to the Executive and thereby hold the Executive accountable for its actions and inactions. This opportunity should not be lost by the members, as Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, a great Parliamentarian, has always said.

In addition to the business of the House, legislators get ample opportunities to participate effectively in the Committees. The Committee work offers scope for positive and meaningful contribution to a serious and sincere member. Membership of the Committees calls for some degree of specialisation among members in areas of interest to them. Work in the Committees can also help them in developing expertise and proficiency in the techniques of inquiry into the complex working of the Government Departments. Therefore, members should fully involve themselves in the Committee work, and I can assure you, from my own long years of association with various Committees, both as a member and as Chairman, that the experience in Committees will be highly satisfying and rewarding.

I would suggest to the new members that it is always helpful to observe the performance of the senior legislators in the House to learn how to speak on different subjects and be able to utilize the rules for ventilating the grievances of the people. Regular attendance is of immense importance. Even if you are not able to participate, it is always advisable to remain present in the House and watch the performance of well-known and leading members, as also to keep you aware of the proceedings in the House.

A member should not attempt to speak on every subject that comes up before the House. They should try to develop some kind of subject specialization, so that they will be in a better position to make meaningful contribution on the floor of the House. I would also like to advise my friends here that they should make a distinction between a speech on the floor of the House and a political speech on a public platform. A speech in the House should be focused, should be supported by facts and figures, should throw more light on the issues being discussed and should be guided by public interest. It should be the endeavour of every legislator to ensure that the content and the

quality of debates that take place in the chambers should be of a high order and deal with the concerns of the people.

The imperative of maintaining discipline and decorum in the House and the observance of rules, conventions and etiquette can hardly be over-emphasized. It is important to remember that parliamentary practices, procedures and conventions are all meant to provide for the orderly and expeditious transaction of business.

The Opposition, undoubtedly, has a vital role to play in any parliamentary democracy. As a matter of fact, parliamentary system operates better when there is a vigilant and responsible Opposition. It is entitled to articulate its programmes and policies as is the Government, but when issues having a bearing on the larger interests of the State come up, it is expected that the House as a whole act in a non-partisan manner.

Dissent, no doubt, is a recognized democratic expression, but it should be expressed within the parameters of parliamentary devices and decorum. Parliamentary democracy is based on the premise that the minority accepts the decisions of the majority while the majority respects the views of the minority. Incidents of unruly behaviour by members and disruption of proceedings of the House have unfortunately increased in recent years. This not only leads to loss of precious time of the House, but also lowers the image of parliamentary institutions in the eyes of our people. And it is ultimately the Opposition, which loses valuable opportunity and time which could be utilized for espousing their views and exposing what they would call, the Government's failures. Only when the House functions smoothly, do you get the maximum opportunity to contribute to the proceedings and thereby make your own mark as a member within the House.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, in one of his renowned expositions in the Lok Sabha, had observed:

Parliamentary democracy demands many virtues. It demands a certain devotion to work. But it demands also a large measure of cooperation, of self-discipline, of self-restraint. It is obvious that a House like this cannot perform any functions without a spirit of cooperation, without a large measure of restraint and self-discipline in each group.

An important quality required in a legislator is the habit of listening. Your willingness to listen to the others' point of view, especially that of your opponents, is the best test-case for your own democratic credentials. You should listen to others' views without interruption and

Gujarat Legislative Assembly, for the opportunity provided to me to share my thoughts with you today.

I would also like to compliment the State Legislative Assembly Secretariat and the G.V. Mavalankar Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training of your Assembly for organizing this Orientation Programme.

Thank you.

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

The 19th Conference of Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers (CSPOC) in London, UK: The 19th Conference of the Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers (CSPOC) was held in London, United Kingdom from 2 to 6 January 2008. The Conference was attended by the delegation headed by Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker, Lok Sabha. Shri P.D.T. Achary, Secretary General, Lok Sabha and Shri V.K. Agnihotri, Secretary General, Rajya Sabha attended the Conference as Observers.

During the Conference, the workshops were held on the following topics:

- Privileges and the Right of Reply,
- Keeping Order and Fostering Decorum,
- Standards and Ethics for Parliamentarians, and
- Parliament's Relations with the Public

The Speaker, Lok Sabha delivered the Keynote Address on the topic "Privileges and Right of Reply". At the end of the Conference, the Speaker, Lok Sabha was elected the Chairperson of the CSPOC for 2008 to 2010. Shri Chatterjee invited the Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers for the next CSPO Conference to be held at New Delhi in 2010.

The Third Meeting of the Regional Secretaries in London, UK: The Third Meeting of the CPA Regional Secretaries was held in London from 7 to 8 January 2008. Shri D.R. Kalra, the then Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat represented Secretary-General, Lok Sabha & CPA Regional Secretary, Shri P.D.T. Achary at the meeting. During the meeting the following topics were deliberated upon:

- CPA Structure;
- CPA Communications;

- CPA Finance; and
- CPA Activities

CPA UK Branch Conference on "Tackling Drugs, Changing Communities—Challenges for Parliamentarians" in London: The CPA UK Branch Conference on "Tackling Drugs, Changing Communities—Challenges for Parliamentarians" was held in London from 3 to 8 February 2008. The Conference gave a platform to the participants to highlight vital topics of drug trafficking, reducing supply, treatment rehabilitation, intervention and education. The Conference was attended by Smt. Panabaka Lakshmi, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare and Smt. Yashodhara Raje Scindia, MP (Lok Sabha).

The opening Plenary during the Conference was held on 'Tackling Drugs: An International Perspective and Current Measures; Challenges for Parliamentarians'. Thereafter, discussions were held on the following topics:

- Social and Economic Implications for Our Communities;
- Trafficking: Controlling Supply and Reducing Availability;
- Treating Drug Misuse;
- Treatment and Crime, Tackling Drug use in the Developing World;
- Education to Reduce Supply; and
- Role of the Media.

CPA Workshop of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Secretariats of South Asia in Colombo: The World Bank, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association & Sri Lankan Parliament organized a South Asian Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Secretariats Workshop in Colombo from 18 to 20 February 2008. The nomination of three officers associated with the functioning of the PAC were sought for the Workshop. Accordingly, officers from the Lok Sabha Secretariat associated with PAC attended the Workshop.

The objectives of the Workshop were to provide a platform to the participants to share information about their working, work experiences, best practices amongst themselves and to keep themselves abreast of the changing standards. The Workshop also aimed at identifying major gaps in comparison with the international best practices to develop a result-based approach and to explore the possibility of establishing a PAC Secretariat network to strengthen the system.

The 57th Seminar of CPA UK Branch on 'Parliamentary Practice and Procedure': The 57th Parliamentary Seminar on Practice and Procedure was held at Westminster Hall, House of Parliament, London from 4 to 14 March 2008. The Seminar entailed an intensive study for members well versed in parliamentary matters and likely to play a significant role in the future political process of their countries. The Seminar was attended by the three State CPA Branches of CPA India Region namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Interview by the Regional Selection Board in New Delhi for the post of Director (Finance & Administration), CPA Headquarter, London: On 20 March 2008, the Regional Selection Board interviewed five candidates short-listed from amongst the applicants for the post of Director (Finance & Administration) CPA Headquarter, London. Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy, Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly was the Chairman of the Selection Board. The other members of the Selection Board were: Shri K. Radhakrishnan, Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly and Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo, M.P., Lok Sabha. Shri P.D.T. Achary, Secretary General, Lok Sabha & Regional Secretary, CPA India Region was associated with the process as Secretary to the Regional Selection Board. The interviews were conducted in the Parliament Library Building, New Delhi.

Parliament Museum: As the readers are aware, the Parliament Museum was inaugurated on 14 August 2006 in the Parliament Library Building. The Museum is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on all weekdays, except Sunday, Monday and Government holidays.

During the period 1 January to 31 March 2008, a total of 6,747 visitors visited the Parliament Museum. Apart from general visitors, these included 2,330 students from 27 schools all over the country and 673 Government officials, staff and college students. Besides, a number of members of Parliament, former members of Parliament, members of State Legislatures, foreign dignitaries / delegations visited the Museum. The visitors showed keen interest in the Museum Souvenir shop where a number of items ranging from pen sets to brass flower vase with the logo of Parliament Museum are available on sale at moderate prices.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organized

under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat in both Hindi and English are brought out on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period from 1 January to 31 March 2008:

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a function was held on 23 January 2008 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi; members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Lala Lajpat Rai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, a function was held on 28 January 2008 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Suresh Pachauri; members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Smt. Sarojini Naidu: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Smt. Sarojini Naidu, a function was held on 13 February 2008. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Banking Division), Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Shri Morarji Desai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Morarji Desai, a function was held on 29 February 2008 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri B.K. Handique; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Banking Division), Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Dr. Rammanohar Lohia: On the occasion of the birth anniversary

of Dr. Rammanohar Lohia, a function was held on 23 March 2008. The Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; former Union Ministers; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

Indian Parliamentary Delegations Going Abroad

Cuba: A 13-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee visited Cuba from 6 to 10 January 2008. The other members of the Delegation were: Shri Anant Geete, Dr. Sujana Chakraborty, Smt. M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, Shri Kanjibhai Patel, Dr. Barun Mukherjee, all members of Parliament and Shri P.D.T. Achary, Secretary General, Lok Sabha. Shri S. Bal Sekhar, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

Foreign Parliamentary Delegations Visiting India

Sweden: A 10-member Parliamentary Delegation from Sweden led by Mr. Per Westerberg, Speaker of the *Riksdag* (Swedish Parliament) visited India from 24 to 29 February 2008.

On 25 February 2008, the Delegation called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a banquet in honour of the visiting Delegation the same evening.

On 26 February 2008, the Delegation called on the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information & Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Kolkata.

The Slovak Republic: A 24-member Parliamentary Delegation from the Slovak Republic led by Mr. Pavol Paska, Speaker of the National Council of Slovak Republic visited India from 10 to 14 March 2008.

On 10 March 2008, the Delegation called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; and the Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a banquet in honour of the visiting Delegation the same evening.

On 11 March 2008, the Delegation called on the Leader of the House, Lok Sabha and the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra and Chennai.

MEETINGS OF PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

India-China: A meeting of the India-China Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Shri Anil Basu, MP and President of the Group with the visiting China-India Parliamentary Friendship Group of the National People's Congress headed by Mr. Jia Zhijie, Chairman of the Group was held on 4 January 2008. The meeting was followed by a dinner hosted by the President of India-China Parliamentary Friendship Group in honour of the visiting Delegation.

India-Kuwait: A meeting of India-Kuwait Parliamentary Friendship Group led by Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid, MP and President of the Group with the visiting Kuwait-India Parliamentary Friendship Group of the National Assembly of the State of Kuwait headed by Dr. Zaifullah Bormiah, Chairman of the Friendship Group was held on 11 March 2008. The meeting was followed by a dinner hosted by the President of the India-Kuwait Parliamentary Friendship Group in honour of the visiting delegation.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES & TRAINING

During the period 1 January 2008 to 31 March 2008, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) organized the following courses/programmes:

Lecture Series: As part of the Lecture Series for Members of Parliament, a Lecture on 'Development of a Global Conscience leading to a further Understanding of the Human Right to Peace' by Mr. Douglas Roche, eminent Canadian parliamentarian, diplomat and author, was organized on 13 March 2008.

At another function, jointly organized by the Parliamentary Forum on Youth and the BPST, on 14 March, the former Vice-President of the United States, Nobel Laureate and eminent environmental activist, H.E. Albert Arnold Gore, addressed the members of Parliament on *Climate Change*. Dr. R.K. Pachauri, the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which shared the Noble Prize for Peace 2007 with Mr. Al Gore, also spoke on the occasion.

Study Visits: During the period, the following Study Visits were organized: (i) Visit by three officers of the House of Representatives of Thailand from 18 to 26 February 2008; (ii) Visit by the Delegation led by Remy O. Itorong, Acting Speaker of Council of States of the Republic of Sudan, from 18 to 20 March 2008; and (iii) Visit by a Delegation from the French Advanced Armaments Studies College, on 19 March 2008. In addition, 15 Study Visits were conducted for the benefit of students / trainees / officers of various institutes / organizations. A total of 340 participants attended these visits.

Appreciation Courses: During the period, Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organized for: (i) Probationers of Indian Audit and Accounts Service and Indian Postal Service from 11 to 15 February 2008; (ii) Probationers of Indian Revenue Service from 3 to 7 March 2008; and (iii) Probationers of Indian Ordnance Factory Service and Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers from 10 to 14 March 2008.

Orientation Programme for Members of Legislative Assembly: An Orientation Programme for Members of the Legislative Assembly of Puducherry was organized from 12 to 14 March 2008.

Training Courses/Computer Training Programme: The following Training Programmes were organized during the period: (i) Training Course for the newly recruited Junior Library Assistants / Senior Library Assistants from 4 to 8 February 2008; and (ii) Computer Training Programme in Power Point Presentation for the officers of Lok Sabha Secretariat from 13 to 15 February 2008.

International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting: The 23rd International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting was organized from 11 January to 22 February 2008. The Programme was attended by 37 participants from 34 countries.

PRIVILEGE ISSUES

LOK SABHA

During the period (1 January 2008 to 31 March 2008), no sitting of the Committee on Ethics was held. The Committee of Privileges held four sittings on 18 January, 18 and 28 February and 18 March 2008, respectively. The Committee to Inquire into Misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha held 3 sittings on 22 January, 18 February and 19 March 2008, respectively.

I

Committee of Privileges

The Committee of Privileges at its sitting held on 18 January 2008 took up for consideration the matter regarding request by the Delhi Police for obtaining originals of certain documents pertaining to five members of the Lok Sabha in connection with investigation of a criminal case. The Committee examined Shri Madhup Kumar Tewari, DCP, Crime and Railways on oath. The Committee recommended that the option of the forensic experts taking photograph of requisite signatures of members from concerned originals in the precincts of the Lok Sabha Secretariat appeared to be more appropriate, as in such a case there would be no need to part with the original documents. The Committee also took up the matter regarding Parliamentary Privileges—Codification and other related matters.

The Committee at its sitting held on 18 February 2008, took up for consideration its draft Tenth Report. Thereafter, the Committee took up the matter regarding petition given by Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, Member and Leader of the Samajwadi Party in the Lok Sabha, under Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and rules thereunder, against Shri Beni Prasad Verma, MP.

The Committee also took up the matter regarding question of privilege given by the members of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly against Km. Mamata Banerjee, MP, for causing obstruction in the functioning of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly.

At its third sitting held on 28 February 2008, the Committee again took up for consideration the matter regarding the petition given by Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, MP, under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution

of India and Rules thereunder against Shri Beni Prasad Verma, MP. Thereafter, the Committee examined on oath the petitioner, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav.

The Committee at its sitting held on 18 March 2008 took up for consideration the draft report on Parliamentary Privileges—Codification and other related matters. The Committee authorised the Chairman to present the report to the Speaker.

II

Committee to Inquire into Misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha

At its sittings on 22 January and 18 February 2008, the Committee held further deliberations on the matter regarding “Various facets of misconduct and basic attributes of ‘Standards of Conduct / Behaviour expected of members’.” The Committee, after some deliberations directed the Lok Sabha Secretariat to draft the report on the matter.

At its sitting held on 19 March 2008, the Committee took up for consideration the draft Second Report on the matter “Various facets of misconduct and basic attributes of ‘Standards of Conduct / Behaviour expected of members’.” During deliberations, the Chairman proposed that a definition clause would be added to the ‘Code of Conduct for members of Lok Sabha’, as recommended in the Report. The Committee then authorised the Chairman to finalise and present the same to the Speaker.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Observation from the Chair regarding Disqualification of Members: Reference of Petition given under the Members of Lok Sabha (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 1985 to the Committee of Privileges for preliminary inquiry and Report:

On 13 March 2008, the Speaker made the following observation relating to the Petition filed by Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana for disqualification against a Indian National Congress member for voluntarily giving up membership of his original Party:—

“I have to inform the House that on 25 January 2008, Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana gave a petition under rule 6 of the Members of Lok Sabha (Disqualification on ground of Defection) Rules, 1985 against Shri Kuldeep Bishnoi praying that the member be declared to have incurred disqualification for being member of the House under paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution for having voluntarily given up membership of his original political party viz. Indian National Congress.

In terms of Rule 7(3) of the said Rules, I caused copy of the petition together with its annexures to be forwarded to the respondent and the leader of the Indian National Congress for furnishing comments in the matter.

After going through the comments and having regard to the nature and circumstance of the case, I have decided to refer the petition to the Committee of Privileges under 7(4) of the said Rules for making a preliminary inquiry and submitting a report to me.”

Instances when the Chair allowed members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 4 March 2008, during discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, the Chair permitted eleven members, Sarvashri Virendra Kumar, Harikewal Prasad, Chandramani Tripathi, Raghuraj Singh Shakya, Naveen Jindal, P.C. Thomas, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Shankhlal Majhi, Dr. Sebastian Paul, Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam, and Prof. K.M. Kader Mohideen to lay their written speeches and nine members, Sarvashri Shailendra Kumar,

Munshiram, Prahlad Venkatesh Joshi, Ratilal Kalidas Varma, Francis Fanthome, Ravi Prakash Verma, Ramdas Athawale, M.P. Veerendra Kumar and Dr. Thokchom Meinya to lay some portions of their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 5 March 2008, during combined discussion on Statutory Resolution regarding Disapproval of Railways (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008; Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2008; Railway Budget, 2008-2009; Demands for Grants on Account, 2008-2009; Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2007-2008; and Demands for Excess Grants, 2005-2006 for Railways, the Chair permitted two members, Sarvashri Sugrib Singh and Bikram Keshari Deo to lay their written speeches and four members, Sarvashri Harin Pathak, Raghunath Jha, Kailash Baitha and Ganesh Singh to lay some portions of their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 10 March 2008, during combined discussion on Statutory Resolution regarding Disapproval of Railways (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008; Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2008; Railway Budget, 2008-2009; Demands for Grants, 2008-2009; Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2007-2008; and Demands for Excess Grants, 2005-2006 for Railways, the Chair permitted fifty one members to lay their written speeches and twenty five members to lay some portions of their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 11 March 2008, during combined discussion on Statutory Resolution regarding Disapproval of Railways (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008; Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2008; Railway Budget, 2008-2009; Demands for Grants, 2008-2009; Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2007-2008; and Demands for Excess Grants, 2005-2006 for Railways; the Chair permitted sixteen members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On the same day, during combined discussion on Budget (General), 2008-2009; Demands for Grants for 2008-2009; Supplementary-II Demands for Grants, 2007-2008 for the State of Karnataka, the Chair permitted two members, Sarvashri M. Shivanna and Prahlad Venkatesh Joshi to lay some portions of their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 12 March 2008, during discussion on the Budget (General) for the year 2008-2009, the Chair permitted five members, Sarvashri Dahyabhai V. Patel, D. Vittal Rao, Ratilal Kalidas Varma, Dr. M. Jagannath, and Smt. Bhavana P. Gawali to lay their written speeches and one member, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra to lay some portion of his written speech on the Table of the House.

On 13 March 2008, during combined discussion on the Budget (General) for the year 2008-2009 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2007-2008, the Chair permitted thirty three members

to lay their written speeches and seven members to lay some portions of their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 14 March 2008, during combined discussion on the Budget (General) for the year 2008-2009 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 2007-2008, the Chair permitted twenty three members to lay their written speeches and five members to lay some portions of their written speeches on the Table of the House.

RAJYA SABHA

Announcement by the Chair regarding 'three-minute rule' for raising matters with permission: On 12 March 2008, the Deputy Chairman made the following announcement in the House:

"As decided in the Leaders' meeting convened by Honourable Chairman yesterday, from today onwards the three-minute rule will be implemented scrupulously for raising matters with permission. When a member is identified by the Chair to speak on a matter, the Large Screen Hall installed in the Chamber will display the name of the member who has been so identified. The electronic counter will display the time being consumed by the member and after three minutes, his or her mike will go off automatically."

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2008)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and, as such, the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

—Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Budget Session of Parliament: The First Part of the Thirteenth Session of Fourteenth Lok Sabha and the Two Hundred and Thirteenth Session of the Rajya Sabha (the Budget Session of Parliament) commenced on 25 February 2008 with the Address by the President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil to members of both the Houses assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned on 19 and 20 March 2008, respectively to enable the Departmentally-related Parliamentary Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments assigned to them and submit their reports to the House.

Lok Sabha By Election Results: On 2 January 2008, Smt. Meena Singh of the Janata Dal (United) and Shri Neeraj Shekhar of the Samajwadi Party were declared elected to the Lok Sabha from Bikramganj (Bihar) and Ballia (Uttar Pradesh), respectively, by elections to which were held on 29 December 2007. Both the elected members took oath/affirmation on 26 February 2008.

On 27 February 2008, Lt-Gen. (Retd.) T.P.S. Rawat of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) who was declared elected from Pauri Lok Sabha Constituency (Uttarakhand), in a by-election held on 24 February 2008, took oath/affirmation on 3 March 2008.

Election to Rajya Sabha: On 19 March 2008, Dr. Ejaz Ali of the Janata Dal (United) was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Bihar. His term commenced on 20 March 2008.

Resignation of Rajya Sabha Members: On 9 January 2008, Shri Suresh Bhardwaj, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member from Himachal Pradesh resigned from the membership of the House.

On 21 February 2008, Shri K. Natwar Singh resigned from the Rajya Sabha as well as from his party, the Indian National Congress.

On 27 March 2008, Shri N. Jothi, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) member from Tamil Nadu resigned from the membership of Rajya Sabha.

Disqualification of Rajya Sabha Members: On 24 March 2008, Shri T.R. Zeliang of the Nagaland People's Front was disqualified from being a member of the Rajya Sabha in pursuance of article 101(2) of the Constitution read with Rule 2 of the Simultaneous Membership Rule, 1950.

On 26 March 2008, Shri Jai Narain Prasad Nishad of the BJP from Bihar was disqualified from being a member of the Rajya Sabha under paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule.

Resignation of Lok Sabha Members: On 7 January 2008, Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal of the BJP resigned from his Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh) Lok Sabha Constituency.

On 3 March 2008, four members of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) from Andhra Pradesh resigned from the membership of the Lok Sabha. Those who resigned were Sarvashri T. Madhusudan Reddy (Adilabad); Vinod Kumar Boinapalli (Hanamkonda); Kalva Kuntla Chandrasekhara Rao (Karimnagar); and Ravinder Naik Dharavath (Warangal).

On 20 March 2008, Shri P.A. Sangma of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) resigned his membership from the Tura Lok Sabha Constituency (Meghalaya).

Death of Lok Sabha Member: On 20 February 2008, Shri Prakash Vishwanath Paranjpe, Shiv Sena member from Thane (Maharashtra) Lok Sabha constituency passed away.

Disqualification of Lok Sabha Members: On 27 January 2008, Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee disqualified three Bahujan Samaj Party members, elected to the 14th Lok Sabha, under the Anti-Defection Law.

Acting on complaints filed by Shri Rajesh Verma, BSP Leader in the House, on 2 April 2007, the Speaker, in three separate orders held that Sarvashri Bhalchandra Yadav (Khalilabad), Ramakant Yadav

(Azamgarh) and Mohammad Shahid Akhlaque (Meerut) incurred disqualification on account of voluntarily giving up their membership from the BSP party.

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

Resignation of 16 TRS MLAs, 3 MLCs: On 4 March 2008, 16 MLAs and three MLCs of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) submitted their resignations from the State Legislative Assembly and the State Legislative Council, respectively, accusing the ruling Congress of 'deceiving' the people of Telangana.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

New Governor: On 24 January 2008, General Joginder Jaswant Singh was appointed as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh. He was sworn in on 27 January 2008.

GOA

Merger of 'Save Goa Front' with Congress: On 21 January 2008, the *Save Goa Front*, which has two MLAs in the State Legislative Assembly, merged with the INC.

GUJARAT

Expansion of Cabinet: On 4 January 2008, Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi expanded his Council of Ministers.

The names of Ministers with their portfolios* is as follows: Shri Narendrabhai Damodardas Modi, Chief Minister, *General Administration Department, Planning and Administrative Reforms and Training, Mines, Energy, Petrochemicals, Ports, Information and Broadcasting, Science and Technology, Kalpasar, Sarvashri Vajubhai Vala, Finance, Labour and Employment; Narottambhai Trikamdas Patel, Panchayats, Rural Housing, Rural Development, Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Issues; Nitinkumar Ratilal Patel, Water Supply and Water Resources (Except Kalpasar), Urban Development and Urban Housing; Dilipbhai Sanghani, Agriculture, Co-operatives, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Cow Breeding; Fakirbhai Vaghela, Social Justice and Empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Socially and Economically Backward Classes,*

* As on 10 January 2008

Sports, Youth and Cultural Activities; Jayanarayan Narmadasankar Vyas, Health and Family Welfare, Tourism, Holy Places and Pilgrimage Development, Non-Resident Gujaratis, NGOs; Ramanlal Ishwarlal Vora, School Education, Higher and Technical Education; Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel, Tribal Development, Forest and Environment; and Smt. Anandiben Mafatbhai Patel, Revenue, Disaster Management, Roads and Buildings, Women and Child Welfare.

The names of Ministers of State with their portfolios are as follows: Sarvashri Amitbhai Anilchandra Shah, *Home, Transport, Police, Housing, Border Security, Jails, Prohibition, Home Guards, Rural Home Guards, Excise, Law and Justice, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs (Independent Charge); Saurabhbhai Patel, Civil Aviation, Cottage and Salt Industry, Industry, Mines, Minerals, Planning, Finance, Energy and Petrochemicals; Jaswantbhai Bhabhor, Tribal Development, Rural Development, Labour and Employment; Kiritsinh Rana, Forest and Environment; Purshottam Solanki, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Cow Breeding; Parbatbhai Patel, Water Supply, Co-operatives, Health and Family Welfare; Jaysinh Chauhan, Education (Primary and Secondary, Adult), Protocol; Vasantbhai Ahir, Welfare of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes; and Dr. Mayaben Kodnani, Women and Child Welfare, Higher Education.*

HARYANA

Suspension of Party MLAs: On 14 January 2008, the Indian National Congress suspended former Chief Minister, Shri Bhajan Lal and two MLAs—Sarvashri Dharam Pal Singh Mallik and Rakesh Kamboj—from the party for anti-party activities.

Disqualification of MLAs: On 13 March 2008, Vidhan Sabha Speaker Shri Raghubir Singh Kadian disqualified Sarvashri Dharam Pal Singh Mallik and Rakesh Kamboj from the State Legislative Assembly under the Anti-Defection Law.

On 25 March 2008, the Speaker disqualified Shri Bhajan Lal from the membership of the House under the Anti Defection Law.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Expansion of Cabinet: On 9 January 2008, Chief Minister Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal expanded his Council of Ministers.

The names of the Ministers with their portfolios* is as follows:

* As on 10 January 2008

Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal, Chief Minister, all the Departments which have not been allotted to any other Minister; Sarvashri Thakur Gulab Singh, *Public Works*; Ishwar Dass Dhiman, *Education*; J.P. Nadda, *Forest*; Ravinder Singh Ravi, *Irrigation and Public Health*; Kishan Kapoor, *Transport*; Narender Bragta, *Horticulture*; Ramesh Dhawala, *Food, Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs*; Dr. Rajeev Bindal, *Health and Family Welfare*; and Smt. Sarveen Chaudhari, *Social Justice and Empowerment Department*.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Expansion of Cabinet: On 1 January 2008, Chief Minister Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad inducted four new Ministers—two Cabinet Ministers and two Ministers of State into his Cabinet. Sarvashri Mula Ram and Abdul Gani Vakil were sworn in as the Cabinet Ministers while Sarvashri Gharu Ram and G.M. Saroori, took oath as Ministers of State.

MAHARASHTRA

Resignation of Governor: On 5 March 2008, Governor, Shri S.M. Krishna submitted his resignation to President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil.

MEGHALAYA

Assembly Election Results: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 3 March 2008. The party position following the elections is as follows: Total seats: 60; Indian National Congress (INC): 25; Nationalist Congress Party (NCP): 14; United Democratic Party (UDP): 11; Hill State People's Democratic Party (HSPDP): 2; BJP: 1; Khun Hynniewtrep National Awakening Movement (KHNAM): 1 and Independents: 5.

On 25 March 2008, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) won the Baghmara Assembly Constituency of Meghalaya and increased its tally in the 60-member Assembly to 15.

New Chief Minister: On 10 March 2008, Congress Legislature Party Leader Shri D.D. Lapang was sworn in as the Chief Minister of the new Congress-led Meghalaya United Alliance Government.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 12 March 2008, Chief Minister Shri D.D. Lapang inducted seven legislators including three Independents into his Council of Ministers.

Resignation of Chief Minister: On 19 March 2008, Chief Minister

Shri D.D. Lapang resigned, saying his Government has failed to secure a majority in the House. Shri Lapang was asked by the Governor to prove majority within 10 days.

New Ministry Sworn in: Following the resignation of Shri D.D. Lapang, the Meghalaya Progressive Alliance (MPA) [a coalition of UDP, NCP, HSPDP, BJP and KHNAM] leader Dr. Donkumar Roy of the UDP was sworn in as the Chief Minister. Along with him, the following six Ministers also took oath of office: Sarvashri A.L. Hek (BJP), Paul Lyngdoh (KHNAM), Conrad K. Sangma (NCP) and Dr. Adviser Pariong (HSPDP) and two Independents, Manas Choudhuri and Donkumar Masser.

NAGALAND

Imposition of Central Rule: On 3 January 2008, President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil signed the proclamation bringing Nagaland under the Central rule and putting the State Assembly under suspended animation.

Assembly Election Results: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 5 March 2008. The party position following the elections is as follows: Total seats: 60; Results declared: 59; Nagaland People's Front (NPF): 26; Indian National Congress (INC): 23; BJP: 2; Nationalist Congress Party (NCP): 2; and Independents: 6

New Chief Minister: On 12 March 2008, the Union Cabinet revoked President's Rule in Nagaland and thereafter the Leader of the Democratic Alliance of Nagaland (a coalition of NPF, NCP, BJP and an Independent) Shri Neiphiu Rio of the NPF was sworn-in as the Chief Minister.

Governor K Sankaranarayanan administered the oath of office and secrecy to 12 Ministers, including the Chief Minister Shri Neiphiu Rio.

The eleven Cabinet Ministers who took oath were: Sarvashri Shurhozelie (NPF), P. Longon (NPF), G. Kaito (NPF), Doshehe Y. Sema (NPF), M.C. Konyak (BJP), T.R. Zeliang (NPF), Imchen Ingkong (NPF), Kuozholuzo (NPF), Nyeiwan Konyak (NPF), Dr. Chunben Murri (NCP) and Dr. Ngyangshur Ao.

PUDUCHERRY

Resignation of Lieutenant Governor: On 13 March 2008, Shri Mukut Mithi resigned as the Lieutenant Governor. The President accepted his resignation and has given additional charge of the Union territory to Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Shri Bhupinder Singh.

PUNJAB

Death of MLA: On 14 February 2008, Shri Raminder Singh Bolaria, a sitting Shiromani Akali Dal MLA from Amritsar South died in USA where he had gone for treatment.

TRIPURA

Assembly Election Results: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 23 February 2008. The party position following the elections is as follows: Total seats: 60; Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M): 46; Indian National Congress (INC): 10; Communist Party of India (CPI): 1; Rashtriya Socialist Party (RSP): 2; and Independent: 1

Expansion of Cabinet: On 10 March 2008, a 11-member Ministry of the sixth (CPI-M)-led Left Front Government was sworn in.

The names of the Cabinet Ministers with their portfolios* are as follows: Shri Manik Sarkar, Chief Minister, *Elections, General Administration (excluding Printing & Stationery), Home (excluding Jail & Fire Service), Law (excluding PA), Planning, Education (Higher), Other departments not allocated to any Minister*; Sarvashri Anil Sarkar, *Higher Education, ICAT, Welfare of SC*; Agore Debbarma, *Agriculture, Tribal Welfare (Excl. TRP & PGP), Animal Resource Development*; Badal Choudhury, *Finance, Public Works, Revenue*; Tapan Chakraborty, *Education (School), Health, Law (Parliamentary Affairs), IT*; Manik Dey, *Power, Transport, Panchayat, Urban Development, Labour*; Jitendra Choudhury, *Rural Development (Excluding Panchayat), Industries and Commerce (Excluding IT), Forest*; Khagendra Jamatia, *Co-operation, Fisheries*; Joy Gobinda Debroy, *Science, Technology & Environment, Home (Fire Service), General Administration (Printing & Stationery)*; Manindra Reang, *Home (Jail), TRP & PGP*; and Smt. Bijita Nath, *Social Welfare & Social Education, Welfare of OBC*.

WEST BENGAL

By-Election Result: On 2 January 2008, Shri Bhuban Pramanik of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) was declared elected from Balagarh Assembly constituency, by-election for which was held on 29 December 2007.

EVENTS ABROAD**BARBADOS**

Election Results: The elections to the 30-member House of Assembly (the Lower Chamber of Parliament, the Bicameral Legislature) were held on 15 January 2008. The Opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) won 20 seats, while the ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP) secured 10 seats.

BHUTAN

Election Results: Elections to the 47-seat National Assembly (the Lower House of the Bicameral Legislature—formerly known as the *Tsogdu*) were held on 24 March 2008. The Bhutan Harmony Party (DPT) won 45 while the People's Democratic Party secured 2 seats.

CHILE

Election of New Upper House President: On 12 March 2008, Mr. Adolfo Zaldívar was elected as the President of the Senate (the Upper House of the Bicameral Legislature).

DJIBOUTI

Legislative Elections: Elections were held to the 65-seat Chamber of Deputies (the Unicameral Legislature) on 8 February 2008. The election was boycotted by the Opposition parties and the pro-Government coalition, the Union for a Presidential Majority (UMP), won all 65 seats.

On 26 March 2008, the President Mr. Ismael Omar Guelleh reappointed Dilleita Mohamed Dilleita as the Prime Minister.

GEORGIA

Election of President: Mr. Mikhail Saakashvili was elected to the post of President, elections to which were held on 5 January 2008.

ITALY

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 24 January 2008, Prime Minister Mr. Romano Prodi tendered his resignation to President Mr. Giorgio Napolitano after his ruling Centre-Left Union coalition lost a confidence vote in the Senate (the Upper House of the Bicameral Legislature).

MALAYSIA

Election Results: The elections to the 222-seat *Dewan Rakyat* (the

lower house of the bicameral federal legislature) were held on 8 March 2008. The party position following the elections is as follows: **Barisan National (BN-National Front): 140**; a coalition of United Malays National Organisation (UMNO): 79; Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA): 15; Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC): 3; Malaysian People's Movement Party (PGRM-Gerakan): 2; United Traditional Bumiputera Party (PPBB): 14; Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP): 6; Sarawak People's Party (PRS): 6; Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP): 4; Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS-United Sabah Party): 3; United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Organisation (UPKO): 4; Parti Maju Sabah (SAPP-Sabah Progressive Party): 2; Liberal Democrat Party (LDP): 1; Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS-United Sabah People's Party): 1; **Barisan Rakyat (BR-People's Front): 82**; a coalition of Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS): 23; People's Justice Party (PKR-Parti Keadilan Rakyat): 31; Democratic Action Party (DAP): 28.

MALTA

Election Results: The elections to the 65-seat House of Representatives (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 8 March 2008. The ruling Nationalist Party (PN), led by Prime Minister Mr. Lawrence Gonzi won 34 seats while the Opposition Labour Party (PLM) secured 31 seats.

MARSHALL ISLANDS

Election of New President: On 7 January 2008, 33-member *Nitijela* (the Unicameral Legislature) elected former Speaker Mr. Litokwa Tomeing as the new President.

MOLDOVA

New Prime Minister: On 19 March 2008, the Prime Minister Mr. Vasile Tarlev resigned from his post. On 21 March, the President Mr. Vladimir Voronin signed a decree nominating Ms. Zinaida Grecianii as Moldova's first woman Prime Minister.

PAKISTAN

Election Results: The elections to the 342-seat National Assembly (the lower house of the Bicameral Federal Legislature) were held on 18 February 2008. The party position following the elections is as follows: Results declared-336; Pakistan People's Party-Parliamentarians (PPP-P): 121; Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N): 91; Pakistan Muslim League-Qaid-i-Azam (PML-QA): 54; Mutahida Qaumi Movement (MQM): 25; Awami National Party (ANP): 13; Mutahida Majlis-i-Amal (United

Council for Action-MMA) [Only one party in the six-party group participated in the election, the Jamiat Ulema-I Islam-Fazlur (JUI-F)]: 6; Pakistan People's Party-Sherpao (PPP-S): 1; Pakistan Muslim League-Functional Group (PML-F): 5; National People's Party (NPP): 1; Baluchistan National Party-Awami (BNP-A): 1; and Independents: 18.

New Prime Minister: On 24 March 2008, the National Assembly elected Mr. Yousuf Raza Gillani of the PPP as the new Prime Minister.

RUSSIA

Election of President: Mr. Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev was elected to the post of President, election to which were held on 2 March 2008.

SOUTH KOREA

New Prime Minister: On 28 January 2008, President-elect Mr. Lee Myung Bak announced his nomination of Mr. Han Seung Soo, as his first Prime Minister.

SPAIN

Election Results: The elections to the 350-seat Congress of Deputies (the Lower House of the Bicameral Legislature) and 208-seat Senate were held on 9 March 2008.

The party position following the elections to 350-seat Congress of Deputies is as follows: Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE): 169; Popular Party (PP): 153; Convergence and Union (CiU): 11; Basque Nationalist Party (PNV): 6; Catalan Republican Left (ERC): 3; United Left (IU): 2; National Galician Bloc (BNG): 2; Canary Islands Coalition (CC): 2; Union, Progress, and Democracy (UPD or UpyD): 1; and Navarre Yes (NB): 1.

The party position following the elections to 208-seat Senate is as follows: Popular Party (PP): 101; Spanish Socialist Workers' Party: 88; Catalan Agreement of Progress (ECP): 12; Convergence and Union (CiU): 4; Basque Nationalist Party (PNV): 2; and Canary Islands Coalition (CC): 1.

THAILAND

New Prime Minister: On 28 January 2008, the House of Representatives (the Lower House of the Bicameral Legislature) elected Mr. Samak Sundaravej as the new Prime Minister.

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

The Parliament enacted the Delimitation Act, 2002 and under its provisions, a Delimitation Commission was set-up to readjust the division of each State and Union territory into territorial constituencies for the purpose of elections to the House of the People and to the State Legislative Assemblies on the basis of 2001 Census. The delimitation exercise in 25 States / Union territories has since been completed by the Delimitation Commission.

Some serious and very sensitive issues having impact even on the law and order situation in some parts of the country, came to the fore as the work of the Delimitation Commission progressed. The issues included, such as, shifting of constituencies, making reserved constituencies unreserved or *vice versa*; migration of people from tribal States to non-tribal States, migration of people in a State from rural areas to urban areas, etc. In the North-East States, even the census figures were questioned in courts as incomplete and defective.

With a view to reducing the adverse impact of the delimitation exercise, the Government considered and decided the following amendments in the Delimitation Act, 2002:

- (i) New section 10A may be added which should *inter alia* enable the President to defer delimitation exercise in a State in order to preserve and protect the national unity and integrity or where there was a serious threat to the peace and public order;
- (ii) Delimitation Commission's order made with respect to the State of Jharkhand may be nullified and to continue the existing delimitation orders until the year 2026 in respect to that State.

In view of the exigencies, it became necessary to promulgate an Ordinance to insert a suitable provision (section 10A) in the Delimitation Act, 2002 for the deferment of the delimitation exercise in the North-East States; and to take care of the situation obtaining in the State of Jharkhand to insert a new section 10B and a proviso to sub-section (4) of section 10 of the Act so as to reduce the adverse impacts of the delimitation.

As Parliament was not in session and the President was satisfied with the circumstances which rendered it necessary for her to take immediate action to take care of the situation in the North-East States and the Jharkhand by promulgation of the Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 on the 14 January 2008.

The Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008 which sought to replace the Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008, and achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 11 March

and 18 March 2008, respectively. It was assented to by the President on 28 March 2008.

Under the provisions of articles 82 and 170(3) of the Constitution, as amended by the Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Act, 2001, Parliament enacted the Delimitation Act, 2002. In terms of the provisions contained in the Delimitation Act, the Delimitation Commission was set up to readjust the division of each State and Union territory into territorial constituencies for the purpose of elections to the House of the People and to the State Legislative Assemblies on the basis of 2001 Census.

The Delimitation Commission has since completed the delimitation work in respect of 25 States/Union territories and accordingly issued final orders under sections 8 and 9 of the Delimitation Act. The Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 was promulgated on 14 January 2008, to insert new sections 10A and 10B in the Delimitation Act. Section 10A of the Delimitation Act empowered the President to defer delimitation exercise in a State in certain cases. In view of the prevailing conditions in the North-East States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland, four orders to defer the delimitation exercise in these States were issued by the President on 8 February 2008. Section 10B of the Delimitation Act had nullified the Delimitation Commission's orders issued with respect to the State of Jharkhand.

In view of above, in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Jharkhand, the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1976 would continue to apply. The final orders in respect of the remaining 24 States/Union territories (except the State of Jharkhand) were required to be brought into force as provided in the second proviso to article 82 and the second proviso to clause (3) of article 170 of the Constitution by specifying the date by the President, as to when the readjustments shall take effect. In pursuance of the above provisions, the Presidential Order had been issued on 19 February 2008 making delimitation orders issued by the Delimitation Commission under the Delimitation Act, effective from immediate effect in all the 22 States/Union territories except in the States of Tripura and Meghalaya in which case, the delimitation order shall take effect from 20 March 2008 after the elections to the Legislative Assemblies in these States were over on 19 March 2008.

The Representation of the People Act, 1950 (the RP Act) provided for the allocation of seats in and the delimitation of constituencies for the purpose of election to, the House of the People and the Legislatures of the States, preparation of electoral rolls, etc., and for matters connected therewith. The First Schedule and the Second Schedule to the said Act provided for allocation of seats in the House of the People and the total number of seats in the Legislative Assemblies alongwith the number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes therein. With the issuance of the Presidential Order specifying the date on which the delimitation orders notified by the Delimitation Commission should take effect, it was necessary to amend the relevant provisions and the First and the Second Schedule of the RP Act to reflect the changes made by the delimitation orders notified by the Delimitation Commission.

It was proposed to insert new section 8A in the RP Act, which would

enable the Election Commission to conduct delimitation exercise in the North-East States (where delimitation exercise had been deferred in the exigencies of the prevailing conditions), as soon as the conditions in these States become conducive to the conduct of delimitation work. Sections 8 and 9 of the RP Act were proposed to be amended to enable the Election Commission to consolidate the delimitation orders issued by the Delimitation Commission into a single Order by superceding the existing Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1976 having regard to sections 10A and 10B of the Delimitation Act, 2002.

The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2008 which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 11 March and 18 March 2008, respectively. It was assented to by the President on 28 March 2008.

The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 was enacted to provide for the establishment of a Broadcasting Corporation of India and it came into force on 15 September 1997. For the purpose of general superintendence, direction and management of the Corporation, sub-section (4) of section 3 of the said Act provided for constitution of a Prasar Bharati Board which exercised all such powers and does all such acts and things as were exercised or done by the Corporation under the Act. The said Act further provided under sub-section (5) of section 3 that among other members of the Board, there shall also be a Chairman who is also a Part-time member of the Board.

The Chairman held office for a term of six years from the date on which he entered upon his office. The Act did not provide for upper age limit for the Chairman as was stipulated for the whole-time members of the Board. A whole-time member of Prasar Bharati Board held office for a term of six years from the date on which he entered upon his office or until he attained the age of sixty-two years, whichever was earlier. There was already an upper-age limit cap for the Whole-time members namely, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Member, Member (Personnel) and Member (Finance). Therefore, it was felt that in the case of Chairman also an upper-age limit of seventy years might be fixed to ensure appointment of comparatively younger talent and experience. It was also felt that reducing the tenure of Chairman from the present six to three years would help to bring diversity of experience at the top level for the benefit of the organization. Similarly, a need was also being felt for change in the tenure and upper age limit of the Chief Executive Officer from six to five years and from sixty-two years to sixty-five years, respectively.

Since the Prasar Bharati had to compete with the private electronic media houses as well as had to achieve the social objectives entrusted upon it by the said Act of Parliament in letter and spirit, it was felt necessary to rationalize such matters in order to inject sectoral experience to rejuvenate Prasar Bharati and its Board by undertaking immediate legislation. Hence the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Ordinance, 2008 was promulgated by the President on the 7 February 2008. The Ordinance provided the following:

- i) Substitution of sub-section (1) of section 6 of the Prasar Bharati

(Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 which provided that the Chairman shall be part-time member and hold office for a term of three years or until he attained the age of seventy years. It further provided that any person holding office as a Chairman immediately before the commencement of the said Ordinance, would cease to hold the office as such Chairman, if his appointment was inconsistent with this sub-section and was not entitled to any compensation because of ceasing to hold such office;

- ii) Insertion of new sub-section (2A), after sub-section (2) of section 6 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, which provided that the Executive Member shall be a whole-time Member and would hold office for a term of five years or until he attained the age of sixty-five years. It further provided that any person holding office as an Executive Member immediately before the commencement of the said Ordinance, would cease to hold office as such Executive Member, if his appointment was inconsistent with this sub-section and would not be entitled to any compensation because of ceasing to hold such office.

The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill, 2008 which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 17 March and 18 March 2008, respectively. It was assented to by the President on 28 March 2008.

We reproduce here the texts of the above Acts.

—Editor

THE DELIMITATION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2008

An Act further to amend the Delimitation Act, 2002.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. Short title and commencement. (1) This Act may be called the Delimitation (Amendment) Act, 2008.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 14th day of January, 2008.

2. Amendment of section 10. In section 10 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act),—

- (i) in sub-section (4), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

“Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall apply to the delimitation orders published in relation to the State of Jharkhand.”;

- (ii) in sub-section (6), for the words “within two years of the constitution of the Commission”, the words “within a period not later than 31st day of July, 2008” shall be substituted.

3. Insertion of new sections 10A to 10B. After section 10 of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“10A. Deferment of delimitation in certain cases. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 4, 8 and 9, if the President is satisfied that a situation has arisen whereby the unity and integrity of India is threatened or there is a serious threat to the peace and public order, he may, by order, defer the delimitation exercise in a State.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid before each House of Parliament.

10B. Delimitation Commission's order with respect to the State of Jharkhand not to have any legal effect. Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2) of section 10, the final orders relating to readjustment of number of seats and delimitation of constituencies in respect of the State of Jharkhand published under the said section vide Order O.N. 63(E), dated 30th April, 2007 and O.N. 110(E), dated 17th August, 2007 shall have no legal effect and the delimitation of the constituencies as it stood before the publication of the said Orders shall continue to be in force until the year 2026 in relation to every election to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly, as the case may be, held after the commencement of the Delimitation (Amendment) Act, 2008.”.

4. Repeal and savings. (1) The Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of the principal Act, as amended by this Act.

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2008

*An Act further to amend the Representation
of the People Act, 1950.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. Short title and commencement. (1) This Act may be called the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2008.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint.

2. Amendment of section 4. In section 4 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), for sub-section (5), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

“(5) Save as provided in sub-section (4), the extent of all parliamentary constituencies except the parliamentary constituencies in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur and Nagaland shall be as determined by the orders of the Delimitation Commission made under the provisions of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and the extent of the parliamentary constituencies in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur and Nagaland shall be as provided for in the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 having regard to the provisions of sections 10A and 10B of the Delimitation Act, 2002.”.

3. Amendment of section 7. In section 7 of the principal Act,—

- (i) in sub-section (1B), in clause (a), for the words “thirty-nine seats”, the words “fifty-nine seats” shall be substituted;
- (ii) for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(3) The extent of each assembly constituency in all the States and Union Territories except the assembly constituencies in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur and Nagaland shall be as determined by the orders of the Delimitation Commission made under the provisions of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and the extent of each assembly constituency in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur and Nagaland shall be as provided for in the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 having regard to the provisions of sections 10A and 10B of the Delimitation Act, 2002.”.

4. Amendment of section 8. In section 8 of the principal Act,—

- (i) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) Having regard to all the orders referred to in sub-section (5) of section 4 and sub-section (3) of section 7 relating to the delimitation of parliamentary and assembly constituencies

in all States and Union Territories, except the State of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur and Nagaland, made by the Delimitation Commission and published in the Official Gazette, the Election Commission shall—

(a) after making such amendments as appear to it to be necessary for bringing up-to-date the description of the extent of the parliamentary and assembly constituencies as given in such orders, without, however, altering the extent of any such constituency;

(b) after taking into account the provisions of the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1976, as made applicable pursuant to the orders made by the President under section 10A of the Delimitation Act, 2002 relating to delimitation of parliamentary and assembly constituencies in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland, and the provisions of section 10B of the said Act relating to delimitation of parliamentary and assembly constituencies in the State of Jharkhand,

consolidate all such orders into one single order to be known as the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 and shall send authentic copies of that Order to the Central Government and to the Government of each State having a Legislative Assembly; and thereupon that Order shall supersede all the orders referred to in sub-section (5) of section 4 and sub-section (3) of section 7 and shall have the force of law and shall not be called in question in any court.”;

(ii) in sub-section (3), for the words, brackets and figures “as provided in sub-section (5) of section 10 of the Delimitation Act, 1972”, the words, brackets and figures “as provided in sub-section (5) of section 10 of the Delimitation Act, 2002” shall be substituted.

5, Insertion of new section 8A. After section 8 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“8A. Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur or Nagaland.

(1) If the President is satisfied that the situation and the conditions prevailing in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur or Nagaland are conducive for the conduct of delimitation exercise, he may, by order, rescind the deferment order issued under the provisions of section 10A of the Delimitation Act, 2002 in relation to that State, and provide for the conduct of

delimitation exercise in the State by the Election Commission.

(2) As soon as may be after the deferment order in respect of a State is rescinded under sub-section (1), the Election Commission may, by order, determine—

- (a) the parliamentary constituencies into which such State to which more than one seat is allotted in the First Schedule shall be divided;
- (b) the extent of each constituency; and
- (c) the number of seats, if any, reserved for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes.

(3) As soon as may be after the deferment order in respect of a State is rescinded under sub-section (1), the Election Commission may, by order, determine—

- (a) the assembly constituencies into which such State shall be divided for the purpose of elections to the Legislative Assembly of that State;
- (b) the extent of each constituency; and
- (c) the number of seats, if any, reserved for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes.

(4) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (1), the Election Commission shall, having regard to the provisions of the Constitution and the principles specified in clauses (c) and (d) of sub-section (1) of section 9 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 determine the parliamentary and assembly constituencies in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland in which seats shall be reserved, if any, for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

(5) The Election Commission shall,—

- (a) publish its proposals under sub-sections (2), (3) and (4) with respect to any State in the Official Gazette and also in such other manner as it thinks fit;
- (b) specify a date on or after which the proposals will be further considered by it;
- (c) consider all objections and suggestions which may have been received by it before the date so specified;
- (d) hold, for the purpose of such consideration, if it thinks fit so to do, one or more public sittings at such place or places in such State as it thinks fit;
- (e) after considering all objections and suggestions which

may have been received by it before the date so specified, determine, by order, the delimitation of parliamentary and assembly constituencies in the State and also the constituency or constituencies in which seats shall be reserved, if any, for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and cause such order to be published in the Official Gazette; and, upon such publication, the order shall have the force of law and shall not be called in question in any court and the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 shall be deemed to have been amended accordingly.

(6) Every order made under sub-sections (1) and (2) and clause (e) of sub-section (5) shall be laid before each House of Parliament.

(7) Every order made under sub-sections (1) and (3) and clause (e) of sub-section (5) shall, as soon as may be after it is published under that sub-section, be laid before the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned.”.

6. Amendment of section 9. In section 9 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), for clauses (a) and (aa), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:—

“(a) correct any printing mistake in the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 or any error arising therein from inadvertent slip or omission;

(aa) make such amendments in the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for consolidating with that Order any notification or order relating to delimitation of Parliamentary or assembly constituencies (including reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes in such constituencies) issued under section 8A of this Act or any other Central Act;”.

7. Omission of sections 9A and 9B. Section 9A and section 9B of the principal Act shall be omitted.

8. Substitution of new Schedules for the First Schedule and the Second Schedule. For the First Schedule and the Second Schedule of the principal Act, the following schedules shall be substituted, namely:—

"THE FIRST SCHEDULE"

(See section 3)

Allocation of seats in the House of the People

Name of the State/Union Territory	Number of seats in the House as constituted in 2004 on the basis of the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1976 as amended from time to time			Number of seats in the House as subsequently constituted as per the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008		
	Total	Reserved for the Scheduled Castes	Reserved for the Scheduled Tribes	Total	Reserved for the Scheduled Castes	Reserved for the Scheduled Tribes
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I. STATES:						
1. Andhra Pradesh	42	6	2	42	7	3
2. Arunachal Pradesh	2	..	..	2	..	..
3. Assam	14	1	2	14	1	2
4. Bihar	40	7	..	40	6	..
5. Chhattisgarh	11	2	4	11	1	4
6. Goa	2	..	..	2	..	..
7. Gujarat	26	2	4	26	2	4
8. Haryana	10	2	..	10	2	..
9. Himachal Pradesh	4	1	..	4	1	..
10. Jammu and Kashmir	6	..	..	6	..	..
11. Jharkhand	14	1	5	14	1	5
12. Karnataka	28	4	..	28	5	2
13. Kerala	20	2	..	20	2	..
14. Madhya Pradesh	29	4	5	29	4	6
15. Maharashtra	48	3	4	48	5	4
16. Manipur	2	..	1	2	..	1
17. Meghalaya	2	..	..	2	..	2
18. Mizoram	1	..	1	1	..	1
19. Nagaland	1	..	..	1	..	..
20. Orissa	21	3	5	21	3	5
21. Punjab	13	3	..	13	4	..
22. Rajasthan	25	4	3	25	4	3
23. Sikkim	1	..	..	1	..	..
24. Tamil Nadu	39	7	..	39	7	..
25. Tripura	2	..	1	2	..	1
26. Uttarakhand	5	..	..	5	1	..
27. Uttar Pradesh	80	18	..	80	17	..
28. West Bengal	42	8	2	42	10	2
II. UNION TERRITORIES:						
1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	..	..	1	..	..
2. Chandigarh	1	..	..	1	..	..
3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	..	1	1	..	1
4. Delhi	7	1	..	7	1	..
5. Daman and Diu	1	..	..	1	..	..
6. Lakshadweep	1	..	1	1	..	1
7. Puducherry	1	..	..	1	..	..
TOTAL:	543	79	41	543	84	47

THE SECOND SCHEDULE

(See sections 7 and 7A)

Total number of seats in the Legislative Assemblies

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Number of seats in the House as constituted on the basis of the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1976 as amended from time to time			Number of seats in the House as subsequently constituted as per the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008		
	Total	Reserved for the Scheduled Castes	Reserved for the Scheduled Tribes	Total	Reserved for the Scheduled Castes	Reserved for the Scheduled Tribes
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I. STATES:						
1. Andhra Pradesh	294	39	15	294	48	19
2. Arunachal Pradesh	60	..	59	60	..	59
3. Assam	126	8	16	126	8	16
4. Bihar	243	39	..	243	38	2
5. Chhattisgarh	90	10	34	90	10	29
6. Goa	40	1	..	40	1	..
7. Gujarat	182	13	26	182	13	27
8. Haryana	90	17	..	90	17	..
9. Himachal Pradesh	68	16	3	68	17	3
10. Jammu and Kashmir*	76	6	..	..	..	..
11. Jharkhand	81	9	28	81	9	28
12. Karnataka	224	33	2	224	36	15
13. Kerala	140	13	1	140	14	2
14. Madhya Pradesh	230	34	41	230	35	47
15. Maharashtra	288	18	22	288	29	25
16. Manipur	60	1	19	60	1	19
17. Meghalaya	60	..	55	60	..	55
18. Mizoram	40	..	39	40	..	38
19. Nagaland	60	..	59	60	..	59
20. Orissa	147	22	34	147	24	33
21. Punjab	117	29	..	117	34	..
22. Rajasthan	200	33	24	200	34	25
23. Sikkim	32	2	12**	32	2	12**
24. Tamil Nadu	234	42	3	234	44	2
25. Tripura	60	7	20	60	10	20
26. Uttarakhand	70	12	3	70	13	2
27. Uttar Pradesh	403	89	..	403	85	..
28. West Bengal	294	59	17	294	68	16
II. UNION TERRITORIES:						
1. Delhi	70	13	..	70	12	..
2. Puducherry	30	5	..	30	5	..

* Under the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of that State excluding the 24 seats earmarked for Pakistan occupied territory is 87 out of which 7 seats have been reserved for the Scheduled Castes in pursuance of the Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People Act, 1957.

** Reserved 1 seat for Sanghas and 12 seats for the Sikkimese of Bhutia Lepcha origin.

THE PRASAR BHARATI (BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF INDIA) AMENDMENT ACT, 2008

An Act further to amend the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title and commencement.* (1) This Act may be called the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India Amendment Act, 2008.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 7th day of February, 2008.

2. *Amendment of section 6.* In section 6 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990,—

(a) for sub-section (1), the following shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) The Chairman shall be Part-time Member and shall hold office for a term of three years from the date on which he enters upon his office or until he attains the age of seventy years, whichever is earlier:

Provided that any person holding office as a Chairman immediately before the commencement of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Act, 2008, shall, in so far as his appointment is inconsistent with the provisions of this sub-section, cease to hold office on such commencement as such Chairman and shall not be entitled to any compensation because of his ceasing to hold such office.”;

(b) in sub-section (2), the words “The Executive Member,” shall be omitted;

(c) after sub-section (2), the following shall be inserted, namely:—

“(2A) The Executive Member shall be a Whole-time Member and shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office or until he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier:

Provided that any person holding office as an Executive Member immediately before the commencement of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Act, 2008, shall, in so far as his appointment is inconsistent with the provisions of this sub-section, cease to hold

office on such commencement as such Executive Member and shall not be entitled to any compensation because of his ceasing to hold such office.”.

3. *Repeal and saving.* (1) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Ordinance, 2008, is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the said Act, as amended by this Act.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

THIRTEENTH SESSION

The Thirteenth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 25 February 2008, was adjourned on 19 March till 15 April to enable the Departmentally-related Standing Committees of the Parliament to examine the Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments assigned to them and report back to the House. The Session was adjourned *sine die* on 5 May 2008 and prorogued on 10 May 2008. A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period from 25 February to 19 March* is given below.

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

The Budget (Railways), 2008-2009: Presenting the Railway Budget for the year 2008-2009, on 26 February 2008, the Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav said that the cash surplus of the Railways rose steadily from Rs.9,000 crore in 2005 to Rs.14,000 crore in 2006 to Rs.20,000 crore in 2007. In 2007-2008, the Railways would once again create history by turning in a cash surplus before Dividend of Rs.25,000 crore. The operating ratio had also improved to 76 per cent. In the last four years, the Railways had turned in a cumulative cash surplus before dividend of Rs.68,778 crore. Out of this Rs.15,898 crore had been paid as dividend, Rs.39,215 crore had been invested in rail infrastructure and Rs.13,665 crore had been added to fund balances to reach Rs.20,483 crore.

The Minister stated that even as the Railways improved financial performance, it offered the masses most economical, efficient and profitable transport system. An excellent synergy between investment, commercial, tariff and operating policies had helped in achieving

* Sessional Review covering the rest of the period will be carried in the September 2008 issue of the *JPI* (Vol. LIV, No. 3); complete details regarding Question Hour and Obituary References will also be carried in the said issue

spectacular financial results. In the last four years, the plan size of the Railways had increased from Rs.13,000 crore to Rs.30,000 crore.

The Minister said that the physical as well as the financial performance in the first nine months of the year 2007-2008 had once again exceeded expectations. The freight loading till the end of December 2007 had registered a growth of 8.2 per cent and the freight earning was Rs.33,447 crore. Based upon the current trend, the budgeted target of the freight loading for the year 2007-2008 had increased from 785 MT to 790 MT and the Freight Earnings by Rs.800 crore. Similarly, Passenger Earnings had registered an increase of 14 per cent till the end of December. Accordingly, the Revised Estimates for Goods, Passenger, Other Coaching and Gross Traffic Earnings had been fixed at Rs.47,743 crore, Rs.20,075 crore, Rs.2,200 crore and Rs.72,655 crore respectively.

A provision of Rs.750 crore in Ordinary Working Expenses and Rs.500 crore in the Pension Fund had been made in anticipation of recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission. Implementation of recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission was not likely in the current year. In view of this and through economy measures, there was likely to be a saving of Rs.966 crore in the Ordinary Working Expenses and Rs.400 crore in the Pension Fund. The Revised Estimates provided for Ordinary Working Expenses at Rs.41,721 crore, appropriation to Pension Fund at Rs.8,250 crore and appropriation to Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF) at Rs.5,450 crore. In this manner, Total Working Expenses were likely to be Rs.55,421 crore. The Cash surplus before Dividend was likely to be Rs.25,065 crore and Net Revenue Rs.18,416 crore. Besides paying the current Dividend of Rs.4,218 crore, deferred Dividend liability of Rs.664 crore would also be cleared in 2007-2008. Railway's Operating Ratio in the year 2007-2008 was likely to be 76.3 per cent. The Minister said that in the glorious history of the Railways in independent India, it was the first occasion when return on capital invested in railways would reach an historic level of 21 per cent.

Regarding the initiatives taken for the improvement in passenger business, the Minister announced termination of queues at ticket counters within two years; increase in number of Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) counters to 15,000 and automatic ticket vending machines to 6,000; extension of *Jansadharan* Ticket Booking Seva; ticket on "Go Mumbai Card" in Mumbai Suburban Service; provision of on-line coach indication display boards; on-line train arrival departure information boards; on-line reservation availability information boards; discharge free green toilets in all the 36,000 coaches by the end of the 11th

Plan period; LHB design coaches in all the Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains; LHB coaches with stainless steel ICF bogies in Mail and Express trains; extending the public address system in select / mail / express trains; platform shelters at 'D' class stations; foot-over-bridges at all the high level platforms; multi level car parking; and lifts and escalators at major stations.

As regards rail safety and security, the Minister mentioned among others about the integrated security plan to strengthen railway security through installation of closed circuit TVs, metal detectors, baggage screening system, explosives detection and disposal systems, multi-pronged scheme to strengthen railway safety through automatic devices, like anti-collision device, on-line monitoring of rolling stock through acoustic detectors, digital ultrasonic flaw detecting machines etc. Other initiatives included Public Private Partnership scheme for attracting investment of 1,00,000 crore over the next five years for development of world class stations, rolling stock production units, multi-modal logistics parks, etc.

The Minister informed the House that the blueprint for high-density network was ready. This included phased execution of capacity augmentation, construction of Eastern and Western corridors, doubling, third and fourth lines, bye-passes, flyovers, automatic signaling works over the next seven years at a cost of about Rs.75, 000 crore. The Minister also mentioned the Vision 2025 document setting the roadmap for customer centric and market responsive strategies, initiatives and action plans for the coming 17 years. He also announced the introduction of 10 new Garib Raths, 53 new trains, extension of 16 trains and increase in frequency of 11 trains.

Coming to the Annual Plan, the Minister said that the Annual Plan of 2008-2009 was the highest ever-annual plan of the railways. It was proposed to invest Rs.37,500 crore which was 21 per cent more than the previous year. The total budgetary support to be received from the General exchequer was Rs.7, 874 crore including Rs.774 crore that was to be provided from the Central Road Fund. In this manner internal and external budgetary resources would constitute 79 per cent of the annual plan. Under the Plan, priority had been given to enhancement of the rail capacity, modernization of the railway, throughput enhancement on High Density Network (HDN) routes, traffic facility works and expansion and development of the network. Construction of flyovers, bypasses, Intermediate Block System (IBS), upgradation of goods shed etc. traffic facilities works would be completed on priority.

Coming to the Budget Estimates for the year 2008-2009, the

Minister stated that the target for freight loading for the year 2008-2009 had been kept at 850 MT and for freight output at 550 billion tonne km. Budget Estimates for Freight, Passenger, and other Coaching Earnings had been kept at Rs.52,700 crore, Rs.21,681 crore, and Rs.2,420 crore respectively. Maintaining an overall double-digit growth, Gross Traffic Earnings had been projected as Rs 81,801 crore reflecting an increase of Rs.9,146 crore on the Revised Estimates for the current year. The Provision for Ordinary Working Expenses for 2008-2009 had been kept at Rs.50,000 crore, which was 20 per cent more than the Revised Estimates for 2007-2008. Provision for Depreciation Reserve Fund had been stepped up to Rs.7,000 crore and Pension Fund to Rs.9,590 crore. Thus total Working Expenses would be Rs.66,590 crore and Net Revenue Rs.16,423 crore. While Railways' cash surplus before the dividend was projected at Rs.24,783 crore, the targeted Operating Ratio was 81.4 per cent. Fund balances at the end of the next financial year were estimated at Rs.19,707 crore. The Dividend payable for 2008-2009, assessed on the basis of the rate of dividend for 2007-2008, was estimated at Rs.4,636 crore. In the Plan outlay for the next year, Rs.20,600 crore would be from the internal resources.

The combined discussion on the Budget (Railways) 2008-2009; the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) 2008-2009; the Demands for Supplementary Grants (Railways) 2007-2008; the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) 2005-2006; the Statutory Resolution regarding disapproval of Railways (Amendment) Ordinance 2008 and the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2008 took place on 5, 10 and 11 March 2008.

Initiating the discussion* on 5 March 2008, Shri Harin Pathak (BJP) said that there were some services in the country which were meant for the benefit of common man and not for earning profits.

* Those who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Nikhil Kumar, Sugrib Singh, Shailendra Kumar, Raghunath Jha, Kashiram Rana, Surendra Prakash Goyal, Bikram Keshari Deo, N.N. Krishnadas, Anand Rao Vithoba Adsul, Kailash Baltha, Ganesh Singh, S.K. Kharventhan, Girdhari Lal Bhargava, Rakesh Singh, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Brahmananda Panda, Prabodh Panda, Rewati Raman Singh, Vijay Krishna, Sardar Sukhdev Singh Libra, Jaysingrao Gaikwad Patil, Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh, Jivabhai A. Patel, V.K. Thummar, D. Narbula, Ilyas Azmi, Avinash Rai Khanna, Mahavir Bhagora, P.C. Gaddigoudar, M. Appadurai, A. Sai Prathap, Paras Nath Yadav, E.G. Sugavanam, Alakesh Das, Naveen Jindal, E. Ponnuswamy, Bhailal, Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, Tapir Gao, Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi, Bhupendrasinh Solanki, Jai Prakash, Santasri Chatterjee, D.V. Sadananda Gowda, Arjun Charan Sethi, Suraj Singh, Harikewal Prasad, Shriniwas Patil, Mukeem Mohammad, Chandramani Tripathi, Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, G. Karunakara Reddy, Nihal Chand, Ashok Kumar Pradhan, Shrichand Kripalani, Pankaj Chowdhary, Ch. Lal Singh, G.M.

Railway also came under that category. He questioned that if the Railways earned profit to the tune of Rs.7,000 crore, Rs.14,000 crore and Rs.20,000 crore during the last four years then why no attention was paid towards 18,200 unmanned crossings? If the proper attention had been given towards this issue, a number of accidents could have been avoided. He supported the view that coolies should be treated as regular Railway employee and made gangman and gateman. He suggested that professional training should also be imparted to them. He further said that the Indian Railways earned its maximum share of revenue from Western Railways zone and demanded that the headquarter of Western Railways' should be shifted to Ahmedabad or Gandhinagar. He also demanded that Ahmedabad should be included among the four stations to be made world-class. He requested that the number of general and sleeper coaches in the trains should be increased and more trains consisting of general coaches should be introduced. He said that the frequency of those trains which link countryside to big cities should be enhanced and the suburban rail services should be strengthened and given more concessions. Concluding, he asked the Minister to strengthen the management of Railways.

contd. previous page

Siddeswara, Tufani Saroj, Prahlad Joshi, P. Karunakaran, Sippiparai Ravichandaran, A.R. Shaheen, Sarbananda Sonowal, Virendra Kumar, Rupchand Pal, Manvendra Kunwar Singh, C.K. Chandrappan, M. Raja Mohan Reddy, Ram Singh Kaswan, Francis K. George, Anirudh Prasad *alias* Sadhu Yadav, P.S. Gadhave, Haribhau Madhav Jawale, Devwrat Singh, S. Mallikarjuniah, Amitava Nandy, Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, Chandra Bhan Singh, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai Madam, Ram Kripal Yadav, M. Shivanna, Fagga Singh Kulaste, Bijendra Singh, Ram Ghuran, Ananta Nayak, Rajnarayan Budholiya, Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, Hansraj G. Ahir, Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, Santosh Gangwar, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Mohan Rawale, Dharmendra Yadav, Vijay Bahuguna, Sunil Khan, Bapu Hari Chauri, Abu Ayes Mondal, Nand Kumar Sai, Jasubhai Dhanabhai Barad, Ravi Prakash Verma, Nikhil Kumar Choudhary, Madhusudan Mistry, Anantha Venkata Rami Reddy, Haribhau Rathod, Francisco Sardinha, Suresh Kurup, Ashok Argal, Shankhlal Majhi, Shishupal N. Patle, Kharabela Swain, Raghuraj Singh Shaky, K.C. Singh 'Baba', Jaswant Singh Bishnoi, Shripad Yesso Naik, Dushyant Singh, Mansukhbhai D. Vasava, Munshi Ram, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Ratilal Kalidas Verma, D.K. Adikesavulu, Ranen Barman, Rashid J.M. Aaron, Lakshman Sethi, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Prof. Chander Kumar, Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, Dr. (Col.) Dhani Ram Shandil, Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria, Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria, Dr. K.S. Manoj, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq, Dr. Ramlakhan Singh, Dr. C. Krishnan, Dr. Sujana Chakraborty, Dr. Meinya Thokchom, Dr. Arvind Sharma, Dr. Dharendra Agarwal, Smt. Bhavana P. Gawali, Smt. Yashodhara Raju Scindia, Smt. C.S. Sujatha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Smt. Jayaben B. Thakkar, Smt. Manorama Madhvaraj, Smt. P. Sathidevi, Smt. Pratibha Singh, Smt. Susmita Bauri, Smt. Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi, and Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar Patil

Participating in the discussion, Shri Basudeb Acharia [CPI(M)] said that the market share of the Railways during the Tenth Five Year Plan had not increased as it was expected. There was scope to increase the market share by increasing Railways own share. The Railways could earn money on their own, and therefore, there was no need for inviting private sector in the Railways. He welcomed the decision to recruit licensed porters and said that the cases of erstwhile coal and ash workers should be considered alongwith licensed porters. He highlighted the need for a separate terminal for Kolkata. He also requested that the only train coming to Kolkata from Dakshin Dinajpur thrice a week, should be made a daily train and the Super Fast Train from Sealdah to New Jalpaiguri be extended upto Haldibadi.

Shri L. Ganesan (MDMK) thanked the Government for constructing road over bridges (ROBs) and said that for the sake of people carrying heavy loads or dead bodies, people on bicycles and pedestrians, level crossings near the ROBs should never be closed down. He requested that the three level crossings, one each at Palakkarai, Pichandarkoil, and Ramakrishna RBO should be opened.

Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy [JD-(S)] urged that sufficient funds should be allotted to Orissa and the Koraput-Rayagarh electrification project be sanctioned in the Railway Budget 2008-2009. He also urged that Bhubaneswar terminal be expanded and proper coaching terminals may be developed at Berhampur, Sambalpur and Koraput.

Shri P.C. Thomas (Kerala Congress) said that the facility of a doctor in long distance trains should be introduced soon.

Shri Shukhdev Singh Dhindsa (SAD) thanked the Minister for starting a new train from Anandpur Sahib to Nanded Sahib. He requested that the freight corridor between Sona Nagar to Ludhiana be extended upto Amritsar to Attari.

Prof. M. Ramadass (PMK) said that Puducherry should be linked to the capital city of India, namely Delhi, and other State Capitals, especially with Southern State Capitals. He requested that special trains should be plied to link the people of the scattered regions of Puducherry.

Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar [JD-(S)] citing Nandi bazaar, near Calicut as a specific instance pointed out that the work of road over bridges sanctioned years back was still languishing.

Shri Ramdas Bandu Athawale [RPI-(A)] requested that the narrow gauge workshop at Kurduwadi be converted into broad gauge.

Replying to the discussion on 11 March 2008, the Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad said that during the last three to four years there had been a surplus earning of Rs.69,000 crore after meeting all the expenses including payments of pension and dividend as well. He assured the people that the Indian Railways would not be privatized. Referring to the dedicated freight corridor, he said the corridor would run from Ludhiana to Howrah and Haldia, Delhi to Mumbai and from Mumbai to Chennai and then it would be extended to Howrah. He informed that Rs.500 crore had been earmarked to resolve the problem of human excreta on the railway tracks. Referring to the demand of members belonging to West Bengal, he said that a new railway line from Jhargram to Purulia would be surveyed and the doubling work of Jeeruth-Katwa rail line shall be taken up. Action would also be taken to lay new rail line from Panteek to Siudi and for doubling the rail line from Burnpur to Asansol. A consultant would be appointed to formulate an integrated scheme for coaching and freight terminal development in Kolkata region. A Maitry Express from Kolkata to Dhaka would start from April 2008 to strengthen the bond between India and Bangladesh. The Minister stated that in view of the various on going projects, the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2008 had been introduced so that the important rail projects may be completed as per the schedule. He said that he had taken cognizance of all the points made by the members and would invite them to discuss their requests. He further announced that Ahmedabad would definitely be a world-class railway station.

All the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways); all the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) and all the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) were voted in full; the Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2008; the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2008; the Apropriation (Railways) No.2 Bill, 2008 were passed; the Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn and the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2008 was passed.

The Budget (General), 2008-2009: Presenting the General Budget for the year 2008-2009, on 29 February 2008, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram said that during the first three years of the UPA Government, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) had increased by 7.5 per cent, 9.4 per cent and 9.6 per cent, resulting in an unprecedented average growth rate of 8.8 per cent. In the current year too, according to the Advance Estimates by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth rate would be 8.7 per cent. The drivers of growth continue to be "services" and "manufacturing", which were estimated to grow at 10.7 per cent and 9.4 per cent, respectively. Nevertheless,

2007-2008 had been most challenging during the last four years. Since August 2007, the financial markets in the developed countries had witnessed considerable turbulence that had not yet abated. Moreover, agriculture had struck a disappointing note. World prices of crude oil, commodities and food grains had risen sharply during the period April 2007 to January 2008. All these trends were inflationary, and there was pressure on domestic prices, especially on the prices of food articles. Consequently, the management of the supply side of food articles would be the most crucial task in the ensuing year.

The Minister stated that the total output of food grains in 2007-2008 would be 219.32 million tonnes, an all time record. Both the schemes, the *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana* with an outlay of Rs.25,000 crore and the National Food Security Mission with an outlay of Rs.4,882 crore, would be implemented during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. Highlighting the achievements of the UPA Government, the Finance Minister said that the agricultural credit was poised to reach a level of Rs.2,40,000 crore by March 2008; 11.4 crore children were covered under the Mid Day Meal Scheme, the largest school lunch programme; 8,756 primary health centres had been made 24x7 under the National Rural Health Mission; and 82,000 girls had enrolled in residential schools under the *Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalya* Scheme.

Bharat Nirman programme had made impressive progress in 2007-2008 with 290 habitations provided with drinking water each day; 17 habitations connected through an all weather road; 52 villages provided with telephones; 42 villages electrified and 4,113 rural houses completed each day. The Government regarded the second year of Eleventh Plan as extremely critical for the success of the Plan. The Minister said that 2008-2009 should be a year of consolidation; of securing the ongoing programmes on firm financial foundations; of close by monitoring the implementation and enforcing accountability; and of measuring the outcomes in terms of the targets achieved as well as their quality. He proposed to increase the Gross Budgetary Supprt (GBS) to Rs.243,386 crore, representing an increase of Rs.38,286 crore over the allocation in 2007-2008. Out of this, the allocation for the Central Plan would be Rs.1,79,954 crore, marking an increase of 16 per cent over 2007-2008. For *Bharat Nirman*, the Minister proposed to provide Rs.31,280 crore [including the North Eastern Region (NER) component] as against Rs.24,603 crore in 2007-2008. He said that the total allocation for the education sector (including NER) would be increased by 20 per cent to Rs.34,400 crore in 2008-2009. Out of this, *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA) would be provided with Rs.13,100 crore with the focus to shift

from access and infrastructure at the primary level to enhancing retention; improving quality of learning; and ensuring access to upper primary classes; the Mid-day Meal Scheme would be provided Rs.8,000 crore; and secondary education Rs.4,554 crore. The Minister proposed to provide Rs.650 crore for the Model School programme, with the aim of establishing 6,000 high quality model schools, to be started in 2008-2009. He earmarked a sum of Rs.750 crore to the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme to build up a corpus of Rs.3,000 crore in four years and said 1,00,000 scholarships would be awarded beginning 2008-2009. The Mid-day Meal Scheme would be extended to upper primary classes in Government and Government-aided schools in all blocks which would benefit an additional 2.5 crore children, taking the total number of children covered under the Scheme to 13.9 crore. The Government proposed to establish 16 Central Universities in each of the hitherto uncovered States; three IITs in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan; two Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISERs) at Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram; and two Schools of Planning and Architecture at Bhopal and Vijayawada.

Coming to the health sector, the Minister allocated Rs.16,534 crore for the sector (including NER) marking an increase of 15 per cent over the allocation in 2007-2008. Out of this, Rs.12,050 crore were allocated to National Rural Health Mission. The Minister announced that two major interventions were planned to be started in 2008-2009. The first was the *Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana* to provide a health cover of Rs.30,000 for every worker in the unorganised sector falling under the BPL category and his/her family. The scheme would be launched in Delhi and in the States of Haryana and Rajasthan on 1 April 2008. The other major intervention was the National Programme for the Elderly with a Plan outlay of Rs.400 crore to be started in 2008-2009. He said that the allocation for Integrated Child Development Scheme had been enhanced from Rs.5,293 crore in 2007-2008 to Rs.6,300 crore in 2008-2009. Referring to the other four flagship programmes of the Government, the Minister said that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) would be rolled out to all 596 rural districts of the country with an initial provision of Rs.16,000 crore. The allocation for the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) had been increased from Rs.5,482 crore in 2007-2008 to Rs.6,866 crore in 2008-2009 and for the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission to Rs.7,300 crore in 2008-2009 as against Rs.6,500 crore in 2007-2008. The Total Sanitation Campaign would be provided Rs.1,200 crore in 2008-2009. He proposed to provide Rs.300 crore for setting up a desalination plant to be installed near Chennai.

The Minister said that the North Eastern Region (NER) would continue to receive special attention and allocated Rs.1,455 crore to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER). He also said that the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, socially and educationally backward classes, and minorities would also continue to receive special attention. He allocated Rs.3,966 crore for the schemes benefiting SCs and STs exclusively and Rs.18,983 crore for the schemes where at least 20 per cent of the benefits were earmarked for SCs and STs. The Ministry of Minority Affairs was allocated Rs.1,000 crore for 2008-2009. He said that the Government had taken up the report of the Justice Rajindar Sachar Committee for speedy implementation. For the first time a statement on the child related schemes was included in the budget documents and the total expenditure on these schemes was of the order of Rs.33,434 crore.

In the agriculture sector, the Minister said that agricultural credit was set to exceed the target for the year 2007-2008. For 2008-2009, he proposed a target of Rs.2,80,000 crore with short-term crop loans to be disbursed at 7 per cent per annum. He said that the Gross Capital Formation (GCF) in agriculture as a proportion of GDP in the agriculture sector had improved from 10.2 per cent in 2003-2004 to 12.5 percent in 2006-2007. This, however, needed to be raised to 16 per cent during the Eleventh Plan to achieve the target growth rate of 4 per cent. The Government was investing heavily in the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), the Rainfed Area Development Programme and in the management and augmentation of water resources. He proposed to establish the Irrigation and Water Resources Finance Corporation (IWRFC) with an initial capital of Rs.100 crore contributed by the Central Government to mobilise resources to fund major and medium irrigation projects. He also made a one-time allocation of Rs.75 crore to the Ministry of Agriculture in order to provide one fully fitted mobile soil testing laboratory each to 250 districts of the country before March 2009.

The Minister announced a scheme of debt waiver and debt relief for farmers to cover all agricultural loans disbursed by scheduled commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and cooperative credit institutions up to 31 March 2007 and were overdue as on 31 December 2007. He said that there would be a complete waiver of all loans that were overdue on 31 December 2007 and which remained unpaid until 29 February 2008 for marginal farmers and small farmers. There would be a one-time settlement (OTS) scheme for all loans that were overdue on 31 December 2007 and which remained unpaid until

29 February 2008 in respect of other farmers with a rebate of 25 per cent. The implementation of the debt waiver and debt relief scheme would be completed by 30 June 2008. The farmer would be entitled to fresh agricultural loans from the banks in accordance with normal rules. About three crore small and marginal farmers and about one crore other farmers would benefit from the scheme. The total value of overdue loans being waived was estimated at Rs.50,000 crore and the OTS relief on the overdue loans at Rs.10,000 crore. He appealed to the members to give their unqualified support to the scheme and help Government implement this momentous decision.

The Minister proposed to create a national fund for transmission and distribution reform and said that the details of the scheme would be worked out and announced very soon. He also proposed to accept the two recommendations of the Committee on Financial Inclusion (i) to advise commercial banks, including RRBs, to add at least 250 rural household accounts every year at each of their rural and semi-urban branches; and (ii) to allow individuals such as retired bank officers, ex-servicemen etc. to be appointed as business facilitator or business correspondent or credit counsellor. The Minister further proposed to establish a non-profit corporation entrusted with the mission to address the challenge of imparting the skills required by a growing economy and said that the Government's equity in the proposed non-profit corporation would be Rs.1,000 crore to begin with. On issues relating to the impact of climate change and measures to be taken, the Minister said that Government proposed to establish a permanent institutional mechanism to play a development and coordination role. He also made a one time grant of Rs.50 crore to the National Tiger Conservation Authority. The Minister said that to keep pace with the new challenges of economic growth the Government proposed to put in place a Central Plan Schemes Monitoring System (CPSMS) that would be implemented as a Plan scheme of the Planning Commission. A comprehensive Decision Support System and Management Information System would also be established to generate and monitor scheme-wise and State-wise releases for about 1,000 Central Plan and Centrally—sponsored schemes in 2008-2009.

Coming to the Budget Estimates for the year 2008-2009, the Minister said that the estimated Plan Expenditure was placed at Rs.243,386 crore. As a proportion of total expenditure, it would be 32.4 per cent. The Non-Plan Expenditure was estimated at Rs.507,498 crore. The revenue deficit for the current year would be 1.4 per cent (against a BE of 1.5 per cent) and the fiscal deficit would be 3.1 per cent (against a BE of 3.3 per cent). In the Budget Estimates for

2008-2009, the revenue receipts of the Central Government for 2008-09 were projected at Rs.6,02,935 crore and the revenue expenditure at Rs.6,58,119 crore. Consequently, the revenue deficit was estimated at Rs.55,184 crore, which amounted to 1.0 per cent of GDP. The fiscal deficit was estimated at Rs.133,287 crore which was 2.5 per cent of GDP. The elimination of the revenue deficit needed one more year because of the conscious shift in expenditure in favour of health, education and the social sector. The tax proposals on direct taxes were revenue neutral and the indirect taxes were estimated to result in a loss of Rs.5,900 crore.

The general and combined discussion on the Budget (General) 2008-2009; Demands for Grants on Account General) 2008-2009 and Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) 2007-2008 took place on 12, 13 and 14 March 2008.

Initiating the discussion*, on 12 March 2008, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra of the Bharatiya Janata Party said that in the Budget, fiscal deficit has been reduced to Rs.1,33,287 crore which was 2.3 per cent

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Balasheb Vikhe Patil, Rupchand Pal, Dahyabhai Vallabhbhai Patel, Devendra Prasad Yadav, D. Vittal Rao, Ilyas Azmi, Tathagata Satpathy, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Ratilal Kalidas Varma, Sharanjit Singh Dhillon, Thawar Chand Gehlot, Rahul Gandhi, A. Krishnaswamy, Kashiram Rana, V.K. Thummar, Jivabhai A. Patel, P. Karunakaran, Brahmananda Panda, Ramji Lal Suman, C.K. Chandrappan, Sugrib Singh, Virendra Kumar, Ram Kripal Yadav, Dharmendra Pradhan, K.S. Rao, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai Madam, Vijay Bahuguna, Nihal Chand, Mahavir Bhagora, Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh, Avinash Rai Khanna, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Mohan Singh, A. Sai Pratap, Girdhari Lal Bhargava, L. Rajagopal, Rashid J.M. Aaron, Ram Singh Kaswan, M. Appadurai, Atma Singh Gill, P.C. Thomas, Mohan Jena, R. Prabhu, Ganesh Singh, Munshi Ram, Lakshman Singh, Sandeep Dikshit, S.K. Kharventhan, Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, Anantha Venkata Rami Reddy, Shailendra Kumar, Asaduddin Owaisi, P.S. Gadhave, M. Shivanna, Suresh Ganpatrao Waghmare, Sarbananda Sonowal, Naveen Jindal, Chandra Bhan Singh, Haribhau Madhav Jawale, Kharabela Swain, Francis K. George, Anand Rao Vithoba Adsul, Ramesh Dube, Francisco Sardinha, Mansukhbhai D. Vasava, Nikhil Kumar, R.L. Jalappa, Prahlad Joshi, Chandra Bhan Singh, Adhir Rajan Chowdhury, Rajnarayan Budholiya, Sukhdeo Paswan, K.V. Thangkabalu, Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, S.K. Bwiswmuthiary, Francis Fanthome, Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya, Sita Ram Singh, Dharmendra Yadav, Bikram Keshari Deo, Kiren Rijiju, Arun Yadav, Harikewal Prasad, Manoranjan Bhakta, Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Harisinh Chavda, Manjunath Kunnur, Ashok Argal, Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, Ashok Kumar Pradhan, Nikhil Kumar Choudhary, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Prof. Chander Kumar, Dr. M. Jagannath, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala, Dr. Sujan Chakraborty, Dr. C. Krishnan, Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria, Dr. Arvind Sharma, Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria, Dr. K.S. Manoj, Dr. Ramlakhan Singh, Dr. Meinya Thokchom, Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq, Smt. Bhavana P. Gawali, Smt. Manorama Madhavaraj, Smt. Sushila Kerketta, Smt. Kiran Maheshwari, Smt. Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi, Smt. Jayaprada, Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo, Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar Patil, Smt. Tejaswani Gowda, Smt. Neeta Pateriya, Smt. Jayaben B. Thakkar and Smt. Archana Nayak

of GDP. But if the loan waiver offered to the farmers and the subsidy on food, oil and fertilizers, which was Rs.60,000 crore and Rs.1,22,000 crore respectively and the financial implications of the Sixth Pay Commission were taken into account, the rate of fiscal deficit would surpass the growth rate of GDP. During the last ten months, the rate of inflation had been around 5 per cent and this was all due to the policies followed by the Government. Referring to the issue of loan waiver for the farmers, he wanted to know how the figure of Rs.60,000 crore had been worked out. He said that the Government should have provided for payment of fees to every poor and needy student irrespective of his caste or religion. It was not proper to discriminate against anybody in the name of minority or in the context of Sachhar Commission Report. No one should be appeased and all should be treated equally and alike. He termed the Budget as inflationary, which would stall the growth and divide the country on the communal lines.

Participating in the discussion, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav (SP) urged the Government to take the Modified National Agriculture Insurance Scheme to provide insurance cover to the farmers as more than 66 per cent of the people were dependent on agriculture. He requested to provide adequate facilities and funds to the scientists to undertake research work to grow crops in a rain deficient area or dry land or rain fed areas. He felt that the agriculture was continuously subjected to neglect and was the sole reason for the present pitiable condition of the farmers. He further requested the Government to keep a check on inflation and clearly demarcate the line of differences between irrigated and non-irrigated lands in order to provide succour to the farmers.

Prof. M. Ramadass (PMK) pointed out that the education system and the manpower planning in the country were not properly correlated. He urged the Minister to develop a manpower planning system to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of manpower. Referring to the system of community colleges introduced in Puducherry, he requested the Minister to introduce at least one community college, in each district in the country.

Shri P.C. Thomas (Kerala Congress) said that the thrust of the Budget should have been to provide credits to the farmers at a reasonable rate of interest so that they could change to modernization and eventual success by increasing productivity.

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) said that the Sachchar Committee Report had brought to the forefront the irrelevant issues surrounding the Muslims. Referring to allocation of Rs.1,000 crore to the minorities, he said that this had been the first ever instance since Independence

when the ruling party had taken any initiative in the right direction. He urged the Government to allocate funds for developing the wakf-property.

Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar [JD-(S)] welcomed the debt waiver scheme and said that the Government should consider raising the land ceiling limit of 2 hectares for eligibility for total write-off taking into account land productivity and the cut-off date based on local cropping cycles. He said that the interests of fishermen had been ignored in the Budget and need to be redressed.

Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma (AGP) asked the Minister to appraise the specific allocation for the national projects declared for North-East Region.

Shri Ramdas Athawale [RPI (A)] said that the non-clearance of the Forest Bill was causing huge damage to the tribals, as they were not getting financial benefits. He welcomed the announcement of the special package for the North Eastern Region and said similar packages should be announced for the other regions of the country.

Replying to the discussion on 14 March 2008, the Minister of Finance Shri P. Chidambaram said that the Government had been able to deliver 8.8 per cent average growth in a world, where all commodity and food prices had almost doubled and trebled in some cases. The Government was meeting the targets for indirect taxes year after year and was far exceeding the target for direct taxes. Every year allocation for education was 20 per cent more than the previous year. A Skill Development Mission had been adopted. As regards the Unorganised Sector, there were programmes that cover and benefit a very large number of people. Numerous scholarships had been announced so that more children belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and the minorities could continue in school and college. In the agriculture sector, Gross capital formation had increased from 10.2 per cent in 2003-2004 to 12.5 per cent. The goal was to raise it to 16 per cent. An Irrigation and Water Resources Finance Corporation had been announced to mobilize money for irrigation. The National Council on Climate Change had been appointed to deal with the aspects of climate change.

The most important part of the Budget was the loan waiver scheme. The Government intended to include all the deserving farmers taking into account their compelling circumstances. Provisional estimates indicated that the relief to be offered would be around Rs.60,314 crore comprising Rs.50,524 crore of debt waiver to small and marginal farmers and Rs.9,790 crore as relief to other farmers as a one time settlement. The relief to

small and marginal farmers would be about 84 per cent of the total package and the balance 16 per cent would be the relief to other farmers. In terms of institutions, an estimated 55 per cent of the package would be to borrowers from co-operative institutions, 35 per cent to borrowers from the scheduled commercial banks and 10 per cent to borrowers from the RRBs. The details of the package would be finalised in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and the lending institutions so that the process of debt waiver and debt relief was completed by 30 June 2008. The disbursement of funds to the lending institutions would be spread over a period of 36 months beginning from July 2008. The sources of funds to the Government were tax revenues, non-tax revenues, non-debt capital receipts, and additional borrowing. The Government was confident of financing the package as part of the regular Budget exercise and additional borrowing for this purpose would be the last resort in the unlikely event of resorting to borrowing.

All the Demands for Grants on Account and all the Supplementary Demands for Grants were voted in full; the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2008 and the Appropriation Bill, 2008 were passed.

Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address: On 25 February 2008, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil addressed the members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address was moved by Shri Ajit Jogi of the Indian National Congress on 3 March 2008. The discussion on the Motion took place on 3, 4 and 5 March 2008.

Moving the motion Shri Ajit Jogi said that every section of the society had been taken care of in this Address. A provision of Rs.60,000 crore has been made in the Budget to waive off the loans of the farmers. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme had been launched in all the 596 districts of the country to provide daily employment to 3 crore workers. The Government was providing education to the growing population under the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and imparting technical skills to the youth so that they do not become a liability on the country. He referred to the special provisions being made for the SCs/STs and OBCs and said a sum of Rs.900 crore had been made for providing scholarships to 30 lakh children belonging to SCs and Rs.225 crore had been provided for scholarships to 10 lakh children belonging to STs. An announcement had been made in the Address for setting up the first tribal university in Amarkuntak of Madhya Pradesh. A mention had been made in the Address that a

Rehabilitation and Relief Bill, 2007 would be introduced in the House. Minorities also find a mention in the Address as also the Sachhar Committee Report. For the first time, women empowerment had been included in the President's Address. Special focus had been given to the internal security. He said that the Naxalite problem was a national problem and needed to be viewed from the national perspective. Until socio-economic justice was meted out, political initiative was taken and proper law and order was maintained, naxalite problem could not be tackled.

Seconding the Motion, Shrimati Krishna Tirath (INC) said that every aspect of the development had been stressed upon in the Address whether it was education, agriculture, labourer, industry or electricity etc. Every person of the country was pleased with the Budget presented by the Finance Minister. She enumerated the various initiatives taken by the Government such as *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Health Mission Programme, Right to Information Act. In order to strengthen the farmers and to help them, the Government had waived their loans to the tune of Rs.60, 000 crore. To boost agriculture, irrigation, water resources and flood management, Rs.1, 38,548 crore had been provided in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. A Bill on Social Security had been brought for the workers engaged in the unorganized sectors. The Government had enhanced the old-age pension and also made a provision to increase the salaries of workers engaged in Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and Anganwadi from Rs.1,000 to Rs.1,500. She said that today the entire world was looking towards this great democratic country with much hope and aspirations.

Participating in the discussion* Shri L.K. Advani said that there was no mention in the President's Address as to how many farmers had committed suicide in the country during the last one year. As regards the loan waiver scheme for the farmers, he wanted to know as

* Those who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Mohammad Salim, Ramesh Dube, Alok Kumar Mehta, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Ajoy Chakraborty, Kharabela Swain, Adhir Chowdhury, Virendra Kumar, Ramji Lal Suman, Ananth Kumar, Madhusudan Mistry, Sita Ram Singh, Shailendra Kumar, Harikewal Prasad, Bikram Keshari Deo, Kirip Chaliha, Ilyas Azmi, Kiren Rijju, Chandramani Tripathi, Munshi Ram, Prahlad Joshi, Raghuraj Singh Shakya, Naveen Jindal, S.K. Kharventhan, Sarbananda Sonowal, Suresh Kurup, A.R. Shaheen, Ratilal Kalidas Varma, Francis Fanthome, Francis K. George, Ravi Prakash Verma, Mani Charenamei, Haribhau Rathod, Sippiparai Ravichandaran, S.K. Bwiswmuthiary, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Shankhlal Majhi, Prof. K.M. Kader Mohideen, Dr. Sebastian Paul, Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam, Dr. Thokchom Meinya, Dr. Vallabhbai Kathiria, Smt. M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran and Smt. Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi

to why the Government did not make any provision in the Budget, if the banks were going to waive off such huge loans? He requested the Prime Minister to acknowledge to the House as to what provision the Government was going to make in this regard? He said that inflation was the biggest failure of the Government. Though The President's Address had proudly affirmed that the GDP growth rate had touched 9 per cent mark, Shri Advani did not concur with the assertion that it was an inclusive growth. He said that it was a systematic failure, which resulted in making a few persons richer, while forcing many others to live in penury. He sought the intervention of the Prime Minister to clear the Government's position on the issue of providing one-third representation to women in legislative bodies and formation of a separate state of Telengana in Andhra Pradesh. He also alleged that the Government had not honoured the Supreme Court's decision in the case involving Afzal Guru and asked as to how long the clemency petition, if there was any, would be kept pending?

Anant Gangaram Geete (Shiv Sena) stated that there was not a single reference to the farmers' suicides, inflation and the diminishing employment opportunities in the remote areas in the President's Address.

Shri Prabhunath Singh [JD(U)] said that it was necessary to identify the problems the farmers were facing in different States. He suggested that 80 per cent of the banks, out of the total sanctioned banks to be opened in a particular year, should be opened in the villages and the remaining 20 percent in the urban areas.

Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa (SAD) said that Punjab had been totally ignored for years. He urged that the interests of the landless farmers or agriculture labourers of the State should also be adequately taken care of.

Prof. M. Ramadass (PMK) said that the President had not only eulogized the performance of the Government in the last four years but also indicated some of the challenges before the nation. The Address also outlined the spate of policies and programmes implemented by the Government in the areas of economic growth, social justice, foreign relations and security situation.

Shri L. Ganesan (MDMK) stated that the UPA Government was committed to ensuring that the economic growth process was socially inclusive, regionally balanced and environmentally sustainable. He thanked the Government for taking up Sethu Samudram Project.

Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu (TDP) pointed out that there was no mention about the price rise, farmers' suicides, unemployment and

inflation in the Presidential Address. He demanded that waiver of loans be extended to the entire farming community. He also said that the Government had totally failed in implementing the promises made in its Common Minimum Programme.

Shri Joachim Baxla (RSP) said that the President's address was silent on the issue of inflation, unemployment, reservation for women, and natural calamities and global warming. He said that the Government should think about loans that the farmers have taken from private moneylenders.

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) said that the allocation of scholarships would go a long way in ensuring an improved literacy rate of the Muslim minorities and also of their increased participation in higher education. He expressed concerned that majority of the States were adopting indifferent attitude to the 15-point programme.

Shri P.C. Thomas (Kerala Congress) said that farmers were worst hit due to steep fall in price of their produces. The President had not addressed this issue, solution of which demanded drastic changes in import export policy and hike in customs duty on Agricultural Produces.

Supporting the President's Address Shri Ramdas Bandhu Athawale [RPI(A)] said that there was urgent need to check regionalism on the basis of language.

Expressing concern over country's food security, Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar [JD-(S)] suggested stopping wheat imports, brining back quantitative restrictions and scrapping the U.S.–India Knowledge Initiative in agriculture as vital for ensuring food security and sovereignty of the country.

Replying to the discussion, the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh expressed satisfaction over the fact there was almost unanimity on both sides of the House with regard to the vision of inclusive growth spelt out in the President's Address. He said it was this vision which had guided the work of the Government in the last four years. The Common Minimum Programme itself recognized that growth by itself does not necessarily ensure that the fruits of growth would be equitably distributed. Therefore, it was the duty of any popular Government to address that question, to empower the poorest sections of our society so that they could become active participants in the processes of growth and that is what was being done.

The Prime Minister said that members on both sides of the House had agreed that there was need for a strong growth in agriculture, maintaining reasonable control on prices and equality of opportunities.

He said that the education was the biggest single means of empowering children to lead a life of dignity and to become partners in the process of growth. Therefore, a strong commitment was required for the expansion of education, not only primary and elementary education, but also tertiary education.

Referring to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, he said that if implemented honestly and efficiently, it could soften the harsh edges of extreme poverty. While expanding health care and education, particular attention was being paid to the needs of areas, which had high concentration of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and minority population. He expressed satisfaction that the Government had advanced the cause of inclusive growth. The Prime Minister said that the Government had increased allocation for infrastructure, for rural infrastructure under *Bharat Nirman*; for education for rural health, for urban infrastructure under Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission. But the Central Government on its part could only increase the allocations and give guidelines to the States. It was, however, the joint responsibility of the Centre and the States to work in all sincerity to implement the agenda of the inclusive growth.

Speaking on the agriculture, the Prime Minister said that when the UPA Government came to power in 2004, the agriculture was in a state of distress. He cited statistics to support his point and said that the Gross capital formation in agriculture as a proportion of GDP had improved under the UPA regime from a low of 10.2 per cent in the year 2003-2004 to 12.5 per cent in the year 2006-2007. After many years, the agricultural growth had touched almost four per cent last year. The Government was determined to end the agricultural distress. That is why the Government took the historic initiative to waive farmers' loan on an unprecedented scale. Clarifying doubts about the resources required for the loan waive off, the Prime Minister assured the members that the package would be well funded. Whereas the farmers would see the benefit of the relief package immediately, the banks would be compensated as and when the loans become due. The details were being worked out. He requested the unstinted support of the entire House to help implement the decision.

As regards the problem of inflation, the Prime Minister assured the House that the Government was committed to maintaining reasonable price stability despite an adverse international environment. Referring to the Women's Reservation Bill, the Prime Minister said that the Government was committed to the reservation of seats in State Legislatures and Parliament. In the last three years, efforts had been

made to evolve a broad-based consensus but these had not succeeded. The Government would once again make another attempt to evolve a broad-based consensus on the issue. He assured the House that the Government's commitment in the fight against terrorism was absolute. He reminded the members that the country faced a dangerous enemy in terrorism and must maintain a constant vigil to prevent terrorism from succeeding in its nefarious designs. India wanted mutually beneficial relations with all its neighbours, all major powers and all its economic partners. Speaking about the Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation with the USA and other countries, he said that the Government was presently engaged in negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency for India-specific safeguards agreement and would continue to seek the broadest possible consensus within the country to enable the next step to be taken.

Concluding the discussion, the Prime Minister said that the direction in which the country had moved in the last four years was well laid out in the Rashtrapati's Address. It was in the direction of inclusive growth; of empowering the poor and marginalized sections of society; of taking everybody along and working to eradicate poverty, ignorance and diseases.

All the amendments moved were negatived. The Motion was adopted.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

*Statutory Resolution regarding Disapproval of the Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 and the Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008 and the Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 2008**: On 11 March 2008, Shri Prabodh Panda moved the Statutory Resolution stating that the House disapproved of the Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 promulgated by the President on 14 January 2008.

The Minister of Law and Justice, Shri H.R. Bhardwaj moved the motion for the consideration of the Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008 and the Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 2008. Moving the motion for consideration of the Bills, the Minister of Law and Justice, Shri H.R. Bhardwaj said that under the provisions of articles 82 and 170(3) of the Constitution, Parliament enacted the Delimitation Act, 2002 and set up the Delimitation Commission to readjust the division of

* The Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008 was introduced on 3 March 2008 and the Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 2008 on 10 March 2008 in the Lok Sabha

each State and Union territory into territorial constituencies for the purpose of elections to the House of the People and to the State Legislative Assemblies on the basis of 2001 Census. The Delimitation Commission had since completed the delimitation work in respect of 25 States/Union Territories. With the progress of the delimitation exercise by the Delimitation Commission, certain issues relating to the delimitation came to the fore. Considering those issues, the Government decided to amend the Delimitation Act, 2002 by promulgation of the Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008. The Minister said that the Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008 sought to insert new sections 10A and 10B to empower deferment of delimitation exercise in a State in certain cases and to nullify the final orders issued by the Delimitation Commission in respect of the State of Jharkhand. In view of the prevailing conditions in North-East States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland, four orders to defer the delimitation exercise in these States had been issued. He said that the final orders in respect of the remaining 24 States/Union Territories (except the State of Jharkhand) were required to be brought into force as provided in the second proviso to article 82 of the Constitution and the section proviso to clause (3) of article 170 of the Constitution by specifying the date by the President, as to when the re-adjustment made under the Delimitation Act shall take effect. In pursuance of the above constitutional provisions, the Presidential Order had been issued on 19 February 2008 thereby making delimitation orders issued under the Delimitation Act effective from immediate effect in all the 22 States/Union Territories except in the States of Tirpura and Meghalaya in which the delimitation orders would take effect after the elections to the Legislative Assemblies in these States were over. The Minister further stated that the purpose of the amendments in the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2008 was to empower the Election Commission to consolidate all orders of delimitation into a single order and to maintain the said order up-to-date. The Representation of People (Amendment) Bill also proposed to insert a new section 8A, which would enable the Election Commission to conduct delimitation exercise in the North-East States as soon as the conditions in these States became conducive to the conduct of delimitation work.

Supporting the Bill*, Shri Basu Deb Acharia [CPI-(M)] said that the

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Bachi Singh Rawat, Shailendra Kumar, Vijay Krishna, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, A. Krishnaswamy, Varkala Radhakrishnan, C.K. Chandrappan, Kiren Rijju, Nand Kumar Sai, Dharmendra Pradhan, Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Dr. M. Jagannath, Dr. Meinya Thokchom, Dr. Ramlakhan Singh, Smt. Neeta Pateriya and Smt. Sushila Kerketta

provisions of this Bill should be implemented in the next Assembly Elections.

Kumari Mamata Banerjee (All India Trinmool Congress) said that her party was not against delimitation but the way the delimitation process had been done was wrong.

Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma (Asom Gana Parishad) said that the Government should safeguard the interests of the ethnic minorities who had been reduced to the status of minorities due to large number of influx from foreign countries and provide them proper representation in the Assembly and also in the Parliament.

Shri Ramdas Bandu Athawale [RPI-(A)] demanded that the number of Lok Sabha seats should be increased by about two hundred to provide for reservation of women. With regard to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, he suggested that about 39-40 seats should be reserved for Buddhists Scheduled Castes in place of 29 seats presently reserved for them.

Replying to the debate, the Minister of Law and Justice Shri H.R. Bhardwaj said that the tribals belonging to any part of the country cannot be deprived of the rights provided to them in the Constitution. It is in the Constitution that if anywhere seats were less in number for Scheduled Castes then they were compensated by cutting the number of general seats. The same thing applied to tribals. Keeping this in view, five States had been kept outside the provisions of the Bill. The Government had forwarded the representation received in respect of States of Chattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh to the Election Commission.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn and the Bills were passed.

*Statutory Resolution regarding Disapproval of Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 and Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2008**: On 17 March 2008, Shri Mohan Singh moved the Statutory Resolution that this House disapproves of the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 promulgated by the President on 5 February 2008.

The Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Sharad Pawar moved the motion for the consideration of the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Bill,

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 11 March 2008

2008. Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Sharad Pawar said that the sugar season 2006-2007 had unprecedented surplus production of sugarcane, which resulted in an all time high production of about 283 lakh tonnes of sugar against an estimated domestic consumption of about 190 lakh tonnes. The cane price arrears in June 2007 were Rs.4,964 crore. Under the circumstances, the Central Government had to intervene to dispose of the large surplus of sugar. The Government announced financial incentives for exports of sugar and creation of buffer stock of 50 lakh and announcement of buffer subsidy with the objective to stabilize prices and improve liquidity position of the factories, so that the arrears of farmers could be cleared. However, since the sugar surplus was so high and the international market still unviable, the cane price arrears of cane farmers continued to be alarmingly high, despite the steps taken by the Government. Accordingly decision was taken by the Government to give loans from the banks to the factories. As the interest rates of 12 per cent per annum made the loans unattractive, the Government feared that the scheme would be a non-starter, and therefore decided to provide full interest subvention on the loans. Considering the importance of the scheme and its implications for the cane farmers, the Government decided to provide the amount on account interest subvention to the extent of 5 per cent annum from the Budget, and allowed payment of the balance of interest subvention up to 7 per cent per annum from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF). The Minister said that as per latest figures received from the States in 2008, the arrears, excluding current year's dues was about Rs.1,090 crore. Banks had already sanctioned about Rs.2,482 crore and another Rs.464 crore of loan proposals were in the pipeline for sanction. Had the Government not promulgated the Ordinance, about crucial two months would have passed with further accumulation of the cane dues of the farmers. Some sugar factories would not have got started or started later, resulting in loss of cane crop and loss of time to farmers to sow another crop.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy (BJP) said that the loan from the SDF has been provided to a limited number of States only. He urged that the States, which are not

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Yogi Aditya Nath, Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, Sita Ram Singh, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Dharmendra Pradhan, Manvendra Singh, Shailendra Kumar, Jasubhai Dhanabhai Barad, Santosh Gangwar, Dr. M. Jagannath, Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam and Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar Patil

availing the fund from the Sugar Development Fund, like Orissa, should also be provided from this Fund to develop their sugar mills.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food And Public Distribution, Shri Sharad Pawar said that the Sugar Development Fund had been formed so that sugar mills should have money for managing irrigation, seeds; for expanding and modernizing themselves and enter in the allied activities like generating power, spirit, ethanol etc. This would benefit sugar mills, farmers, labourers, consumers and the country at large. The Government had also decided to provide transport subvention to the States, located far from the coast. He clarified that assistance will only be given to the functioning mills.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn and the Bill was passed.

*Statutory Resolution regarding Disapproval of Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Ordinance 2008 and Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill, 2008**: On 17 March 2008, Shri Mohan Singh moved that this House disapproves of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Ordinance, 2008 promulgated by the President on 7 February 2008.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi moved the motion for the consideration of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill, 2008. Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi said that the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 came into force on 15 September 1997. For the purpose of general superintendence, direction and management of the Corporation, the said Act had provided for constitution of a Prasar Bharati Board. The Act provided for a Chairman who was also a part-time member of the Board. The Chairman held office for a term of six years from the date on which he entered upon this office. The Act did not provide for upper age limit for the Chairman as was stipulated for the whole-time members of the Board. A whole-time member of Prasar Bharati Board held office for a term of six years from the date on which he entered upon his office or until he attained the age of sixty-two years, whichever was earlier. Therefore, it was felt that in the case of Chairman also an upper age limit of

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 10 March 2008

seventy years might be fixed to ensure appointment of comparatively younger talent and experience. It was also felt that reducing the tenure of Chairman from the present six to three years would help to bring diversity of experience at the top level for the benefit of the organization. Similarly, a need was also being felt for change in the tenure and upper age limit of the Chief Executive Officer from six to five years and from sixty-two years to sixty-five years respectively. The Prasar Bharati had to compete with the private electronic media houses as well as to achieve the social objectives entrusted upon it by the Act of Parliament in letter and spirit. It was being felt necessary to rationalize such matters in order to inject sectoral experience to rejuvenate Prasar Bharati and its Board through this legislation.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Ramdas Athawale [RPI(A)] said that Prasar Bharati needed to be made more effective to make the process of social upliftment through the electronic media more dynamic.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni said that Prasar Bharati had no future if it was not managed in a professional orientation right from its marketing, programming, administration, etc. This required a total overhauling after the Group of Ministers' recommendations were accepted by the Cabinet.

The urgency to bring the Ordinance was that the Prasar Bharati had been chosen as the dedicated host broadcaster for the First Commonwealth Youth Games to be held in Pune in August 2008 and Commonwealth Games in 2010 in India. Frequent meetings, policy planning and quality planning were required with the approval of the Board. These things could not be done by the Minister or Ministry. He assured that the comprehensive amendment would take care of the employees first and not a single employee's interest would be harmed.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn and the Bill was passed.

*The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2008**:* On 19 March 2008, the Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri P.R. Kyndiah moved the Bill for consideration in the House. As stated in the Statement

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri, Madhusudan Mistry, Hannan Mollah, Tathagata Satpathy, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Adhir Chowdhury, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Nand Kumar Sai, Bikram Keshari Deo, Nikhil Kumar, Kharabela Swain, Ram Kripal Yadav, Abu Ayes Mondal, P.S. Gadhavi, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat and Smt. Kiran Maheshwari

** The Bill as passed by the Rajya Sabha was laid on the Table of the House on 19 March 2008

of Objects and Reasons of the Bill, before its creation as a State, Arunachal Pradesh was part of the State of Assam. "*Dafla*" community was listed as Scheduled Tribe in the State of Assam by the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950. After the creation of Arunachal Pradesh as a State, "*Dafla*" community was mentioned in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Arunachal Pradesh by the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971. Currently, 16 numbers of communities exist in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Arunachal Pradesh including "*Dafla*".

The Government of Arunachal Pradesh had been recommending for long that the name "*Nyishi*" be substituted in place of "*Dafla*" in the Scheduled Tribes list of the State since "*Dafla*" is a derogatory term and was given to the "*Nyishi*" community by outsiders. A change was, therefore, required in the Scheduled Tribes list of Arunachal Pradesh in as much as in place of the existing entry "*Dafla*", the name "*Nyishi*" was to be inserted in order to enable the "*Nyishi*" community to be listed by its correct name.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Basudeb Acharia [CPI-(M)] urged upon the Minister to bring a comprehensive legislation in the next phase of the Budget session to include certain communities like Deswali Majhi of West Bengal in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy (BJP) said that recommendations of a similar nature made by the State of Orissa had not been accommodated. He requested that the Government should bring a comprehensive Bill so that all the Scheduled Tribes were covered in one Bill.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri P.R. Kyndiah said that the Bill had been brought about after a lot of discussion. Any tribal community, which was recognized in one State, need not necessarily be recognized in another State. The Constitution was clear about it. It was State-specific. In 1999, the Government of India had made a very clear procedural way of how to get a community included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. Firstly, the State Government must recommend that the tribals had the tribal characteristics. Secondly, it had to get the clearance of the Registrar-General of India. Thirdly, the National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should look into it. After approval of the Cabinet, it comes to the House.

The Bill was passed.

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Kiren Rijiju, Madhusudan Mistry and Tapir Gao

STATE LEGISLATURES

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Twelfth Assam Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Seventh Session on 3 March 2008, was adjourned *sine die* on 3 April 2008 and was prorogued by the Governor the same day. In all, there were 19 sittings during the Session.

Address by the Governor: This being the First Session of the year, the Governor of Assam, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Ajai Singh addressed the members of the House on 3 March 2008.

Financial business: The Supplementary Demands for Grants and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill for 2007-2008 were presented on 3 March 2008. The Supplementary Demands for Grants were passed after voting on 7 March 2008. The Assam Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2008 was introduced, considered and passed by the House after discussion on the same day.

The Chief Minister, Shri Tarun Gogoi, who is also the Minister in-charge, Finance presented the Budget of the Government of Assam for the year 2008-2009 on 10 March 2008. The voting on the Demands for Grants took place for four days and the Budget, 2008-2009 was passed on the last day on 27 March 2008. The relevant Assam Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2008 was also introduced, considered and passed by the House the same day.

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Third Session of the Fifth Goa Legislative Assembly which commenced on 10 January 2008 was adjourned *sine die* on 17 January 2008.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Goa, Shri S.C. Jamir addressed the members of the Assembly on 10 January 2008. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address, moved by Shri Chandrakant Kavalekar and seconded by Shri Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco, was discussed for two days on 14 and 15 January 2008, respectively.

Financial business: The Supplementary Demands for Grants for

* Material contributed by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Goa Legislative Assembly Secretariat

the year 2007-2008 (First Batch) was presented in the House on 14 January 2008.

The Fifth Goa Legislative Assembly which commenced its Fourth Session on 24 March 2008 was adjourned *sine die* on 28 March 2008. In all, there were five sittings.

Address by Governor: The discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his address on 10 January 2008 in the previous session which took place on 14 and 15 January 2008 further continued on 24 March 2008. The Amendments to the Motion of Thanks were negatived and the Motion of Thanks was adopted.

Financial business: The Finance Minister presented the Annual Financial Statement for the year 2008-2009, to the House on 26 March 2008. The 'Vote on Account' for the part of the Financial year 2008-2009 was presented to the House on 27 March 2008. The discussion and voting of the 'Vote on Account' took place on the same day and the connected Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2008 was introduced, considered and passed by the House the same day.

The Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2007-2008 (First Batch), presented to the House on 14 January 2008, were discussed and voted on 24 March 2008. The Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2007-2008 (Second Batch), was presented on 24 March 2008 by the Minister of Finance. It was discussed and voted on 27 March 2008.

Legislative business: During the Session the following 19 Bills were introduced and passed by the House: (i) The Goa Prohibition of Ragging Bill, 2008; (ii) The Goa Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (iii) The Goa Preservation of Trees (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (iv) The Goa Electricity Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (v) The Goa Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (vi) The Goa Buildings (Lease, Rent and Eviction) Control (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (vii) The Goa Value Added Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2008; (viii) The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2008; (ix) The Goa Tax on Infrastructure (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (x) The Goa (Regulation of Land Development and Building Construction) Bill, 2008; (xi) The Goa Entertainment Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (xii) The Goa Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (xiii) The Goa Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (xiv) The Goa Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (xv) The Goa Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (xvi) The Goa Advocates' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (xvii) The Goa Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2008; (xviii) The Goa Appropriation

(Vote on Account) Bill, 2008; and (xix) The Registration (Goa Amendment) Bill, 2008.

Obituary reference: During the Session, obituary reference was made on the passing away of Shri Gurudas Vasudeo Naik Tari, former member of the Fifth Legislative Assembly of Goa, Daman and Diu. Members stood in silence for two minutes as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed member.

HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The First and Second Session of the Eleventh Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly commenced on 11 January and 4 March 2008 and were adjourned *sine die* on 12 January and 11 April 2008, respectively. There were 2 and 23 sittings during the First and Second Session respectively.

During the First Session, the newly elected members were sworn-in. Besides, elections to the office of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker were held and Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address was adopted.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary reference was made on the passing away of Shri Karam Singh, former member of the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha.

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Third Session of the Ninth Manipur Legislative Assembly which commenced on 1 February 2008 was adjourned *sine die* on 3 April 2008.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Manipur, Dr. Shivindar Singh Sidhu addressed the members of the Assembly on 1 February 2008. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address was moved by Shri E. Kunjeswar Singh and seconded by Shri N. Mangi Singh. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks took place on 4 and 5 February 2008. The Motion was adopted by the House on 5 February 2008.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were introduced and passed by the House: (i) The Manipur Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2008; (ii) The Manipur Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2008;

* Material contributed by the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat

(iii) The Compulsory Registration of Marriages Bill, 2008; (iv) The Manipur Ceiling on Government Guarantees (Amendment) Bill, 2008; (v) The Assam Amusement and Betting Tax (the Manipur Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2008; and (vi) The Manipur Hill Areas Autonomous District Council Bill, 2008.

Obituary reference: During the Session, obituary reference was made on the passing away of Shri R.K. Irabot Singh, former member of the First Manipur Territorial Assembly.

RECENT LITERATURE OF PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

I. BOOKS

Advani, L.K., *My Country My Life* (New Delhi: Rupa), 2008

Aiyar, R.K., *Global Governance* (New Delhi: Mahaveer), 2007

Bansal, Seema, *Women in Developing Countries* (New Delhi: Sumit Enterprises), 2007

Baruah, Aparajita, *Preamble of the Constitution of India: An Insight and Comparison with other Constitutions* (New Delhi: Deep and Deep Publications), 2007

Basu, Partha Pratim, ed., *State, Nation and Democracy: Alternative Global Futures* (New Delhi: Concept Publishing), 2007

Baxi, Upendra, *Human Rights in a Posthuman World: Critical Essays* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press), 2007

Chanchreek, K.L., ed., *Eminent Women Politicians* (New Delhi: Shree Publishers), 2007

Chauhan, Rajinder S., ed., *Globalization and Human Rights* (New Delhi: Radha Publications), 2007

De, D.J., *The Constitution of India* (Hyderabad: Asia Law House), 2008

Dhani, S.L., *Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: Man of Millennium for Social Justice* (Delhi: Kalpaz Publications), 2007

Dwivedi, Dharendra, *India and United Nations* (New Delhi: Adhyayan Publishers, 2008)

Gandhi, Gopalkrishna, *Gandhi: Essential Writings* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press), 2008

India, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, *Who's Who 2006* (New Delhi: Rajya Sabha Secretariat), 2007

Jowell, Jefferey, ed., *The Changing Constitution* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 2007

Khan, Gohar Ayub, *Glimpses into the Corridors of Power* (New York: Oxford University Press), 2007

Lijphart, Arend, *Thinking About Democracy: Power Sharing and Majority Rule in Theory and Practice* (London: Routledge), 2008

Manoharan, N., *Democratic Dilemma: Ethnic Violence and Human Rights in Electoral Process* (New Delhi: Concept Publishing), 2007

Marcano, Cristina, *Hugo Chavez: The Definitive Biography of Venezuela's Controversial President* (New York: Random House), 2007

Mendis, Dushyantha, ed., *Electoral Processes and Governance in South Asia* (New Delhi: Sage Publications), 2008

Nautiyal, Annpurna, *Fifty Years of Human Rights: Expectations and Challenges* (2nd Edition) (Delhi: Sarita Book House), 2007

Nayar, Kuldeep, *Without Fear: The Life and Trial of Bhagat Singh* (New Delhi: Harper Collins Publishers), 2007

Palanithurai, G., ed., *Voters Expectation and Reasoning of Participation in Electoral Process* (New Delhi: Concept Publishing), 2007

Panigrahy, Rajib Lochan, *Panchayati Raj Institutions: Issues and Challenges* (New Delhi: Discovery Publishing House), 2007

Purthi, R.K., *Nepal from Monarchy to Democracy* (Delhi: Sumit Enterprises), 2007

Rahman, Taiabur, *Parliamentary Control and Government Accountability in South Asia: A Comparative Analysis of Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka* (London: Routledge), 2008

Rai, Nishith, ed., *Urban Governance in India: Challenges and Prospects* (Lucknow: New Royal Books), 2007

Ram, D. Sundar, ed., *Dynamics of Grassroots Governance in India: Dreams and Realities* (New Delhi: Kanishka Publishers), 2007

Rawat, Bimla, *Indira Gandhi: India's Static Political Leader* (Delhi: Academic Excellence), 2007

Reddy, G. Ramachandra, *The Challenges of Governance in Indian Democracy* (New Delhi: APH Publishing), 2007

Sen, Bimla, *Women Power: The Changing Scenario* (Panchkula: Better Books), 2007

Sharma, Gokulesh, *Constitutions of SAARC Nations* (New Delhi: Deep and Deep Publications), 2008

Sharma, Roopali, *India and SAARC: New Vistas in Regional Trade* (Delhi: Sumit Enterprises), 2008

Sikkim Information and Public Relations Department, Sikkim: *Ensuring Human Security, Speeches of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling* (Gangtok: Information and Public Relations Department), 2007

Singh, Ritu, *President Pratibha Patil: India's First Woman President* (Delhi: Rajpal), 2007

Thakurta, Paranjay Guha, *Divided We Stand: India in a Time of Coalitions* (New Delhi: Sage Publications), 2007

Tripathi, Madhusoodan, *Sonia Gandhi: The Jewel of India* (New Delhi: Radha Publications), 2007

Wijesinha, Rajiva, *Declining Sri Lanka: Terrorism and Ethnic Conflict: The Legacy of J.R. Jayewardene (1906-1996)* (Delhi: Foundation Books), 2007

Yerande, V.L., *Aung San Suu Kyi's Struggle for Democracy* (Kanpur: Chandralok Prakashan), 2007

Ziegler, Katja S., ed., *Constitutionalism and the Role of Parliaments* (Oxford: Hart Publishing), 2007

II. ARTICLES

"Accountability to the People: Right to Recall", *Parliamentarian*, Vol.88, No.4, 2007, pp.320-323

Abeywardena, Mahinda Yapa, "Role, Rights and Responsibilities of the Opposition", *Parliamentarian*, Vol.88, No.4, 2007, pp.307-309

Abu Abraham, "More to Gandhi and Gandhism", *Mainstream*, Vol.46, No.6, January 2008, pp.11-12

Asgar Ali Engineer, "Secularism and its Problems in India", *Nation and the World*, Vol.14, No.386, 2007, pp.19-21

Ashiq Hussain Gopang, "Public Accounts Committee in Pakistan", *Parliamentarian*, Vol.88, No.2, 2007, pp.129-130

Bandyopadhyay D, "Constitution and Social Development", *Social Change*, Vol.37, No.3, September 2007, pp.1-13

Bhadrakumar, M.K, "Pakistan: Re-emergence of Nawaz Sharif", *Mainstream*, Vol.46, No.1, October 2007, pp.49-53

Bhargava, G.S, "Musharraf's Democracy and Army", *Nation and the World*, Vol.14, No.387, January 2008, pp.14-15

Chandra, Bipan, "P.C. Joshi: Political Journey", *Mainstream*, Vol.46, No.1, October 2007, pp.37-49

Cowshish, Atul, "Pakistan without Bhutto", *Nation and the World*, Vol.14, No.387, January 2008, pp.11-13

Curran, David and Woodhouse, Tom, "Cosmopolitan Peacekeeping and Peace Building in Sierra Leone: What can Africa Contribute?", *International Affairs*, Vol. 83, No.6, November 2007, pp.1055-1070

Darkwa, Sam N, "Evolution of Parliamentary Democracy in Ghana", *Parliamentarian*, Vol.88, No.3, 2007, pp.217-221

Dutta, Suvrokanal, "Emergence of Rahul Gandhi in Indian Politics", *Mainstream*, Vol.45, No.51, December 2008, pp.22-23

Farid Bakht, "Will there be Elections in Bangladesh this year?", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol.43, No.4, February 2008, pp.8-9

Fisher, Louis, "State secrets privilege: relying on Reynolds", *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol.122, No.3, Fall 2007, pp.385-408

Gumede, William, "South Africa: ANC Leadership: Party or People?", *World Today*, Vol.63, No.12, December 2007, pp.23-25

Ilyas Ahmed Bilour, "Parliamentary and Political Problems in Pakistan's Return to Democracy", *Parliamentarian*, Vol.88, No.3, 2007, pp. 206-208

Kabra, Kamal Narayan, "Case for a Federal House: Bringing the Voice of the Panchayati Raj Institution to Parliament", *Indian Journal Of Federal Studies*, No.2, 2007, pp.22-41

King, Stephen J, "Sustaining Authoritarianism in the Middle East and North Africa", *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol.122, No.3, Fall 2007, pp.433-459

Malaviya, Satyaprakash, "Bhutan-Democratic Constitutional Monarchy or its Mask", *Janata*, Vol.62, No.51, January 2007, p.7

Middleton, David, "Innovative Approaches to Political Research Methods", *Parliamentarian*, Vol.88, No.3, 2007, pp.232-233

Mishra, Chaturanan, "Need to Redefine Socialism After the Collapse of the Soviet Union", *Mainstream*, V.46, No.1, October 2007, pp.81-83

Mukherjee, Hirendranath, "Reminiscences of Radhakrishnan", *Mainstream*, Vol.45, No.50, December 2007, pp.15-17

Nagesh Kumar, "Potential and Challenges of East Asian Cooperation", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol.42, No.44, November 2007, pp.23-26

Narang, A.S, "Union-State Relations in India: Continuity and Change", *Indian Journal of Federal Studies*, 2007, pp.1-21

Prehn, Rasmus, "Parliamentary Control of Government Policy in the EU", *Parliamentarian*, Vol.88, No.2, 2007, pp.142-144

Robertson, H.V Ross, "Generating Respect for Parliament and Parliamentarians", *Parliamentarian*, Vol.88, No.3, 2007, pp.197-200

Sceats, Sonya, "Human Rights: Right for You, Right for Us?", *World Today*, Vol.63, No.10, October 2007, pp.15-17

Sen, Amartya, "Is Nationalism a Boon or a Curse?", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol.43, No.7, February2008, pp.39-44

Shevtsova Lilia, "Vladimir Putin", *Foreign Policy*, No.164, Jan-Feb 2008, pp.34-40

Shyam Chand, "Dr. Ambedkar on Democracy", *Mainstream*, Vol.45, No.51, December 2008, pp.23-24

Suresh, Kumar, "Diversity and Governance in India", *Indian Journal of Federal Studies*, No.4, 2007, pp. 97-102

Taylor, Brian D, "Force and Federalism", *Comparative Politics*, Vol.39, No.4, July 2007, pp.421-440

Wrobel, Paulo, "Argentina: Political Dynasty is Born", *World Today*, Vol. 63, No.10, October 2007, pp. 28-29

APPENDIX I **STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTIONED DURING THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA**

1. PERIOD OF THE SESSION	25 February 2008 to 19 March 2008 15 April 2008 to 5 May 2008	
2. NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD		28
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	162 hours and 11 minutes	
4. GOVERNMENT BILLS		
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session		32
(ii) Introduced		18
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Rajya Sabha		5
(iv) Reported by Standing Committee		8
(v) Referred to Departmentally Related Standing Committees by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha/Chairman, Rajya Sabha		NIL
(vi) Discussed		21
(vii) Passed		20
(viii) Withdrawn		1
(ix) Part-discussed		1
(x) Returned by Rajya Sabha without any recommendation		10
(xi) Pending at the end of the Session		34
5. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS		
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session		247
(ii) Introduced		23
(iii) Discussed		1
(iv) Passed		Nil
(v) Part-discussed		1
(vi) Pending at the end of the Session		270
6. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 184		
(i) Notices received		654
(ii) Admitted		101
(iii) Discussed		1
7. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377		298
8. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR		307

9. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193	
(Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
(i) Notices received	444
(ii) Admitted	3
(iii) Discussions held	1
10. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197	3
(Calling attention to matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
11. STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS	51
UNDER RULE 372 & DIRECTION 73A	
12. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	40
(ii) Admitted	8
(iii) Moved	7
(iv) Adopted	2
(v) Withdrawn	5
13. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	3
(ii) Admitted	3
(iii) Moved	2
(iv) Discussed	NIL
(v) Adopted	1
(vi) Withdrawn	1
14. NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE(S)	
CONSTITUTED, IF ANY DURING THE SESSION	4
15. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	14,930
DURING THE SESSION	
16. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES	989 passes issued on
ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE	4 March 2008
DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	
17. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
(i) Starred questions	560
(ii) Starred questions answered orally	105
(iii) Un-starred	5,413
(iv) Half-an-Hour discussions	1
18. NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS	7 Members
SWORN-IN WITH DATE	(3 MPs on 26 February 2006; 1 MP on
	3 March 2008 and 3 MPs on 22 April 2008)
19. NUMBER OF PRIVILEGE MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	10
(ii) Brought before the House	NIL

20. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period from 1 January to 31 March 2008	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	—	—
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House	—	—
iii)	Committee on Empowerment of women	1	Nil
iv)	Committee on Estimates	4	2
v)	Committee on Ethics	Nil	Nil
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	—	—
vii)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	—	—
viii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	—	—
ix)	Committee on Petitions	7	4
x)	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	—	—
xi)	Committee of Privileges	4	Nil
xii)	Committee on Public Accounts	—	—
xiii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	7	1
xiv)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	—	—
xv)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	10	5
xvi)	General Purposes Committee	Nil	—
xvii)	House Committee	1	—
xviii)	Library Committee	—	—
xix)	Railway Convention Committee	1	—
xx)	Rules Committee	Nil	Nil
xxi)	Committee to Inquire into Misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha	3	Nil

JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEE

i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	—	—
ii)	Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament	—	—

DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES

i)	Committee on Agriculture	—	—
ii)	Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers	2	4
iii)	Committee on Coal & Steel	3	3

iv) Committee on Defence	12	5
v) Committee on Energy	2	Nil
vi) Committee on External Affairs	2	Nil
vii) Committee on Finance	10	1
viii) Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	—	—
ix) Committee on Information Technology	11	Nil
x) Committee on Labour	4	1
xi) Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas	1	Nil
xii) Committee on Railways	—	—
xiii) Committee on Rural Development	—	—
xiv) Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment	—	—
xv) Committee on Urban Development	4	2
xvi) Committee on Water Resources	—	—

APPENDIX II

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK
TRANSACTIONED DURING THE TWO HUNDRED
AND THIRTEENTH SESSION (FIRST QUARTER)
OF THE RAJYA SABHA**

1. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of Committee	No. of meetings held during the period from 1 January to 31 March 2008	No. of Reports presented
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	3	Nil
(ii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Nil	Nil
(iii)	Committee on Petitions	3	Nil
(iv)	Committee of Privileges	Nil	Nil
(v)	Committee on Rules	Nil	Nil
(vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	1	Nil
(vii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	2	3
(viii)	General Purposes Committee	1	Nil
(ix)	House Committee	1	Nil
Department-related Standing Committees:			
(x)	Commerce	9	1
(xi)	Home Affairs	12	1
(xii)	Human Resource Development	4	Nil
(xiii)	Industry	8	Nil
(xiv)	Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	8	1
(xv)	Transport, Tourism and Culture	10	5
(xvi)	Health & Family Welfare	2	Nil
(xvii)	Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	8	1
Other Committees			
(xviii)	Committee on Ethics	Nil	Nil
(xix)	Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha	2	Nil
(xx)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	1	Nil
(xxi)	Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Functioning of Wakf Boards	6	8

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2008

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills	Private Bills	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Short Notice Questions
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.	18.3.2008 to 20.3.2008	—	5(5)	—	36(36)	30(30)	—
Assam L.A.	3.3.2008 to 3.4.2008	19	18(18)	—	885(848)	516(497)	93(76)
Bihar L.A.	22.2.2008 to 2.4.2008	24	12(12)	—	3060(2150)	399(264)	265(75)
Bihar L.C.	22.2.2008 to 3.4.2008	25	—(3)	—	1865(1369)	—(1)*	501(410)
Chhattisgarh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A.	10.1.2008 to 16.1.2008 and 24.3.2008 to 28.3.2008	10	19(18)	—	565(510)	660(668)*	—
Gujarat L.A.	18.1.2008 to 26.3.2008	27	14(14)	8	3613(2113)	—	3
Haryana L.A.	7.3.2008 to 28.3.2008	16	23(23)	—	280(199)	56(31)	7
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	11.1.2008 to 12.1.2008 4.3.2008 to 11.4.2008	25	12(12)	—	794(469)	151(119)	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.	7.1.2008 to 30.1.2008	16	4(3)	—	531(497)	365(331)	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.	27.2.2008 to 27.3.2008	19	9	9	686(725)	422(365)	778(317)
Karnataka L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.C.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	25.1.2008 to 19.3.2008	16	6(6)	—	—	3172(1553)	—	1716(2689)*	—
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur L.A.	1.2.2007 to 3.4.2008	20	6(4)	—	—	130(126)	4(4)	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.	11.3.2008 to 2.4.2008	15	11(11)	—	—	610(563)	187(161)	—	—
Nagaland L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	2(2)	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	13.2.2008 to 13.3.2008	—	2(3)	—	—	3028(2124)	3324(4098)⊕	15(4)	—
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.	18.2.2008 to 26.3.2008	24	23(22)	—	—	1970(1863)	1857(1766)	1	—
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand L.A.	3.3.2008 to	10	7(6)	—	—	454(141)	—(313)	130(8)	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	8.2.2008 to 12.3.2008	14	—(13)	—	—	934(785)	198(167)	202(177)	—
West Bengal L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES									
Delhi L.A.	17.3.2008 to 4.4.2008	14	3(5)	—	—	—(277)	—(351)	—	—
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

⊕ Starred Questions and Short Notices admitted as Unstarred

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Tripura L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand L.A.	7(7)	13(1)	4	—	—	2	—	1	4	—	1	—	3	—	1	10(1) ⁽ⁿ⁾
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	7	7(1)	3(1)	—	12(5)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	53(9) ^(m)
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																
Delhi L.A.	1(1)	4(1)	—	1(1)	—	3(2)	—	1(1)	2	—	—	—	5(3)	—	—	—
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

- (a) Employment Review Committee-1(1); Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-1; Ethics Committee-1; and Act Implementation Committee-2
- (b) Tourism Development Committee-7(1); Zila Panchayat / Zila Parishad Committee-41; Internal Resources Committee-7; Nivedan Committee-17; Women and Child Welfare Committee-16; Agriculture and Industrial Development Committee-7; Zero Hour Committee-7(2); Members' Fund Monitoring and Implementation Committee-23; and Question and Calling Attention Committee-7
- (c) Committee on Yamuna Accords-4; Committee for Examining the Figures of Waived Loans of Farmers in Haryana-3(1); and Press Gallery Committee-1
- (d) Public Administration Committee-3(2); Human Resource Development Committee-4(2); General Development Committee-6(7); and Rural Planning Committee-4(3)
- (e) Committee on Environment-6; and Ethics Committee-4
- (f) Nivedan Committee-8(1); Vidheyak Nidhi and Anushrawan Committee-9; Zero Hour Committee-6(1); Zila Panchayat / Zila Parishad Committee-8; Question and Calling Attention Committee-23; Compassion and Family Benefit Committee-9; Backward and Feeble Class Welfare Committee-8; Members' Convenience Committee-7; Non-Government Resolution Committee-9; Undertaking Question Implementation Committee-8; Tourism Development Committee-8(1); Environment and Pollution Control Committee-9; Slum Area Welfare Committee-9; Minority Weavers Welfare Committee-10; Yuva Khel Sanskriti Committee-4(1); Woman and Child Development Committee-6; Morality Committee-7(1); Central Assistance Committee-8; and Scheduled Tribes Development Committee-7(1)

- (g) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-2(1); Committee on Question and Reference-4(6); and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-2(2)
- (h) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-1(1)
- (i) Ethics Committee-5(1); Subject Committees-4(2); and Enquiry Committee-4(1)
- (j) Standing Committee-35(35); Ethics Committee-1; House Committee on Woman and Child Welfare-2; House Committee on Submissions-6; and House Committee on Proceedings-6
- (k) Committee on Welfare of Woman and Child-14(1); Question and Reference Committee-14(2); and Committee on Welfare of Backward Class-13
- (1) Ad-hoc Committee to suggest measures to overcome the problems being faced in Issuance of Bonafide /Domicile / Permanent Residence and Local Certificates-10(1)
- (m) Committee on Reference and Question-4(1); Committee on Financial and Administrative Delays-6(1); Committee on Parliamentary Study-3(1); Committee on Enquiry of House Complaints of U.P. Legislature-5(1); Parliamentary and Social Welfare Committee-5(1); Committee on Control of Irregularities in Development Authorities, Housing Board, Zila Panchayats and Municipal Corporation-4(1); Committee on Enquiry of Provincial Electricity Arrangement-13(1); Committee on Rules Revision-5(1); Committee on Regulation Review-5(1); Committee on Enquiry of Ragging in Colleges /Engineering Institutions-2; and Committee on Enquiry of Death / Suicide due to Hunger-1

APPENDIX IV**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE
PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD****1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2008**

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of Assent by the President
1	2	3
1.	The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2008	18.3.2008
2.	The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2008	18.3.2008
3.	The Appropriation (Railways) No. 2, Bill, 2008	18.3.2008
4.	The Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2008	24.3.2008
5.	The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2008	25.3.2008
6.	The Appropriation Bill, 2008	25.3.2008
7.	The Karnataka Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2008	25.3.2008
8.	The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2008	25.3.2008
9.	The Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008	28.3.2008
10.	The Representation of the people (Amendment) Bill, 2008-	28.3.2008
11.	The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2008	28.3.2008
12.	The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill, 2008	28.3.2008
13.	The Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2008	28.3.2008

APPENDIX V **LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD**

1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2008

ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Arunachal Pradesh Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
2. The Arunachal Pradesh Speaker and Deputy Speaker Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
3. The Arunachal Pradesh Salaries, Allowances and Pension of Members of the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
4. The Arunachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2008*
5. The Arunachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2008*

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Assam Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2008*
2. The Assam Agricultural Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2008
3. The Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
4. The Mising Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
5. The Tiwa Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
6. The Deori Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
7. The Assam Appropriation (No.II) Bill, 2008*
8. The Assam Administrative Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 2008
9. The Assam Amusement and Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
10. The Assam Tax on Luxuries (Hotels & Lodging Houses) (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
11. The Assam Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
12. The Assam Entry Tax Bill, 2008*
13. The Assam Non-Agricultural Urban Areas Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
14. The Assam Speaker's Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
15. The Assam Deputy Speaker's Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
16. The Assam Deputy Ministers', Ministers' of State, and Deputy Ministers' Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
17. The Salary and Allowances of the Leader of the Opposition in the Assam Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
18. The Assam Legislative Assembly Members' Salaries, Allowances and Pensions (Amendment) Bill, 2008*

BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Bihar Viniyog Vidheyak, 2008
2. The Bihar Viniyog (Sankhya-2) Vidheyak, 2008
3. The Bihar Vitta Vidheyak, 2008
4. The Bihar Mela Pradhikar Vidheyak, 2008
5. The Bihar Sukshma Evam Laghu Udyam Punarwas Vidheyak, 2008
6. The Bihar Lok Karya Samvidha Vivad Madhyastha, Nyayadhikaran Vidheyak, 2008
7. The Bihar Rajya Nirvanchan Pradhikar, Vidheyak, 2008
8. The Patna Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2008
9. The Bihar Rajya Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2008
10. The Bihar Rajya Sarvajanik Pustakalaya Evam Suchna Kendra Vidheyak, 2008
11. The Bihar Rajya Sahkari Society (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2008
12. The Sthaniya kshetra main Upyog Vyavahar Athwa Bikri Hetu Maalon ke Pravesh par Kar (Sanshodhan Evam Vidhimaankaran) Vidheyak, 2008

BIHAR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Bihar Viniyog Vidheyak, 2008
2. The Bihar Viniyog (Sankhya-2) Vidheyak, 2008
3. The Bihar Vitta Vidheyak, 2008

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Goa Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2007
2. The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2008
3. The Goa Prohibition of Ragging Bill, 2008
4. The Goa Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2008
5. The Goa Preservation of Trees (Amendment) Bill, 2008
6. The Goa Value Added Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2008
7. The Goa Buildings (Lease, Rent and Eviction) Control (Amendment) Bill, 2008
8. The Goa Electricity Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2008
9. The Goa Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2008
10. The Goa Tax on Infrastructure (Amendment) Bill, 2008
11. The Goa (Regulation of Land Development and Building Construction) Bill, 2008
12. The Goa Entertainment Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2008
13. The Goa Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 2008
14. The Goa Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2008
15. The Goa Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Bill, 2008
16. The Goa Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2008
17. The Goa Advocates, Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2008
18. The Goa Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2008
19. The Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2008

20. The Registration (Goa Amendment) Bill, 2008

GUJARAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Gujarat Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2008
2. The Registration (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2008
3. The Gujarat Legislative Assembly Members (Removal of Disqualifications) (Amendment) Bill, 2008
4. The Gujarat professional Technical Educational Colleges or Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fees) Bill, 2007
5. The Gujarat Professional Medical Education Colleges or Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of fees) Bill, 2007
6. The Gujarat (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2008
7. The Bombay Shops and Establishments (Gujarat-Amendment) Bill, 2008
8. The Gujarat Tax on Entry of Specified Goods into Local Areas (Amendment) Bill, 2008
9. The Gujarat Municipal Finance Board (Amendment) Bill, 2008
10. The Gujarat Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2008
11. The Gujarat State Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments (Amendment) Bill, 2008
12. The Gujarat District Planning Committees Bill, 2008
13. The Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited (Conferment of Power to Redeem Bonds) Bill, 2008
14. The Gujarat Appropriation Bill, 2008

HARYANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Haryana Legislative Assembly (Allowances and Pension of Members) Bill, 2008*
2. The Haryana Special Economic Zone (Amendment), 2008*
3. The Haryana State Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2008*
4. The Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2008*
5. The Haryana Compulsory Registration of Marriages Bill, 2008*
6. The Haryana Lifts and Escalators Bill, 2008*
7. The Haryana Evacuee Properties (Management and Disposal) Bill, 2008*
8. The Haryana Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2008
9. The Haryana Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2008
10. The Haryana Cattle Fairs (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
11. The Haryana Tax on Entry of Goods into Local Areas Bill, 2008*
12. The Haryana State Board of Technical Education Bill, 2008*
13. The Haryana Legislative Assembly (Facilities to Members) Amendment Bill, 2008*
14. The Haryana Legislative Assembly (Allowances and Pension of Members) Second Amendment Bill, 2008*
15. The Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma University of Health Sciences Rohtak Bill, 2008*

16. The Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology Hisar (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
17. The Chaudhary Devi Lal University Sirsa (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
18. The Maharshi Dayanand University (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
19. The Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya Khanpur Kalan (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
20. The Kurukshetra University (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
21. The Haryana Legislative Assembly Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
22. The Haryana Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
23. The Haryana Legislative Assembly (Allowances and Pension of Members) Third Amendment Bill, 2008*

HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Himachal Pradesh Police (Amendment) Bill, 2008
2. The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2008
3. The Himachal Pradesh Prevention of Corrupt Practices (Amendment) Bill, 2008
4. The Himachal Pradesh Judicial Officers (Pay, Allowances and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2008
5. The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2008
6. The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2008
7. The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2008
8. The Himachal Pradesh State Commission for Women (Amendment) Bill, 2008
9. The Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2008
10. The Himachal Pradesh Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2008
11. The Himachal Pradesh Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2008
12. The Himachal Pradesh Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2008

JHARKHAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Jharkhand Vinayog (Sankhya-1) Vidheyak, 2008
2. The Jharkhand Vinayog (Sankhya-2) Vidheyak, 2008
3. The Jharkhand Vidhanmandal Padhadikariyoun kaa Betan Aur Vatta (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2008
4. The Jharkhand Kai Mantriyan Kaa (Betan Aur Vatta) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2008
5. The Jharkhand Vidhanmandal Naita (Virodhi Dal Kaa (Betan Aur Vatta) Sanshodhan, Vidheyak, 2008
6. The Jharkhand Vidhanmandal Sachetak (Subidha aur Vatta) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2008
7. The Jharkhand Vidhanmandal Sadasyoun kaa Betan Vatta Evam Pension (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2008
8. The Jharkhand Rajya Krishi Upaj Bazar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
9. The Jharkhand Rajya Rajmarga Pradhikar Vidheyak, 2007

MADHYA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Madhya Pradesh Khadi Tatha Gramodyog (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2008
2. The Madhya Pradesh Nyayalaya Fees (Madhya Pradesh Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2008
3. The Madhya Pradesh Niji Vishwavidyalaya (Sthapana Evam Sanchalan) Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2008
4. The Madhya Pradesh Cotton Control (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2008
5. The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog Vidheyak, 2008
6. The Madhya Pradesh (Kramank-2) Vidheyak, 2008

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Manipur Appropriation No.1 Bill, 2008
2. The Manipur Appropriation No.2 Bill, 2008
3. The Compulsory Registration of Marriages Bill, 2008
4. The Manipur Ceiling on Government Guarantees (Amendment) Bill, 2008
5. The Assam Amusement and Betting Tax (Manipur Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2008

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Mizoram Industrial Area (Management, Regulation and Control) Bill, 2008
2. The Alzawl Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2008
3. The Mizoram Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2008
4. The Mizoram Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2008
5. The Mizoram Organic Farming (Amendment) Bill, 2008
6. The Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2008
7. The Mizoram Transparency in Public Procurement Bill, 2008
8. The Mizoram Youth Commission Bill, 2008
9. The Mizoram Board of School Education (Second Amendment) Bill, 2008
10. The Mizoram Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2008
11. The Mizoram (Land Revenue and Settlement Operation) Bill, 2008

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Orissa Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2008
2. The Orissa Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Orissa Appropriation Bill, 2008

RAJASTHAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Rajasthan Lokayukta and Up-Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
2. The Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2008*
3. The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2008*
4. The Rajasthan Universities' Teachers (Absorption of Temporary Teachers) Bill, 2008*
5. The Rajasthan Bhoodan Yojna (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
6. The Rajasthan Finance Bill, 2008*

7. The Rajasthan Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
8. The Jaipur National University, Jaipur Bill, 2008*
9. The Singhania University, Pachheri Bari (Junjhunu) Bill, 2008*
10. The Amity University Rajasthan, Jaipur Bill, 2008*
11. The NIMS University Rajasthan, Jaipur Bill, 2008*
12. The Sir Padampat Singhania University, Udaipur Bill, 2008*
13. The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2008*
14. The Rajasthan Para-Medical Council Bill, 2008*
15. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2008*
16. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2008*
17. The Rajasthan Dharma Swatantrya Bill, 2008*
18. The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 2008*
19. The Bhagwant University, Ajmer Bill, 2008*
20. The Suresh Gyan Vihar University, Jaipur Bill, 2008*
21. The Jagan Nath University, Jaipur Bill, 2008*
22. The Jayoti Vidyapeeth Women's University, Jaipur Bill, 2008*

UTTARAKHAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Uttarakhand Panchayat Law (Amendment) Bill, 2008
2. The Uttarakhand (The Uttar Pradesh Nagar Nigam Adhiniyam, 1959) (Adaptation and Modification Order, 2002) Adaptation and Modification Order, 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2008
3. The Uttarakhand (The Uttar Pradesh Nagar Palika Adhiniyam, 1916) (Adaptation and Modification Order, 2002) Adaptation and Modification Order, 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2008
4. The Uttarakhand (The Uttaranchal Value Added Tax Act, 2005) (Amendment) Bill, 2008
5. The Uttarakhand State Legislature (Members Emoluments and Pension) Bill, 2008
6. The Uttarakhand Appropriation Bill, 2008
7. The Uttarakhand University Bill, 2008*

UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2008
2. The Uttar Pradesh Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2008
3. The Uttar Pradesh Value Added Tax Bill, 2008
4. The Uttar Pradesh Public Services (Reservation for physically Handicapped, Dependents of Freedom Fighters and Ex-Servicemen) Amendment) Bill, 2008
5. The Uttar Pradesh Tax on Entry of Goods into Local Areas (Amendment) Bill, 2008
6. The Uttar Pradesh Khadi and Village Industries (Amendment) Bill, 2008
7. The Uttar Pradesh Trade Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2008
8. The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2008
9. The Uttar Pradesh Regulation of Money Lending (Amendment) Bill, 2008

10. The Uttar Pradesh Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2008
11. The Uttar Pradesh State Legislative (Members Emoluments and Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2008
12. The Uttar Pradesh Sangathit Apradh Niyantran Vidheyak, 2007
13. The Uttar Pradesh Sarvajanik Bhu-Grahaadi (Aparadhikrat Adhayasyaon ki Bedakhali) (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2007

APPENDIX VI
ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND
STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD

1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2008

Sl. No.	Title of Ordinance	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of Cessation	Remarks
UNION GOVERNMENT					
1.	The Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	14.1.2008	26.2.2008	—	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Railways (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	31.1.2008	26.2.2008	—	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Forward Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Ordinance, 2008	31.1.2008	26.2.2008	—	—
4.	The Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	5.2.2008	26.2.2008	—	Replaced by Legislation
5.	The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Ordinance, 2008	7.2.2008	26.2.2008	—	Replaced by Legislation

6.	The Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	7.2.2008	26.2.2008	—	Replaced by Legislation
GOA					
1.	The Goa Salary, Allowances and Pension of the Members of the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	27.8.2007	11.1.2008	28.3.2008	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Goa (Regulation of Land Development and Building Construction) Ordinance, 2007	2.9.2007	11.1.2008	26.3.2008	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Goa Tax on Infrastructure (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 2007	19.3.2007	11.1.2008	26.3.2008	Replaced by Legislation
4.	The Goa Municipalities Ordinance, 2007	14.12.2007	4.1.2008	26.3.2008	Replaced by Legislation
5.	The Goa Entertainment Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	13.10.2007	15.1.2008	26.3.2008	Replaced by Legislation
6.	The Goa Contingency Fund (Fourth Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	23.1.2008	24.3.2008	—	—
7.	The Goa Regulation of Land Development and Building Construction Second Ordinance, 2008	27.2.2008	24.3.2008	26.3.2008	Replaced by Legislation
8.	The Goa Tax on Infrastructure Ordinance, 2008	29.2.2008	24.3.2008	26.3.2008	Replaced by Legislation

9.	The Goa Town and Country Planning Amendment Ordinance, 2008	29.2.2008	24.3.2008	25.3.2008	Replaced by Legislation
1.	The Gujarat Co-operative Societies Ordinance, 2007	08.10.2007	18.1.2008	18.1.2008	Replaced by Legislation
1.	The Haryana State Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Ordinance, 2007	9.11.2007	7.3.2008	24.3.2008	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Haryana Special Economic Zone(Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	8.12.2007	7.3.2008	24.3.2008	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Haryana Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	18.12.2007	7.3.2008	25.3.2008	Replaced by Legislation
4.	The Haryana Compulsory Registration of Marriages Ordinance, 2008	12.2.2008	7.3.2008	25.3.2008	Replaced by Legislation
1.	The Orissa Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 2007	31.12.2007	—	—	Replaced by Legislation

1.	The Singhania University, Pacheri Bari (Junjhunu) Ordinance, 2007	21.10.2007	18.2.2008	—	—
2.	The Jaipur National University, Jaipur Ordinance, 2007	21.10.2007	18.2.2008	—	—
3.	The Sir Padampat Singhania University, Udaipur Ordinance, 2007	21.10.2007	18.2.2008	—	—
4.	The Armitry University Rajasthan, Jaipur Ordinance, 2007	21.10.2007	18.2.2008	—	—
5.	The NIMS University Rajasthan, Jaipur Ordinance, 2007	19.1.2008	18.2.2008	—	—
UTTARAKHAND					
1.	The Uttarakhand (The Uttar Pradesh Nagar Nigam Adhiniyam, 1959) (Adaptation and Modification Order, 2002) Adaptation and Modification Order, 2007 (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	4.2.2008	4.3.2008	—	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Uttarakhand (The Uttar Pradesh Nagar Palika Adhiniyam, 1916) (Adaptation and Modification Order, 2002) Adaptation and Modification Order, 2007 (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008	12.2.2008	4.3.2008	—	Replaced by Legislation

1.	The U.P. Sthaniya (Kshetra me Maal Ke Pravesh par kar (Sansodhan) Adhyadesh, 2008	UTTAR PRADESH	8.2.2008	—	Replaced by Legislation
----	--	---------------	----------	---	----------------------------

A. PARTY POSITION IN 14TH LOK SABHA (AS ON 16 APRIL 2008)

States	No. of Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	SP	RJD	BSP	DMK	SS	BJD	NCP	CPI	JD(U)	SAD	PMK	JMM	TDP	MD MK	LSP	JD (S)	AIFB
Andhra Pradesh	42	30	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Assam	14	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	40	3	5	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Chhattisgarh	11	2	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	26	12	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	10	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	14	6	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	28	9	16	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Kerala	20	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Madhya Pradesh	29	5	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	48	13	12	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	21	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	8	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	13	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	25	4	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	39	10	—	2	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	2	—	—	5	—	—	4	—	—	—
Tripura	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand	5	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	80	9	10	37	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	42	6	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Nominated	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																					
A & N Islands	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The NCT of Delhi	7	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	545	152	130	43	39	24	17	16	11	11	10	10	8	8	6	5	4	4	4	3	3

Abbreviations used in respect of parties represented in the Lok Sabha:

AGP-Asom Gana Parishad; AIFB-All India Forward Bloc; AIMIM-All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen; AITC-All India Trinamool Congress; BJD-Biju Janata Dal; BJP-Bharatiya Janata Party; BNP-Bharatiya Navshakti Party; BSP-Bahujan Samaj Party; CPI(M)-Communist Party of India (Marxist); CPI-Communist Party of India; DMK-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; INC-Indian National Congress; IND-Independents; J&KPDP-Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party; J&KNC-Jammu & Kashmir National Conference; JD(S)-Janata Dal (Secular); JD(U)-Janata Dal (United); JMM-Jharkhand Mukti Morcha; KC-Kerala Congress; LJSP-Lok Jan Shakti Party; MDMK-Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; MLKSC-Muslim League Kerala State Committee; MNF-Mizo National Front; NCP-Nationalist Congress Party; NLP-National Loktantrik Party; NPF-Nagaland Peoples Front; PMK-Pattali Makkal Katchi; RJD-Rashtriya Janata Dal; RLD-Rashtriya Lok Dal; RPI(A)-Republican Party of India(A); RSP-Revolutionary Socialist Party; SAD-Shiromani Akali Dal; SDF-Sikkim Democratic Front; SJP(R)-Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya); SP-Samajwadi Party; SS-Shiv Sena; TDP-Telugu Desam Party; TRS-Telangana Rashtra Samithi

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA (AS ON 17 APRIL 2008)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	SP	CPI (M)	JD(U)	AIA-DMK	BSP	NCP	*Others	IND	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
STATES														
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	13	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4 ^(a)	—	18	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
3.	Assam	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 ^(a)	—	7	—
4.	Bihar	16	1	2	—	—	7	—	—	—	5 ^(a)	—	15	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
6.	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
7.	Gujarat	11	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
8.	Haryana	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 ^(a)	1	5	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 ^(a)	—	4	—
11.	Jharkhand	6	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	6	—
12.	Karnataka	12	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 ^(a)	1	8	4
13.	Kerala	9	4	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	2 ^(a)	—	9	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
15.	Maharashtra	19	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	5 ^(a)	1	19	—
16.	Manipur	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17.	Meghalaya	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
18.	Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 ^(a)	—	1	—
19.	Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
20.	Orissa	10	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4 ^(a)	—	10	—
21.	Punjab	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 ^(a)	—	7	—
22.	Rajasthan	10	3	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
23.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 ^(a)	—	1	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
24.	Tamil Nadu	18	4	—	—	1	—	7	—	—	6 ^(m)	—	18	—
25.	Tripura	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
26.	Uttarakhand	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	31	1	6	16	—	—	—	6	—	2 ^(m)	—	31	—
28.	West Bengal	16	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	5 ^(m)	2	16	—
UNION TERRITORIES														
29.	The NCT of Delhi	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
30.	Puducherry	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
31.	Nominated	12	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	9 ^(m)	—	12	—
TOTAL		245	70	50	16	15	8	7	6	6	55	6	239	6

OTHERS

(Break-up of Parties/Groups)

(a) Telegu Desam Party-3; and Communist Party of India-1

(b) Asom Gana Parishad-2; and Bodoland People's Front-1

(c) Rashtriya Janata Dal-4; and Lok Jan Shakti Party -1

(d) Indian National Lok Dal-1

(e) Jammu and Kashmir National Conference-1; and Peoples' Democratic Party-1

(f) Janata Dal (Secular)-2

(g) Muslim League-1; and Communist Party of India-1

(h) Shiv Sena-4; and Sadbhavana Party-1

(i) Mizo National Front-1

(j) Biju Janata Dal-4

(k) Shiromani Akali Dal-3

(l) Sikkim Democratic Front-1

(m) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-3; Pattali Makkal Katchi-1; and Communist Party of India-1

(n) Rashtriya Lok Dal-1; Expelled from Bahujan Samaj Party-1

(o) All India Trinamool Congress-2; All India Forward Bloc-2; and Revolutionary Socialist Party-1

(p) Nominated-9

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE / UNION TERRITORY LEGISLATURES

State/Union territories	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI(M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Ind.	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh L.C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A. (2.4.2008)	60	43	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 ^(a)	14	60	—
Assam L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A. (1.4.2008)	243	8	55	3	1	1	4	88	72 ^(b)	10	232 ^c	—	—
Bihar L.C. (1.4.2008)	74	4	14	2	3	—	—	14	—	13 ^(a)	23	73 ^c	—
Chhattisgarh L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A. (1.4.2008)	40	16	14	—	—	3	—	—	—	5 ^(a)	2	40	—
Gujarat L.A. (1.4.2008)	182	59	117	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	2	182	—
Haryana L.A. (1.4.2008)	90	63	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	9 ^(a)	10	89 ^c	3
Himachal Pradesh L.A. (1.4.2008)	68	23	41	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	68	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A. (1.4.2008)	89	21	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	50 ^(a)	14	89	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A. (1.4.2008)	82	8	29	—	—	1	—	5	—	34 ^(a)	4	81 ^c	—

 Puducherry L.A.

- Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report
- Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures
 - Excluding Speaker/Chairman
 - (a) Arunachal Congress-2
 - (b) Rashtriya Janata Dal-54; Lok Jan Shakti Party-10; Communist Party of India (M-L)-5; Samajwadi Party-2; and Akhil Jan Vikas Dal-1
 - (c) Rashtriya Janata Dal-12; and Lok Jan Shakti Party-1
 - (d) United Goans Democratic Party-1; Save Goa Front-2; and Maharashtra Gomantak Party-2
 - (e) Indian National Lok Dal-9
 - (f) National Conference-24; Peoples Democratic Party-17; National Panthers Party-4; Awami League-1; Jammu State Morcha-1; Democratic Movement-1; and Nominated-2
 - (g) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-17; Rashtriya Janata Dal-7; All Jharkhand Students Union-2; United Goans Democratic Party-2; All India Forward Bloc-2; Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)-1; Jharkhand Party-1; Jan Chetna Party-1; and Nominated-1
 - (h) Samajwadi Party-8; Gondwana Gantantra Party-3; Rashtriya Samanta Dal-2; and Nominated-1
 - (i) Manipur Peoples' Party-5; Rashtriya Janata Dal-3; and National Peoples' Party-3
 - (j) Mizo National Front-23; Mizoram Peoples' Conference-2; and Zoram National Party-2
 - (k) Biju Janata Dal-61; and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-4
 - (l) Indian National Lok Dal-3; and Lok Jan Shakti Party-1
 - (m) Uttarakhand Party-3; Nominated-1; and Others-3
 - (n) Samajwadi Party-38; Rashtriya Lok Dal-6; Samajwadi Janata Dal (Rashtriya)-1; and Sikhhak Dal (Non-Political)-9

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE ON SALE

BOOKS	PRICE (in Rs.)	
	English	Hindi
Abstracts on Parliamentary Procedure	50.00	50.00
Abstracts on Parliamentary Procedure (Series 1-35)	390.00	390.00
Anti-Defection Law in India and the Commonwealth	2400.00	—
Babu Jagjivan Ram in Parliament: A Commemorative Volume	1000.00	—
Cabinet Responsibility to the Legislature: Motions of Confidence and No-confidence in the Lok Sabha and State Legislatures	1650.00	—
Calligraphed copy of the Constitution	800.00	800.00
Conferment of Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards	75.00	75.00
Constituent Assembly Debates	2000.00	2000.00
Constitution Amendment in India	3500.00	3500.00
Constitution of India in Precept & Practice	895.00	
Council of Ministers	10.00	10.00
Council of Ministers (1947-2004)	350.00	350.00
Dada Saheb Mavalankar—Father of Lok Sabha	200.00	200.00
Demarcation of Responsibilities in Government of India	150.00	150.00
Dictionary of Constitutional and Parliamentary Terms	300.00	
Directions by the Speaker (6th Edition)	75.00	75.00
Discipline and Decorum in Parliament and State Legislatures	300.00	—
Disqualification of Members on Ground of Defection (Sept. 1999)	20.00	10.00
Fifty Years of Indian Parliament	1500.00	1500.00
Fifty Years of Indian Parliamentary Democracy	300.00	300.00
Finance Ministers' Budget Speeches	2400.00	—
Glossary of Idioms	80.00	—
Handbook for Members, Lok Sabha (14th Edn.)	80.00	80.00
Hiren Mukerjee in Parliament—A Commemorative Volume	800.00	—
Honouring National Leaders—Statues and Portraits in Parliament Complex	400.00	400.00
India and Human Rights	550.00	550.00
Indian Parliamentary Companion—Who's Who of Members of Lok Sabha (First to Thirteenth Lok Sabha)	1000.00	1000.00
Indira Gandhi—Speeches in Parliament	2350.00	—
Indrajit Gupta in Parliament—A Commemorative Volume	1400.00	—
International Parliamentary Conference to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Parliament of India (22-24 January 2003)—A Commemorative Souvenir	550.00	—
Into the Third Millennium—A Speaker's Perspectives	800.00	800.00
Lal Bahadur Shastri and Parliament	1695.00	—
Legislators in India, Salaries and Other Facilities	200.00	200.00
List of Members: Fourteenth Lok Sabha	130.00	130.00
Lohia and Parliament	200.00	—
Prof. Madhu Dandavate in Parliament: A Commemorative Volume	1200.00	—
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad	200.00	100.00
Members of 14th Lok Sabha—A Brief Introduction (Bi-lingual)	400.00	—
Motions and Resolutions in Parliament	16.00	20.00
Muhawara and Lokoti Kosh (Hindi-Angrezi) (Hindi-English Glossary of Idioms and Proverbs)	65.00	—
Netaji & INA	150.00	150.00
Parliament of India	1400.00	1400.00

Parliamentary Debates	160.00	—
Parliament of India (11th Lok Sabha)	450.00	450.00
Parliament of India (12th Lok Sabha)	450.00	450.00
Parliamentary Privileges—Court Cases	200.00	—
President's Rule in the States and Union Territories (7th Ed.)	140.00	140.00
Presidential Addresses to Parliament	1400.00	1400.00
Presidential Ordinances (1950-96)	80.00	—
Privileges Digest—Digest of Cases (1950-2000)—Vol. I & II	500.00	—
Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Twelfth Edition)	100.00	100.00
Sir Speaks—Selected Speeches of Manohar Joshi	800.00	800.00
Speakers of Lok Sabha	250.00	250.00
Speaker Rules	600.00	—
The Constitution and Constituent Assembly (Some Selected Speeches)	50.00	—
The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker—Procedure for Election and Removal	35.00	35.00
The Speaker Speaks: Selected Speeches of Speaker Balayogi	800.00	800.00
Unparliamentary Expressions	850.00	—
Who's Who (11th Lok Sabha)	700.00	700.00
Who's Who (12th Lok Sabha)	900.00	900.00
Who's Who (13th Lok Sabha)	900.00	900.00
Who's Who (14th Lok Sabha)	1650.00	1650.00
Women Parliamentarians in India	1275.00	—

EMINENT PARLIAMENTARIANS MONOGRAPH SERIES

Dr. Lanka Sundaram	50.00	30.00
Bhupesh Gupta	50.00	30.00
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar	50.00	30.00
Dr. Chintaman D. Deshmukh	50.00	30.00
Dr. Rajendra Prasad	50.00	30.00
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee	50.00	30.00
Jaisukh Lal Hathi	50.00	30.00
M.A. Ayyangar	50.00	30.00
Panampillil Govinda Menon	50.00	30.00
Pandit Mukut Behari Lal Bhargava	60.00	60.00
Pandit Nilakantha Das	50.00	30.00
Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur	50.00	30.00
S.M. Joshi	50.00	30.00
Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah	50.00	30.00
V.K. Krishna Menon	50.00	30.00

PERIODICALS

	PRICE	
	Per copy	Annual Subs.
English		
The Journal of Parliamentary Information (Quarterly)	120.00	350.00
Digest of Legislative and Constitutional Cases (Quarterly)	50.00	160.00
Digest of Central Acts (Quarterly)	50.00	160.00
Privileges Digest (Annual)	50.00	50.00
Hindi		
Sansadiya Patrika (Quarterly)	100.00	320.00
Kendriya Adhiniyam Sar (Quarterly)	50.00	160.00