

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

[English]

Friday, February 24, 2006/Phalguna 5, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Q. No. 102

Shrimati Nivedita Mane—Not Present

Shri Eknath Mahadeo Gaikwad—Not Present

Shri Rasheed Masood Q. No. 103

JNNURM

+
*103. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) launched in December, 2005 in various cities of the country is progressing as per schedule;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) the cities where it is lagging behind;

(d) the funds released so far to various States under the Mission;

(e) whether the Ministry has constituted a Directorate to co-ordinate between Centre and various States Governments;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Union Government for effective monitoring of the Mission?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) After the launch of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3.12.2005, 7 Regional Workshops have been organized at Lucknow, Guwahati, Jaipur, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai in order to sensitize the States and cities about JNNURM and to facilitate preparation of City Development Plans (CDPs), Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), and Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) for accessing funds under JNNURM. So far Mumbai, Nagpur and Pune in Maharashtra have submitted CDPs, DPRs and MoAs, Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh have submitted CDPs and MoAs. CDPs have also been received from Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Vadodara and Surat in Gujarat. Other cities covered under the Mission are in the process of completing procedural requirements laid down under the Mission.

(d) No funds have been released so far to any State under the Mission.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. A Mission Directorate headed by a Joint Secretary has been set up.

(g) The steps taken by the Union Government for effective monitoring of the Mission are:

(i) A Central sanctioning & Monitoring Committee headed by Secretary (UD) has been constituted to closely review/monitor the progress of projects sanctioned under the Mission.

(ii) Senior officers of the rank of Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary of the Ministry have been designated as Coordinators for specified States for guidance, coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Mission in various States/ Union Territories.

(iii) Appraisal agencies have been finalized for scrutiny of proposals submitted by the Mission cities.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the Missions and the schemes run by the Government are infact very good but their implementation is not satisfactory. The benefits of these schemes hardly reach the public. Under this scheme the Government have selected 63 cities. More than two and a half months have since elapsed and out of these 63 cities, only three cities have submitted their city development plans, DPRs and MoAs. The remaining 60 cities are yet to submit these are lagging behind. Given this state of affairs, I don't think that the objectives of this Mission would be achieved during this term. Hence, I want to know what steps are being taken to expedite the implementation thereof? While launching this Mission, the hon. Prime Minister had in his inaugural speech stated that in order to overcome the problems with regard to the acquisition of land, suitable amendments would be made in the law. Has the government amended the law in this regard? The said documents have been received from Mumbai, Nagpur and Pune, but the funds have not been released to these cities so far. He may throw some light on this matter.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I thank the hon. Member for a number of supplementary questions. But I would like to the hon. Member of the House to appreciate that this is a scheme with a difference, with a huge difference not merely in terms of size but in terms of approach. This scheme was launched late, as late as 3rd December, 2005. It was delayed because we had to go in for consultations with the stakeholders including the State Governments.

In the last 10 weeks we have taken many steps. I want the House to note that this is a scheme which will last for next—excluding the current one—six financial years. It is only the beginning. Therefore, all the money need not be spent in this year. We have taken many steps in the last 10 weeks. We have got seven Workshops organised in various parts of the country. Tool kits have been distributed to all the concerned parties including urban local bodies. A suggestive list of Consultants has been prepared because this is a new area where expertise is not available in the market. We have also given reform roadmaps. The National Steering Group headed by me will meet on the 6th of March. The

proposals received from some cities—these are only proposals and many more cities are sending their proposals—are being scrutinised. We hope to release some money in the current financial year. But all the moneys need not be spent; we have six more years. We are determined to spend money. It is a huge project. Urbanisation is the future way. We need to face this problem of decaying urban infrastructure. This is my answer.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: The hon'ble Minister has not given a reply with regard to the problems of land acquisition about which the hon. Prime Minister in his speech had stated that in order to allot houses to the poor, all the obstructions would be cleared by amending the law. I had asked whether the Government had taken any steps in this regard. The Minister hasn't given a reply about the steps which have been taken in this regard because different states are involved in this. This cannot be accomplished in a supplementary, so firstly, I would like to have the details in this regard.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Shri Rasheed Masood is a personal friend of mine and I am at his disposal both inside and outside the House!

Under this scheme, we are providing assistance 'for housing for the poor in urban areas'. In regard to land, we are prepared to provide guidance. But the steps, the hon. Member must appreciate, are to be taken by the State Governments and urban local bodies. In regard to housing for the poor in Delhi, the Urban Development Ministry could do something. In regard to other cities, the responsibility devolves on the State Governments.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Various states would be involved in this, that's why I am saying that it would take a long period of time to get completed. My second supplementary is that the Government wants to help the poor, it has come to our notice that whenever we talk of the poor, the actual poor people are not benefited and the people who are clever enough to forge the documents walk away with all the benefits of such schemes. I want to ask the hon'ble Minister whether any definition of the

poor, has been given? Have any rules been formulated in this regard? If there are any such rules, what is the definition of 'the poor'? Do the people who are below to poverty line come under this definition or it includes the people who have got some other sources of income? Is there any ceiling prescribed for them? If the Government does not define this term, the rich will take advantage of this scheme and the poor people would not get any benefit from it.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission has two sub-missions. One sub-mission deals with urban governance and the second sub-mission deals with services for the urban poor. So, we are concentrating completely on the poor to provide safe drinking water, to see that the health problems in their localities are addressed to.

Above all, to address the problems of housing for the poor, which kind of poor should be accommodated, it is naturally best left to the States. So, I cannot decide here as to who will be covered by the definition of poor. Naturally those who are in the slums, those who belong to the category of Below Poverty Line will surely be there.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: I am not asking him about health related issues. I am asking about the issues concerning the land. The hon. Prime Minister has made a commitment. Unless the Government issues guidelines to the States, how can the states follow the guidelines? They are not willing to issue the guidelines because they haven't even discussed this matter till date. That's why I am saying that such procrastination will lead to completion of the term of the Parliament and it will end in a fiasco.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member wants to know the definition of a poor person.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: There are so many definitions. I do not want to get into that question, which is rather semantic. Basically, this is matter to be dealt with by the States. Land again is a State subject. Urban development itself is the State subject. Although urban development is a State subject the Government of India

has come forward with this huge scheme because it finds the urban infrastructure is sinking while the population in urban area is exploding.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government have received proposals under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. These include a proposal from Ujjain also and I am grateful to the Minister for including Madhya Pradesh in this scheme. Though, a large number of cities have not submitted their proposals. Yet, I would like to know the amount involved in each proposals and the estimated funds likely to be released this year? Also what percentage of funds will be released during this year for the proposals received and how is the Government going to disburse the remaining amount in the coming years. He has mentioned about setting up monitoring Committees. While monitoring, would he see to it that the local MPs are also included in the review of the areas from where the proposals have been received.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I cannot at this point say how much money will be released in the current remaining financial year. We will try to release as much money as possible but even if money is not released nothing will be lost because we are determined to raise Rs. 50,000 crore in the next six years. So, with the matching amount to be produced by the State Governments and local bodies we will be spending as much as Rs. 1 lakh crore on the scheme in the next six financial years. Therefore, you should not get excessively exercised on the non-release or paltry release of fund this year.

In regard to the scheme, we have a State level steering group headed by the Chief Minister. All the leaders of urban local bodies are involved there. Some of the representatives of the Government of India will also be there. While there is no formal cap on funds for each State, we will have to see that this fund is equitably distributed all over the country. We will see that each State gets its due. Each city gets its due. As you know, it is not a one sided release. This release will be linked to reforms, will be linked to the ability of urban local bodies and State Governments to provide their matching contribution.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Members of Parliament be part of the Central Sanctioning of Monitoring Committees?

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: As of now, it has not been envisaged. I must be intellectually honest with you. Basically, it is an administrative affair. The National Steering Group is headed by the Minister. My colleague, Selja ji is the co-Chairperson. We will both be Chairing it and we will be consulting the State Governments. The State Governments and local bodies will have a lot to say in the entire process.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, the hon. Minister is excellent in using language and giving evasive reply. He has said that both urban development and land are State subject. The hon. Minister's job is only to give guidelines. I agree with it. I would say that the biggest problem in urban areas of the country is to provide housing for the Below Poverty Line families, the *jhuggis and jhonparis*. If only he were to think keenly and take the advice of eminent people in construction activity in the country, it is not difficult to provide housing to all the BPL families in the country. He can do so without spending much money which he is worried about. In the reply, the Minister has said that he was utilising the services of the Additional Secretary and the Joint Secretary who are there since time immemorial who could not do anything so far. I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether he would like to include the experts in construction who can suggest ways by providing land from the Government. They could take care of the construction and everything else without any burden on the Government. You only have to acquire land either through the State Government or the Central Government itself and given the land to the private builders so that they can provide the houses freely to all the urban poor. I just wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether he will consult some experts so that it can be implemented without bothering about the huge money.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, under the Mission, we have a scheme called Integrated Housing Slum Development Programme (IHS DP). It is meant for housing for the poor and slum dwellers.

The suggestion made by Mr. K.S. Rao is that the land to be provided by the State Governments could be so given to the private developers that private developers themselves could provide housing for the poor. This is a good suggestion. We will certainly mention it to the State Governments and we will also try to implement it in Delhi.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission is a very good scheme. The Central Government have announced after starting this scheme that though no allocation of funds so far has been made to the states, it is likely to release the funds in near future. We have Mumbai, Nagpur and Pune in our Maharashtra and the Minister of Finance had stated that till now money has not been received and the Members of Parliament should try to get it. In Nanded in Maharashtra and Sambhaji Nagar in Aurangabad, Maharashtra comprise my constituency. It has a large area from tourism point of view. There is a Gurudwara in Nanded and a big programme will be held there in 2008 so I will request to sanction this scheme.

J.B.I.C. has given money for Ajanta Alora in Sambhaji Aurangabad but it is only for roads in rural areas and not for corporation or Municipal Corporation. Our honourable Chief Minister has sent a proposal for Nanded and Sambhaji Aurangabad. He has been appointed the Chairman of Advisory Board at State level. Today population of our city is above 10 lakhs. But as per the census of 2001, it has been shown to be one lakh less than the current figure of ten lakhs. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister clear the proposal of Aurangabad sent by our Chief Minister by changing the norms.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, you will kindly appreciate in all such schemes, we will have to draw a line somewhere. We drew the line at million mark in terms of 2001 Census. It does not, however, mean other cities will not be covered by our Scheme. As part of the same Scheme, we have another Scheme called Urban Integrated Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT). Under that Scheme, we will try and provide assistance to cities whose population is less than one million.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She Khaireji has stated that the celebration of the birth of Guru Govind Singhji is proposed to take place in 2008.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: You will be happy to note that Nanded is already a part of the 63 mission cities. We are aware of the 2008 celebrations and we will provide money for the schemes so that that city is developed for 2008.

MD. SALIM: Sir, there is no doubt that given the situation of the cities in our country renewal of urban infrastructure is very much needed. The hon. Minister would appreciate that there is a huge backlog. Instead of being proactive, we are now becoming retroactive. Still today the hon. Minister is taking in future tense, like, 'he will provide', 'he will see', 'we will see'. For the last one and half years we are listening about the National Urban Renewal Mission. The question of decentralisation and de-bureaucratisation is very important as far as Urban Renewal Mission is concerned. The 73rd and the 74th amendments to the Constitution also provide for decentralisation. The elected representatives are there in the consultative mode. The scheme itself says that whenever a crucial decision is needed to be taken, you have a bureaucratic set up and over centralisation. Now, my question is, does it not infringe upon the federal structure of our country and also the spirit of the Constitution? The necessity of cities is more felt by the urban local bodies than by those who are sitting in Delhi.

Sir, finally, the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech last year had provided for the Viability Gap Fund. But during the entire year we have been unable to use a single paise from the allocations meant for this scheme. Now, this is the month of February and the hon. Minister is telling us that there is nothing to be worried and that we have another five years. The scheme was launched in the month of December last year, not in the month of February and March. Now, I would like to know in what way the Government proposes to deliver the results to the urban population of this country by March 31, 2006.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, as for release of money for the remaining part of the year I have already answered that question. Nothing will be lost because we are determined to spend that total amount of Rs. 50,000 crore.

Sir, as for involvement of urban local bodies, it is mandatory. Our Mandatory Reforms Programme includes not only honouring but strict implementation of the 74th amendment relating to urban local bodies. At every level, the elected officials or urban local bodies will be fully involved. Only at the State level, the National Steering Group is headed by the Chief Minister and at the national level the Steering Group is headed by the Minister. I think, my good friend would appreciate that both the Minister at the National level and the Chief Minister at the State level are also elected officials. Otherwise, the officials of the urban local bodies will be fully involved. It is not a bureaucratic affair. The idea is to involve the elected officials.

Computerisation of Post Offices

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*104. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programme of computerization of all the Post Offices in the country is progressing at very slow pace;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Post Offices computerized in each State at present;

(d) whether the slow computerization process is affecting the performance of Post Offices;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government has fixed any time schedule for computerization of all the Post Offices in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

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

(c) In the Tenth Five Year Plan the Government has approved computerization of 7700 large Post Offices all over the country. Out of which 6184 Post Offices have already been provided with the computers till January, 2006. Balance 1516 Post Offices will be taken up for computerization during the remaining period of the Tenth Plan subject to availability of funds. Number of Post Offices computerized in the states is given in enclosed Annexure.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(f) No, Sir. However, the Government has a time schedule for computerization of 7700 large Post Offices across the country by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan as stated at (c) above.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.

Annexure

*Number of Post Offices provided with computers,
State wise, till 31.12.2005*

Name of the States	No. of Post Offices
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	452
Assam	110
Bihar	127
Chhattisgarh	157
Delhi	150
Gujarat	321
Haryana	156
Himachal Pradesh	120
Jammu & Kashmir	68
Jharkhand	104
Karnataka	397
Kerala	545
Madhya Pradesh	171

1	2
Maharashtra and Goa	864
North Eastern States (Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura)	65
Orissa	179
Punjab	239
Rajasthan	259
Tamil Nadu including Pondicherry	848
Uttar Pradesh	188
Uttaranchal	124
West Bengal and Sikkim including A&N Islands	540
Total	6184

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the decision of computerization of Post Offices of the country has been taken so that present working capacity of post offices could increase and more facilities could be provided to customers.

Sir, honourable Minister has stated in his reply that there was a proposal to computerize 7,700 post offices under Tenth Five Year Plan. Out of this 6184 post offices have been computerised and the Government want to computerise remaining 1516 post offices in next financial year. Sir, through you I would like to ask honourable Minister as to whether he has any list at state level of those post offices of the country which have been computerized on priority basis and the post offices computerised in rural areas and tribal areas and how many post offices have been provided with this facility particularly in Bihar?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, the hon. Member has asked a very good question. It was part of the Tenth Five Year Plan that we decided to computerise nearly 7700 post offices. The hon. Member wants to know the progress. Nearly 80 per cent of the post offices, that is, 6184 post offices have been computerised throughout the

country. In fact, we are planning to computerise the remaining post offices before the completion of the Tenth Five Year Plan. The hon. Member wanted to know the State-wise position. In Andhra Pradesh, we have computerised 452 post offices. In Assam, we have computerised, 110 post offices and in Bihar, we have computerised 127 post offices. In Chhattisgarh, the number is 157, in Delhi it is 150, in Gujarat it is 321, in Himachal Pradesh, it is 120, in Jammu and Kashmir it is 68, in Jharkhand it is 104, Karnataka it is 397, in Kerala it is 545, in Madhya Pradesh it is 171 and in Maharashtra it is 864. I will give the detailed list to the hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)* In fact, the hon. member may want to know the position in his constituency. Out of the 33 large post offices, 12 post offices have been completed and the remaining large post offices will be completed within the Tenth Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hon. Minister has replied in regard to Bihar and Patna. Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister towards the post offices of Bihar, where the total number of post offices is 1042 and out of which only 127 post offices have been computerised. I would not like to say anything about the time by which the work of computerisation of the post offices will be completed and it is upto hon. Minister to decide about it. He has not replied about remaining post offices, the specific question of post offices which are in rural areas and tribal areas, how many post offices have you computerized there. Sir, through you I would like to ask the honourable minister that whether he will continue the computerization of post offices in urban areas but the major population lives in villages by when the work of computerisation of post offices in Bihar particularly in our constituency will be completed? I again repeat the question that in rural areas and in tribal areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has understood it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: He understands it but he is not replying. We all belong to villages. Honourable Minister might himself be concerned about villages, for his having a rural background. Therefore I want reply of these questions from Hon. Minister.

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, the hon. member has not listened to my answer carefully. As I mentioned, it was decided that large post offices having more than two public counters will be computerised in the Tenth Five Year plan. We have been doing that. In fact, we have 26,044 Departmental Post Offices in the country. We are planning to computerise remaining Departmental Post offices in the next Five Year Plan. At the moment, this is our plan and we are planning to proceed with it. In fact, the hon. member is right when he said that in Bihar, out of 272 large post offices which we earmarked to be computerised, only 12 of them have been completed. The remaining 145 post offices are going to be completed within the next few months, before the completion of the Tenth Five Year Plan. At the moment, wherever the Department has large post offices in the rural areas, they are planning to cover those post offices which are large enough having two or more public counters.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. minister whether any alternative arrangement is being made to computerise the post offices in rural areas where there is no proper electricity?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, as I said, the answer is the same. At this point, only the large post offices are taken into computerization. Let us complete the first target set out by the Postal Department. We have other remaining nearly 18,000 post offices which we will take up in the next Five Year Plan. This is what we have planned.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: I want to know whether any alternative arrangement is being made to computerise post offices where there is no electricity.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: If the Member wants me to provide electricity, that is not the duty of the Postal Department. It is the duty of the local State Government.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, I would like to know from honourable Minister as to why discrimination has been shown among states in regard to modernization work especially against Jammu & Kashmir? Our Ladakh district alone is equal to Himachal Pradesh in area. But

they have one point programme for this. They have computerized 848 post offices in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry but in our state they have computerized only 68 post offices. They have discriminated against us in regard to tower line of telecommunication and they are again doing this. I would like to know as to why there is such a discrimination? We say why they are favouring Jammu and Kashmir but why this department is not doing justice with Jammu & Kashmir? When this department would do justice and when they will place it equal to other states?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, as the hon. member has pointed out, it is a fact that in Tamil Nadu we have computerized 848 post offices. But let me tell you, Sir, that all the large post offices in Jammu and Kashmir have already been covered. It was not decided by me after I became the Minister. The post offices were selected much before the UPA Government came to power. As I said, any post offices, which are large enough, have been covered. In fact, I think, hon. member has failed to look at Maharashtra. In Maharashtra and Goa, it is 864 which is more than that of Tamil Nadu.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: You are not part and parcel of Tamil Nadu only. You are part and parcel of the whole country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister about the criteria for computerization of Post offices. In the villages, a large number of Post offices are functioning. But there functioning is not up to the mark. Hence, they fail to fulfil the needs and aspirations of the people. What steps are being taken by the Government to improve their functioning? People want more Post Offices to be opened in the villages. What is the criteria for opening new Post Offices? I have written several letters to the Hon. Minister in this regard. But the replies have been unsatisfactory. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the criteria for opening of new Post Offices in the rural areas.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, I understand, there is always a demand for post offices in every village. But, I think, this question relates to more of computerisation. We have already said to only computerise large post offices in the first stage. Definitely, it is the plan and intention of the Postal Department to make sure that we computerize all the post offices. But we need a lot of funds. So, we have already made a request to the Planning Commission to include the other post offices. Again, in the villages, if the post offices are having more than two public counters, definitely they will be considered.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She wanted to know the criteria adopted for the selection.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: About the criteria, as I have mentioned earlier, they should have a large post office with two counters at least. That is the criterion at this moment. Definitely, the Postal Department is looking for a change. We realise that a poor man's bank is the post office. In fact, we are also planning to take more initiatives in trying to make a post office more user-friendly to the consumers.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The concept of computerisation is good. The cost is also more. But the position is that the position is that the post offices do not have basic necessities. In my home town, in the Varkala Municipality, they acquired some land decades ago. Now, it has become a place of dumping municipal wastes. Even, the land with the Municipality has become a menace because they will not construct a post office there. Further, all the post offices are working in rented buildings with no basic amenities. Amenities are not there for people even to pass urine when they come to the post offices. That is the situation in the country. ...*(Interruptions)* We are talking of computerisation! Let us first have post offices in all the places in our own buildings and not in rented buildings. What steps can he take in this regard? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: What is he asking?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no supplementary question. Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varna.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We do not have post offices in our own buildings. They are functioning in

rented buildings. Even in barber shops, there are post offices! That is the situation in the country. Why do you speak of computerisation without having a post office in the rural areas? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have lost your time. What can I do in this regard?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has replied that 321 post offices are computerized in Gujarat. Present age belongs to IT computerization so it should be done and it is being done, I thank the hon. Minister for this. But it is unfortunate that the Government are closing the post offices of those villages, which are near the post office which has been computerized. On the one hand it is good but on the other hand the facility available in small villages has been withdrawn. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he will continue it and whether he will complete the computerization of remaining post offices.

[*English*]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, there has been a general feeling among all the members that if a post office is being closed down, the postal services is not at all provided in that area. That is not correct. The post office has a norm of operating in profit. The post office cannot go on running incurring a loss. ...(*Interruptions*) So, already, we are running them with an overall subsidy of more than Rs. 1380 crore.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: What is the criterion to consider profit?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Let me come to that. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: The Government is closing the post offices already situated there. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First of all you should listen the reply of hon. Minister, if you are not satisfied with it then I will see.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: What is the criterion to consider the profit and loss in this?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Can I answer? I am answering. Please give me time to answer. We say that basically, at least, they should be able to meet the day to day expenses of the postal staff there. Since these post offices do not meet the criteria of making them profitable to run there, we do not want to run those post offices incurring loss in the urban areas. When we do it in the rural areas, we do not mind it because we are getting a subsidy from the Central Government to run them. But, in urban areas, we want to make sure that we move to the nearby area so that we avoid unnecessary expenditure. But just because the post office is not there in your area, it does not mean that the service is not there. The service is there. ...(*Interruptions*) let me answer. In fact, we have made sure to ensure that the service is there. A post man not only carries letters but also he picks them up from every house when he delivers the letters to the people at their houses.

Moreover, what we have done is that he also sells stamps when he goes and delivers letters. So, it does not mean that the consumer is really getting affected. But please do understand, we have also to make the post office run profitably. We cannot bleed the Government for this. We want to have a more profitably running system and we are going towards this. But there is a psychological feeling among our hon. Members that the moment a post office is removed from there, the service is stopped. This is not a prestige thing. But I think the service is there. What we should look is postal department giving the good service to its consumers, to the people. That is very, very important.

Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: The hon. Member wanted to know about a new building. ...(*Interruptions*) We would love to hold. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in many rural areas they have been closed. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Please, let me answer. I am not getting the translation. I cannot answer you. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, hon. member also wanted to know

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where the land is there, they are not constructing. We would love to host our post office in our own building. But it needs lot of funds. We do not have that much funds. Mostly, we will love to do it and we will definitely try to accommodate it. Your suggestion is well taken. In the next plan, when funds are allocated to us, you will have it definitely. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGAR BWISWMUTHIARY: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I would like to ask from hon'ble Minister as to

[English]

why does the Government of India has not adopted any concrete policy decision to set up more number of new post offices, particularly, in the tribal community areas with special mention to my Bodoland territory and in very many rural areas. You always keep on talking about that. Whenever we place some kind of demands for the setting up of new post offices, then you always keep on talking in terms of viability. But we, the tribal people, want to have all kinds of facilities. So, I am glad to appeal to you that as many as adequate numbers of new post offices should be set up in the tribal areas, in the backward and rural areas with special mention to my Bodoland territory and in each and every tribal village across the whole country.

My second question is this. Do you have any concrete policy to regularise the services of those who have been working under the rural post offices whose services have not yet been regularised?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only one supplementary please.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: They have been given hardly a meager amount. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only one supplementary to allowed.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Some get only Rs. 1500. *...(Interruptions)* Then, how can an employee survive with that particular amount of money? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Bwiswmuthiary, you can ask only one supplementary.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Do you have that kind of a concrete policy to regularise their services?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not to be recorded. you can ask only one supplementary.

*...(Interruptions)**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): This is not a debate. This is a Question Hour. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. That is not going to be recorded. Please sit down.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, I understand the sentiments and emotions of the hon. Members. If the Member wants to know about it, let him raise a separate question on this. This question relates to computerisation. Even though I have taken the liberty to answer that question, I will definitely try to accommodate. We have also a criterion. We are saying that the branch post offices, when they are set up in tribal areas, they should meet at least 15 per cent of the cost. If they meet 15 per cent of the cost, we will set up a new post office in such areas. In normal rural areas, the income should be 33 per cent of the cost. Definitely, this is an ongoing issue. But, if the Member says there is no service, then we are more responsible. If he says there is no post office, that is not the issue at this moment. Let the Member raise a separate question. I will definitely answer the question. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Employment Generation Schemes

*105. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets fixed and the number of eligible people provided employment under employment generation schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the record of such employment is available in the block offices of each district in the country;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in that direction;

(d) whether the Union Government has taken any initiative in the structure of blocks of all States and Union

Government has taken any initiative in the structure of blocks of schemes in all the villages;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the other steps contemplated by the Union Government for generation of employment in rural areas?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Ministry of Rural Development implements three major employment Schemes namely Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana for self-employment, Sampoorana Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and National Food for Works Programme (NFFWP) for wage-employment in rural areas of the country. Under the SGSY programme, no physical targets were being fixed upto 2004-05. However, during 2005-06, physical targets have been fixed. During the current financial year the target is to assist 8.59 lakh Swarozgaris and 0.53 lakh Self-Help Groups under the SGSY. The SGRY is a self targeting programme which aims at providing wage employment through creation of need based infrastructure in the rural areas of the country. Since, it is a self targeting wage employment programme, no physical targets are fixed and the physical performance is monitored in terms of mandays generated. With a view to intensify efforts in the rural areas of the 150 identified backward districts by providing additional supplementary wage employment with food security and as an interim measure till Employment Guarantee Act was enforced, NFFWP was launched in November, 2004. The NFFWP is also a self targeting programme and therefore, physical performance is monitored in terms of mandays generated. The State-wise and Union Territory-wise Swarozgaris

assisted under the SGSY and employment generated under SGRY and NFFWP schemes during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is given in the enclosed Annexure-I and II.

2. The records of Swarozgaris assisted under SGSY and employment generated under the SGRY and NFFWP is maintained at the Block Level/Intermediate Panchayat Levels.

3. The initiatives in the structure of blocks are taken up by the concerned State Governments only. However, in order to implement the schemes properly, the Ministry of Rural Development places special emphasis on monitoring and evaluation of its programmes. The important instruments of monitoring mechanism include Review by Union Ministers, Meetings of Performance Review Committee, Area Officer's Scheme, Field Visits, Monitoring of Release of Funds, Analysis of Periodical Progress Reports, Receipt of Audit Reports and Utilisation Certificates, Monitoring by National Level Monitors (NLMs) & District Level Monitors (DLMs), Concurrent and Quick Evaluation Studies and Impact Assessment Studies. The State Governments have been advised to adhere to multi pronged strategy including awareness about the Rural Development Schemes at grass root level, transparency, accountability and social audit by the Gram Panchayat to provide benefits of the rural development programmes to the target groups.

4. In order to provide legal guarantee of 100 days of employment in every financial year to every rural household whose adult member volunteer to do unskilled manual work, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has been passed by the Parliament. 200 districts have been identified for implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in the first phase. Notification for implementation of the Act with effect from 2nd February 2006 has already been issued in respect of 183 districts.

Annexure I

Number of Swarozgaris Assisted under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) during 2002-03 to 2005-06 (upto December, 2005)

Sl.No.	States/U.T.	2002-03	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006 (Upto Dec'05)			
		Total	Total	Total	No. of Self-Help Groups		Total No. of	
		Swarozgaris Assisted	Swarozgaris Assisted	Swarozgaris Assisted	Target	Achievement	Swarozgaris Assisted	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70504	79736	84825	2806	2058	45602	29542
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1053	1220	1743	146	2	2380	401

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Assam	50176	45480	64814	3805	3292	61839	36087
4.	Bihar	123546	111613	128075	6677	1957	108494	61162
5.	Chhattisgarh	25950	22926	28842	1482	819	24086	19650
6.	Goa	697	364	683	26	22	430	318
7.	Gujarat	18132	21462	27457	1056	625	17165	19924
8.	Haryana	11673	11863	14132	621	577	10099	7035
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5745	7928	8950	262	441	4253	5228
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	10617	6965	8039	324	70	5264	2535
11.	Jharkhand	53729	66644	59705	2516	676	40892	18579
12.	Karnataka	37116	43293	52976	2119	2587	34436	24726
13.	Kerala	19778	20062	23306	951	915	15451	13651
14.	Madhya Pradesh	51907	41979	48777	3178	2540	51635	31348
15.	Maharashtra	55442	60451	70146	4189	2999	68071	36081
16.	Manipur	NR	NR	0	255	311	4146	936
17.	Meghalaya	1935	5514	7508	286	140	4645	1044
18.	Mizoram	884	1457	1488	66	45	1075	576
19.	Nagaland	2218	4177	2981	196		3186	0
20.	Orissa	48925	59289	65712	3210	2798	52159	33655
21.	Punjab	6547	6554	5246	302	175	4908	3494
22.	Rajasthan	27901	28618	35225	1609	625	26148	19748
23.	Sikkim	1397	1942	1598	73	43	1190	971
24.	Tamil Nadu	56838	61120	74927	2481	2302	40322	34272
25.	Tripura	7777	6581	9301	461	1723	7485	2216
26.	Uttar Pradesh	98469	140622	246824	9612	12541	156193	163572
27.	Uttaranchal	7690	10780	12493	505	1077	8209	8900
28.	West Bengal	28748	27008	28280	3567	945	57965	12707
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	142	350	373	10	3	161	243
30.	Daman and Diu	17	0	0	10		161	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	163	0	10		161	0
32.	Lakshadweep	7	26	6	10		161	2
33.	Pondicherry	707	708	1409	40	43	645	602
Total		826267	896895	1115841	52862	42351	859015	589205

NR=Not Reported

Annexure II

Mandays generated under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and National Food for Works Programme (NFFWP) during 2002-2003 to 2005-2006 (upto December, 2005)

Sl.No.	States/ Union Territories	Mandays generated under SGRY (Lakh Nos.)				Mandays generated under NFFWP (Lakh Nos.)	
		2002-03	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006*	2004-2005**	2005-2006*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	392.09	445.55	336.25	316.38	39.49	170.56
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16.62	18.42	8.53	6.03	2.49	2.78
3.	Assam	483.50	637.20	626.02	530.47	1.33	157.24
4.	Bihar	442.44	489.85	605.32	392.87	54.96	107.42
5.	Chhattisgarh	377.68	308.55	348.85	186.39	130.85	165.02
6.	Goa	0.68	0.49	3.57	1.34		
7.	Gujarat	201.40	323.19	264.68	113.27	3.82	63.84
8.	Haryana	119.18	68.87	70.12	40.29	0.00	2.87
9.	Himachal Pradesh	21.74	39.06	40.18	22.71	1.72	2.97
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	47.10	47.89	43.73	10.30	0.00	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	283.85	386.05	303.88	189.48	13.33	116.24
12.	Karnataka	519.60	566.07	419.24	253.74	4.11	36.52
13.	Kerala	70.95	100.86	118.91	99.42	0.21	0.28
14.	Madhya Pradesh	531.52	585.21	581.39	340.64	114.07	298.91
15.	Maharashtra	490.38	630.96	674.69	368.78	0.00	0.00
16.	Manipur	14.91	14.00	31.93	4.37	5.21	5.35
17.	Meghalaya	24.43	34.37	36.96	27.08	1.16	2.51
18.	Mizoram	12.99	15.38	6.54	0.22	0.00	1.96
19.	Nagaland	16.39	398.99	36.71	9.34	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	599.03	618.57	553.94	374.17	260.27	332.81
21.	Punjab	25.93	46.00	33.39	16.64	0.00	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	377.84	268.62	219.48	124.31	33.14	36.37
23.	Sikkim	6.28	8.21	5.34	3.31	1.20	0.28
24.	Tamil Nadu	491.96	512.06	519.41	372.03	28.62	70.80
25.	Tripura	99.46	126.96	108.46	74.74	15.30	26.29

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1335.11	1330.53	1750.45	859.02	29.99	93.49
27.	Uttaranchal	62.10	91.44	94.29	46.73	0.50	6.09
28.	West Bengal	414.39	445.04	377.56	413.54	43.42	165.12
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.42	3.01	0.68		
30.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
32.	Lakshadweep	0.10	0.01	0.13	0.21		
33.	Pondicherry	3.28	1.42	0.13	1.05		
Total		7482.93	8560.24	8223.08	5199.55	785.18	1865.72

**NFFWP was launched in November, 2004.

*Upto December, 2005

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I had asked the hon. Minister about the State-wise and Union territory-wise details of the number of people who got employed as well as the target fixed under employment generation schemes during the last three years and current year? Hon'ble Minister has stated that the State of Gujarat played a special role which provided employment to 3 crore and 23 lakh people. Out of the population of 5 crores, employment has been provided to 3 crore people. I think it is not about people. The population of Gujarat is 5 crores out of which the number has been told 3 crore and 23 lakh. I think it is different matter. Secondly, the grains provided to people under NFFWP, has not been provided to the people in my areas though they have worked for eight days. They got cards and coupons but not grain. Therefore, I would like to know as to how much grains have been provided to each State under the said employment scheme? And, the existing law is good enough. Our people will get employment but I would like to know about the fund allocated under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, Hon'ble member has stated that it is provided to 3 crore people, I would like to apprise him that 3 crores mandays has been created wherein labour worked instead of providing employment to 3 crores people. The number of labourer is different. It is not provided to 3 crores

people. He raised question regarding grains. It is well known that the foodgrains are being distributed through FCI. If foodgrains has not been disbursed or disbursed less to any State; we compensate the State after obtaining a certificate from DM, otherwise we ensure smooth functioning in the absence of it. We also draw the attention of the State Government in a specific case wherein it has brought into knowledge that they have been provided coupons in lieu of foodgrains. This must be a state of specific issue. In such a scenario there is a clear-cut guidelines not delay. Hon'ble member has asked about the allotment of funds. Employment Guarantee law has been enforced recently from 2nd February. About Rs. 3500 crores has been allotted to all districts. Therefore, it should be spent by 31 March and further expenses will be met from next Budget. Sufficient arrangements of money have been made for every state and district. There is no lack of funds.

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme enacted by us, is a good law. We care for our poor people. It is really a good step to ensure the livelihood of labourers as well as their kids. The Union Government implement this scheme through State Governments and as I have informed that the State Government did not provide foodgrains to their people. The question regarding not providing foodgrains has also been raised before our co-ordination committee that people are not getting foodgrains. What concrete steps are being taken by the Government of India as the Government have stated that they will enforce it forcefully.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we have convened three four meetings with State governments. We have communication with all hon'ble members as well as Chief Ministers of all States. All the Union Ministers, all Ministers of the States, MLAs, MPs, all elected representatives and panchayati raj institutions should be involved in this scheme so as it may be implemented in the right perspective and we are calling reports from every State. I will apprise hon'ble members and this House time to time and shortly within a week I will submit information to the House.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, this National Rural Employment Scheme is supposed to be implemented from this, February particularly. I came from Bihar two days back and enquired about the situation there. The information that I got from there is that in most of the districts, the officers, who enlist the workers, have not been appointed. Hundreds of people are coming there to register their names. There is no arrangement of registration of their names. In a few places, only 40 or 50 people are registered. Such is the information that I got from there that a large number of people are seeking registration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: With regard to the information on Bihar, you can see the hon. Minister in his chamber and get the information.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, this is the experience that I got from there. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has got this information or not and whether he has started implementation of this programme right from the beginning. The arrangements are still lagging behind for that. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how will it come up soon.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am aware of the information given by the hon'ble Member that Proforma to be filled by the labourers are not being sent in adequate number in some districts. Apart from this, there is also delay in issuance of the job card. Therefore, we are arranging to send a national level monitor in every district so that we could find out the areas of carelessness alongwith the shortcomings. But we need the support of all the hon'ble members and you also pay attention to the fact that Rashtriya Gramin

Rojgar Yojna be properly implemented in every district. Recently on 2nd February hon. Prime Minister inaugurated this scheme in the Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh. Chief Ministers of all the States have taken interest in it and are aware of it. Therefore, to dispel any doubt we are examining it through a national level monitor. We are in constant touch with the State Governments so that Rashtriya Gramin Rojgar Yojna be implemented strictly and in a proper manner. Workers who are interested in work may be brought under the scheme so that they could get the employment.

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, It is clear from the answer of the minister that the desired target has not been achieved in most of the states. The main reason for this is that the self help groups, and the people, who are benefited by the scheme, are not getting help from the banks after training. Due to this, they constantly visit the Banks. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen the process of micro-finance. It has been found that the states in South India have performed well as compared to other states. Finance Minister is also present here. I want to ask whether the Rural Development Minister will formulate such a scheme in consultation with him to ensure that the trainees get loan after completing their training so that they become self employed after getting benefit of this scheme.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hon'ble member has rightly drawn the attention. Firstly in case of 1200 branches of banks petitions of zero lending were filed, as they are not giving loans to the Self Help groups. Recently 2300 branches of banks were detected. We discussed with the Finance Minister in this regard. He did the correspondence with all of the banks and assured us that there will not be zero lending in the banks in any case. Every bank will provide loan to these self-help groups who require loan and have applied for it on priority basis without delay. There is much improvement in it. It is right that there are complaints of non-cooperation from the banks but there is improvement in it after the Reserve Bank of India, chairman of the banks and hon'ble Finance Minister paid attention to it. I think that the banks will start working up to the mark with the time.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ: As per the answer statement, since November 2004, National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) is in existence in our country. Also, Sir, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has been

passed by the Parliament, and Notification for the implementation of the Act has been issued in respect of 183 districts. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the National Food for Work Programme is continuing in 150 districts or it is replaced by the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, or both will continue simultaneously.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Rojgar Guarantee law was implemented from 2nd February. It means where Food for Work and SGRY scheme were being implemented, now these two have been merged into Rojgar Guarantee law which is being implemented there. Rojgar Guarantee Law. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: You merged all the schemes. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Let him ask the question I will reply ...*(Interruptions)* the two said employment programmes have been merged and in place of them Rojgar Guarantee Law has been implemented from 2nd February and it is being executed.

[English]

IT Refunds

*106. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total amount of the money refunded by Income Tax dept. to the assesses of the IT during the last three years i.e., from 2002-03 to 2004-05, State-wise, including the year of assessment to which such refund was related;

(b) the steps taken by the Department to ensure correct assessment of tax and timely refunds;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has held that the IT assesses are entitled for compensation for belated refunds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) Sir, the details of the total amount of money refunded by Income Tax Department to the assesses during the last three years are as follows;

Financial Year	Amount of Refund (In Rupees crore)
2002-2003	22,030
2003-2004	25,737
2004-2005	28,514

The State-wise details are not available. Details regarding the year of assessment to which the refunds pertain are not centrally maintained.

(b) Some of the steps taken by the Department to ensure correct assessment of tax and timely refunds are as follows:

- (i) Computerized processing of returns to ensure correct computation and speedy issue of refunds.
- (ii) Guidelines have been issued by the CBDT to process all the returns and issue refunds within four months of filing of returns.
- (iii) Administrative measures like regular inspection by higher authorities.
- (iv) Chain audit by Internal Audit and revenue Audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) to ensure correctness of assessment and refunds. Further, statutory provisions in the Income Tax Act relating to scrutiny, appeal and revisions are there to ensure proper assessment.

(c) The Income-tax Act provides for payment of interest in cases of belated grant of refunds. In a recent decision the Supreme Court has directed payment of compensatory interest due to delayed payment of interest as sanctioned by the statute.

(d) the consequential order to give effect to the Supreme Court's decision in the case as at (c) above has already been passed. The decision dated 27.1.2006 of the Supreme Court is currently being examined by the Government.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as far as my information goes, majority of the refund cases are there basically because of TDS. TDS rates are prevailing for the last more than 15 or 20 years, and they have become almost unscientific. I would like to know whether the Government is considering to proportionate it with today's tax slabs and to make it more scientific.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The hon. Member has given a suggestion and we will look into it.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: When the Government collects the tax, there is scrutiny, assessment etc., and harassment is taking place at the time of collection of tax. Even while refunding, there is harassment. Bribe is demanded for refund. I would like to know whether the Government is going to fix responsibility on the particular officer to issue the cheque within the prescribed time. Otherwise, at least the Government can consider outsourcing it to some nationalised banks. This is my specific question to the hon. Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We cannot outsource these activities. As a proportion of gross collection, the amount refunded has been declining in the last three years. For example, in 2002-03, it was 20.97 per cent; in 2003-04 it was 19.69 per cent; and in 2004-05, in the first year of the UPA Government, it has declined to 17.77 per cent. We are now in the process of examining whether we can directly credit the refund to the bank account number of the assessee, provided the assessee furnishes the bank account number while filing his return.

[*Translation*]

Blacklisted Non-Governmental Organisations

*107. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that several Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have obtained funds from CAPART by producing fake documents and approximately 350 such Organizations have been black listed in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also aware that certain persons have floated NGOs and got registered in various names and are indulging in malpractices under this programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken to put effective check on these Organizations so that unscrupulous people are not able to misuse developmental funds by registering organizations under different names?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A total of 357 NGOs have been blacklisted by CAPART. In the years 2004 and 2005, it has come to the notice of CAPART that 10 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) had obtained funds from CAPART between the years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 by producing fake documents. 7 of these NGOs have been blacklisted and the remaining 3 NGOs have been put in Further Assistance Stopped (FAS) category. The details of these 10 organizations together with the amount sanctioned and released to them by CAPART are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Because of effective pre-emptive measures taken by CAPART, this tendency has been kept under check and no further specific complaints have so far come to the notice of CAPART.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the VO	Scheme	Amount sanctioned (Rs.)/Date	Amount Released (Rs.)/Date	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Adarsh Jan Kalyan Kendra AI/PO-Gangapur, Jehanabad (Bihar).	PC	4,51,000 18.02.2003	2,26,521 27.03.2003	Blacklisted
2.	Bihar Samajik Vikas Samiti E-29. P.C. Colony, Lohianagar, Kankarbagh, Patna (Bihar).	PC	6,52,000 24.12.2002	6,51,476 13.01.2003 & 01.10.2003	Blacklisted

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Bhumika Vaishali Vill/PO-Harpur Fatikwara Mahnar, Distt. Vaishali (Bihar).	PC	8,54,775 05.03.2002	8,54,775 27.03.2002 & 26.03.2003	Blacklisted
4.	Kalyan Upphokta Shiksha Evam Anusandhan Samiti, Vill. Bahpara, Bihta Distt. Patna (Bihar).	ARTS	3,91,000 21.11.2002	3,91,000 16.12.2002 & 21.10.2003	Blacklisted
5.	Manav Jagruti Vill. Magurahi, Hajipur, Vaishali (Bihar).	PC	5,12,000 24.04.2003	2,43,028 07.08.2003	Blacklisted
6.	Gram Shree Khadi Vikas Sanstha Vill. Bhuski, PO-Khusrupur, Patna (Bihar).	PC	5,74,000 27.03.2002	5,73,765 15.05.2002 & 02.08.2002	Blacklisted
		PC	14,50,000 24.04.2003	14,50,000 29.05.2003 & 22.10.2003	
		PC	15,93,218 18.10.2003	7,82,240 17.12.2003	
7.	Baidyanathan Mahila Sanskriti Manch, At-Sri Niketan, Abulas Lane, Machua Toli, Patna, (Bihar).	ARTS	3,30,000 20.12.2002	1,70,000 13.01.2003	Blacklisted
8.	Dr. Hegdewar Samarak Samiti Vill/PO Rampur Chauram, Anwal Distt. Jahanabad, (Bihar).	PC	5,91,442 29.10.2003	3,18,625 20.01.2004	*FAS
9.	Mahila Evam Bal Utthan Sansthan, At-PO-Singhawara, Block-Lalpur, Darbhanga, (Bihar).	PC	7,00,000 19.08.2003	4,50,000 20.12.2003	*FAS
10.	Society for Advancement of Human Resources, P-1/18, Vidyapuri, Kankarbagh, Lohiyanagar, Patna, (Bihar).	PC	5,39,000 23.04.2003	2,71,722 08.08.2003	*FAS

*FAS—Further Assistance Stopped.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now the time is over but the whole question has not been replied. 350 organisations have been blacklisted. The Government has done injustice to the state of Bihar. All the 10 persons whose names are there in the list belong to Bihar. Further, we have no information about the States to which remaining organizations belong. What kind of judicial process has been adopted? The reply

does not contain the names of organizations out of said 357, which have committed offences. Therefore my submission is that half-an-hour discussion should be held on this issue. Sir, even you can see that the reply is incomplete.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I would forward the information sought by hon'ble Member to him. Since the question pertained to recent past, I gave the details of only 10 organisations. And recently, action has

been taken against these 10 organisations. CBI has resumed the investigation and action is being taken against them. Refunds are being received from them. An amount of Rs. 21 lakh was misappropriated which has been received.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Poor Mobile Networking

*102. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the deteriorating quality of mobile services in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has recently discussed the matter with the cellular operators of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to improve the quality of mobile services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Efforts are continuously made by all service providers to improve the quality of services of mobile network in the country. An analysis of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) report for the quarter ending December, 2005 indicates that most of the Quality of Service (QOS) parameters are generally met.

(c) and (d) The matter was discussed by TRAI with service providers when the latter indicated that they have a very high growth rate and that factors such as interconnection, lack or delay of permission for erection of cell sites, etc. are impeding a better QOS.

(e) Besides watching the general performance with reference to QOS. Government is making efforts to

coordinate and release additional spectrum from existing users. The matters for clearance of cell sites is pursued with local authorities. TRAI has also appointed an independent agency for monitoring the QOS.

Conference of Rural Drinking Water Supply and Rural Sanitation

*108. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of State and Union territory Ministers on Rural Drinking Water Supply and Rural Sanitation was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the issues discussed and the recommendations made therein; and

(d) the strategy chalked out at the meeting for the speedy development of rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) A Conference of State Ministers in charge of rural drinking water supply and sanitation was held on 31st January-1st February 2006 in New Delhi. The conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister and it was attended by State Ministers in-charge of rural drinking water and sanitation and officers of Central and State Governments.

(c) and (d) The issues discussed during the Conference were—review of the progress made in the current year under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Swajaldhara and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), increasing the role of Panchayati Raj Institute (PRIs) in decentralized services delivery and system sustainability, strategy for effective implementation of the drinking water component of Bharat Nirman, promotion of source strengthening measures, integrated approach to tackling water quality problems, water quality monitoring and surveillance and policy and implementation issues pertaining to TSC including creation of awareness and social mobilization.

The following resolutions were adopted during the Conference:

- Work towards achieving the goals set under Bharat Nirman, i.e., provision of at least 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd) of safe drinking water to all habitations, in a time bound manner, in the next four years;
- Cover the remaining 55,067 uncovered habitations;
- Tackle water quality affected habitations to provide safe drinking water in a sustainable manner, with priority to tackling problems of arsenic, fluoride and salinity;
- Augment water supply in all habitations that have slipped back from full coverage;
- To improve the governance of delivery structure for rural water supply and sanitation;
- To increasingly entrust the responsibility of rural water supply management to local institutions and build their capacity in this regard.
- Provide safe drinking water to all the schools of the country by end of 2007;
- Provide sanitary Toilet facilities to all the schools of the country by the end of March 2007;
- Promote Community/group roof-top rain water harvesting, especially in Government buildings, institutional buildings, schools, industrial units etc in rural areas, and integrated water recharge to augment the water supply for drinking purpose.
- Move towards enactment of Ground Water Regulations and control and development legislation, which could include provision for recharging of ground water;
- Involve Gram Panchayats/Village Water and Sanitation Committees in regular water quality monitoring and surveillance;
- To report all achievement against the targets set on the web-based monitoring system on-line;
- Give more importance to Total Sanitation Campaign to achieve the goal of full sanitation by 2012, with full backing for the Campaign at the highest political and official level in the State;
- Make at least one district in each State fully open defecation-free by end of 2008;

- Put Rural India in a place of pride amongst the Nations of the World.

In addition, the following major recommendations were made in the Conference:

(1) Total Sanitation Campaign:

- Increase in unit cost of household and anganwadi toilets and inclusion of solid and liquid waste management in the project.
- Removing community contribution from construction of school and anganwadi toilets.
- A national and state level mass media campaign should be launched on Television and Radio for creation of awareness.
- Population slabs for awarding Nirmal Gram Puraskar should be increased.

(2) Implementation of ARWSP in the Eleventh Plan for institutionalisation of community participation:

- Institutionalization of community participation and involvement of Gram Panchayats in a phased manner and only one rural water supply scheme from the Eleventh Plan.
- Community contribution of at least 10% of the estimated capital cost of the scheme to be an integral part of all rural drinking water supply schemes. It may be only 2.5% for SC/ST habitations. The extent of community contribution could be paid in cash, labour, land or material or a combination of these. The minimum contribution per household to be decided by the State. In difficult single village schemes, quality affected habitations, piped water supply from distant sources and multi-village schemes, the State may decide on quantum of community contribution for common facilities.
- Central and State Governments will bear the balance capital cost of approved schemes (after deducting the community contribution). In case of difficult single village schemes and multi-village schemes, Government agency will bring water from the source to the entry point of the village. The capital cost of schemes upto the entry point of habitation will be shared by Central and State Government. The distribution network of water supply inside the village/habitation will be constructed with involvement of the Gram Panchayat/Village Water and Sanitation Committees, with community contribution and subsequent Operation & Maintenance. They will be assisted by PHED in the process.

(3) Coverage and its norms, Technology options, source and system sustainability, water quality monitoring and surveillance;

- The distance of the water source should be 0.5 kilometre instead of 1.6 kilometre and 30 metres elevation instead of 100 metres in hilly areas to lessen the drudgery of carrying water from distant source.
- In hilly areas, the population criteria should be relaxed to cover habitations with 50 persons or more or more than 10 households to all.
- There is need for earmarking funds for rooftop/ catchment based rainwater harvesting and this water may be treated as coverage as distinguished from recharging of ground water.
- Women and youth of rural areas be trained to operate and maintain water supply systems. Manuals/guidelines be developed for this purpose.
- Distribution systems be improved for minimizing the leakages. States should come up with means to prevent leakages in the distribution systems to make it economical with cost recovery.
- Good production centres/sanitary marts/self-help groups, etc. should be utilized for supply of spare parts, training of local rural youth and women as mechanics for Operation & Maintenance of water sources and also involved in water quality monitoring and maintenance.

(4) Some of the States have requested for the funding pattern of ARWSP between Centre and State to be in the ratio of 75:25 and North Eastern States have requested for this ratio to be 90:10 for consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Urban Reforms Incentive Fund

*109. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the cities included under the Urban Reforms Incentive Fund, State-wise during the last three years till date;

(b) the details of funds allocated during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(c) whether certain States, particularly Jharkhand, have requested for selection of some more cities under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The scheme of URIF was not a city based scheme.

(b) The scheme, launched on 28.06.2003 was discontinued from 01.04.2005. Annual allocation of funds was Rs. 500 crore. State-wise annual allocation are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Statement

Annual Allocation of Additional Central Assistance for Area programme: "Initiative for Strengthening Urban Infrastructure"—2002-03 and 2004-05 Urban Reforms Incentive Fund (URIF)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	% of Urban Popn. in Total Popn.	Allocation (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.19	35.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.08	0.40
3.	Assam	1.19	5.95
4.	Bihar	3.04	15.20
5.	Chhattisgarh	1.46	7.30
6.	Goa	0.23	1.15
7.	Gujarat	6.62	33.10
8.	Haryana	2.14	10.70
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.21	1.05
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.88	4.40
11.	Jharkhand	2.10	10.50

1	2	3	4
12.	Karnataka	6.28	31.40
13.	Kerala	2.90	14.50
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5.64	28.20
15.	Maharashtra	14.37	71.85
16.	Manipur	0.20	1.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.16	0.80
18.	Mizoram	0.15	0.75
19.	Nagaland	0.12	0.60
20.	Orissa	1.93	9.65
21.	Punjab	2.89	14.45
22.	Rajasthan	4.63	23.15
23.	Sikkim	0.02	0.10
24.	Tamil Nadu	9.55	47.75
25.	Tripura	0.19	0.95
26.	Uttaranchal	0.76	3.80
27.	Uttar Pradesh	12.09	60.45
28.	West Bengal	7.88	39.40
UTs			
1.	NCT of Delhi	4.49	22.45
2.	Pondicherry	0.23	1.15
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.04	0.20
4.	Chandigarh	0.28	1.40
5.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.02	0.10
6.	Lakshadweep	0.01	0.05
7.	Daman and Diu	0.02	0.10
Grand Total		100.0	500.0

*[English]***Construction of House for Tsunami Affected People**

*110. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed construction of 9500 houses, 6500 by CPWD and the rest by NGOs for Tsunami affected people;

(b) if so, whether even a single house has not yet been constructed by these agencies;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether only prototype houses have been built so far;

(e) if so, whether lengthy procedure and absence of monitoring have led to this situation; and

(f) if so, the efforts made or being made by Government for expeditious construction of houses for Tsunami affected people?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Ministry of Urban Development has been assigned the task of construction of permanent houses for Tsunami affected people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Andaman & Nicobar Administration has estimated 9622 permanent houses for construction, of which 7145 are required to be put up by CPWD and the rest by NGOs.

(b) While temporary shelters were provided to the affected persons soon after the Tsunami struck the islands, construction of permanent houses has not commenced so far.

(c) The reconstruction programme has been approved by the Government in December, 2005. Extensive consultations with Andaman & Nicobar Administration, affected persons, members of the civil society and other concerned persons regarding the layout of the villages/ colonies, design and specifications of the houses, their structural strength and constraints of resources in the islands, took time.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Foundation work for permanent construction is likely to commence by April, 2006 and the work is expected to be completed in two working seasons, i.e., by April, 2008.

Direct Tax Recovery

*111. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has failed to recover direct tax demands of over Rs. 88,000 crore during 2003-04;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to recover the outstanding direct taxes; and

(c) the details of defaulters against whom dues worth more than Rs. 10 crore and above are pending recovery?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Recovery from arrear of direct taxes is a continuous process in which old demands are liquidated (by way of collection or reduction) and new demands are added. The amount of arrears outstanding at the end of 2003-04 amounting to Rs. 87,885 crore cannot be recovered in one go as part of the arrears are contested in appeal before the Courts and other appellate authorities. Moreover, a part of the outstanding demand is also difficult to recover for various reasons including non-traceability of the taxpayer, inadequacy of assets, liquidation of company, stay granted by Courts, etc.

Apart from the statutory steps being taken for recovery of outstanding tax dues as prescribed under the Income Tax Act (including attachment of bank account, debtors, etc, attachment and sale of immovable property, etc) the following special measures have been taken to expedite recovery of direct tax arrears:

- (i) Monitoring of recovery of arrears in large cases by a Task Force.
- (ii) Identification of cases involving substantial amount of arrears pending before Commissioners (Appeals) and ITAT and requesting these authorities to dispose off such appeals early so that the demand can be collected during the current financial year itself.
- (iii) Requesting the President of ITAT not to allow stay of demand beyond 180 days as prescribed in section 254 (2A) of the Income-tax Act.
- (iv) Requesting Settlement Commission to dispose off high-demand cases expeditiously.

As a result of concerted efforts made for recovery of tax arrears, an amount of Rs. 7,083 crore was collected from arrears in 2004-05 and Rs. 5,044 crore has been collected in the current year till 31st December 2005.

(c) As on 31st December, 2005, there were 852 cases in which tax dues of more than Rs. 10 crore each, aggregating to Rs. 71,116 crore, were outstanding. The aggregate tax dues in such cases also include an amount of Rs. 47,740 crore which is contested at various stages of litigation. An amount of Rs. 67,026 crore in these cases is difficult to recover for various reasons, including an amount of Rs. 23,877 crore outstanding in scam cases notified under section 3 of Special Court (Torts) Act, 1992 where all the assets are in the custody of the Special Court.

Optical Fibre Network

*112. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an MoU has been executed by BSNL and RailTel for sharing of the optical fibre network of India Railways by BSNL;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed project covered under the said MoU;

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom; and

(d) time-frame envisaged for commencement and conclusion of implementation of the MoU?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An MoU was signed on 9th July, 2003 between BSNL and RailTel. Salient features of the MoU are as given below:

- To meet each other's requirement of bandwidth/ other services on mutual agreed terms and conditions.
- BSNL to provide technical know how in designing the telecom network as and when required by RailTel.
- Details of infrastructure sharing:
 - Lease of bandwidth/dark fibre by RailTel on specified routes/sections to BSNL wherever feasible.

— BSNL to utilize RailTel OFC Network for meeting rural telephony requirement.

— Project execution i.e. laying of optical fibre cable and installation of equipment for RailTel by BSNL on RailTel's request.

- Cellone coverage along Railway route by utilising RailTel infrastructure.
- GSM PCO to RailTel on trains by BSNL
- Utilising towers space of RailTel for WLL/GSM requirement.
- Deployment of BSNL's technical and financial experts on deputation to RailTel as per their needs.
- BSNL may offer last mile and interconnection to RailTel for their various requirements.

(c) The likely benefit accruing to both the organizations are:

- Reduction in Capital cost by utilizing each other's infrastructure
- New sources of revenue for both organizations, e.g. Centralised Information enquiry system and GSM PCOs in train.
- Better Quality of Service to customers by providing redundancy

(d) The cooperation commenced from the date of signing of MoU, i.e. 9th July, 2003. The MoU, which was initially signed for 1 year has since been extended upto 8th July, 2007.

Gram Nyayalaya

*113. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government had convened a meeting of State Law Ministers and Secretaries for setting up of Gram Nyayalaya in the country as reported in the Times of India dated December 20, 2005;

(b) if so, the outcome of the said meeting; and

(c) the measures being taken to reduce the pendency of cases in Rural India?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Law and Justice convened a National Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 18th December, 2005 to consider the proposal for a Parliamentary legislation to set up Gram Nyayalayas in the country. The Conference favoured a legislation giving access to speedy and inexpensive justice at the grassroots level to the common man and accordingly adopted a Resolution, a copy of which is placed as Statement. The proposal is at inter-ministerial consultation stage.

Apart from the proposal to set up Gram Nyayalayas at intermediate panchayat level, the Government is taking various other measures to reduce the pendency of cases in rural India. In order to lessen the burden on courts in rural areas, Government has initiated a number of measures which include timely filling up of the vacancies of judges, increasing the strength of judges, grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution and setting up of special tribunals and courts, computerization of judiciary, disposal through fast track courts, development of physical infrastructure and evolution of strategies to cope with massive governance related inadequacies in judicial process through studies, pilot/reform projects and extension of the term of the existing 1562 Fast Track Courts.

Statement

Resolution

This National Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries in its Meeting held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on today, the 18th December, 2005 does hereby appreciate the initiative taken by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice to introduce a legislation giving access to speedy and inexpensive justice at the grassroots level to the common man and also resolves that the Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2005 as discussed in the Conference should be processed for its early enactment after considering the suggestions placed by the various State Law Ministers and Law Secretaries including the funding to such Gram Nyayalayas.

Cyber Crime

*114. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any Committee to look into the issues involving cyber crimes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any methodology has been devised for intercepting SMS, e-mails and cyber-related crimes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any efforts are being made to have bilateral agreements with foreign countries to deal with cyber crimes committed on foreign lands but affecting India; and

(f) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Information Technology had setup an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Information Technology to review the existing provisions in the Information Technology Act, 2000. The Expert Committee comprised, besides representatives of the Government, legal experts in the areas of Cyber Laws, service providers and representatives of IT Industry and apex industry associations, National Association of Software Services Companies (NASSCOM) and Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology (MAIT). Some of the important cyber crime issues considered by the Expert Committee related to Child Pornography, Video Voyeurism, Digital Evidence Examiners, Data Privacy, E-Commerce Frauds, Phishing and Frauds on Online Auction Sites. The salient recommendations of the Expert Committee is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Appropriate Technology Tools are developed to counter cyber crimes as required.

(e) and (f) Cyber Crime cases are covered under Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) signed by India with other countries. Mutual need based cooperation of foreign countries is secure in this regard under the said Treaties. Besides, India is a member of Cyber Crime Technology Information Network System (CTINS). This Network facilitates mutual exchange of information regarding cyber crimes among the member countries.

Statement*Summary of the recommendations of the Expert Committee*

1. As the technologies and applications in IT sector change very rapidly, some of the provisions related to parameters that may change from time to time have been suggested to provide for the new developments to be incorporated by changes in rules/govt. notifications. This would enable the law to be amended and approved much faster and would keep our laws in line with the changing technological environment.
2. In view of changing needs, operation of the Sub-section 4 of Section 1 may be made more flexible through prescription of such exception by rules rather than being part of the main Act.
3. The Committee has restructured several provisions in relation to recognition of Digital signatures, e-governance, penalties and adjudication. The suggestion is to make the Information Technology Act technically natural with minimum change in the IT Act, 2000. The amendment have been suggested in Section 4 of the Act to provide for electronic signature. With digital signature as one of the types of electronic signature and by enabling the detail of other form of electronic signature to be provided in the rules to be notified by the Central Government from time to time. This is enabling provision for Central Government to exercise as to when the technology other than digital signature matures.
4. The Committee has revisited Section 43, 65, 66, 67, 72 and 79 to focus issues pertaining to data protection and privacy so as to enable healthy business environment. The stringent provisions have been suggested in the Section. Proposals at Section 43 (ii) related to enabling of sensitive personnel with reasonable security proposals and procedures thereto have been recommended. The amendments have been suggested in Section 72 pertaining to breach of confidentiality and privacy. A new Sub-section as 72 (ii) has been suggested to prevent intermediaries to disclose information relating to user without his consent.
5. The Section 72 pertaining to breach of confidentiality have been redefined. The report of the Expert Committee seeks to address the

- new phenomenon of video voyeurism, including transmission of MMS clips, the images of private areas of individuals without knowledge and its transmission without their consent. The new sub-Section has been proposed in Section 72 of the IT Act, 2000.
6. Amendment have been recommended in Section 69 of the IT Act, 2000 relating to the power to issue protection of inspection and monitoring any information through computer resource to take care of the concerns expressed by Ministry of Home Affairs.
 7. In line with the Indian Penal Code, the Expert Committee has advocated classifications of Cyber laws in cognizable and non-cognizable accordingly. Language of Section 66 related to computer related offences may be revised to be in lines with Section 43 related to penalty for damage to computer resource. These have been graded with less degree of severity of offence when done by any person, dishonestly or fraudulently without the permission of the owner.
 8. Section 67 related to Obscenity in electronic form has been revised to bring in line with IPC and other laws but fine has been increased because of ease of such operation in electronic form; link up with Section 79 w.r.t. liability of intermediary in certain cases has been provided.
 9. A new section on Section 67 (2) has been suggested to address child pornography with higher punishment, a globally accepted offense.
 10. A new section 68 (1) has been proposed for providing modes and methods for encryption for secure use of the electronic medium, as recommended by earlier Inter Ministerial Working Group on Cyber Laws & Cyber Forensics (IMWG)
 11. A new Section 78 A (Examiners of Electronic Evidence) may be added to notify the examiners of electronic evidence by the Central Government. This will help the Judiciary/ Adjudicating officers in handling technical issues.
 12. Section 79 has been revised to bring-out explicitly the extent of liability of intermediary in certain cases. EU Directive o E-Commerce 2000/ 31/EC issued on June 8th 2000 has been used as guiding principles. Power to make rules w.r.t. the functioning of the "Intermediary" including "Cyber Cafes" has been provided for under Section 87.

Industries covered under Cost Audit

*115. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the industries covered under Cost Audit at present;
- (b) the reasons for not covering all the industries under Cost Audit; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) Sir, the Government, where it considers necessary, in exercise of its powers under section 233 B of the Companies Act, 1956, may direct the audit of cost accounts of a company that is required to maintain cost records under section 209(1) (d) of the Act. The Companies Act, 1956 does not envisage coverage of all industries under the ambit of cost audit. The companies for whom cost audit orders have been issued in last 3 years are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

List of companies for whom cost audit orders have been issued from 01.01.2003 to 31.01.2006

Sl.No.	Name of the company	Product
1	2	3
1.	Bharat Gears Limited	Engineering Industries
2.	Sandoz Private Limited	Formulation
3.	Wescare (India) Limited	Bulk Drugs.

1	2	3
4.	Coromandel Fertilizers Limited	Insecticides
5.	USV Ltd.	Bulk Drugs
6.	Excel Crop. Care Ltd.	Insecticides.
7.	Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Limited.	Electricity
8.	CESC Limited	Electricity
9.	DAKSHIN Gujarat Vij Company Limited	Electricity
10.	Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited	Electricity
11.	Delhi Transco Limited	Electricity
12.	DPSC Limited	Electricity
13.	Essar Power Limited	Electricity
14.	Grid Corporation of Orissa Ltd.	Electricity
15.	Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Limited	Electricity
16.	Gujarat Industries Power Co. Limited	Electricity
17.	Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited	Electricity
18.	Gujarat Paguthan Energy Corporation Limited	Electricity
19.	Gujarat State Electricity Generation Limited	Electricity
20.	Gujarat State Energy Generation Limited	Electricity
21.	Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited	Electricity
22.	Haryana Power Generation Corporation Limited.	Electricity
23.	Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited.	Electricity
24.	Him Urja Pvt. Limited	Electricity
25.	Karnataka Power Corporation Limited.	Electricity
26.	Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited.	Electricity
27.	Madhya Gujarat Vij Company Limited	Electricity
28.	Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Limited	Electricity
29.	Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Limited.	Electricity
30.	Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Limited.	Electricity
31.	Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corp. Ltd.	Electricity
32.	National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd.	Electricity

1	2	3
33.	National Thermal Power Corpn. Limited.	Electricity
34.	Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited.	Electricity
35.	North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited.	Electricity
36.	Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Limited.	Electricity
37.	Power Grid Corporation of India Limited.	Electricity
38.	Power Transmission Corporation of Uttaranchal Limited.	Electricity
39.	PTC India Limited	Electricity
40.	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited.	Electricity
41.	Regency Aquaelectro and Motel Resorts Limited.	Electricity
42.	Reliance Energy Limited.	Electricity
43.	Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited.	Electricity
44.	Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited.	Electricity
45.	The Durgapur Project Limited	Electricity
46.	The Tata Power Company Limited	Electricity
47.	The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited	Electricity
48.	Torrent Power AEC Limited	Electricity
49.	Torrent Power Generation Limited	Electricity
50.	Torrent Power Sec. Limited	Electricity
51.	Transmission Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Limited	Electricity
52.	UP Power Corporation Limited	Electricity
53.	UP Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited	Electricity
54.	Uttar Gujarat Vij Company Limited	Electricity
55.	Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited	Electricity
56.	Uttaranchal Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited	Electricity
57.	Uttaranchal Power Corpn. Limited	Electricity
58.	Hindalco Industries Limited	Fertilizers
59.	Dabur Pharma Limited	Formulation
60.	Lincoln Pharmaceuticals Limited	Formulation
61.	Hero Motors Limited	Motor Vehicles

1	2	3
62.	Doiwala Sugar Company Limited	Sugar
63.	Govind Nagar Sugar Limited	Sugar
64.	NCS Sugars Limited	Sugar
65.	Nizam Deccan Sugars Limited	Sugar
66.	Trident Sugars Limited	Sugar
67.	Kedia Oversea Ltd.	Vanaspati
68.	GIS Cotton Mills Ltd.	Textiles
69.	Jubilant Organosys Limited	Bulk Drugs
70.	Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited	Electricity
71.	GVK Industries Limited	Electricity
72.	Kanpur Electricity Supply Company (KESCO)	Electricity
73.	Lanco Kondapally Power Pvt. Limited	Electricity
74.	Madhyanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited	Electricity
75.	Nava Bharath Ferro Alloys Limited	Electricity
76.	Noida Power Company Limited	Electricity
77.	Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited	Electricity
78.	Poorvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited	Electricity
79.	R.V.K. Energy Private Limited	Electricity
80.	Rain Calcining Limited	Electricity
81.	Spectrum Power Generation Limited	Electricity
82.	Uttar Pradesh Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited	Electricity
83.	Visakhapatnam Steel Plant	Electricity

National E-Governance Plan

*116. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued guidelines to States for implementing the National e-Governance Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the States, particularly Kerala have submitted any proposal in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (e) A National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) has been drawn which seeks to implement 26 Mission

Mode Projects for the present as per details given in the enclosed Statement. This covers 9 projects in the category of Central Government, 10 projects in the category of State Sector and 7 projects in the Integrated Service category. The scope also covers support components, including establishment of Common Core Infrastructure comprising State Wide Area Networks (SWANs), State Data Centres (SDCs) and Common Service Centres (CSCs). Guidelines for some of the NeGP Components

like SWANs & Capacity Building have been circulated for inviting proposals from States/UTs. The proposals received from Govt. of Kerala for the establishment of SWANs, for providing minimum data connectivity of 2 MBPS up to the block level, has been approved with DIT financial support of Rs. 78.70 crores. In addition, Govt. of Kerala has also been provided financial support under the Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to States for NeGP, for Capacity Building and for site preparation of SWANs.

Statement

Table-I: Mission Mode Projects Central Government Category

Sl.No.	Projects	Line Ministry/Department Responsible
1	2	3
1.	Income Tax	Ministry of Finance/Central Board of Direct Tax
2.	Passport Visa & Immigration	Ministry of External Affairs/Ministry of Home Affairs
3.	MCA21	Ministry of Company Affairs
4.	Insurance	Deptt. of Banking
5.	National Citizen Database	Ministry of Home Affairs/Registrar General of India (RGI)
6.	Central Excise	Department of Revenue/Central Board of Excise & Custom
7.	Pensions	Deptt. of Pensions & Pensioners Welfare & Deptt. of Expenditure
8.	Banking	Deptt. of Banking
9.	e-Office	Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances

Table-II: Mission Mode Projects State Government Category

1.	Land Records	Ministry of Rural Development
2.	Road Transport	Ministry of Road Transport & Highway
3.	Property Registration	Department of Land Resources/Department of Information Technology
4.	Agriculture	Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
5.	Treasuries	Ministry of Finance
6.	Municipalities	Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation
7.	Gram Panchayats	Ministry of Panchayati Raj
8.	Commercial Taxes	Ministry of Finance
9.	Police (UTs initially)	Ministry of Home Affairs
10.	Employment Exchanges*	Ministry of Labour & Employment

*Project being considered for inclusion

1	2	3
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Table-III: Mission Mode Projects Integrated Services Category

1.	EDI (E-Commerce)	Ministry of Commerce & Industry/Department of Commerce
2.	E-Biz	Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion/ Department of Information Technology
3.	Common Services Centres	Department of Information Technology
4.	Indian Portal	Department of Information Technology, and Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances
5.	EG Gateway	Department of Information Technology
6.	E-Courts	Department of Justice, Ministry of Home Affairs
7.	E-Procurement*	Ministry of Commerce & Industry/DGS&D

*Project being considered for inclusion

2. To sustain the above projects, certain key components have also been identified for implementation and the same are given in Table IV below. These components cut across and support various projects.

Table-IV: Support Components Category

1.	Core Policies	Department of Information Technology
2.	Core Infrastructure (SWAN, NICNET, SDCs, etc.)*	Department of Information Technology
3.	Support Infrastructure (CSCs, etc.)*	Department of Information Technology
4.	Technical Assistance	Department of Information Technology
5.	R&D	Department of Information Technology
6.	Human Resource Development & Training	Department of Information Technology, and Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances
7.	Awareness & Assessment	Department of Information Technology, and Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances
8.	Organization structures	Department of Information Technology and Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances

*SWAN: State Wide Area Network, NICNET: National Informatics Centre Network, SDC: State Data Centre, CSCs: Common Services Centres

Expansion of BSNL Services

*117. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of the tremendous response and demand for BSNL pre-paid and post-paid services, the

progress of expansion of BSNL mobile network is very slow in rural and urban parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has also noticed that due to capacity constraints many exchanges are unable to issue pre-paid and post-paid cards to the subscribers for a very long time; and

(d) if so, the action plan drawn up to overcome this problem?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has expanded its mobile network by an additional capacity of around 7 million during the year 2005-06 vis-à-vis a capacity of 4 million in the year 2004-05. However, during the process of expansion inherent inter-network issues are to be addressed which are being progressively resolved. The capacities have been significantly added across the country and it is likely to be available in around six month's time in the west zone.

Apparel Production Centres

*118. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to allocate funds for development of 25 textiles and apparel production centres throughout India;

(b) if so, the details of fund allocated/to be allocated for this purpose;

(c) the details of cities/locations selected for setting up of these production centres; and

(d) the time by which these production centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) To provide the domestic textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units, Government has launched the 'Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks' (SITP). The scheme is based on Public-Private Partnership (PPP). Industry Associations/Groups would be the main promoters of the Integrated Textile Parks. The Government of India's (GOI) support under the Scheme by way of Grant or Equity is limited to 40% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40 Crore. However, the combined equity stake of GOI/State Government/State Industrial Development Corporation, if any, shall not exceed 49%. The project cost will cover common infrastructure and buildings for production/support activities, depending upon the need of the park. The Scheme envisages development of 25 Integrated Textile Parks during 2005-06 and 2006-07.

(c) and (d) So far nine (09) projects have been approved by the Project Approval Committee (PAC) of the Scheme. Details of these projects, inter alia, including location, project cost, completion period are as under:

(In Crore Rupees)

Sl.No.	Name/Location	Completion target	Estimated project cost	Estimated GOI Assistance
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Gujarat Eco Textiles Park, Surat, Gujarat.	May, 2007	114.00	40.00
2.	Metro Hi Tech Co-operative Park, Kohlapur, Maharashtra	Feb., 2007	83.90	33.55
3.	SIMA Textile Processing Centre, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu	May, 2007	120.00	40.00
4.	Jaipur Texweaving Park, Silora, Kisangarh, Rajasthan	March, 2007	96.81	38.72
5.	Mundra SEZ Textile and Apparel Park, Gujarat	July, 2007	127.90	40.00
6.	The Great Indian Linen & Textile Infrastructure Company, Perundurai, Tamil Nadu.	July, 2007	149.45	40.00

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Pride India Cooperative Textile Park, Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra.	July, 2007	36.77	14.71
8.	Wada HiTech Weaving Park, Thane, Maharashtra	July, 2007	100.89	40.00
9.	Palladam HiTech Weaving Park, Palladam, Tamilnadu	June 2006	43.35	17.34
Total			873.07	304.32

Surcharge on IT for Gujarat Earthquake

*119. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected by Government of India by levy of surcharge on income Tax for Gujarat Earthquake;

(b) the amount disbursed to Government of Gujarat out of the collected surcharge;

(c) the amount yet to be disbursed to Government of Gujarat;

(d) the reasons for delay in disbursement; and

(e) the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The surcharge on income tax for Gujarat earthquake was in force for financial years 2000-01 and 2001-02. An amount of Rs. 2,187.82 crore has been collected under the head "Surcharge" for financial year 2000-01. This amount also includes collection in respect of surcharge for other purposes including Kargil war and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). Separate figures for collection in respect of surcharge for Gujarat earthquake for 2000-01 are not available.

In financial year 2001-02, there was no other surcharge on income tax in force except surcharge for Gujarat earthquake. A collection of Rs. 556.89 crore has been reported under the head "Surcharge" for financial year 2001-02.

(b) The Central Government has disbursed to the Government of Gujarat an amount of Rs. 500 crore in

financial year 2000-01 and an amount of Rs. 967.37 crore in financial year 2001-02 from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

(c) The entire amount due to be disbursed to the Government of Gujarat, as per the norms laid down under NCCF, for earthquake relief and rehabilitation has already been disbursed to it. No further amount is proposed to be disbursed to the Government of Gujarat from NCCF on account of earthquake relief and rehabilitation. There is no necessary correspondence between amount collected as surcharge and the amount disbursed for a calamity from NCCF.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to para (c) above.

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

Infrastructure Facilities to Judiciary

*120. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been implementing any Centrally sponsored scheme relating to development of infrastructure facilities for the Judiciary;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the ratio of share of both Union and State Governments;

(c) whether the Union Government has released its share of assistance to all the State Governments for the financial year 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(d) if so, the State-wise details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the same is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating to development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary is being implemented by the Department of Justice since 1993-1994. The scheme is being implemented with a view to augment the resources of the State Governments/UT Administrations. The scheme includes construction of court buildings and residential accommodation for Judges/Judicial Officers covering High Courts and Subordinate Courts. The expenditure on the scheme is shared by the Central and the State Governments on 50:50 basis. The Central share is however restricted to the allocations made as per criterion laid down by the Planning Commission. However, the States are free to spend higher amounts. Expenditure in respect of the Union Territories is fully met by the Centre.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) During the annual plan review meeting taken by Planning Commission in December 2003, it was observed that the States do not have any time bound programme for completion of the required judicial infrastructure, although the scheme has been in operation since 1993-94. Presently, the States have been requested to prepare a Ten-Year Perspective Plan, which will account for both new constructions as well as renovation of old buildings, so that both outlay and modalities of the scheme can be reworked in consultation with the Planning Commission and funds released.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

*121. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foreign exchange reserves at present;

(b) whether the Government proposes to utilize the reserves to repay foreign debts; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) As per the latest available information, India's foreign exchange reserves as on February 10, 2006 stood at US\$ 140,429 million. The details are given in the following Table.

*Table: India's Foreign Exchange Reserves
(As on February 10, 2006)*

	(US \$ million)
a. Foreign Currency Assets	133,991
b. Gold	5,680
c. SDRs	3
d. Reserve Position in the IMF	755
e. Total (a+b+c+d)	140,429

(b) There is no proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Rapid Transit Systems

757. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the urban commuting has become an issue of key concern due to congestion; environmental degradation and unsafe travel conditions;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove the congestion in urban centres;

(c) whether rail based transits are highly inadequate in India;

(d) if so, whether the Government has any plan to introduce more rapid transit systems in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Urban Transport is a State subject and therefore measures to address traffic and transportation related matters are required to be taken by the respective State Governments. However, for high cost mass transit systems, the Central Government offers financial support after evaluating the parameters prescribed for the purpose and after due appraisal. A draft National Urban Transport Policy has also been formulated to provide a framework for State Governments to formulate their plans for dealing with Urban Transport needs.

(c) The transportation needs of the cities are not system specific. For each city the technology is decided based on expert studies specific to the needs of the city.

(d) and (e) Some State Government are proposing to introduce Rail based systems as detailed in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Name of the State	Details of proposal for Introduction of metro rail system in
1	2
Karnataka	Bangalore: Total length—33 kms in two corridors. (estimated current cost Rs. 5453 cr.) East—West Corridor—18.1 Km: Baiyapanahalli to Mysore Road. North—South Corridor—14.9 Km: Yeshwanthpur to R.V. Road Jayanagar.
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad: Total length—38.05 kms. in two corridors (estimated completion cost—Rs. 4206 crore). Miyapur—Chaitanyapuri (25.57 kms.) and Secunderabad—Falakanuna (12.48 kms).
Maharashtra	Mumbai: Total length—15 kms. in the Versova—Andheri—Ghatkopar corridor at an estimated cost of Rs. 1488 crore.
Gujarat	Ahmedabad: Total length (all elevated) of 43.55 Kms in two corridors (at an estimated cost of Rs. 4305 crores). (a) North-South (Akshardham—APMC Vasana <i>via</i> Motera, Ashram Road)—32.65 Kms. (b) East-West Corridor (Ahmedabad—Thaltej <i>via</i> Delhi Darvaza)—10.9 Kms.
Kerala	Kochi: Total Length of 25.3 kms from Alwaye to Petta (Tripunithura) at an estimated cost of Rs. 1966 crores.
Delhi	Delhi: Phase II of Delhi Metro covering a total length of 53.02 kms. In six corridors. at an estimated completion cost of Rs. 8118 crore.

1	2
Haryana	Gurgaon: Extension of Delhi metro to Gurgaon (from Qutab Minar to Sushant Lok) at an estimated cost of Rs. 573 crore.

Disaster Warning Centres in Coastal Areas

758. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to locate more 'disaster warning centres' in the country in view of the fast changes in Geoclimate conditions throughout the globe, more so in coastal parts of our country;

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

(c) whether there is any possibility to get external assistance technically and materially; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) The Department of Ocean Development is setting up, without any external assistance, an Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in the Indian Ocean Region which is scheduled to be operational by September, 2007. A centre would be set up at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad on a 24x7 basis. The system will cater to complete Indian Ocean region and there is no need for more stations.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted a Cyclone Monitoring and Mitigation Group to specifically look at the (i) mechanism for tracking and monitoring the cyclonic systems, (ii) warning protocols for cyclones, (iii) coordination mechanism between different Central and State Ministries/Department/Organizations, (iv) suitable mechanism for providing warning in respect of local cyclonic/weather systems, (v) mechanism for timely dissemination of warnings to the local people and (vi) cyclone mitigation measures required for the coastal states.

The Ministry of Home Affairs is also (in the process of) formulating/finalizing some initiatives/projects to specifically address the coastal hazards and vulnerabilities especially in the light of experiences of disaster events in the past few years.

Investment In Saudi Arabia

759. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the place of India among the top investors in Saudi Arabia;

(b) whether during Saudi King's visit, India has decided to have more investments in Saudi Arabia;

(c) whether India has agreed to help and assist Saudi Arabia in IT;

(d) if so, the total investment India has agreed to invest in Saudi Arabia and also the total investment Saudi Arabia has agreed to invest in India and the extent of relations between two countries that have further improved after his visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per Saudi data, India ranks 26th among the top foreign investors in Saudi Arabia in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Stock in the Kingdom until end 2004. Indian investment in Saudi Arabia stands at US \$ 1.42 million upto 31st December, 2005.

(b) to (d) As per the Delhi Declaration signed during the visit of King of Saudi Arabia, both countries have agreed to develop a strategic energy partnership which would also include cooperative and joint ventures, both in public and private sectors, in the upstream and downstream oil and gas sectors in India and Saudi Arabia as well as in third countries, Saudi investments in Oil refining, marketing and storage in India and setting up of India-Saudi ventures for gas-based fertilizer plants in Saudi Arabia. The two sides have also agreed to encourage and support entrepreneurs in both countries to promote economic cooperation actively. India has offered assistance in setting up of an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Centre of Excellence in Saudi Arabia at a total budget outlay of US \$ 65 million. It is expected that the visit will help further strengthen the existing close and friendly ties between India and Saudi Arabia.

Fund Sharing Pattern under Total Sanitation Campaign

760. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to change the present component-wise fund-sharing pattern under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC);

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of schools and individual latrines for BPL/disabled household constructed during 2004-05 under TSC; State-wise.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Total number of school and individual household toilets constructed during 2004-05 under Total Sanitation Campaign Programme (TSC), State-wise, is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Achievements of Physical Components in 2004-2005

Sl.No.	State	IHL	School Toilets
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	374921	8729
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2393	52
3.	Assam	29175	37
4.	Bihar	55088	76
5.	Gujarat	55118	223
6.	Haryana	117267	539
7.	Himachal Pradesh	296	121
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1878	51
9.	Karnataka	3450	557
10.	Kerala	166432	435
11.	Madhya Pradesh	273699	8572
12.	Maharashtra	355615	6568
13.	Mizoram	0	0
14.	Nagaland	1827	6
15.	Orissa	342988	2471
16.	Punjab	0	55
17.	Rajasthan	116552	4245

1	2	3	4
18.	Sikkim	34821	49
19.	Tamil Nadu	804759	6218
20.	Tripura	51380	754
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1124898	9611
22.	West Bengal	724453	4327
23.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	37	0
24.	Pondicherry	0	0
25.	Uttaranchal	35515	69
26.	Chhattisgarh	4325	586
27.	Jharkhand	16883	1362
Total		4693770	55713

Collection of Service Tax

761. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any default in collection of service tax is noticed since its inception;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount due from each of the leading corporates and individuals; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recover the dues of service tax from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Telecom Microwave Transmitters

762. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of telecommunication microwave transmitters set up in Karnataka during the last three years;

(b) the details of funds sanctioned, granted and released to the State for the purpose during the period; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for installation of the above transmitters during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, the number of microwave (MW) links set up by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Karnataka and the funds sanctioned/ granted/released during last three financial years are given below:

Sl.No.	Year	No. of MW links		Sanctioned (Rs.)	Granted (Rs.)	Released (Rs.)
		Planned	Installed			
1.	2002-03	2	2	75,00,000	75,00,000	75,00,000
2.	2003-04	20	20	1,31,35,789	1,31,35,789	1,31,35,789
3.	2004-05	120	120	5,14,95,219	5,14,95,219	5,14,95,219

(c) Following links have been planned by BSNL during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08:

Year	No. of links
2005-06	150
2006-07	170
2007-08	Not yet planned

Sale of Shares of MUL

763. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) percentage of holdings of the Central Government in Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL) and that disinvested till date;

(b) amount in rupees raised therefrom;

(c) whether expression of interest has been invited from the public sector banks/financial institution to sell the entire share of MUL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Till December 1982, the Government held 100% equity in MUL. Thereafter, by issue of fresh shares to Suzuki Motor Corporation, renunciation of rights shares by Government, public issue of shares and sale to public sector financial institutions/banks, the Government's equity shareholding has come down to 10.28%.

(b) The Government raised a sum of Rs. 3560.94 crore through disinvestments from time to time in MUL.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. On 2nd September 2005, Government approved the proposal for sale of 8% equity, out of Government's shareholding of 18.28% in MUL, to public sector financial institutions/banks through competitive bidding, with the market price as the benchmark. Expressions of interest were accordingly invited in December 2005. The transaction was completed in January 2006. The Government realized a sum of Rs. 1567.60 crore from this sale.

Earth System Science

764. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan for the development of Earth System Science;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir. Having realized the need for better management and exploitation of natural resources as well as mitigation of natural disasters the Department of Science and Technology had set up a division—viz. The Earth System Science (ESS) Division to focus research and development for understanding better the spatial and temporal evolution of the Indian Lithosphere.

The programmes under ESS envisage to cover a wide spectrum of studies on the Solid Earth, its atmosphere, the oceans and their interrelationships. National Coordinated projects, long and short term projects involving extensive/intensive field observations, data acquisition, processing and analysis, and manpower development are supported.

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

(c) Does not arise.

Statement**The Earth System Science (ESS)**

The Earth System Science (ESS) covers a wide spectrum of study of the solid earth, its atmosphere, the oceans, their interrelationships and even the relationship the earth bears to the Universe at large. It constitutes a complex multidisciplinary intermesh of branches of knowledge dealing with natural phenomena as well as anthropogenic forces operating in the earth's realm. The basic character of programmes being implemented by the ESS Division is in the framework of nationally coordinated, long-term, extensive and intensive observation/field-based programmes involving data acquisition, data processing/analysis, subject-specific indigenous state-of-the-art technology development, advanced training/services, etc. The various coordinated programmes on various focused themes are given below:

- Programme Advisory Committee on Earth Science (PAC-ES)
- Programme Advisory Committee on Atmospheric Sciences (PAC-AS)
- Science of Shallow Sub-Surface Programme (SSS)
- Deep Continental Studies Programme (DSC)

- Himalayan Glaciology Programme
- Monsoon and Tropical Climate (MONTCLIM) and Agrometeorology Programme
- Indian Climate Research Programme (ICRP)
- New Initiatives (DST Schools in Mathematical Modeling in Earth System Sciences)

Objectives

- PAC-ES extends support to carry out research in forefront areas of Earth Sciences. The programme also strives to improve the research climate through manpower training, contact/field workshops, create state of art facilities and identify/nurture new areas of research in earth sciences.
- DCS programme, has undertaken studies on deep structural configuration of Indian Lithosphere along selected transects.
- The primary objective of the Monsoon and Tropical Climate and Indian Climate Research Programme is to understand the weather and climate all over the Indian region especially for the monsoon period with the aim of improving the forecasting skills.
- Agrometeorology programme aims at establishing the relationships between various weather parameters and crop growth and yield parameters for various major crops in India.
- Himalayan glaciology programme coordinates studies on glaciers in the Indian side of the Himalayan region by organizing expeditions and through systematic observations over selected glaciers.
- DST schools on Mathematical modelling in Earth System Sciences Programme aims to develop manpower in mathematical modelling and computer simulation for better understanding of process and phenomena in Earth System Sciences (Earth, Atmosphere and Oceanic Sciences), which can fill up the present and future needs of our country, through organizing various types of inter-disciplinary and multi-institutional training activities in different parts of the country.

Technology Parks in Assam

765. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for setting up Technology Parks in Assam and other States in the North Eastern Region have been submitted for clearance during 2004-05 & 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government on the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society under Department of Information Technology, has established its centers at Guwahati (Assam), Imphal (Manipur) and Gangtok (Sikkim). Proposals for setting up STPI Centres at Shillong (Meghalaya) and Agartala (Tripura) have also been approved. On receipt of the contributions from the concerned State Governments, STPI will take further necessary action for setting up these centres.

The Department of Science and Technology has sanctioned two projects for setting up Women Technology Parks (WTP) at Arunachal University, Itanagar and Tamulpur Anchalik Gramdan Sangh, Nalbari, Assam. In addition, the Department has also recommended a proposal for establishment of Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park (STEP) at Guwahati submitted by North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFCL)

Target for Credit to Agriculture Sector

766. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite Reserve Bank of India stipulations, flow of credit to agriculture and other rural enterprises from commercial banks both in public and private sector has been unable to achieve the annual targets perennially;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps contemplated, if any, by the Government to ensure compliance of the target by the Banks; and

(d) the steps taken, if any for implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Committee on revitalisation Support to Co-operative Credit Structure headed by Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, the Union Minister of State for Finance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), there are no separate targets/sub-targets for rural areas. The banks are required to lend 18% of Net Bank Credit (NBC) to agriculture sector. The amount of Agriculture Advances and their share in net bank credit of public sector banks and private sector banks for the last two years is as under:—

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Bank Group	March 2004	March 2005
Public Sector Banks	86187 (15.41%)	1,12,475 (15.7%)
Private Sector Banks	17,651 (15.81%)	21,473 (12.1%)

There are various reasons for non-achievement of stipulated target of 18% to agriculture. These, inter-alia, include low absorption capacity, low adoption of modern technology in agriculture, lack of infrastructure and marketing support, etc.

(c) The banks which are not able to meet the said target of 18% of NBC to agriculture, are required to contribute to Rural Infrastructural Development (RIDF) proportionately. Further, Government announced a policy on June 18, 2004 for doubling the flow of credit to agriculture in three years. The loans upto Rs. 5000/- to the agriculture sector were also made collateral free, banks were advised to recruit specialized officers including agriculture graduates and scheme of financing of agri-clinics was initiated. The disbursement by commercial banks (public and private sector) to agriculture has registered substantial increase in the last two years as shown below:

(Rs. crore)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Till Dec, 2005)
Disbursement	52441	81481	79,022
% Growth over previous year	31.8%	55.38%	41.40%*

*This percentage growth is on the comparable figure of December 2004.

(d) In order to examine the recommendations of Joint Committee on revitalisation support to cooperative credit structure (Jagdish Capoor Committee), a Joint committee of the Cooperative Ministers of eight select states under the chairmanship of the then Union Minister of State for Finance, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, was set up which suggested a scheme for revitalisation of cooperative credit structure. Subsequently, a Task Force under the chairmanship of Prof. A Vaidyanathan was constituted in August 2004. Based on its recommendations and consultation with State Governments, a revival package for short term cooperative credit structure has been approved.

[Translation]

Welfare of Weavers

767. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by the weavers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) The Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by the weavers in Andhra Pradesh. As per the report received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the weavers are facing difficulties, such as lack of easy credit, lack of subsidies on Yarn and Dyes and Chemicals, lack of marketing facilities, competition from Powerloom Sector, lack of continuous facilities of rebate on sale of handloom cloth etc. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has constituted an Expert Committee to study the weavers problems and the Committee has studied the problems and recommended its report to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Satellite Towns

768. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to develop certain new satellite towns in the National Capital Territory;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the strategies made by the Government to ensure adequate basic facilities in these satellite towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The National Capital Region Planning Board has initiated efforts for development of new townships by Governments of Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in the National Capital Region which could act as centres of economic growth and urban settlements. The concerned State Governments have identified certain locations for this purpose for taking up feasibility studies. If feasibility is established, further public-private partnership with appropriate institutional and financial arrangements.

[English]

Disappeared Companies

769. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered non-banking finance companies, in the country;

(b) the number of operational companies, out of them;

(c) the number of companies which have disappeared with public money; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to trace those disappeared companies and make them pay back the money of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The number of Non-Banking Finance Companies registered with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as on February 01, 2006 is as under:

Companies authorized to accept public deposits	: 445
non-deposit accepting companies	12524
Total	: 12969

(b) When a company ceases to function as an NBFC on its own volition or on account of other reasons, RBI cancels the Certificate of Registration issued to the company. RBI has so far cancelled Certificate of Registration of 630 companies, out of which 135 were

deposit taking and 475 were non-deposit taking companies. The number of companies mentioned at (a) above are net of cancellation.

(c) 499 companies are reported to have vanished.

(d) Whenever a company is identified as vanishing, the case is referred to Economic Offices Wing of the concerned State Government. The onus is on State police machinery to investigate the case and take legal action as deemed appropriate including penal action as per Indian Penal Code/Criminal Procedure Code.

Sources of Foreign Exchange Reserves

770. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the sources of Foreign Exchange Reserves;

(b) whether these reserves have been invested in low yielding US and EU Government securities;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the losses incurred as a result thereof;

(d) whether this reserve is being utilized to fund the deficit; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The major sources of accretion to foreign exchange reserves include exports of good and services, foreign direct investment, portfolio investment, non-resident deposits, external debt, external aid, external commercial borrowings, private remittances etc.

(b) and (c) India's foreign currency reserves are invested in multi-currency multi-asset portfolios keeping in view considerations of safety, liquidity and return. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) invests a part of the reserves in US treasury bills and notes and securities issued by the governments of other major developed countries, including the EU, mainly on account of safety and liquidity considerations.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Scheme for Development of Towns in Maharashtra**

771. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposed schemes regarding development of various towns in Maharashtra during current year alongwith the amount allotted for this purpose;

(b) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has submitted any proposal in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decision being taken in this regard;

(d) whether World Bank is providing any financial assistance for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the project-wise, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The Government has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National

Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3.12.2005 to provide reform linked Central assistance for development of urban infrastructure in cities and towns. Under Sub-Mission on Urban Infrastructure and Governance of JNNURM, reform linked assistance is provided to 63 select cities. All other cities/towns not covered under JNNURM are covered under UIDSSMT. The Mission and UIDSSMT are to be implemented over a period of 7 years starting from 2005-06. Proposed Central assistance during the Mission period is Rs. 50,000 crore. Towns in Maharashtra are eligible for assistance under the Mission.

(b) and (c) List of detailed project proposals submitted by Government of Maharashtra for assistance under JNNURM is enclosed as Statement. Procedural formalities for release of funds under the Mission are yet to be completed by any of the cities of Maharashtra.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, World Bank teams have visited Mumbai for extensive discussions with the Govt. of Maharashtra for preparing an Action Plan to develop Mumbai as a world class city. Proposed Action Plan involves action by the State Government on a comprehensive package of key reforms, investment and finance.

Statement*List of Projects Submitted to GOI under NURM from Maharashtra*

No.	City and Description of the Project	Cost of Project proposed
1	2	3
A.	Greater Mumbai	
1.	Storm Water Drainage	1800.00
2.	Middle Vaitarna Water Supply	1352.00
3.	Sewerage Disposal Project	6684.00
4.	Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project (MUIP)	2648.00
5.	Mumbai Metro Rly. Project	19500.00
6.	Action Plan for devp. & protection of Mithi river and its surroundings	1298.00
7.	Worli-Bandra Sea-link	1200.00
8.	Western Free Sealink Project (Worli-Nariman Point)	—
9.	Western re-engineering of Sion Panvel Highway (Expansion Project)	—

1	2	3
10.	Thane Metro	851.00
	Total of Gr. Mumbai	35333.00
B.	Pune	
1.	Road Network & Urban Transport;	1951.71
2.	Sewerage Sanitation & Reservation of water bodies	335.00
	Total of Pune	2286.71
C.	Nagpur	
	<i>Water Supply & Distribution</i>	
1.	Pench IV	162.61
2.	Leak detection & Water audit project	28.37
3.	Energy Audit Project	25.03
4.	Strengthening of WS System	43.00
5.	Solid Waste Management	25.00
6.	Outer Ring Roads	90.00
7.	2 ROBs	92.00
8.	Road Widening/Improvements	19.47
9.	Bridges over rivers	7.60
10.	Traffic Management:	10.00
	Total of Nagpur	503.38
	Grand Total (A+B+C)	38123.09

Post Offices

772. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are several villages in country which are not having post offices;

(b) if so, the steps taken to open post offices in every village;

(c) the scheme implemented by the Government so far in this regard; and

(d) the number of post offices in Bihar, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) There are 4,48,217 villages in the country which do not have post offices as on 31.03.2005. In consonance with the policy directives of the Tenth Five Year Plan, plan targets are not being allotted for opening of new post offices from the year 2004-05. Where justified, post offices are opened by relocating those post offices, which are not justified at the existing location, as per the norms prescribed by the Department. However, postal facilities are provided to all villages through the existing rural network of 1,39,120 post offices.

(d) The number of Post Offices district-wise in Bihar is given the enclosed statement.

Statement*District-wise details of Post Offices in Bihar Circle as on 31.3.2005*

Sl.No.	Name of District	Head Post Offices	Sub Post Offices	Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices	Extra Departmental Branch Post Office	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Araria	Nil	14	Nil	124	138
2.	Arwal	Nil	8	Nil	72	80
3.	Aurangabad	1	34	3	348	386
4.	Banka	1	20	11	176	208
5.	Begusarai	1	24	5	172	202
6.	Bettiah (W. Champaran)	1	22	2	253	278
7.	Bhagalpur	1	31	15	275	322
8.	Bhojpur (Arrah)	1	38	2	242	283
9.	Buxar	1	32	2	177	212
10.	Darbhanga	2	43	2	327	374
11.	E. Champaran (Motihari)	1	44	1	377	423
12.	Gaya	1	25	3	206	235
13.	Gopalganj	1	19	Nil	213	233
14.	Jahanabad	1	18	2	87	108
15.	Jamui	1	12	Nil	140	153
16.	Kaimur (Bhabhua)	Nil	22	Nil	129	151
17.	Katihar	1	21	Nil	149	171
18.	Khagaria	Nil	18	Nil	155	173
19.	Kishanganj	Nil	7	Nil	87	94
20.	Lakhisarai	Nil	8	1	75	84
21.	Madhepura	Nil	11	Nil	109	120
22.	Madhubani	1	39	1	398	439
23.	Munger	1	15	1	66	83
24.	Muzaffarpur	1	54	16	350	421

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	Nalanda (Bih. Sharif)	1	41	5	360	407
26.	Nawada	1	23	2	202	228
27.	Patna	2	95	10	237	344
28.	Purnea	1	19	Nil	189	209
29.	Rohtas (Sasaram)	1	25	Nil	217	243
30.	Saharsa	1	22	Nil	206	229
31.	Samastipur	1	40	5	348	394
32.	Saran (Chapra)	2	52	4	335	393
33.	Sheikhpura	Nil	8	1	100	109
34.	Sheohar	Nil	9	Nil	110	119
35.	Sitamahri	1	19	1	196	217
36.	Siwamn	1	35	Nil	263	299
37.	Supaul	Nil	15	Nil	194	209
38.	Vaishali (Hajipur)	1	29	4	249	283
Total		31	1011	99	7913	9054

Water Supply Schemes

773. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the cities in Jharkhand where Urban Accelerated Water Supply Scheme has been implemented;

(b) whether the work related to the said scheme is being undertaken at snailpace in these cities;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to accelerate the pace of work of this scheme; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) Names of cities/towns in Jharkhand where projects under Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme have been completed and commissioned are given in the enclosed Statement. The question period of the projects ranges usually from 2 to 3 years. Out of 9 projects for which central share was released upto 31.3.2004, 6 project have been completed and commissioned. The

State Government has been asked to expedite the completion/commissioning of the remaining 3 projects. 7 more projects were sanctioned during 2004-05. These projects are due of the scheme in different States is monitored through reviews meetings and field visits. Review meetings are held regularly at the level of Joint Secretary, Urban Development and Secretary, Urban Development. The last review meeting under the chairmanship of Secretary (UD) was taken on 20.10.2005. Officers of Central Public Health Engineering and Environment Organisation made field visits and follow up implementation of schemes on the ground.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Towns	District
1.	Nirsa	Dhanbad
2.	Chakulia	East Singhbhum
3.	Saraikella	West Singhbhum
4.	Jamtara	Dumaka
5.	Koderma	Koderma
6.	Muri	Ranchi

[English]

Non-Release of Funds to NGOs for Rural Development

774. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has not released funds to various Non-Governmental organisations (NGOs) across the country who are engaged in rural development activities;

(b) if so, the details of the period for which such NGOs have not been allocated funds and the total amount of balance to be released to each such NGOs, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any special fund to be sanctioned by the World Bank for release to various NGOs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has received collective appeal from the associations of NGOs engaged in the rural development based activities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Installation of Towers for Cellular Phone in H.P.

775. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of towers set up for providing telecommunication facilities and proper functioning of cellular telephone facilities in Himachal Pradesh is adequate;

(b) if not, the number of towers proposed to be sanctioned and the population likely to be covered in the State therefrom;

(c) the time by which the telephone facilities are likely to be made available through MCPP at the places in which landline telephone facility is not possible under new policy;

(d) the total population of State having telephone facility; and

(e) the details of plan to provide telephone facility to the remaining population in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, with 319 towers provided by BSNL and 330 towers provided by Private operators there is proper functioning of cellular telephone facilities in Himachal Pradesh (HP).

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above. However, keeping in view the past trends and future demand and growth, BSNL plans to augment further its mobile Network for which 138 additional mobile base stations (towers) are planned to be added during current year. Further, Private Operators have planned to 251 more towers in 2006-07 for cellular mobile services.

(c) No MCPC (Multi Channel Per Carrier) system has been planned for induction in Himachal Pradesh State.

(d) The total population of HP as per census 2001 is 60,77,900. The working telephones of BSNL as on 31.01.2006 are 7,20,890. Similarly 3,32,995 subscribers belong to Private Operators.

(e) BSNL has planned to provide telephone connections in Himachal Pradesh for the year 2005-06 as detailed below:

Type of DEL	Wire Line	WLL	Mobile Service	Total
Plan	905	23,857	80,000	1,04,762

BSNL has planned to provide telephone connections to all the 38,835 existing waitlisted applicants progressively by December, 2006.

Schemes for Urban Development

776. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes being undertaken by the Union Government for the urban development;

(b) whether Nagar Panchayats are also included in said schemes;

(c) if so, the names of Nagar Panchayats of Madhya Pradesh to whom the benefits of national schemes have been provided till now;

(d) whether any allocation has been made by the Union Government to the municipal corporations and municipalities in Madhya Pradesh under any such schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Funds from NCRPB

777. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) has arranged to provide fund to various development authorities in the National Capital Region for construction of Houses in their various residential Schemes and also for providing external services like roads, electricity and water supply therein;

(b) if so, the amount has been provided to Meerut Development Authority by NCRPB for this purpose during the last three years;

(c) whether NCRPB has been coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the development work in the Schemes of Development work in the Schemes of Development Authorities; and

(d) if so, the present status of the Schemes developed by Meerut Development Authority and funded by NCRPB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) has informed that it provides loan assistance to the State Governments concerned for land acquisition and land development covering provision of infrastructure facilities

like water supply, sanitation, sewerage system and electrification, in the NCR. The Board does not provide loans for construction of houses.

(b) The details of loan assistance provided by NCRPB to the Meerut Development Authority during the last three years are as under:

Year	Amount	Project Name
2002-03	Nil	—
2003-04	Rs. 8.43 cr.	Ganga Nagar Residential Scheme Ph. 3, Meerut
2004-05	Rs. 16.84 cr.	-do-
Total:	Rs. 25.26 cr.	

(c) The NCR Planning Board has informed that projects where financial assistance is provided by NCRPB are monitored by Project Monitoring Cell of the Board through reports submitted by State Governments and implementing agencies and also site visits carried out by teams of the Board before release of loans instalments. Review meetings are also conducted by Member-Secretary, the Project Sanctioning and Monitoring Group of the Board and by NCR Cell of each sub-region.

(d) In respect of on-going projects, on project named Ganga Nagar Residential Scheme Phase-3 with an estimated cost of Rs. 40.46 crores and loan components of Rs. 30.18 crores is in progress. The entire loan amount has been released. The Meerut Development Authority has reported a total expenditure of Rs. 28.36 crores upto December, 2005. The tentative scheduled date of completion of the project is end of March, 2006.

Contributory Pension Scheme

778. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted on the impact of the Contributory Pension Scheme on the Central Government employees;

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

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to conduct such a survey in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal at present to conduct such a survey.

Additional Excise Duty

779. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the period of Tenth Finance Commission and Eleventh Finance Commission, Government of India collected Additional Excise Duty (AED) from various states on Sugar, Textile and Tobacco;

(b) if so, the details of AED collected by the Government during the above period; State-wise and item-wise;

(c) whether a part/share thereof has been paid to the respective State Governments;

(d) if so, the details of the amount paid to the State Governments, State-wise and item-wise; and

(e) the ratio with which this amount was paid to the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total Revenue collected from "Additional Excise duty in lieu of Sales Tax" during the period 1995-96 to 2004-05 is furnished as below:

Additional Duties of Excise in lieu of Sales Tax (ADEST)

(i) During Tenth Finance Commission:

(in Rs. crore)

Sl.No.	Head	Revenue collected through ADEST				
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Sugar	392	433	432	445	456
2.	Tobacco	1233	1379	1544	1714	1731
3.	Textile	1292	1478	833	801	712
Total		2917	3290	2809	2960	2899

(ii) During Eleventh Finance Commission:

(in Rs. crore)

Sl.No.	Head	Revenue collected through ADEST				
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Sugar	508	541	549	600	618
2.	Tobacco	1716	1806	1757	1806	1987
3.	Textile	732	613	305	109	33
Total		2956	2960	2611	2515	2638

*Provisional.

(c) to (e) State-wise distribution of net proceeds of union taxes and duties is done on the basis of recommendation of the Finance Commission from a

common divisible pool. Hence, linking collection of a particular tax such as AED to devolution to any state is not possible.

Survey by Taxmen

780. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any nation-wide survey has been conducted during the recent time by Taxmen on art galleries and event management companies;
- (b) if so, details of the findings; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Investigation Wing of the Income-tax Department carried out surveys under section 133A of the Income-tax Act, 1961 in December 2005 in respect of certain art galleries and event management entities in various parts of the country.

(b) and (c) The surveys have led to impounding of incriminating documents, identification of the purchasers/customers and detection of tax evasion running in crores of rupees.

Development of Handicrafts

781. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes for the development of Handicrafts undertaken in the country, specially in tribal/backward areas and rural areas, separately;
- (b) the amount allocated and released under these schemes to each State during each of the last three years and current year, scheme-wise;
- (c) whether any review has been made for the development of handicrafts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) The number of artisans/craftsmen benefited there from; and
- (f) the action proposed to be taken to promote self-employment by encouraging handicrafts in villages/tribal and backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOAN): (a) The

schemes implemented by this office are composite in nature and not caste/area specific. At present office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has been implementing following schemes for promotion of Handicrafts on all India basis including tribal/backward areas and rural areas.

1. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastship Vikas Yojana.
2. Marketing Support and Services.
3. Training & Extension.
4. Design & Technology Up-gradation.
5. Export Promotion
6. Research & Development
7. Special Handicrafts Training Project (SHTP)
8. Bima Yojana
9. Workshed Scheme
10. Credit Guarantee Scheme

(b) No state-wise funds are being allocated. The scheme-wise, amount allocated and released under these schemes during last three years and current year is enclosed as Statement.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Schemes launched and implemented for the development of handicrafts are regularly reviewed for required modifications. Accordingly, evaluation of following schemes were conducted during the 10th Five Year Plan by independent agencies;

- (1) Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) by National Productivity Council, New Delhi.
- (2) Marketing Support by National Productivity Council, New Delhi.
- (3) Export Promotion by Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi
- (4) Design and Tech. Up-gradation by National Institute of Science Technology and Development Studies, New Delhi.

(e) The number of artisans/craftsmen benefited through these schemes during the last three years is detailed as under:

Scheme	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
AHVV	18505	38224	30572
Design & Tech. Upgradation	5509	13217	12607
Marketing & Support Services	8460	9609	16114
Training & Extension	9631	16044	13496

(f) The schemes implemented by this office are aimed at capacity building of beneficiaries providing avenues for self-employment in villages/tribal and backward areas. Further to promote self-employment, credit facilitation

through Credit Guarantee scheme in addition to other developmental activities will strengthen such capacity building.

Statement

Budget allocation and expenditure during 10th Plan period.

(Rs. in Crore)

SLNo.	Name of the schemes	10th Plan Outlay	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05			2005-06		
			B.E.	R.E.	Expend.	B.E.	R.E/FG	Expend.	B.E.	R.E/FG	Exp.	B.E.	R.E.	Up to 32.06
1.	Baba Saheb Ambedkar Yojana	82.80	8.80	8.80	8.40	21.05	16.50	15.56	24.48	23.06	21.10	30.70	30.20	15.01
2.	Design and Technical Upgradation	98.50	26.00	26.00	21.95	8.15	8.75	8.48	23.14	16.64	15.80	19.00	18.70	7.00
3.	Mktg. & Support Services	71.85	13.35	14.00	14.01	14.30	14.60	11.15	19.13	18.45	15.69	19.00	18.60	11.93
4.	Export Promotion	43.00	7.50	7.50	3.65	10.00	9.87	9.82	14.45	14.35	9.85	12.60	13.90	11.67
5.	Research & Development	10.50	2.50	2.50	1.56	3.10	2.10	1.57	3.30	2.00	1.89	3.30	3.20	1.01
6.	Training & Extension	82.02	17.02	18.01	16.17	0.90	0.62	0.44	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.10	1.10	0.55
7.	Integrated Package for J&K	0	0	1.00	0.89	31.55	14.85	9.69	4.00	4.00	3.74	5.00	5.00	2.57
8.	Bima Yojana for Artisans	0	0	0.17	0.00	1.00	0.60	0.60	2.70	0.62	0.62	3.80	3.70	0.00
9.	Special Handicrafts Training Programme	0	0	0.10	0.10	1.00	1.00	0.85	3.50	3.40	3.08	3.50	3.60	2.50
10.	UNDP projects	6.33	5.33	3.32	3.32	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00
Total (Revenue)		395.00	80.50	81.40	70.05	91.05	68.89	58.16	95.20	83.02	72.27	96.00	98.00	52.24
Capital														
11.	Infrastructure Project	23.00	6.10	2.90	1.60	10.10	9.27	6.16	5.80	6.55	4.80	7.00	7.00	0.00
12.	Financial Assistance to Central PSUs/SHDCs/Apex Societies	7.00	1.40	1.40		2.40	0.00	0	2.00				0.00	0.00
Total Capital		30.00	7.50	4.30	1.60	12.50	9.27	6.16	7.80	6.55	4.80	7.00	7.00	0.00
Grand Total		425.00	88.00	85.70	71.65	103.55	78.16	64.32	103.00	89.57	77.07	105.00	105.00	52.24

Uniform Stamp Duty for Corporates

782. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert panel appointed by the Union Government to examine the matter with regard to the uniform stamp duty for corporate bonds have recommended for the same and matter is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have accepted their recommendation; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Government of India had appointed a High level Expert Committee to look into regulatory, tax and other related issues for the development of corporate bonds market in India. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government in December, 2005. The report contains a number of recommendations on various aspects relating to developments of the corporate bonds market. One of the recommendations of the Committee is that on partly secured (including partly secured by registered mortgage) and unsecured debentures, the stamp duty should be made uniform across all States and the same should be linked to the tenor of the securities with an overall cap.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Government.

AED on Cotton Textiles

783. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Additional Excise Duty on Cotton Textile collected by the Government of India from Maharashtra State during the year 1997-98;

(b) the details of the share thereof given to the Maharashtra State; and

(c) the ratio with which the share paid to the Government of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Information on collection of Additional Excise Duty on Cotton Textile is not collected and compiled state-wise;

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above. Further, devolution to states is effected on the basis of total sharable taxes based on the recommendation of the Finance Commission.

Incentives for Employees of Banks

784. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to offer incentives to employees of the State-owned banks according to their performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether policy of offering incentives to employees for performance would be extended to other State-owned bodies and organizations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The need for the introduction of incentives Scheme for the employees of State-owned banks linked with their performance and the parameters for the grant of such incentives are under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises are governed by the instructions issued by the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises. As per instructions of that Ministry, there is already a Scheme in the nature of performance related payment for the employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises offering incentives not exceeding 5% of the distributable profits in an enterprise.

Joint Venture with Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Company

785. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) and India Potash Limited have joint venture with Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the investments made by the Indian Companies therein; and

(c) the details of the products presently marketed by the said company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has informed that the initial shareholdings of the Indian companies in the IFFCO-Tokio General Insurance Company were as under:

IFFCO	—	Rs. 51 crore
KRIBHCO	—	Rs. 20 crore
Indian Potash	—	Rs. 3 crore

Following certain restrictions on Multi-State Cooperative Societies, KRIBHCO, with the approval of IRDA, transferred all its shareholding in IFFCO-Tokio General Insurance Company to IFFCO in November, 2005. The investments by the Indian companies, as on date, are as under:

IFFCO	—	Rs. 159.80 crore
Indian Potash	—	Rs. 3.00 crore

(c) The list of the products being marketed by IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company Limited is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company Limited

Sl.No.	Products/Policies
1	2
1.	Contractors All Risk
2.	Bankers Blanket
3.	Boiler & Pressure Plant
4.	Burglary & Housebreaking
5.	Consequential Loss (Loss of Profit)
6.	Contractors Plant & Machinery
7.	Electronic Equipment

1	2
8.	Erection All Risks
9.	Fidelity Guarantee
10.	Industrial All Risks
11.	Machinery Breakdown
12.	Machinery Loss of Profit
13.	Marine Cargo
14.	Money Insurance
15.	Product Liability
16.	Public Liability Industrial
17.	Public Liability Non Industrial
18.	Public Liability (Act)
19.	Directors & Officers Liability
20.	Standard Fire & Special Peril
21.	Workmen's Compensation
22.	All Risks
23.	Critical Illness
24.	Individual Medishield
25.	Group Medishield
26.	Group Personal Accident
27.	Home & Family Protector
28.	Individual Personal Accident
29.	Motor Cycle/Scooter
30.	Motor Private Car
31.	Motor Commercial Vehicle
32.	Professional Indemnity
33.	Special Contingency
34.	Trade Protector
35.	Travel Protector
36.	Officer & Professional Indemnity Protector
37.	Industry Protector
38.	Home Suvidha

1	2
39.	Trade Suvidha
40.	Surgery Protector
41.	Credit Insurance
42.	Multi Modal Transport Operators Liability
43.	Marine Hull & Machinery
44.	Jewellers Block
45.	Weather Insurance
46.	Sankat Haran Bima Yojna
47.	Mahila Durghatna Bima Yojna
48.	Hull & Machinery Cum Protection & Indemnity
49.	Janata Personal Accident
50.	Carriers Legal Liability
51.	Aviation Insurance

Investigation by SFIO

786. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether detection of 30 cases during the first two years of functioning of the Serious Fraud Investigation office is quite inadequate;

(b) if so, the type of frauds detected;

(c) whether major companies like Cipla, Wochardt, Sun have been probed by SFIO;

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

(e) the present status of the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the course of investigation, the SFIO has detected, in respect of the companies investigated, violations of various provisions of Companies Act, 1956, financial irregularities and contraventions of the provisions of Income Tax Act, FEMA, Excise and Sales Tax Acts etc. which attracts the penal provisions of the relevant Acts and offences under Indian Penal Code (IPC).

(c) The list of companies in respect of which investigation has been taken up by SFIO is enclosed as Statement. These do not include CIPLA, Wochardt, Sun.

(d) The Ministry of Company Affairs has not received complaints against the affairs of M/s. Cipla, Wochardt and Sun alleging that the above companies are indulging in fraudulent activity meriting action under section 235/237 of the Companies Act, 1956.

(e) Question does not arise.

Statement

List of cases referred to Serious Fraud Investigation Office for investigation

Sl.No.	Name of Company	Status
1	2	3
1.	Daewoo motors India Ltd.	Investigation completed
2.	DSQ Software Ltd.	Do
3.	Design Auto Systems Ltd.	Do
4.	Bonanza Biotech Ltd.	Do
5.	Vatsa Corporation Ltd.	Do
6.	Mardia Chemicals Ltd.	Do
7.	Adam Comsof Ltd.	Do

1	2	3
8.	Kolar Biotech Ltd.	Investigation completed
9.	Soundcraft Industries Ltd.	Do
10.	Usha (India) Ltd.	Do
11.	Malvika Steels Ltd.	Do
12.	Ispat Industries Ltd.	Investigation order was quashed by Kolkata High Court
13.	Triumph International Finance India Ltd.	Investigation is in progress
14.	N.H. Securities Ltd.	Do
15.	KNP Securities Pvt. Ltd.	Do
16.	V.N. Parekh Securities Pvt Ltd.	Do
17.	Panther Fincap and Management Service Ltd.	Do
18.	Panther Investrade Ltd.	Do
19.	Panther Industrial Products Ltd.	Do
20.	Saimangal Investrade Ltd.	Do
21.	Classic Credit Ltd.	Do
22.	Classic Shares & Stock Broking Services Ltd.	Do
23.	Luminant Investrade Pvt. Ltd.	Do
24.	Goldfish Computers Pvt. Ltd.	Do
25.	Triumph Securities Pvt. Ltd.	Do
26.	Nakshatra Software Pvt. Ltd.	Do
27.	Chitrakoot Computers Pvt. Ltd.	Do
28.	Manmandir Estate Development Pvt. Ltd.	Do
29.	Koshika Telecom Ltd.	Do
30.	Mukta Arts Ltd.	Investigation has been stayed by Hon'ble High Court of Bombay

Task Force to Resolve Tax Related Problems

787. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has agreed to a proposal of exporters to set up a high level task force to bring about greater coordination and resolve numerous tax-related problems;

(b) if so, the composition of the task force;

(c) whether the Federation of Indian Exporter Organisation also proposed to declare gateway ports as sleepless ports, similar to the Shanghai port in China, for expediting clearance of cargo round the clock;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government;

(e) whether the exporters also suggested to create a separate fund for greater market access and a single nodal agency for exporters; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Government has agreed to set up sector specific task forces consisting of officers from Department of Commerce, Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance to examine the problems being faced by exporters in the sectors concerned.

(c) to (f) No such proposal was made in the meeting of Chairperson of leading Export Promotion Councils and other leading exporters with the Government on 24.01.2006.

Metro Link Projects

788. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NCR Metro Link Project to Gurgaon has been put on hold;

(b) if so, the main reasons for cutting short the phase-II link;

(c) whether the underground link by the World Heritage site or a bye-pass keeping it away from the Heritage site for the phase-II link have not been considered viable or cost effective; and

(d) if so, the details in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Various alternative options are being evaluated.

Setting up of a revised National Frequency Allocation Plan

789. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a revised National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) for defence forces in Special Zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any suggestion has been received from the Cellular operators for exclusive 'Defence Band' instead of Special Zone; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. The National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) is formulated based on various services as identified by the International Radio Regulations and also taking into account the national requirements and not based on users.

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

FAB City

790. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hyderabad is selected by the Union Government for FAB city;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the work on the project is likely to begin;

(d) the funds earmarked for the project; and

(e) the number of persons likely to be provided employment in the FAB city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 16.02.2006 between M/s SemIndia Inc. and the Government of Andhra Pradesh for establishing a FAB city in Hyderabad.

(c) The ground breaking ceremony for the project is likely to take place soon.

(d) Government of India has not earmarked any funds for the said FAB city.

(e) It is expected that around 10,000 personnel would be employed directly and indirectly.

Defaulted Companies

791. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of companies in the country have defaulted in filing their balance sheets, annual returns and other returns with the registrar of companies;

(b) if so, the details of those companies which have defaulted in filing their required returns during the current year; and

(c) the action contemplated by the Government against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) Prosecutions are launched for non-filing of returns, wherever required, after following due process of law by the Registrar of Companies.

Additionally, Ministry of Company Affairs have issued instructions to Registrar of companies to issue show cause notices to those defaulting companies which have not filed Balance Sheets and Annual Returns for three years and above to strike off their names from the Register of Registrar of Companies under section 560 of the Companies Act, 1956.

Checking Grey Market Calls

792. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to check the grey market calls of National Long Distance and International Long Distance calls the TRAI has created an institutional system to ensure legitimate NLD and ILD calls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has been losing crores of rupees every year due to grey market calls; and

(d) if so, the strategies formulated to keep a check on such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has directed all Access Providers, National Long Distance Service Providers and International Long Distance Service Providers on 19th January 2006 that international traffic minutes should be submitted in the requisite prescribed format on monthly basis with effect from the month of January 2006 to TRAI under intimation to Department of Telecommunications.

(c) and (d) While grey market continues to exist causing loss to Government as well as various service providers, surveillance has been increased to detect such calls. Measures taken to tackle this problem include setting up of Vigilance Telecom Monitoring Cell in four places, dedicated CBI cells in four metros, taking up public awareness programmes and provisioning of total Free Public number for reporting such calls.

Upkeep of Letter Boxes

793. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no proper upkeep of letter boxes in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the efforts made by the Government for proper upkeep of letter boxes in the rural areas; and

(d) the extent of success achieved by the Government as a result of the efforts made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Upkeep of letter boxes in

rural areas is being done and is part of the process of maintenance of postal assets in the country in an ongoing manner.

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

(c) and (d) The maintenance of letter boxes is a regular process. However, immediate steps are taken by the postal authorities on priority basis warranted by eventualities, if any, since they are exposed to all weather conditions.

Special Court for Women

794. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) the number of special courts for women set up during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether these courts are insufficient to meet the growing number of cases against women; and

(c) if so, the number of special courts proposed to be set up in each State during 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Recovery of Weapons

795. DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some weapons were recovered from the locker of a bank recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith name of bank;

(c) whether no proper care was taken while opening the account;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has chalked out any plan to check lockers throughout the country which are non-operational for long periods;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that their bank had found fire arms/ammunitions like Stengun, hand grenades, cartridges, detonators etc. in a locker at their Turner Road Branch, Bandra, Mumbai when the said locker was broken open on 27.1.2006 as the locker rentals were in arrears for several years. The police were intimated immediately. The locker was hired on 3.9.1984 by one Shri Arjun Ronald Viz with recorded address at Francisca Apartment, 14 Chimbai Road, Bandra (W), Mumbai. The locker agreement which is signed by the hire, clearly forbids deposit of any explosive or destructive materials. However, the contents of a locker are not known to the bank as the relationship between the bank and locker hirer is that of a licensor and a licensee.

(c) to (g) The available records suggest that the formalities required at that point of time were observed while allotting the locker. However, Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has requested all member banks to review security arrangements at branches and take measures to strengthen the Customer' (KYC) formalities in respect of existing locker hirers.

[*Translation*]

Investment of Public Sector Banks

796. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Banks are according priority to private companies over Public Sector Undertakings in purchasing bonds, debentured and shares;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the amount invested by Public Sector Banks in bonds, debentures and shares of private companies in comparison to that of Public Sector Undertakings in the years 2004 and 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Public Sector Banks make their investment decisions in accordance with their investment policies and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines.

(c) RBI does not maintain the data regarding the investment made by public sector banks in private companies. However, the total investment by public sector banks in bonds/debentures and equities of Public Sector Undertakings has been Rs. 47,850 crore and Rs. 39,879 crore as at the end of March 2004 and March 2005 respectively.

Policy for Selection of Auditors in PSBs

797. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new policy in regard to the selection procedures of auditor in public sector banks is being formulated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which new audit policy is likely to be different from the existing policy; and

(d) the benefit likely to accrue to the country therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the statutory provisions and also the practice being followed for appointment of Statutory Central Auditors and Branch Auditors in private sector banks, the Government has granted the following option to the Boards of Public Sector Banks for appointment of Statutory Central Auditors and Branch Auditors:—

- (i) Public Sector Bank may obtain the names of Statutory Central Auditors (SCAs) and Branch Auditors directly from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C & AG) and Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) respectively and appoint them with the prior approval of Reserve Bank of India.

OR

- (ii) The present practice may be followed and the Reserve Bank of India may appoint the SCAs in consultation with the Government of India.

However, the norms of remuneration and empanelment of SCAs and Branch Auditors shall continue to be prescribed by the RBI.

(d) Greater managerial autonomy is being granted to the public sector banks to enable them to effectively compete with foreign and private sector banks, that are more nimble footed and have access to a wealth of technology, managerial resources and operational flexibility. The autonomy to public sector banks regarding appointment of SCAs and branch auditors is another step in that direction. There is no change in audit policy; the change is restricted to the procedure of appointment only.

Request from UP for Drinking Water and Drainage System

798. SHRI D.P. SAROJ: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh seeking grant-in-aid for drinking water supply, improving drainage system and developing the slums during the last three years;

(b) the amount sanctioned and released to the State during the said period; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose during the year 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Rejuvenation of Water Tanks

799. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has decided to rejuvenate over 26,000 water tanks under the World Bank programme;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has received any request in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has agreed to provide 50 per cent of grants for the above-mentioned project;

(e) if so, whether the State Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government that the interest rate on this amount should not exceed 4.5 per cent; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Currently a community based, World Bank assisted Tank Project is under implementation in Karnataka under which 2000 tanks are to be taken up in the first phase. Government of India, Ministry of Finance is separately considering assistance from the World Bank for restoration and renovation of water bodies in the States where tanks are the main source of irrigation. However, for this purpose project proposals from the State Governments, after processing by Ministry of Water Resources have to be sent to Department of Economic Affairs for posing to the World Bank after clearance from Planning Commission.

(b) No proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka for the rejuvenation of 2600 tanks either in the Ministry of Water Resources or Ministry of Finance in the Union Government.

(c) to (f) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Subsidy and Dwelling Units under IAY

800. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for increasing the number of dwelling units being provided to the rural poor under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY);

(b) if so, the percentage thereof;

(c) whether the subsidy as well as per house assistance being provided under IAY is also likely to be increased;

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

(e) the efforts made/to be made by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is an ongoing allocation based scheme. Under this scheme, targets for construction of houses are fixed on year to year basis depending upon the availability of funds. Under the Bharat Nirman Programme, it is envisaged to construct 60 lakh houses over the next four years, ending 2008-09, as part of the business plan to augment the rural infrastructural base.

(c) to (e) With effect from 1.4.2004, the ceiling on construction assistance under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) has been enhanced from Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 25,000/- per unit for the plain areas and from Rs. 22,000/- to Rs. 27,500/- for the hilly/difficult areas. The upper limit of assistance in respect of unserviceable *kutcha* house has also been increased from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 12,500/- for all areas. At present, there is no such proposal for further increasing the per house assistance being provided under IAY.

[*English*]

ADB Loan to Kerala

801. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has taken loan from ADB (Asian Development Bank) for different purposes in the State during the last three years;

(b) if so, the areas in which ADB loan is spent in Kerala and the years in which the agreement for each of these loans are entered into;

(c) the terms and conditions of the rate of interest and the terms of refund of the loan;

(d) whether huge consultative fees are levied by the ADB on Kerala for such loan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. ADB has provided a package of US \$ 56.25 million (\$ 32.45 million on loan basis & S 23.80 million on grant basis) under the TEAP [Tsunami Emergency Assistance (Sector) Project] to Kerala.

(b) Objective of Project is to support the efforts of State Govt. of Kerala for accelerated economic growth & poverty alleviation in the Tsunami affected areas primarily through restoration of livelihoods, especially of the poor, and rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged public infrastructure.

Date of signing of loan was 12th May, 2005 and the loan became effective w.e.f. 1st June, 2005.

(c) Interest at the rate of 0.6% over the six-month London Interbank Offer Rate (LIBOR) is charged on the loan. In addition, there is a commitment fee of 0.75% per annum that is charged on undisbursed loan balances in progressively increasing amounts.

Loan is repayable over a period of 24 years starting from July, 2013 in six-monthly instalments, after an initial grace period of 8 years.

However, Government of India will pass the loan to the State Government on standard terms & conditions applicable to externally aided projects prior to 1.4.2005.

(d) and (e) ADB does not levy any consultation fees.

Bank Lending Rates

802. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the pressure on liquidity, retail lending rates, including the housing loans, are going to rise in Public Sector Banks and Private Sector Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reason for the pressure on liquidity;

(d) whether domestic term deposit rates are on an upward trend; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as per its Third Quarter Review of Annual Monetary Policy for 2005-06, the pressures on liquidity are partly arising from seasonal and transient factors including the redemption of India Millennium Deposits (IMDs) and are partly cyclical, associated with the pick up in growth momentum and the demand for bank credit. The RBI ensures that appropriate liquidity is maintained in the system so that all genuine credit requirements of the economy are met with due emphasis on credit quality.

However, RBI has deregulated the interest rates on advances above Rs. 2 lakhs with effect from October 1994. For credit limits upto Rs. 2 lakh, banks have been asked to charge interest not exceeding the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR). The individual banks determine interest rates to be charged to a particular borrower subject to BPLR and spread guidelines.

(d) and (e) The RBI has deregulated the deposit rates, except those for saving bank accounts, since October, 1997. Banks are free to determine their own deposit rates depending on their commercial judgement. The interest rates on term deposits offered by public sector banks (PSBs) stood at 2.25-7.00 per cent in February 2006 as against 2.00-7.00 per cent in December 2005.

The range of term deposit rates in respect of private sector banks changed from 3.00-7.25 per cent in December 2005 to 3.50-7.25 per cent in February 2006.

Textile Machinery

803. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (CTEPC) has asked the Government to widen the list of textile machinery inputs eligible for the customs duty;

(b) if so, the important issues raised by CTEPC;

(c) if so, whether the Government has considered the request of CTEPC; and

(d) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken to attract substantial investment plans in textile processing and apparel manufacturing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CTEPC in its Pre-Budget (2006-07) proposal has suggested that (i) the facility of concessional rate of import duty should be extended to all types of spare parts and (ii) permit unrestricted duty free import of spares without any condition except for the export obligation as per norms for import of capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme.

(c) and (d) The suggestions made by CTEPC have been considered on merit and appropriately taken up with Ministry of Finance for the Budget 2006-07.

Women Weavers

804. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA":
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of male and female workers engaged in weaving trade in textile sector in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to initiate any special Scheme for the welfare of women weavers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the Scheme is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) As per the Census of Handlooms 1995-96 the number of men and women engaged in weaving activity (including preparatory work) in the handloom sector are as under:—

Number of Men	15,41,652
Number of women	32,43,284

The break up of male and female weavers in Powerloom Industry of textile Sector in the country is not available. The total number of workers in the Powerloom Sector is estimated to be 48.27 lakhs.

(b) to (d) There is no such proposal for any special scheme for the welfare of women weavers. The Government is implementing a number of schemes for the development of the handloom Sector and welfare of

handloom weavers, such as, Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Marketing Promotion Programme, Handloom Export Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Design Development and Training Programme, Workshop-cum-Housing Scheme, Integrated Handloom Training Project, Weavers Welfare Scheme comprising Thrift Fund Scheme and New Insurance Scheme. In addition to the above schemes the following new schemes have been introduced during the current financial year:

(i) Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (IHCDS),

(ii) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY),

(iii) Health Insurance Scheme (HIS)

None of the schemes are gender specific. Under all handloom sector schemes, women are also eligible for availing the benefit of the Schemes. Further, under Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) a special dispensation has been made for such implementing agencies that have 100% beneficiary member as women in that the sharing ratio of financial assistance in the case of such societies is 75:25 between the Central and the State Governments as compared to 50:50 in respect of other implementing agencies. Under the Health Insurance Scheme, there is a provision for extending assistance @ Rs. 2,500/- for maternity benefit (per child for the first two children) to women workers in handloom sector.

Government has already introduced a welfare scheme 'Group Insurance Scheme' for Powerloom Workers since July 2003 and women are also eligible for availing the benefit of this scheme.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Private/Foreign Banks

805. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to introduce a special scheme with a view to unearthing the irregularities and scams in private and foreign banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed introduction of "Protected Disclosures Scheme for Private Sector and Foreign Banks". The scheme envisages reporting of cases of corruption, misuse of office, criminal offences, suspected/actual frauds, failure to comply with rules and regulations etc. in private and foreign banks by employees, customers, shareholders and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) to Reserve Bank of India for appropriate action. Government has advised RBI to give wide publicity to the scheme inviting views/suggestions from all concerned including public before the scheme is finalized. RBI has placed the draft scheme on its website www.rbi.org.in on 25th January, 2006 inviting views/suggestions on the proposed scheme within two months.

[English]

Discovery of E-Mail Worm

806. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a dangerous e-mail worm has been discovered recently which eats away stored data in computers and generate e-mail messages on its own in the name of computer users;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the technique the Government proposes to introduce to rescue from such dangerous worm Nyxem-e?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A memory resident mass mailing worm called Nyxem and its variants surfaced on 16th January, 2006. The worm attacks Microsoft Windows systems and spread very fast across the world. The worm propagates by attaching a copy itself to e-mail messages.

(c) Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has published an advisory to clean and take

preventive measures against this worm on its website (<http://www.cert-in.org.in>) and alerted IT users in the country. The anti-virus vendors have hosted tools to scan and clean this worm, which could be downloaded from their websites. The links to these tools are also available on CERT-In website. CERT-In has also published a guidelines for home users on "Securing Home Computers" which tells about preventive measures to protect against such worms.

Foreign Consultants in Textile Sector

807. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Textile Ministry is set to hire foreign consultants to help, train manpower and to step up productivity in the labour-intensive textile and clothing sector;

(b) if so, details of the agencies engaged in the task;

(c) whether due to lack of skilled manpower, Indian textile and apparel products are not of international quality; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) At present there is no proposal with the Government to hire foreign consultants to help, train manpower and step up productivity in the labour-intensive textile and clothing sector.

(c) and (d) The improvement in quality is an on-going process and various schemes have been launched to develop products of international quality through design innovation, quality improvement, and product diversification. Some of the important schemes being implemented in this regard are Schemes for Integrated Textile Park (SITP), Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). In addition, National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

*[Translation]***Visit of Research Group to South Pole**

808. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Research Group of Indian Scientists have surveyed the environmental standards, Bio-productivity, sea-bed situations, sea mammals and flora and fauna during their visit to South Pole recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the success achieved in this research work?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) So-far, no Indian expedition has been sent to South Pole. However, we have been sending expedition teams to Antarctica. Also, an expedition has been sent in January, 2006 to Southern Oceans in Antarctica to carry out oceanographic survey in Southern Oceans and bathymetric surveys near the site of the proposed new research base.

(b) and (c) Study of Southern Oceans through oceanographic survey is a long term programme of the Department, in which studies are conducted in the fields of Physical oceanography, Atmospheric sciences, Biological sciences and Geological and Geophysical sciences, So far only two research expeditions have gone to Southern Ocean, which have an influence on the weather over Indian Ocean and also are rich in resources, such as fishery.

Safai Karamcharies In Maharashtra

809. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Safai Karamcharies in various States particularly in Maharashtra as on date, State-wise;

(b) the State-wise details of budget released by the Union Government and spent by the State Governments on implementation of National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of the Safai Karamcharies and their dependents during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(c) the number of the Safai Karamcharies and their dependents who have been rehabilitated under the said scheme during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Centrally sponsored scheme "National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents" (NSLRS) is meant for scavengers. As intimated by the State Governments, the State-wise number of Scavengers as on date is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The State-wise details of budget released by the Union Government on implementation of NSLRS during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The number of Scavengers and their dependents rehabilitated under the scheme during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement I

State-wise Number of Identified Scavengers under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents

(As on 31.01.2006)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	total No. of Scavengers**	Addition^^ (Resurvey)	Grand Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30921	14901	45822
2.	Assam	40413		40413

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bihar	12226		12226
4.	Delhi	17420		17420
5.	Gujarat	64195		64195
6.	Haryana	36362		36362
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4757		4757
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	4150		4150
9.	Karnataka	14555		14555
10.	Kerala	1339		1339
11.	Madhya Pradesh	80072	1235	81307
12.	Maharashtra	64785		64785
13.	Meghalaya	607		607
14.	Nagaland	1800		1800
15.	Orissa	35049		35049
16.	Pondicherry	476		476
17.	Punjab	531	2457	2988
18.	Rajasthan	57736		57736
19.	Tamil Nadu	35561		35561
20.	Uttar Pradesh	149202	64773	213975
21.	West Bengal	23852		23852
22.	Chhattisgarh		3243	3243
23.	Jharkhand		5750	5750
24.	Uttaranchal		1970	1970
Total		676009	94329	770338

**:The 'Number of scavengers' is based on figures collected by M/o SJ&E during the years 1991-92 to 2002-03.

^^:Due to discrepancies in the available data the information was called for by M/o SJ&E from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal in the month of April 2005.

Note: Figures intimated by M/o SJ&E at the time of transfer of the scheme to M/o UE&PA in 2003-04.

Statement II

State/UT-wise Central Assistance Released under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents (NSLRS)

Year: 2002-03

Name of the State/UT	Central Assistance Released
Andhra Pradesh	29.67
Himachal Pradesh	2.40
Karnataka	8.88
Total	40.95

Year: 2003-04

Assam	1.63
Gujarat	3.74
Himachal Pradesh	3.09
Madhya Pradesh	1.25
Orissa	2.85
Uttar Pradesh	5.37
West Bengal	1.60
Chhattisgarh	1.89
Total	21.41

Year: 2004-05

Karnataka	12.19
Madhya Pradesh	1.37
Total	13.56

Statement III

State-wise Beneficiaries Covered under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents (NSLRS)*

Year: 2002-03

Name of the State/UT	Beneficiaries Assisted for Training	Rehabilitation
1	2	3
Assam	855	300
Gujarat	Nil	1451

1	2	3
Haryana	48	153
Himachal Pradesh	807	377
Karnataka	678	1809
Kerala	Nil	14
Madhya Pradesh	1494	5118
Maharashtra	1994	752
Orissa	250	1049
Tamil Nadu	661	NA
Uttar Pradesh	Nil	834
West Bengal	359	207
Chhattisgarh	Nil	256
Total	7146	12320

Year: 2003-04

Andhra Pradesh	660	3243
Gujarat	0	844
Himachal Pradesh	591	518
Karnataka	355	5780
Madhya Pradesh	1010	5149
Rajasthan	0	624
Tamil Nadu	33	13
Total	2649	16171

*: As reported by the State Governments.

Note:—

(i) For the year 2004-05 no information furnished by the States.

Loan to Farmers

810. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the loans disbursed by the Public Sector Banks to the farmers during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 as on date, bank-wise;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the percentage of loan disbursed to farmers in comparison to industries and other sector during the said period;

(d) whether the Government is considering to issue guidelines to Public Sector Banks to increase the limit on the amount of loan given to farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The disbursement to agriculture by public sector banks in 2004-05 and 2005-06 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Advances made by Public Sector Banks during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 to different sectors is as under:

(Rs. Crore)		
Items	2003-04	2004-05
Agriculture	84,835 (15.1)	1,12,475 (15.7)
Small Scale Industries	57,311 (10.4)	67,634 (9.4)
Other Priority Sector Advances	1,01,710 (18.1)	1,29,984 (18.1)
Total Priority Sector	2,44,456 (43.6)	3,10,093 (43.2)
Non Priority Sector	3,16,354 (56.4)	4,07,211 (56.8)
Net Bank Credit	6,60,810	7,17,304

Note: Figures in brackets shows the amount as a % of Net Bank Credit.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The scale of finance is decided by banks in consultation with District Level Technical Consultative Committee (DLTCC).

Statement

Loans Disbursed by Public Sector Banks to Agriculture and Allied Sectors 2004-05 & 2005-06 (April-December)

(Rs. Crore)			
Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	Achievement	
		2004-05	2005-06 (April-Dec. 2005)
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad Bank	2025.98	2070.35
2.	Andhra Bank	2074.45	2510.85
3.	Bank of Baroda	3195.85	3364.89
4.	Bank of India	3302.03	4123.32
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	1199.10	1318.77
6.	Canara Bank	5401.11	5557.36
7.	Central Bank of India	2419.58	1970.83
8.	Corporation Bank	734.89	877.93
9.	Dena Bank	662.17	839.64
10.	IDBI Bank	0.00	122.18
11.	Indian Bank	2641.92	2477.89
12.	Indian Overseas Bank	2745.68	2589.36
13.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1628.41	852.74
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	4292.28	1273.43
15.	Punjab National Bank	7451.66	7491.26
16.	Syndicate Bank	1965.13	2182.22
17.	UCO Bank	1818.95	1938.77
18.	Union Bank of India	3323.54	3824.57
19.	United Bank of India	1066.12	935.11
20.	Vijaya Bank	1294.52	1497.78
21.	State Bank of India	10463.35	13995.00
22.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	726.80	762.98
23.	State Bank of Hyderabad	1110.10	847.71

1	2	3	4
24.	State Bank of Indore	793.86	451.52
25.	State Bank of Mysore	806.00	933.10
26.	State Bank of Patiala	2703.45	2461.10
27.	State Bank of Saurashtra	1223.30	1204.25
28.	State Bank of Travancore	1149.49	516.55
Total		65217.72	68991.52

Date Provisional

[English]

Requirements of Judicial and Non-Judicial Stamps and Stamp Papers

811. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism involved in evaluation of State and Union territory-wise requirements of judicial and non-judicial stamps and stamp papers, tracking the volumes of instruments delivered, sales proceeds collected at each Treasury and reconciliation with actual consumption of these instruments;

(b) whether Accountant General of the States and the Union Territories have been carrying out audit/scrutiny of these accounts of the judicial and non-judicial stamps and stamp papers circulations at regular intervals;

(c) if so, the details of instances of detection by them of mismatches, if any, during the last three years; and

(d) the action have been taken, case-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Rules for Supply & Distribution of Stamps framed by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue under Indian Stamp Act, 1899 lays down the mechanism for placing requirements by the States/Union Territories of Judicial and non-Judicial Stamps & Stamp Papers, their distribution, custody and sale as also their Accounts, Returns, etc.

(b) Accounts of Judicial and Non-Judicial (NJ) stamps which are being kept by the treasuries in the states are

being checked by Accountants General (A&E) during their treasury inspection but their utilization is not checked by Accountants General. Utilization of NJ Stamps papers is being audited at each Sub Registrar's/District Registrar Office by audit offices annually and as a result only the cases of under valuation of documents registered and/or short/non levy of stamp duty and registration fee are commented upon.

(c) and (d) The responsibility of detecting mismatches between sale and utilization of stamps rests with the State Governments.

[Translation]

Tax Evasion by MNCs

812. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some multinational companies have evaded tax with the active connivance of tax officials in the Ministry during the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to recover the said amount as also to punish the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No instance of tax evasion by multinational companies with the active connivance of tax officials in the Ministry has come to notice during the last year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Online Monitoring of Rural Development Programmes

813. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to launch on-line monitoring of all the rural development programmes;

(b) if so, the total amount likely to be spent thereon;

(c) whether the houses are proposed to be constructed for the poor under the said scheme;

(d) if so, the total number of the families for whom the houses are proposed to be constructed under the said scheme;

(e) whether any assessment has been made in regard to reduce the gap between India and Bharat; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) With a view to improve the quality and timeliness of the reporting of monthly progress reports (MPRs), the Ministry of Rural Development monitors the performance of all the programmes of the Ministry through an on-line mechanism from the District Rural Development Agencies. 522 DRDAs are reporting the MPRs on-line. The Ministry has requested the State Governments to ensure that these reports are regularly updated and all the remaining DRDAs should also submit their MPRs through on-line.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Rural Development provides shelter to the shelterless rural poor families under the scheme of Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY). Under Bharat Nirman the target is to construct 60 lakh houses in four years under IAY.

(e) and (f) All the schemes of Ministry of Rural Development are meant only for rural areas.

[English]

World Bank Assistance

814. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a project proposal viz. Andhra Pradesh Water Sector Improvement Project at an estimated cost of about Rs. 300 crores to be implemented in a period of 5-6 years with the World Bank assistance; and

(b) if so, the status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Andhra Pradesh is a debt stressed State. Before the proposal is considered for World Bank assistance the following conditions need to be addressed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh:

(i) State Government undertakes to stand committed to the targets of fiscal correction path (i.e. to eliminate revenue deficit and reduce fiscal deficit to 3% of GSDP by the end of 2008-09), and

(ii) Substitute an agreed source of borrowings within the borrowing ceiling fixed for the State.

Development of Handloom and Handicrafts

815. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects being executed for the development of Handloom and Handicraft through the North East Handloom and Handicraft Development Corporation;

(b) the details of ongoing projects for development of Sericulture specially Muga and Eri in Assam including the export oriented production and marketing; and

(c) the special programmes taken up for product upgradation, training and marketing of Handloom and Handicrafts specially on cane, bamboo and jute in the NER showing sectoral outlay, annual allocation and progress made, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The details of projects being executed for the development of Handloom and Handicraft through the North East handloom and Handicraft Development Corporation are given below:

1. Design and Technical Development Projects in handicrafts in Barpeta and Silchar cluster in Assam.
2. Under Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for integrated development of craft cluster at Silchar and Barpeta in Assam.
3. Special Handicrafts Training Programme for artisans.
4. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana.

(b) The Central Silk Board in collaboration with the State Sericulture Department is implementing the Catalytic Development Programme for providing assistance to sericulture farmers/reelers in the form of subsidy/incentive to encourage them to adopt improve technology for better quality and productivity.

(c) The Ministry is mainly implementing plan schemes and programmes for development of textiles and textile based activities in the North East Region like handlooms, sericulture and handicrafts. The details of schemes relating to product development, training and marketing sector-wise and state-wise in North East along with details of Tenth Plan Outlay/expenditure are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Plan Outlay & Expenditure for Textiles & Textile based Schemes in North East Region during 10th Plan (2002-07)

(In Rs. Crores)

Sl.No.	Sector	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05			2005-06		
		NER			NER			NER			NER		
		(BE) Total	Share/ Outlay	Exp	(BE) Total	Share/ Outlay	Exp	(BE) Total	Share/ Outlay	Exp	(BE) Total	Share/ Outlay (BE)	Share/ Outlay (RE) 31.02.06
1.	Handlooms	140.00	22.00	20.74	156.77	28.00	20.48	154.56	34.20	20.60	156.00	25.00	28.00
2.	Sericulture	87.50	15.00	15.97	92.68	27.00	18.05	102.46	30.00	25.20	110.00	30.00	36.42
3.	Handicrafts	88.00	9.50	7.44	103.55	16.00	7.12	103.00	21.90	14.75	105.00	20.00	20.00
4.	Jute (Sector)												
	(a) NCJD	6.00	0.50	0.50	7.00	2.50	2.00	7.00	1.70	1.70	7.00	2.00	2.00
	(b) SJDF*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.00	2.00
	Total (1-4)			44.65	—		47.65	—		62.25		118.52	46.28
	Grand Total	715.00	47.00		760.00	76.00		878.00	87.80		1150.00	115.00	

NCJD: National Centre for Jute Diversification

SJDF: Jute Special Development Fund

*Including Jute Technology Mission

Details of Fund released from 2002-03 to 2005-06 to the states in NER under Handloom Sector Schemes (upto 31.01.2006)

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Handloom Export Scheme (HES)				Deen Dayal Hathkargha Pratsahan Yojana (DDHPY)				Marketing Promotion Programme (MPP)			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.6	7.3	1.8	3.0
2.	Assam	0.0	33.8	15.0	0.0	837.9	445.7	0.0	11.1	112.6	101.4	107.3	146.4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3.	Manipur	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	481.3	112.8	426.4	29.4	0.0	5.0	4.3	3.0
4.	Meghalaya	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9
5.	Mizoram	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	3.5	7.8	0.0	14.9	28.7	20.0	7.0
6.	Nagaland	5.9	5.5	0.0	0.0	117.8	516.3	489.2	508.4	14.0	34.0	42.2	35.9
7.	Tripura	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	5.5	34.2	0.0	19.1	10.5	0.0	0.0
8.	Sikkim	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	—
	Total	5.9	39.3	15.0	0.0	1,466.5	1,083.8	957.5	548.9	187.1	190.8	179.4	199.2

Fund released/Expenditure from 2002-03 to 2005-06 to the states in NE

Under Sericulture Sector (upto 31.12.05)

Implementation of Catalytic Development Programme in NE States

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.62	48.79	88.63	53.97
2.	Assam	119.03	315.28	442.21	396.18
3.	Manipur	0.05	24.00	67.24	5.38
4.	Meghalaya	33.11	87.39	173.19	1.69
5.	Mizoram	84.49	106.97	141.71	210.99
6.	Nagaland	2.49	32.31	106.45	121.21
7.	Tripura	36.56	28.01	185.73	74.23
8.	Sikkim	15.16	16.45	43.27	25.51
	Total	293.51	659.20	1,248.43	889.16

Handicraft Sector

No statewise allocation is made under Handicraft sector. During 2005-06 scheme-wise allocation and expenditure (upto 31.01.2006) are as given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Scheme	Allocation	Expenditure
Design & Technological Upgradation Scheme	150.00	22.15
Training (Special handicraft Training Project)	59.90	38.70
Marketing & support Scheme	480.90	247.86

Bank Branches Abroad

816. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab National Bank has any proposal for setting up its branches abroad;

(b) if so, the countries where such branches are likely to be set up;

(c) the policy of the Government for opening branches of nationalised banks abroad;

(d) the number of overseas bank branches presently operated by various nationalised banks, bank-wise and locations-wise;

(e) the details of profit/loss earned/incurred by overseas bank branches;

(f) the reasons for incurring losses; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to further expand the operations of nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has approved the following proposals of Punjab National Bank to open offices abroad:

Country	Place	Type of presence
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	Branch
Singapore	Singapore	Off shore Banking Unit
Canada	Vancouver	Fully owned Subsidiary
United Kingdom	London	Subsidiary

(c) All Indian banks are allowed to open branches abroad based on certain prudential parameters keeping in view their over-all ability to withstand international competition. Banks are also permitted to enter into joint ventures with Banks abroad as also set up subsidiaries.

(d) The bank-wise details of overseas bank branches of nationalised banks as on 20th February, 2006 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) and (f) The overseas bank branches of public sector banks have been earned a total post tax profit of USD 165.59 million during the year 2004-05. Four branches namely SBI—Sydney and Muscat, Bank of India—Industrial Area and Westlands, Kenya have incurred a total loss of USD 0.62 million during the year 2004-05, as these branches were newly opened and were yet to establish themselves.

(g) To enable the PSBs to carry out their functions efficiently and without impediment, Government has announced an autonomy package for the public sector banks on 22.02.2005 which, *inter-alia*, allows them with approval of their Boards, to pursue new lines of business as part of overall business strategy and make suitable acquisitions of companies of businesses, close/merge unviable branches, open overseas offices, set up subsidiaries and exit a line of business.

Statement*Country-wise Overseas Branches of Nationalised Banks as on 20.02.2006*

Name of the Country	PNB	BOI	BOB	Indian Bank	IOB	UCO	Canara Bank	Syndicate Bank	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Afganistan	1								1
Bahamas Island (Nassau)			1						1
Belgium			1						1
Cayman Islands		1	—						1
Channel Islands		1	—						1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
France		1	—						1
Fiji Islands		—	9						9
Hong Kong		2	—		2	2			6
Japan		2	—						2
Kenya		4	—						4
Mauritius		—	8						8
Seychelles		—	1						1
Singapore		1	—	1	1	2			5
Sri Lanka		—	—	2	1				3
South Africa		—	1						1
South Korea		—	—		1				1
Sultanate of Oman		—	3						3
United Kingdom		6	8				1	1	16
United State of America		2	1						3
United Arab Emirates		—	6						6
Total	1	20	39	3	5	4	1	1	74

Policy on Convergence

817. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has brought out a consultation paper on issues relating to convergence and competition in Broadcasting and Telecommunications;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of inputs received by TRAI from various stakeholders; and

(d) the time by which a comprehensive policy is likely to be finalized and announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. TRAI has issued a Consultation Paper on 'Convergence and competition in broadcasting and Telecommunications' on 2.1.2006 soliciting comments from various stakeholders.

The Consultation Paper is focused on the need to bring about convergence in different aspects of regulation of telecommunications and broadcasting industries. The issues for consultation listed in paper include:

- Need for comprehensive legal framework for promoting convergence;
- Possible changes in unified licensing;
- Approach towards spectrum allocation;

- Rationalisation of custom duties; and issues relating to technologies.
- Institutional funding, FDI limits and Right of Way etc.

(c) The comments of various stakeholders have been received on issues listed for consultation by TRAI. Stakeholders have *inter-alia* suggested for a comprehensive legal framework for entire electronic communication and network services on the lines of Communication Convergence Bill 2001 with emphasis on level playing field. The suggestions also include a framework able to deal with the emerging technology in addition to the existing one.

On Unified Licensing Issue, stakeholders have suggested for a technology neutral regime ensuring fair treatment and providing unencumbered opportunity for growth of content and carriage industry. Entry of Internet Service Providers (ISPs), broadcasting and cable operators into voice services has also been recommended along with need to consider interconnection of broadcasting and cable TV etc.

On the spectrum related issues, the suggestions include flexible spectrum allocation encouraging spectrum trading, auctioning of spectrum and check on the usage of spectrum. Other suggestions include rationalization of Custom duties is to provide a level playing field between telecom service providers and cable operators, permission to terminate call on the Customer Premise Equipments (CPEs). There are divergent views on concept of Institutional Funding.

The details of inputs received by TRAI have been posted on the website of TRAI at www.trai.gov.in.

(d) Based on the inputs received from various stakeholders, TRAI proposed to hold two Open House Discussions on the issue, after which it will send appropriate proposals/recommendations to the Government. Hence at present no definite time frame can be stipulated for finalization of comprehensive policy on convergence.

Investment of LIC In Cooperative Sector

818. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of total assets proposes to invest in the cooperative sector by Life Insurance Corporation of India during 2005-06;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps to integrate major schemes in the rural areas so as to decentralise and empower local village groups;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) LIC has reported that, as on 31.03.2005, its investment in the co-operative sector stood at Rs. 1408 crores, which represented 0.36% of its total investment.

(b) and (c) LIC has reported that it has a standard all India scheme called 'Janashree Bima Yojana', which has been introduced to provide life insurance protection to the rural and urban poor living below or marginally above the poverty line. The Scheme covers 43 occupational groups including those covered under major schemes in the rural areas, namely, handicraft artisans, Aanganwadi workers and helpers, handloom and khadi weavers, beedi workers, rickshaw pullers, primary milk producers, agriculturists, plantation workers, etc. persons aged between 18 and 59 years can become members of the Scheme. The benefits available under the Scheme are Rs. 20,000 on natural death and Rs. 50,000 on death/total permanent disability due to accident and Rs. 25,000 in case of partial permanent disability due to accident. Premium payable is Rs. 200 per annum per member of which 50% is contributed through the Social Security Fund and the balance 50% is to be paid by members/nodal agency. Another add-on benefit available under the Scheme is Shiksha Sahyog Yojana (premium free) under which students studying in 9th to 12th standards (including ITI Courses), whose parents are covered under Janashree Bima Yojana, are paid scholarship at the rate of Rs. 300 per quarter per child (subject to maximum of two children) for a maximum period of four years. The rules of the Scheme have been circulated throughout the country. The village panchayat, NGO, Self-help Group or any other institution can act as a nodal agency for the Scheme. The details of the people covered under the Scheme during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of lives covered
2002-03	11,58,239
2003-04	25,07,024
2004-05	35,39,654

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Operational Cost of IT Industry

819. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether operational cost in the Information Technology industry in India is 3.2 per cent more in comparison to neighbouring South and East Asian countries;

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

(c) whether operational expenditure is comparatively more irrespective of availability of cheap labour in India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any efforts have been made by the Government to remove this discrepancy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) As per the Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology (MAIT)—Ernst & Young Study of the Indian Electronics Hardware Industry, the cost penalty of operation in India compared to typical South East Asian Countries is approximately 3.2 per cent, on account of delays and higher interest rates. The low volumes of operation of Indian Electronics Hardware manufacturing companies, lack of local availability of inputs, longer and variable transit times, high interest rates and customs duty on capital goods add to delays and increased costs.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Over the years, Foreign Trade Policy for Electronics & IT products has been liberalized,

Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) Scheme, Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Scheme and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme have been tailored, Customs & Excise procedures have been simplified; Electronics Data Interchange (EDI) has been implemented by Customs and is under implementation by Central Excise; and specified capital goods and raw materials have been exempted from customs duty.

[English]

Appointment of Extra Departmental Staff

820. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines for appointment of extra Departmental Staff and Grama Dak Sevaks against the Regular Vacancies;

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

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to accommodate the employees who have worked for decades on daily wages in the Department;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to amend such rules to protect such ill fated employees; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Gramin Dak Sevaks were earlier known as Extra Departmental Agents. For appointment against regular vacancies in various grades, the provisions of the Recruitment Rules will have to be followed.

(b) Appointment of Gramin Dak Sevaks against regular vacancies in Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts is governed by the provisions of the Recruitment Rules and the orders issued from time to time. Gramin Dak Sevaks are given preference in the matter of appointment to Group 'D' posts. 25% of the vacancies in the grade of Postman are filled from amongst Gramin Dak Sevaks with a minimum of 15 years of service on the basis of

their seniority and 25% from amongst Gramin Dak Sevaks who have put in a minimum of 5 years service on the basis of their merit in the departmental examination. They are also eligible for appointment as Mailguard. The unfilled vacancies of the departmental examination quota in the grade of Postal Assistant/Sorting Assistant are filled by Gramin Dak Sevaks. Consideration of Gramin Dak Sevaks for such appointments is subject to their fulfilling the educational qualification, age limit and other conditions as laid down in the Recruitment Rules and the orders issued by the Department from time to time.

(c) and (d) Casual labourers are eligible for appointment against 25% of the vacancies in Group 'D' Test Category that remain unfilled after recruitment of non-test category Group 'D' employees. They are also eligible for appointment against non-test category Group 'D' posts. They are considered for such appointment as per the provisions of the Recruitment Rules/orders.

(e) The provisions of the rules for appointment of casual labourers against Group 'D' posts are considered adequate and are not proposed to be amended.

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

[*Translation*]

Health Insurance Scheme for Handloom Weavers

821. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched the Handloom Insurance Scheme for handloom weavers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of weavers covered so far under the scheme; and

(d) the funds allotted to each State under the Scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Health Insurance Scheme has been launched on 3rd November 2005. Under this scheme, the annual premium is Rs. 1,000 per weaver out of which Rs. 800 is to be contributed by Government of India and Rs. 200 by the weaver. The scheme is to cover not only

the weaver but his wife and two children. It covers all pre-existing and new diseases and there is a substantial provision for OPD. The annual limit per family is Rs. 15,000, out of which Rs. 7,500 is for OPD.

(c) So far 1,39,139 weavers have been covered under the scheme.

(d) The Scheme is being implemented through ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd. and the funds under the Scheme are being released to ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company.

Modernising Functioning of Courts

822. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Government has made any effort to modernise the functioning of Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated in this regard during each of the last three years and current year, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

The Government has completed a project of Computerisation of City Courts in four metropolitan Cities initiated during 2001-2002 and an amount of Rs. 17.8 crores was released to the concerned State Governments for implementation of the project. Further an amount of Rs. 24.24 crore was released to the National Informatics Centre during 2003-2004 to computerise city courts in State capitals or in places where the High Courts are located.

As a logical extension of the above projects, the Government undertook a project to computerise 13,348 District and Subordinate Courts in the States and Union Territories at a cost of Rs. 384.53 crore and an amount of Rs. 103.05 crore was released to NIC during March 2005 for execution of the first phase of the project.

The Government has constituted an E-Committee to advise on technological communication and management

related changes in the Indian judiciary. In its report on National policy and Action Plan for implementation of Information and Communication Technology a sum of Rs. 854 crore has been estimated to implement the project of computerisation of the entire judicial system of the country over a period of five years. The project was launched on 5.10.2005 by the Hon'ble PM. During the current financial an amount of Rs. 86.16 crore in RE stage has been allocated for spending on computerisation of Indian judiciary.

[English]

Tapping of Ocean Resources

823. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Ocean has vast resources of minerals, oil and natural gas;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to tap these resources?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

The resource potential of the polymetallic nodules of the Area in the Central Indian Ocean is estimated at 380 million metric tons on the basis of detailed exploration. Government of India is implementing a dedicated and comprehensive polymetallic nodule programme. An Area of 75000 square kilometre has been retained in Central Indian Ocean for development of deep sea mining technologies and related activities. India has also set up a pilot plant with a capacity of processing 500 kg nodules per day at Hindustan Zinc Limited, Udaipur for extracting Copper, Nickel and Cobalt. As a part of development of technologies for mining the nodules from seabed, India has developed a crawler, which was tested for sand mining at a water depth of 410 m.

No exploration of oil and natural gas was undertaken in Indian Ocean owing to deep ocean depth ranging about 4 to 6 km and low sedimentation making it an unlikely resource for hydrocarbons.

[Translation]

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Maharashtra

824. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of electronic telephone exchanges established in Maharashtra during the last three years; and

(b) the amount earmarked/dispensed and spent for this purpose till date during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, details of the electronic exchanges established by BSNL and MTNL, Mumbai in Maharashtra State during the last three years are given below:

Years	Number of Exchanges set up in BSNL	Number of Exchanges set up in MTNL, Mumbai
2002-03	126	16
2003-04	17	10
2004-05	5	10

(b) The details of amount earmarked/dispensed and spent by BSNL and MTNL for this purpose for the said period are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Years	Amount earmarked by BSNL	Amount earmarked by MTNL	Amount spent by BSNL	Amount spent by MTNL
2002-03	257.34	41.12	270.39	21.92
2003-04	274.92	19.01	223.98	17.15
2004-05	134.65	24.53	54.86	20.39

Task Force for Hawkers

825. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any task force in respect of hawkers selling goods in streets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said task force has submitted any report;

(d) if so, the main points of the said report; and

(e) the details of the points in the report which have been implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) A task force for looking into the problems/issues relating to street vendors as also to suggest guidelines on the same for the State Governments and Urban Local Bodies was constituted on 21st June 2001 under the Chairmanship of the then Minister of State, Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation.

The task force finalized the draft report on National Policy on Street Vendors in February 2003 and the same was circulated to the States/UTs for seeking their comments/suggestion on the same before finalisation. The National Policy for Urban Street Vendors was approved by the government in January 2004 and was circulated to the States/UTs Governments & other stakeholders with the request to take suitable and appropriate adoption of the policy in the overall interest of the urban street vendors, with or without changes to suit local conditions and also respecting court verdicts, if any.

Salient features of the policy are as follows :

*Salient features of the National Policy
on Urban Street Vendors*

- To recognize the service rendered by the vendors to the economy of the country and to promote a supportive environment for them to earn their livelihoods.
- To recognize their right to livelihood and to give dignity to the informal sector.
- To consider review of legal framework to legitimate street vending.
- To facilitate use of identified space without obstruction.

- To regulate street vending through participatory mechanisms and self compliance.
- To promote organizations of vendors to facilitate their empowerment.
- To strive for promoting social security and financial services by providing access to credit through promotion of SHGs, Cooperatives, etc.

Telephone Adalats

826. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in each State, particularly in Jharkhand where the Telephone Adalats have been organised during the last three years and as on January 31, 2006;

(b) the number of complaints received from consumers in each State and disposed of during the period; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government for expeditious disposal of these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The number of districts in each state where the Telephone Adalats have been organized during the last three years upto January 2006 and the number of complaints received and disposed off are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The following steps have been taken by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for expeditious disposal of these complaints:

- (i) Telephone Adalats have been constituted at Secondary switching Areas (SSA) levels in all Circles as well as in Circle Offices.
- (ii) Provision has also been made for representation of BSNL, Corporate Office by Senior Officers on Circle level Adalats and representation of Circle Office by Senior Officers on SSA level Adalats.
- (iii) It is being ensured that Adalats are held in the prescribed periodicity at all levels i.e. bimonthly at SSA levels and quarterly at Circle Office levels.

(iv) the dates of holding of Adalats are being given advance wide publicity for information of subscribers.

(v) Holding of Adalats are being monitored at the Corporate Office level of BSNL.

Statement

Number of Districts/Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) where the Telephone Adalats have been organized alongwith the complaint received and disposed off during 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006 (upto 31st Jan., 2006).

Sl.No.	Name of the States/circles	Year	No. of Districts/ SSA where telephone adalats were held	Number of complaints Received	Number of complaints disposed off
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	2003-2004	01	14	13
		2004-2005	01	27	27
		2005-2006	01	40	38
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2003-2004	22	78	78
		2004-2005	22	118	115
		2005-2006	22	108	108
3.	Assam	2003-2004	05	221	208
		2004-2005	04	123	123
		2005-2006	06	110	110
4.	Bihar	2003-2004	18	3328	3262
		2004-2005	17	1846	1753
		2005-2006	19	2503	2266
5.	Chhattisgarh	2003-2004	08	260	250
		2004-2005	06	430	430
		2005-2006	06	130	127
6.	MTNL Delhi	2003-2004	01	210	210
		2004-2005	01	166	157
		2005-2006	01	257	220
7.	Gujarat	2003-2004	17	577	577
		2004-2005	17	357	348
		2005-2006	17	439	417

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Haryana	2003-2004	09	354	343
		2004-2005	09	422	421
		2005-2006	09	354	337
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2003-2004	06	87	87
		2004-2005	06	166	166
		2005-2006	06	70	70
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2003-2004	03	99	90
		2004-2005	04	112	96
		2005-2006	05	202	113
11.	Jharkhand	2003-2004	06	419	393
		2004-2005	04	326	324
		2005-2006	06	495	464
12.	Karnataka	2003-2004	18	206	206
		2004-2005	19	186	186
		2005-2006	19	144	144
13.	Kerala	2003-2004	11	1224	1143
		2004-2005	11	1338	1179
		2005-2006	11	1225	1194
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2003-2004	32	407	407
		2004-2005	34	749	749
		2005-2006	34	678	678
15.	Maharashtra	2003-2004	30	1152	1149
		2004-2005	30	972	956
		2005-2006	30	561	551
16.	NE-I	2003-2004	03	78	74
		2004-2005	03	97	89
		2005-2006	02	36	36
17.	NE-II	2003-2004	Nil	Nil	Nil
		2004-2005	02	110	82
		2005-2006	03	120	120

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Orissa	2003-2004	11	247	228
		2004-2005	13	994	955
		2005-2006	13	506	490
19.	Punjab	2003-2004	11	263	257
		2004-2005	11	157	155
		2005-2006	11	130	129
20.	Rajasthan	2003-2004	24	770	770
		2004-2005	24	770	770
		2005-2006	22	472	472
21.	Tamil Nadu	2003-2004	18	1029	1027
		2004-2005	18	995	979
		2005-2006	18	640	640
22.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	2003-2004	33	4143	4134
		2004-2005	33	5083	5036
		2005-2006	33	3602	3602
23.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	2003-2004	16	1704	1674
		2004-2005	16	1438	1394
		2005-2006	16	923	877
24.	Uttaranchal	2003-2004	06	274	264
		2004-2005	06	305	299
		2005-2006	06	208	207
25.	West Bengal	2003-2004	14	357	356
		2004-2005	14	659	659
		2005-2006	12	267	263
26.	Kolkata	2003-2004	01	173	136
		2004-2005	01	88	83
		2005-2006	01	175	120
27.	Chennai	2003-2004	01	405	403
		2004-2005	01	89	89
		2005-2006	01	49	49
28.	MTNL Mumbai	2003-2004	01	696	696
		2004-2005	01	377	377
		2005-2006	01	145	145

*[English]***Assistance by NABARD for Development of Barren Land**

827. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is providing funds to States to implement schemes to develop barren lands;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned under those schemes to various States during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) NABARD provides financial assistance to State Governments under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for various activities including watershed development, soil conservation and forest development/management which are direct towards improvement in land utilisation.

(b) The amount sanctioned for such activities to various states under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) in 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

(Rs. crore)

State	RIDF VIII (2002-03)		RIDF IX (2003-04)		RIDF X (2004-05)		RIDF XI (2005-06)		Total	
	No.	Sanc.	No.	Sanc.	No.	Sanc.	No.	Sanc.		
Watershed Development										
Kerala	5	2.86	3	1.29					8	4.15
Tamil Nadu	182	5.63							182	5.63
Uttar Pradesh	165	92.59							165	92.59
West Bengal									0	0.00
Total	352	101.08	3	1.29	0	0	0	0	355	102.37
Forest Management										
Andhra Pradesh	479	12.49			93	30.52			572	43.01
Jammu Kashmir					1	1.98			1	1.98
Tamil Nadu					1	1.80			1	1.8
West Bengal			5	20.61	1	1.91			6	22.52
Uttar Pradesh							3	4.95	3	4.95
Total	479	12.49	5	20.61	96	36.21	3	4.95	583	74.26
Soil Conservation										
Andhra Pradesh	1335	371.81	1083	237.80	228	287.10			2646	896.71
Karnataka			13	1.90					13	1.90
Kerala	4	1.57			52	40.30			56	41.87
Meghalaya			11	5.60					11	5.60
Nagaland			56	10.00					56	10.00
Total	1339	373.38	1163	255.3	280	327.4	0	0	2782	956.08

No—Number of Projects Sanctioned.

Sanc—RIDF Loan Sanctioned.

Improvement of Underground Sewage in Cities

828. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal recently from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for improving the underground sewage in cities and towns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have approved the said proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Harvesting of Rain Water

829. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make it mandatory for urban dwelling units in the State to harvest roof-top rain water;

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

(c) whether the State Governments have sought financial assistance for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the financial assistance provided to the each State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) So far as Ministry of Urban Development is concerned, rain water harvesting in urban areas is given top priority. Model Building Bye-Laws have been prepared and circulated it to all the State Governments by Town & Country Planning Organisation (TCPO) which include measures on rain water harvesting. This Ministry has also circulated guidelines on "Artificial Recharge to Ground

Water" prepared by Central Ground Water Board to all the State Governments for implementation in offices/public buildings and housing complexes. As regards making roof-top rain water harvesting mandatory for urban dwelling units, it is for the State Governments to take necessary action as the matter falls within their jurisdiction.

(c) and (d) No such requests have been received in this Ministry.

Linking of PMGSY with MPLADS

830. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from various Public Representatives to link the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana with the Members of Parliament Area Development Scheme (MPLADS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to finalise the action plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

[Translation]

Theft and Pilferage in Postal Services

831. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of theft and pilferage from Postal Services detected during each of the last three years, till date alongwith the amount involved therein;

(b) the number of persons found guilty alongwith the action taken against them so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The year-wise details of cases of theft and pilferage in Postal Services detected during the last three years and the amount involved therein are as under:

Year	No. of cases detected	Amount involved
2003-04	427	15327405.27
2004-05	402	9063406.58
2005-06	313	5484397.87
Total	1142	29875209.72

(b) 519 officials were found responsible for various lapses in these cases and departmental action has been taken against them. Where necessary, cases have also been reported to Police for investigation.

(c) Instructions to staff for following the prescribed procedures/rules are in vogue. Besides, supervisory staff and various checking squads formed at different levels have also been instructed to keep watch over incidents of theft and pilferage. Liaison is also maintained with police authorities for expeditious investigation of the reported cases.

[*English*]

Development of Cities

832. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal for development of some more modern cities in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Government has launched JNNURM on 3.12.2005 for providing focused attention to 63 cities including all State capitals, cities having population of 10 lakh or more and nine other cities of religious/historic and tourist importance to address infrastructure deficit in these cities in a holistic and planned manner. State-wise details of cities covered under JNNURM are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Name of State	Name of City	Population (in lakh)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	57.42
	Vijayawada	10.39
	Visakhapatnam	13.45
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	0.35
Assam	Guwahati	8.19
Bihar	Bodh Gaya	3.94
	Patna	16.98
Chandigarh (UT)	Chandigarh	8.08
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	7.00
Delhi	Delhi	128.77
Goa	Panaji	0.99
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	45.25
	Rajkot	10.03
	Surat	28.11
	Vadodara	14.91
Haryana	Faridabad	10.56
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	1.45
Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu	6.12
	Srinagar	9.88
Jharkhand	Dhanbad	10.65
	Jamshedpur	11.04
	Ranchi	8.63
Karnataka	Bangalore	57.01
	Mysore	7.99
Kerala	Cochin	13.55
	Thiruvananthapuram	8.90
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	14.58
	Indore	16.40

1	2	3
	Jabalpur	10.98
	Ujjain	4.31
Maharashtra	Greater Mumbai	164.34
	Nagpur	21.29
	Nanded	4.31
	Nashik	11.52
	Pune	37.60
Manipur	Imphal	2.50
Meghalaya	Shillong	2.68
Mizoram	Aizawl	2.28
Nagaland	Kohima	0.77
Orissa	Bhubaneswar	6.58
	Puri	1.57
Pondicherry	Pondicherry	5.05
Punjab	Amritsar	10.03
	Ludhiana	13.98
Rajasthan	Ajmer-Pushkar	5.04
	Jaipur	23.27
Sikkim	Gangtok	0.29
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	65.60
	Coimbatore	14.61
	Madurai	12.03
Tripura	Agartala	1.90
Uttar Pradesh	Agra	13.31
	Allahabad	10.42
	Kanpur	27.15
	Lucknow	22.46
	Mathura	3.23
	Meerut	11.61

1	2	3
	Varanasi	12.04
Uttaranchal	Dehradun	5.30
	Hardwar	2.21
	Nainital	2.20
West Bengal	Asansol	10.67
	Kolkata	132.06

Illegal Construction in DDA Land

833. SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are encroachment and illegal construction in DDA land;

(b) if so, the details of encroachment and illegal construction on DDA land reported during last two years, year-wise; and

(c) the action Government has taken to free the DDA land completely from encroachment and illegal construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) DDA has reported that there is no report of major encroachments on DDA land during the last two years. Most of encroachments are old cases. During the year 2004 and 2005, DDA has carried out 1176 demolition programmes and about 239.10 acres of land have been reclaimed.

DDA undertakes demolition programme on regular basis to free its land from encroachments.

50% DA Merger

834. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inter-departmental Committee constituted by the Government to look into the benefit of 50% of DA merger to GDS Section of the Postal Department has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the details of meetings convened by the Committee; and

(d) time by which it is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Inter-departmental Committee recommended 5% increase in the Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) to Gramin Dak Sevak as a one time benefit. It was also recommended that Department of Posts, while increasing TRCA, should give definite proposals for reducing its deficit. Based on recommendations of the Committee, orders dated 5.9.2005 have been issued for increasing Time Related Continuity Allowance by 5% with effect from 1.4.2004.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

Urban Water Supply Programme of Maharashtra

835. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of towns for which proposals have so far been sent by the State Government of Maharashtra under the centrally sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme;

(b) the towns for which proposals have so far been sanctioned and the amount contributed and to be contributed thereunder by the Central/State Governments;

(c) the norms for eligibility of Central assistance under the original 1995, census;

(d) whether the State Government of Maharashtra and other States have requested for change in town eligibility norms raising the population between 20,000 to 1,00,000 in view of the census figures for 2001; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Government of Maharashtra has forwarded DPRs (Detailed Project Reports) for 53 towns under Accelerated

Urban Water Supply Programme. Out of these proposals for 37 towns (listed in the enclosed Statement) were found eligible for sanction at a total estimated cost of Rs. 115.78 crore. The funds released by the Central Government and State Government for these projects are Rs. 48.27 crore and 37.29 crore respectively.

(c) The guidelines for the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Programme provide for Central assistance to the State Governments to the extent of 50% of the project cost for implementation of water supply schemes in small towns with a population less than 20,000 as per 1991/2001 Census.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. In order to accommodate the suggestion to extend the infrastructure facilities including water supply for all cities/towns in the country, Government has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3.12.2005 along with two omnibus scheme namely (i) Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) and (ii) Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme. 63 cities have been selected on the basis of population criteria as per 2001 census and religious/historic and touristic importance for coverage under the Mission. The cities/towns not covered under JNNURM are eligible for assistance under UIDSSMT. As per guidelines of JNNURM and UIDSSMT, water supply projects of all cities/towns are eligible for assistance. Setting up desalination plants is also permissible under these schemes.

Statement

Towns Sanctioned under AUWSP

Sl.No.	Name of Town	District
1	2	3
1.	Patur	Akola
2.	Deulgaon Raja	Buldhana
3.	Lonar	Buldhana
4.	Maindargi	Solapur
5.	Telhara	Akola
6.	Kundalwadi	Nanded
7.	Sendurjanaghat	Amravati

1	2	3
8.	Saswad	Pune
9.	Indapur	Pune
10.	Dudhani	Solapur
11.	Rahatapimpalas	Ahemadnagar
12.	Sonepeth	Parbhani
13.	Hadgaon	Nanded
14.	Parandha	Osmanabad
15.	Nakdurga	Osmanabad
16.	Kandhar	Nanded
17.	Bhoom	Osmanabad
18.	Mudkhed	Nanded
19.	Umri	Nanded
20.	Kallam	Osmanabad
21.	Rajapur	Ratangiri
22.	Narkhed	Nagpur
23.	Vadagaon	Kolhapur
24.	Shirdi	Ahmednagar
25.	Mahadula	Nagpur
26.	Vengurla	Sindhudurg
27.	Kudal	Sindhudurg
28.	Jejury	Pune
29.	Mailkapur	Kolhapur
30.	Murum	Osmanabad
31.	Shirur	Pune
32.	Chandurbazar	Amravati
33.	Loha	Nanded
34.	Nakoda	Chandrapur
35.	Aheri	Gadchiroli
36.	Mahabaleshwar	Satara
37.	Panchgani	Satara
Total		

Delivery of Passports

836. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of External Affairs have requisitioned the services of Speed Post Offices for the speedy disposal of passports;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the services and to earn more revenue to the postal department in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) In collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs, the Speed Post Passport Service is available from 218 Speed Post Centres/Post Offices. These offices perform the following functions:

1. Sale of passport application forms
2. Acceptance of completed passport application forms.
3. Checking the completed applications with reference to the prescribed check list.
4. Forwarding the applications to passport office.
5. Delivery of passport to applicants, once passport office has issued them.

(c) The facility of sending applications for passports through Speed Post Centres/Post Offices is advertised through newspapers, pamphlets, brochures etc. As a result, the revenue earned by Department of Posts has shown an increase over the years, as shown below:

October 2001—March 2002 : Rs. 70,92,954

April 2002—March 2003 : Rs. 1,25,28,140

April 2003—March 2004 : Rs. 1,34,95,540

April 2004—March 2005 : Rs. 1,68,33,260

April 2005—December 2005 : Rs. 1,52,71,520

Proposals from Karnataka

837. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka is taking major steps to improve its public finances by reduction of average interest on debts;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has made any proposals to the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the time by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Government of India has accepted the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) in respect of the Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility for States. According to this Scheme the central loans, disbursed by Ministry of Finance (MoF) to States up to 31.3.2004 and outstanding as 31.3.2005 are to be consolidated and rescheduled for a fresh term of 20 years (resulting repayments in 20 equal installments), resetting with lower interest rate of 7.5% per annum, subject to States enacting their Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBMA) with laid down core provisions, *inter-alia*, to eliminate States revenue deficit by 2008-09 and to reduce the fiscal deficit to 3% of GSDP.

Government of Karnataka has enacted FRBMA and also drawn up a Fiscal Correction Path for consolidation of State Finances. On recommendation of the Central Monitoring Committee on Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility, this Ministry has consolidated Government of India (MoF) loans to Government of Karnataka. The State Government has been informed accordingly.

[*Translation*]

Uniform Telephone Code

838. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a uniform telephone code and pulse rate in the National Capital Region (NCR);

(b) if so, the time by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) No proposal to introduce Uniform Telephone Code and pulse rate in National Capital Region is under consideration at present as it comprises of large geographical areas in different licensed service areas for Basic, Unified Access Services and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services involving long distance tariff charges. However, towns adjacent to Delhi such as Ghaziabad, Faridabad and Gurgaon are brought at par at local call rate of Re. 1/- for three minutes pulse under One India Plan in MTNL and BSNL with effect from 01.03.2006.

[*English*]

Development of Patna

839. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar has submitted their proposal and project to HUDCO for overall development of Patna in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether this project has been sanctioned; and

(c) if so, the details with the funds sanctioned for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Textile Exports

840. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target fixed for Textile exports has been achieved during the year 2004-05; and

(b) if not, the steps taken to step up the textile exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The textile export target and achievement during the year 2004-05 were as under:

(in Billion US \$)	
Target	Achievement*
15.16	13.04

*Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

(b) Government has been taking a number of steps to boost exports of textile items from the country. Some of the important initiatives taken are:

- (i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.
- (ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.
- (iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been in operation since 1999 to facilitate the modernization and technological upgradation of the sector.
- (iv) To augment the availability of quality raw material at a competitive price, the Government launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). Incentives are provided for better farm practices, quality seeds, improvement in market infrastructure and modernisation of ginning & pressing sector.
- (v) With the objectives of imparting a focused thrust to set up apparel units of international standards and upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, the Government had launched the Apparel Park for Exports Scheme (APES), and Textile centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS). Under these two schemes 30 projects have been sanctioned with an estimated support from Government of India of Rs. 462.50 crore. However, after reviewing the implementation of these two schemes, a new scheme, namely, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks has been launched by merging the two schemes. This scheme is based on Public-Private Partnership (PPP), and would equip the industry with world-class infrastructure facilities

for setting up their textile units to meet international environmental and social standards. Government of India support under the scheme by way of grant or equity shall be limited to 40% of the project cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40 crore.

- (vi) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.
- (vii) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.
- (viii) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT) and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (ix) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

[Translation]

Irregularities under SGRY

841. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding alleged corruption in the implementation of Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) in Charkhi Dadari in Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to check the irregularities like engagement of machine instead of labour, sale of foodgrains in the market and preparation in the market and preparation of fake master-rolls, etc. under the said Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No such complaint has been received in this Ministry during the current year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is the responsibility of the State Government to implement the SGRY as per provisions of its Guidelines. In case there is any irregularity in implementation of the Scheme, the State Government can initiate administrative action against such Implementing Agency/official concerned.

[English]

Changes in Stamp Paper Act, 1899

842. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have made conflicting changes in the Indian Stamp Act, 1899;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to amend the Act in order to bring uniformity in it;

(c) if so, whether the Draft of the proposed Bill has been circulated among States to seek their concurrence as the Act is in the Concurrent List;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which Bill is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The need to amend the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 has been long felt in order to bring it in tune with the ongoing process of economic reforms. The Law Commission of India as well as various other committees have recommended sweeping changes in the existing stamp duty legislation. A Committee of State Finance Ministers on Stamp Duty reforms had also made similar recommendations. In this context, a Group of Officers was set up, which suggested replacing the existing Indian Stamp Act, 1899 by a new Stamp Act. In July 2005, the matter was discussed in the meeting of the Standing Committee of State Secretaries of Stamp and Registration and it was decided to constitute a Sub-Committee to

prepare a draft of the new legislation. Accordingly, the Sub-Committee has prepared a draft which has been circulated to all the States/UTs in January 2006 seeking their comments. Further action in this matter will be taken after receiving the feedback from the States. It is not feasible at this stage to specify the time within which the new Bill can be introduced.

WB/ADB Projects in Gujarat

843. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects prepared with the aid of World Bank and Asian Development Bank in the State of Gujarat;

(b) the details of the amount allocated as a grant by the above banks, project-wise; and

(c) the details of work carried out in the Gujarat so far with the aid of the above banks, project-wise and region-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Sugar Industry on Priority Sector Lending

844. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar industry including Sugar Cooperative industry of Maharashtra has been pressing a proposal to make the sugar industry eligible for priority sector lending by commercial banks; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Government has been receiving various suggestions from the sugar industry. One of the suggestions was that the sugar industry, being agriculture based, may be classified under priority sector. The matter was examined in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It is felt that the sugar industry, being of a large size, requires loans of substantially higher amounts. Thus, bank credit

to other segments of the priority sector, particularly the small borrowers, may be affected, if loans to sugar industry are included under priority sector lending.

National Advisory Committee on Accounting Standard

845. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government appointed a National Advisory Committee on Accounting Standards (NACAS) to suggest accounting standards for corporate in 2001;

(b) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Committee; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken to make the accounting system corporate friendly to gain more revenue to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Advisory Committee on Accounting Standards (NACAS) set up under section 210A of the Companies Act, 1956 has submitted its recommendations on Accounting Standards to the Government on 7.2.2006.

(c) The Ministry is examining the recommendations of NACAS for the purpose of prescribing the Accounting Standards under section 211(3C) of the Companies Act, 1956.

(d) The statutory requirements relating to preparation and disclosure of financial information of a company are intended to enable the stakeholders of the company to have access to the company's financial information so that they have a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company on a yearly basis.

Condition of Weavers

846. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the pathetic condition of the weavers in West Bengal and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the saree weaver are neither getting the raw material at concessional rates nor getting the loans from the Bank/Financial Institutions;

(c) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme to provide assistance to the weavers in the country, especially in West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) No such reports have been received from the State Governments including, West Bengal.

(b) The Government of India is implementing a scheme called Mill Gate Price Scheme under which the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC), a Government of India Undertaking, is arranging supply of all types of yarn required for the handloom weavers and their organizations at Mill Gate Price. The expenditure for transportation of yarn from the Mill Gate to the godown of the handloom agencies is being reimbursed by NHDC to the handloom agencies and then by Government of India to NHDC. Working capital assistance is available at concessional rates from NABARD by way of separate line of refinance support to RRBs to finance various handlooms activities. However, the Government of West Bengal has informed that there is a problem in getting loan from Banks for individual weavers. Therefore, the individual weavers outside cooperative fold are being encouraged to form Self Help Groups so that they can get loan from Corporations like SC/ST/OBC and Minority Development and Finance Corporation.

(c) and (d) The Government is implementing a number of schemes for the development of the handloom Sector and welfare of handloom weavers, such as, Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Marketing Promotion Programme, Handloom Export Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Design Development and Training Programme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Integrated Handloom Training Project, Weavers Welfare Scheme comprising-Thrift Fund Scheme and New Insurance Scheme. In addition to the above schemes, the following new schemes have been introduced during the current financial year:

- (i) Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (IHCDs),
- (ii) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY),
- (iii) Health Insurance Scheme (HIS)

*[Translation]***Black Money in Real Estate**

847. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the raids conducted by CBI it has been revealed that maximum amount of the black money is invested in real estate in cities and metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to detect such properties; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ascertain such real estate property and the success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[English]***Repo Rate and GDP**

848. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has raised Reverse Repo rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether interest rate in Banks is likely to increase as a result of this; and

(d) the present inflation rate and the rates prevailed during the past six months and the expected impact on inflation rate and finally the change, if any, in GDP growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In view of the current macroeconomic and overall monetary conditions, the fixed reverse repo rate under

the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) of the Reserve Bank has been increased by 25 basis points from 5.25 per cent to 5.50 percent with effect from 24th January, 2006.

(c) and (d) The Repo-rates do not have linear impact on the rate of interest and rate of inflation, which are also affected by other factors like Bank Rate, Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) etc. The Wholesale Price Inflation Rate (Year-on-year basis) during the last six months has remained between 3.3% (as on 27th August, 2005) and 4.9% (as on 8th October, 2005). The Central Statistical Organization, Government of India, released the advance estimates of real GDP for 2005-06 on February, 7, 2006. According to these estimates, the real GDP growth is expected to be 8.1% during 2005-06 as against 7.5% during 2004-05.

Drinking Age

849. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre has circulated a draft to all States regarding the permissible age for drinking of liquor from 25 to 18 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has also laid down certain guidelines upon employing women in liquor vends; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Special Purpose Vehicle

850. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has cleared the proposal for setting up of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in clearance;

(d) the time by which clearance is likely to be given to the proposal; and

(e) the details of the projects identified for funding under SPV?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The India Infrastructure Finance Company has received certificate of incorporation on January 5, 2006 with an authorized capital of Rs. 1000 crore and a paid up capital of Rs. 10 crore.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) The SPV would finance projects in the following sectors:

- (i) Urban infrastructure including, but not limited to, water supply, sewerage, drainage, urban transport, solid waste disposal.
- (ii) Roads
- (iii) Power
- (iv) Railways
- (v) Ports
- (vi) Airports
- (vii) Tourism projects including but not restricted to 3-star hotels located in proximity to heritage sites and identified tourism centers.

So far, no project has been identified for funding.

Investment in Private Sectors

851. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to/has plans to open up transport sector to private investment including foreign investors as reported in Business Standard, dated January 7, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) the extent at which the Government will open these sectors to private investors and the modalities of foreign investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Government *vide* Press Note No. 4 (2006 Series) dated 10th February 2006, issued by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry rationalized the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy and further simplified the procedures for investing in India. Infrastructure Sector like development of new Airports, Mass Rapid Transport System, Toll Roads and in services sector including Road Transport Services are already on 100% FDI automatic route.

Agreement with Sri Lanka to reduce ILD Charges

852. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enter into an agreement with Sri Lanka in order to bring down the International Long Distance (ILD) charges as reported in the *Times of India* January 3, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to implement this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has entered into an agreement with Sri Lanka Telecom (SLT) for laying of approximately 323 Kms of submarine Optical Fibre Cable between Tuticorine (Tamil Nadu/India) and Mount Lavana (Sri Lanka) jointly. BSNL is implementing the agreement.

Joint Venture with Foreign Firms

853. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL proposes to enter joint ventures with some foreign firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which such joint ventures are likely to benefit the MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) MTNL, already has a joint venture, namely, United Telecom Limited (UTL) in Nepal and a wholly owned subsidiary at Mauritius, namely, Mahanagar Telephones Mauritius Limited (MTML). MTNL is presently exploring the possibilities of viable overseas joint ventures in Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Chinese markets.

(c) Joint ventures enhance the footprints of MTNL and hence increase revenues and profits.

Upgradation of Rural Telephones

854. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether expansion and upgradation work of telecommunications is progressing at a very slow pace in the rural areas of the country, particularly in Gujarat and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the expansion and upgradation work of telecommunications carried out during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government for the expansion and upgradation of the communication system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. All villages in West Bengal other than those having less than 100 population,

lying in thick forest area/naxalite infested area etc. have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs).

In respect of Gujarat, out of 4,144 remaining unconnected eligible villages as of November, 2004, 1,965 villages have been provided VPTs as on 31.12.2005. The remaining 2,179 villages will be covered progressively by November, 2007.

Additionally 10,021 in Gujarat and 4,506 villages in West Bengal have been covered with cellular services of BSNL.

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

(c) The details of work carried out in rural areas of Gujarat and West Bengal for the expansion and upgradation of telecommunication facilities during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement I to IV.

(d) For faster expansion and upgradation of communication system in the country, following steps are being undertaken:-

- (i) Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in all the remaining uncovered eligible villages, excluding villages having less than 100 population, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas, etc.
- (ii) Provision of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) with population more than 2000 and where there are no Public Call Offices (PCOs).
- (iii) Replacement of Multi-Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs.
- (iv) Provision of Rural Individual Phone Connections (RDLs) on demand in 1685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) from the second quarter of 2006.
- (v) Large scale deployment of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network in rural areas.
- (vi) Relaxation of the outdoor cable norm to 5 kms as against the earlier norm of 2.5 kms for landline exchanges.

Statement I*Year-wise & state-wise achievements of VPTs*

Sl.No.	Name of Circles	2002-2003 Achievement	2003-2004 Achievement	2004-2005 Achievement	2005-2006 Achievement (upto 31.12.05)	Total Achievement
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	1	0	0	0	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	180	57	237
3.	Assam	1007	1354	1956	940	5257
4.	Bihar	9061	0	0	0	9061
5.	Jharkhand	9197	634	64	0	9895
6.	Gujarat	0	0	1130	755	1885
7.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	205	2	0	227	434
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	177	537	201	91	1006
10.	Karnataka	6	0	0	0	6
11.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0	4	2549	1853	4406
13.	Chhattisgarh	248	0	167	725	1140
14.	Maharashtra	0	0	1437	752	2189
15.	North East I	389	847	167	8	1411
16.	North East II	135	907	269	32	1343
17.	Orissa	5078	318	0	0	5396
18.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Rajasthan	0	0	1073	3259	4332
20.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	6651	35	6	0	6692
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Uttaranchal	1627	99	111	95	1932
24.	West Bengal	3147	0	0	0	3147
Total		36929	4737	9310	8794	59770

Statement II*Year-wise & state-wise achievements of RCPs*

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	No. of RCP allotted	RCP provided upto 31.03.05	RCP provided in Dec. 2005	Achievement during 05-06	Cummulative Achievement upto 31.12.05
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3677	538	82	841	1379
3.	Assam	1913	0	77	699	699
4.	Bihar	1302	14	32	610	624
5.	Jharkhand	451	119	28	227	346
6.	Gujarat	1801	1024	39	237	1261
7.	Haryana	145	39	0	44	83
8.	Himachal Pradesh	95	27	2	5	32
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	122	23	0	4	27
10.	Karnataka	1528	590	31	737	1327
11.	Kerala	1	0	0	1	1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1810	1037	50	277	1314
13.	Chhattisgarh	576	229	38	319	548
14.	Maharashtra	3140	369	70	339	708
15.	North East I	505	62	0	3	65
16.	North East II	193	48	0	4	52
17.	Orissa	936	261	65	425	686
18.	Punjab	43	43	0	0	43
19.	Rajasthan	1416	321	48	283	604
20.	Tamil Nadu	1424	757	40	449	1206
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	2210	216	47	1201	1417
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	429	85	13	173	258
23.	Uttaranchal	5	4	0	0	4
24.	West Bengal	1072	63	33	309	372
Total		24794	5869	695	7187	13056

Statement III*Circle-wise achievement of WLL capacity & Cellular capacity of BSNL*

Sl.No.	Circle	WLL Capacity achievement during				CMTS Capacity achievement during			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (upto 31.12.05)	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (upto 31.12.05)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1000	3000	0	499	2000	4000	7500	3500
2.	Andhra Pradesh	9000	106500	0	29573	412600	183000	227316	419114
3.	Assam	0	55250	0	10433	0	35263	107287	216950
4.	Bihar	70000	47500	2500	15769	36000	103050	79000	272600
5.	Chhattisgarh	3100	47650	5050	6214	16400	15550	0	50000
6.	Gujarat	10500	84250	32700	27388	210000	249750	350000	0
7.	Haryana	0	51600	40900	8930	111000	28316	140684	335525
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	7500	0	17086	12000	34522	50748	185403
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	7500	2000	7500	14192	0	37200	104000	278860
10.	Jharkhand	27000	22000	0	2682	21000	73502	72205	-9110
11.	Karnataka	19650	69600	43000	29604	307590	32410	378000	443094
12.	Kerala	42250	145500	31750	115717	326000	585	415000	448365
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0	76000	35250	68255	68900	36500	148500	0
14.	Maharashtra	13500	180850	47650	25194	275000	220300	450000	0
15.	North East I	8000	6500	0	1989	0	12932	39513	55869
16.	North East II	8000	9000	0	2235	0	14000	42200	54820
17.	Orissa	16500	25000	15000	15656	40000	89900	115000	151100
18.	Punjab	0	83000	59250	10084	110000	235300	138500	-5740
19.	Rajasthan	6500	107750	22500	52685	137650	54050	180850	0
20.	Tamil Nadu	10000	61750	57000	48814	342900	67100	379044	591907
21.	Uttaranchal	2500	14000	500	6031	31600	38950	45020	174245
22.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	40000	139250	28000	53838	74000	210300	382650	971020
23.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	9000	49000	6000	6339	67000	156481	169886	360332
24.	West Bengal	9500	45500	19000	17954	40500	106850	107100	353000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
25.	Kolkata	0	29500	4400	-1089	15000	0	246400	25064
26.	Chennai	0	20000	8000	3508	0	131000	275000	450000
Total		311500	1489450	465950	589560	2657140	2170811	4631203	5825918

Statement IV*Year-wise & state-wise achievement/upgradation work of rural telecom. work in BSNL*

SLNo.	Name of Circle	Telephone Exchanges				Net Swg. Capacity				Rural DELs (WLL+Fixed)			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (upto Dec' 05)	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (upto Dec' 05)	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (upto Dec' 05)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3	0	0	0	1024	1584	272	2196	1624	2413	1580	375
2.	Andhra Pradesh	124	64	87	132	129793	244235	20010	-102889	116559	195054	50072	-46816
3.	Assam	42	24	2	0	36014	13054	16321	30844	21675	24267	19321	16276
4.	Bihar	23	37	27	2	58750	63490	59722	12688	48323	94905	56443	43475
5.	Chhattisgarh	15	3	0	0	9895	3715	-1267	-1871	6373	34651	13430	-7282
6.	Gujarat	207	31	0	0	229140	25674	11042	-2264	139781	38893	33636	17581
7.	Haryana	16	1	26	0	83553	50863	23860	21300	57026	21602	56390	32867
8.	Himachal Pradesh	37	2	3	19	49122	9784	8908	6872	21733	18065	71518	20681
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	57	0	7	2	32908	5216	13480	5896	22810	9365	13906	3636
10.	Jharkhand	15	13	2	5	13996	15292	4500	10264	7975	38032	12156	11944
11.	Karnataka	54	7	2	18	70685	13902	25533	1680	78810	37366	28519	25586
12.	Kerala	76	28	14	1	388711	204679	213035	47310	285777	225983	317452	165939
13.	Madhya Pradesh	34	16	3	0	1952	-9268	1998	4356	21433	77797	-2777	37327
14.	Maharashtra	105	31	7	6	226990	98320	90988	43592	171649	114676	138908	60419
15.	North East I	30	2	9	1	3832	4056	1808	4916	1615	10503	7277	2253
16.	North East II	22	4	4	0	11580	5844	-1600	616	6018	12977	6067	1456
17.	Orissa	34	6	13	0	44640	12030	6004	9622	31527	61808	30712	23905
18.	Punjab	59	7	1	0	161614	30774	-4018	1264	86288	44716	81901	-2688
19.	Rajasthan	47	16	1	0	105678	23722	-41306	1184	58297	58099	62170	63035

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
20.	Tamil Nadu	503	7	13	0	506398	10676	27498	-30316	555297	79142	148278	12959
21.	Uttaranchal	22	9	7	0	27224	9500	3532	4628	5630	22233	11131	8284
22.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	35	17	10	0	103439	-89654	6856	2619	125085	-46183	39256	7534
23.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	10	4	1	0	71931	14750	32714	-2214	32287	32907	39922	-980
24.	West Bengal	62	12	14	2	122220	63044	58136	14691	70804	71855	59690	47812
25.	Kolkata	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Chennai	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47536	0	0	0	62473
Total		1632	341	253	188	2491098	825282	578026	134520	1972396	1281126	1296967	608051

*[Translation]***Value of Indian Rupee in International Market**

855. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for evaluation of Indian Rupee in international market;

(b) the exchange rate of Indian Rupee at compared to other major currencies of the World country-wise as on date;

(c) the purchasing power of Indian Rupees as on 18.02.2005 taking 1971 as base year; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check the fall of Indian Rupee in comparison to foreign currencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The exchange rate of the Indian rupee against the US dollar in the domestic foreign exchange market is determined by the forces of demand and supply. To arrive at the rupee's exchange rate *vis-a-vis* other major global currencies (*i.e.* Euro, Pound and the Japanese Yen), the rupee-dollar rates are crossed with the exchange rates of these currencies against US dollar in the international markets.

(b) The exchange rate of the Indian rupee *vis-a-vis* major global currencies are shown below:

Exchange Rates	31st March 2004	31st March 2005	31st Jan-2006	20th Feb-2006
US Dollar	43.45	43.76	44.07	44.43
Pound Sterling	79.68	82.11	77.97	77.50
Euro	53.17	56.59	53.31	53.17
Japanese Yen*	41.67	40.81	37.50	37.58

*Rupees per 100 Yens.

(c) Purchasing power of any currency is usually determined by real exchange rates. The Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) of the rupee is the best measure of its purchasing power. The RBI calculates monthly trade-based 36-currency and 6-currency indices of REER with 1993-94 as the base year. The year 1993-94 has been chosen as the base year for reflecting the significant changes in macroeconomic environment that occurred after introduction of economic reforms in the early 1990s. There is, therefore, no information available regarding purchasing power of the rupee as on February 18, 2005, with 1971 as the base year. However, the 36-currency and 6-currency trade based REER indices (base 1993-94=100) for the month of February 2005 are 100.95 and 103.92 respectively.

(d) The exchange rate of the Indian rupee is broadly market-determined. Since end-March 2005, the rupee has depreciated against the US Dollar, while appreciating against the Euro, Pound Sterling and the Japanese Yen.

Such movements underline the two-way flexibility demonstrated by the rupee in response to changes taking place between exchange rates of major world currencies.

Textile Import

856. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production cost of textiles is more in our country as compared to China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been tremendous increase in the import of textiles particularly from China during the last three years;

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

(e) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government to use advanced and modern techniques to increase production of textiles;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the details of export of textile to China during the above period, quantity-wise, value-wise and year-wise; and

(h) the steps taken to increase export of textile over import to China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAR): (a) and (b) According to a Study conducted by M/s Cherzi Eastern Ltd. on behalf of the Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council (Mumbai), China has certain edge in production cost of cotton textiles, as summed up below:-

Major cost drivers (index)	India	China
— raw material (cleaned cotton)	100	87
— Power		
— dyes & chemicals	100	68
— steam	100	85
— wages	100	30
— interest on capital for technology upgradation	100 6-9%	114 3%

Source: Study Report (M/s Gherzi Eastern Ltd.).

(c) and (d) The details of imports of textile items from China during last three years are given in the table below:

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Vale (In Rs. lakhs)	159784.59	225695.52	309434.09

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

(e), (f) and (h) Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to strengthen Indian textile industry for meeting the growing global competition and thereby increase exports to all countries, including China. A Statement showing some of the important initiatives is enclosed.

(g) The details of export of textile to China during the last three years is given in the table below:

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Value (Rs. lakh)	39206.42	65521.11	52607.96

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

Statement

(i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.

(ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.

(iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iv) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The mission comprises four mini-missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new market yards/improvement of existing market yards.

(v) Ministry of Textiles has recast the Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) and

Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme (APES) for speeding up the implementation of the Schemes and to actualize the vision of attaining export target of \$50 billion by 2010. This scheme is based on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and envisages engaging of a professional agency for project execution.

- (vi) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.
- (vii) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.
- (viii) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items are allowed to the garment exporters, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.
- (ix) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced w.e.f. 20.4.2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.
- (x) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirement of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (xi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

[English]

Slums in Different Parts of Country

857. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has conducted any survey to assess the condition of slums in various cities and towns of the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to resettle slum dwellers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Slum Development being a State subject, State Governments take stock of slums in their respective States.

Recently the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation conducted a survey during 2002 on the condition of the urban slums and has brought out Report No. 486 namely "Condition of Urban Slums, 2002-NSS 58th round (July 2002-December 2002)". This Report portrays the condition of urban slums with respect to the infrastructure facilities like the area where the slum was located, road within and approaching the slum, electricity connection, drinking water, sewerage, drainage, garbage disposal, etc.

(c) and (d) Though slum development is State subject with a view to ameliorate the living conditions of slum dwellers, a programme known as National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) was launched at national level by the Government in 1996 for the development of urban slums. Subsequently, a centrally sponsored scheme called Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) was launched on 2.12.2001 with a view to further improve the conditions of the urban slum dwellers living below the poverty line who do not possess adequate shelter. The Scheme has the primary objective to facilitate upgradation and construction of dwelling units for slum dwellers and to provide a healthy and enabling urban environment through community toilets under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan.

Under recently launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) focused attention will

be paid to integrated development of 'Basic Services to the Urban Poor' in the cities covered under the Mission. Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP), a component of the Mission, will be for non-mission towns by combining the erstwhile schemes of Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY), National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) and will cover the requirement of both housing and infrastructure in urban slums.

(e) Does not arise.

Relief to Farm Labourers under SGRY and SGSY

858. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of starvation being faced by the villagers, mainly farm labourers, in the drought affected districts of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of survey carried out, if any, about the plight of the affected farm labourers;

(c) the reasons for not enabling the affected villagers to access reliefs under the Centrally sponsored anti-poverty programme and food security schemes particularly, SGRY and SGSY; and

(d) the steps taken to ameliorate the condition of the affected families so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No such report on starvation in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka has been received in this Ministry during the current year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under Special Component of SGRY, only foodgrains are provided to the affected States to take up relief works to provide additional wage employment in the calamity affected areas. Cash component for the Scheme is provided by the States either from the State Sector Scheme or Centrally Sponsored Scheme in which

foodgrains are utilized. Under the Special Component of SGRY, foodgrains to the tune of 72000 MT has been authorized to Karnataka while that of 43968 MT authorized to Tamil Nadu during 2005-06. It is the responsibility of the State Government to provide relief to the persons affected by calamity. The SGSY does not have any provision to provide funds for relief works.

Utilization of Funds under PMGSY

859. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States which have failed to claim their share of funds from the Government under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the States which have failed to spend the amount released to them under PMGSY during the said period;

(c) the villages with the population of over 1,000 not connected with road as on date, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to make PMGSY successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development monitors the progress of works under PMGSY, Phase-wise. The funds allocated to States, funds released and expenditure reported by the States for Phases I to V, together with the number of habitations with population over 1000 which would be left unconnected with reference to the proposals approved so far, State-wise, are indicated in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The progress of works under PMGSY is reviewed by the Ministry of Rural Development at various levels on a regular basis. The States which lag behind are advised to take appropriate steps, including capacity enhancement, for accelerating the pace of works. The Ministry also assists the States in outsourcing the PMGSY works, including execution in case any State feels the need for such outsourcing.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	Allocation* (Rs. crore)	Release* upto 20.02.2006 (Rs. crore)	Expenditure* upto December 2005 (Rs. crore)	Balance No. of habitations with population 1000+
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	850	1011.47	840.68	7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	227	179.46	127.14	20
3.	Assam	551	674.10	465.89	4049
4.	Bihar	1082	511.04	352.15	10186
5.	Chhattisgarh	765	945.76	790.98	1032
6.	Goa	30	10.00	5.32	0
7.	Gujarat	310	284.87	240.59	42
8.	Haryana	125	156.07	149.14	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	432	484.10	292.24	108
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	160	145.35	48.8	614
11.	Jharkhand	745	504.41	385.71	1894
12.	Karnataka	80	506.24	384.3	0
13.	Kerala	125	121.97	72.77	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1600	1798.52	1696.48	2404
15.	Maharashtra	790	524.63	437.69	18
16.	Manipur	188	98.00	88.21	71
17.	Meghalaya	215	115.67	92.75	3
18.	Mizoram	127	164.51	152.04	13
19.	Nagaland	125	106.95	98.07	0
20.	Orissa	1143	1165.08	895.31	1523
21.	Punjab	155	176.30	134.78	9
22.	Rajasthan	936	1798.64	1532.94	30
23.	Sikkim	125	95.97	72.73	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	485	491.87	355.99	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Tripura	160	96.39	60.68	175
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2020	2193.87	1399.54	2236
27.	Uttaranchal	395	201.04	135.14	36
28.	West Bengal	896	1193.45	778.37	8719
Total (States)		15342	15755.73	12086.53	33295

*Includes ADB/World Bank projects also.

Loan for Infrastructural Development

860. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is considering proposals to fund livelihood projects in India in addition to its current commitments in the field of infrastructure development;

(b) if so, whether World Bank has committed over \$ one billion for rural development in India and a substantial portion of this has already been spent; and

(c) if so, whether negotiations with World Bank for Human Development Project on new approaches to health out comes to be implemented through the Centre; in addition World Bank was committed to provide sufficient grounds for infrastructure development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the on-going projects under the Agriculture and Rural Development Sector (as on 31.12.2005), the World Bank has committed an amount of US\$ 2.4 billion (approximately), out of which US\$ 759 million (approximately) has already been disbursed.

(c) No, Sir.

Intellectual Property and Technology Management System

861. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved a scheme for improving the intellectual property and technology management system in the Council of Science and Industrial Research during the current Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the surveillance mechanism for prevention of infringement of the intellectual property rights of scientists working in CSIR laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The objective of the Intellectual Property and Technology Management Scheme seeks to capture, secure, enhance and realize the value from the Intellectual Property (IP) of CSIR. The salient features of the Scheme are as follows:

- (i) Create a formidable IP portfolio holding of Indian and foreign patents;
- (ii) Framing techno-legal-commercial patent application as per the requirements of the different countries, prosecuting to secure IP rights, safeguarding and maintaining the property;
- (iii) Formation, valuation & valorization of Patent & IP portfolios; and
- (iv) Maintain constant vigil and surveillance to check for infringement, unauthorized use, validation and violations and to take causative action for its enforcement.

(c) CSIR has a two-tier surveillance system for initiating action against infringement of its IP rights. Its constituent laboratories regularly examine the details of

patent application accepted and notified by the Patent Office of various countries in their official publication. Any infringements of patent rights granted to CSIR are then dealt with the Intellectual Property Technology Management Division (IPMD) of CSIR, who initiates proceedings for opposition/infringement cases at appropriate forums for its redressal. At the same time, IMPD also keeps a watch on the patents that may infringe upon CSIR's IP rights and take necessary action to protect the same. CSIR also has access to commercial software such as M-Cam Doors from USA, which identifies such infringement speedily.

[Translation]

Better Amenities for Urban Citizens

862. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether various municipal corporation, municipal boards and municipalities are facing problems in undertaking development works in their-respective areas as they have meagre resources;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has formulated any scheme to ensure that urban cities have better amenities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MALKEN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Foreign Companies in Infrastructure

863. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of investment made by foreign companies in infrastructure sector of the country;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure that such investments do not go against the security interests of the country; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure territorial integrity of the nation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The data on FDI inflows in Infrastructure Sector from August 1991 to Decemehr 2005 is given below:

(Amount Rs. in crore)

Name of the Industry	Amount of FDI inflows
Power and Oil Refinery	10,710.57*
Telecommunications	12,199.40
Ports	676.44#
Construction Activities and Real Estate (including Roads & Highways)	1,964.00#
Total of above	25,550.41

Note:

1.* Power and petroleum Sectors has no segregated data in regard to inflows. However, the amount of inflows of FDI in the Fuel Sector includes the Power & Oil Refinery Sectors both.

2.# This amount pertains to January 2000 to September 2005 only.

(b) and (c) While seeking foreign investment in infrastructure, due regard is given to the security related aspects.

Misuse of Tax Concessions by Private Institutions

864. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tax exemptions and various concessions both under the direct and indirect tax laws are being misused by unscrupulous elements to their advantage;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected in this regard during the last three years giving the amount involved therein;

(c) whether some of the private hospitals and nursing homes earning crores of rupees are siphoning exemption in the name of research activities;

(d) whether charitable trusts are misusing the provisions of tax exemptions; and

(e) if so, measures taken to plug loopholes in exemption/concessions enjoyed by making the filling of income tax returns mandatory for such institutions/trusts and scrutiny thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Telephone Facility to Panchayats in Maharashtra

865. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone facility has been provided or being provided in all the Panchayats of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Panchayats where said facility has not been provided so far; and

(d) the time by which all the Panchayats are likely to be connected by phone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 5,441 remaining unconnected villages in Maharashtra. This excludes villages having less than 100 population and villages lying in thick forest/naxalite infested area etc. Out of these 6,441 eligible villages, 2,189 villages have been provided with VPTs as on 31st December, 2005.

(c) and (d) As on 31st December, 2005, 4,252 eligible villages remain to be provided with VPTs in Maharashtra. These villages will be provided VPTs progressively by November, 2007.

[English]

Weeding out of Central Schemes

866. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether evaluation of centrally sponsored schemes has been completed;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to weed out various key schemes of Union Government;

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

(e) the reaction of various Ministries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Central Sector Schemes is an ongoing process. Evaluations are undertaken by Programme Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission and also by various Central Ministries/Departments.

The Planning Commission had undertaken a review of the existing Plan schemes and subjected them to Zero-based Budgeting, at the time of commencement of the 10th Plan, retaining only those schemes which were considered essential. The aim of the exercise was to rationalize the schemes by making them more focused. Subsequently, in 2004-05 the Planning Commission carried out an exercise in consultation with the Union Ministries/Departments regarding transfer/rationalization/review of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and communicated them to the Ministries/Departments. An Expert Group has since been set up by the Planning Commission to develop concrete proposals for rationalisation and restructuring of CSS in pursuance of the decision taken in the 51st meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) held on 27th and 28th June, 2005. The Planning Commission has also decided that a Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise will be undertaken for carrying forward Plan Schemes into the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

Custom Duty at Hyderabad Airport Project

867. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of Customs Duty/CVD levied on Hyderabad Airport Project at present;

(b) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to remove Import Duty on Airport Projects to facilitate growth of Airports;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There is no separate rate of customs duty/CVD for Hyderabad Airport Project. Goods imported for the project would attract customs duty/CVD as prescribed on the individual items.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had made a request for exempting import duty on Hyderabad Airport Project.

(d) The request was examined but was not agreed to.

External Aided Projects in Assam

868. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects being implemented in Assam with the development assistance from other countries or loan from international funding agencies like World Bank, Asian Development along with total outlay, details of execution status and liability of State and Union Government;

(b) the details of other schemes under consideration for implementation in Assam; and

(c) the details of other programmes being implemented with the assistance or loan from national financial institutions/banks including NABARD in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details of projects being implemented in Assam with the development assistance from various bilateral and multilateral development partners including the loan/grant amount committed, cumulative disbursement so far are furnished in the enclosed statement. The Central Government receives the foreign assistance as per standard terms and conditions of the development partner and till 31.03.2005 it was being released to the State by the Central Government as additional Central assistance (ACA). Government of India has accepted the recommendation of the 12th Finance Commission to pass on external assistance on the same terms and conditions on which it was received. The service cost and exchange rate fluctuations would also be passed on to the States under this arrangement. Accordingly, in case of new projects signed on or after April 1, 2005, the external assistance will be passed on 'back-to-back' basis. However, it has been decided to continue with the earlier arrangements for ongoing projects as on 31.03.2005. Further releases to such projects will continue to be provided in the form of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) in the loan/grant ratio 10:90 for Assam.

(b) The following proposals for Assam are under consideration with the assistance of various multilateral and bilateral development partners.

1. Assam Governance and Public Resources Management (ADB).
2. Assam Integrated Flood Control & River Erosion Mitigation (ADB).
3. North Eastern Urban Development (Phase-II) Project (ADB).
4. Greater Guwahati Water Supply Scheme (Japanese ODA loan package).
5. Upgradation of State of Highways and Major District Roads in Assam (World Bank)
6. Assam Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (World Bank).

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Statement**External Aided Projects in Assam**

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Total Loan/Grant amount	Terminal date	Cumulative disbursement (upto Dec. 2006)	Details of project
Asian Development Bank (ADB)					
1.	2141—Assam Governance & Public Resource Management Program	US\$ 125.00 million	31.12.2007	US\$ 90 million	The program supports reform of (i) State finances; (ii) fiscal Governance; (iii) re-orientation of the role of the State.
2.	2142—Assam Governance & Public Resource Management Project.	US\$ 25.00 million	31.12.2010	Nil	The project is to develop and implement an integrated public financial management information system.
3.	Rural Roads Sector II Investment Program	US\$ 750 million.	—	Nil	Loan not yet signed. Assam is one of the beneficiary State.
4.	Assam Power Sector Development Project.	US\$ 243.5 million	30.06.2007	US\$ 1.083 million	The total cost of the project is estimated at US\$ 243.5 million of which, 41% is being met out of ADB loan. The balance will be met up the State Govt. from its own resources.
World Bank					
5.	Technical Assistance for Economic Reforms Sub-project: Govt. of Assam-Computerization of PWD	Loan US\$ 1.80 million.	31.12.2006	US\$ 0.52 million.	This project includes sub-project for computerization of PWD.
6.	Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project	Loan US\$ 154 million	31.12.2009	Rs. 54.50 crore.	The project objective is to increase the productivity and market access of targeted farmers and community groups.

Pending Cases before ITAT

869. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending with Income Tax Appellate Tribunal as on date;

(b) the number of cases where amount exceeds Rs. 1 crore or more;

(c) whether Government are contemplating early disposal of the same to avoid loss of revenue and harassment of the assesses involved; and

(d) the steps to be taken in this regard and time-frame, if any, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) The number of cases pending with the ITAT as on 1st February, 2006 are 1,13,083.

(b) No separate record is maintained with reference to the amounts involved in the appeals.

(c) and (d)

- (1) The Government sanctioned additional Benches of Tribunal increasing the number of Benches from 38 to 63.
- (2) For expeditious disposal of cases, the ITAT has undertaken special drive to dispose of High Demand, priority. Single Member cases and Wealth Tax cases. The cases covered by the decisions of the ITAT, High Courts and the Supreme Court are identified and posted on priority for early disposal.
- (3) High Demand cases are disposed of on priority on the requests of the parties including the Income Tax Department.

The above efforts are still being vigorously pursued with the result that the pendency of cases of 2,99,978 as on 31.3.1998 has been brought down to a record low of 1,13,083 as on 01.02.2006.

[Translation]

City Challenge Fund Scheme

870. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether City Challenge Fund Scheme is under consideration of the Government;

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

(c) the number of towns likely to be covered in the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Upgradation of Mobile Signals

871. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private players are hiring the State owned companies' network for providing landline, WLL and mobile phone to their consumers;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware of the facts that the signals for mobile phones provided by the State owned telecom companies to their consumers are very weak as compared to the other private companies in the field;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether people are choosing private companies network for mobile phone as the private companies provides better services as compare to the State owned companies; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to upgrade State owned companies network to provide super class signals and to attract more consumes towards the State owned telecom companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The private operators are hiring network resources like towers, leased bandwidth from public sector units. The strength of signal for mobile phone does not have any relation with the hiring of such resources by private companies. Mainly such resources are hired for the purpose of interconnection with the network of public sector units for enabling the exchange of calls between their networks.

(d) There has been continuous growth in the subscriber base of mobile phone of PSUs viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited indicating that people are not choosing only private company's network for mobile phones.

(e) Public sector units are keeping pace with the technology in respect of their mobile services and the network is optimized and monitored for its performance continuously.

Fraud in UCO Bank

872. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several officials of UCO Bank were booked for fraudulent transactions in their branches;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) UCO Bank has reported that 219 cases of frauds have been detected during the last three years and 184 employees were found involved in these frauds. Action for major/minor penalty against 146 employees has been completed and action against 38 employees is in progress. There is an established procedure with regard to disciplinary action against the erring officials and the bank has taken appropriate action as per procedure.

Hurdles in Dwarka Barakhamba Metro Line

873. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly introduced Dwarka-Barakhmba Metro line is running into operational hurdles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure smooth operations of metro railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) (i) During non-revenue hours in the night, all systems and equipment including that of trains are extensively inspected and checked.

(ii) All failures/disruptions are thoroughly analysed and follow-up actions taken.

(iii) Refresher training is organized on a regular basis for safety critical category of staff.

NPA of Banks

874. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan advanced by the Public Sector Banks are lying outstanding as on 31st December 2005, bank-wise;

(b) the number of companies whose property/assets were auctioned by banks for non-payment of loan;

(c) the amount recovered so far after the passing of securitisation and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002; and

(d) the extent to which the non performing assets of Banks reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The bank-wise details of gross loans outstanding of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) as on 31st December, 2005 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) RBI does not require reporting of such information by the banks.

(c) The Public Sector Banks have recovered an amount of Rs. 20,705 crore and Rs. 20,519 crore during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively. The amount recovered by PSBs under SARFAESI Act, 2002 stood at Rs. 4857.71 crore as on 30th September, 2005.

(d) The Gross Non-Performing Assets of PSBs have reduced from 7.8% in 2003-04 to 3.0% in 2004-05 and net NPAs from 3.0% in 2003-04 to 3.1% in 2004-05.

Statement

*Gross Advances Outstanding as on
31st December, 2005*

(Rs. in crore)		
Bank Group	Name of the Bank	Gross Advances
1	2	3
Nationalised Banks	Allahabad Bank	27715
	Andhra Bank	20687
	Bank of Baroda	45883
	Bank of India	49555
	Bank of Maharashtra	15652
	Canara Bank	71246
	Central Bank of India	32553

1	2	3
	Corporation Bank	22571
	Dena Bank	13447
	IDBI Bank	50684
	Indian Bank	20632
	Indian Overseas Bank	29779
	Oriental Bank of Commerce	33182
	Punjab National Bank	69336
	Punjab and Sind Bank	8125
	Syndicate Bank	29914
	UCO Bank	33257
	Union Bank of India	50718
	United Bank of India	14651
	Vijaya Bank	16307
SBI Group	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	14864
	State Bank of Hyderabad	19399
	State Bank of India	218522
	State Bank of Indore	11411
	State Bank of Mysore	11230
	State Bank of Patiala	20664
	State Bank of Saurashtra	7880
	State Bank of Travancore	17362
Total Public Sector Banks		977225

Cotton Procurement Centres

875. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open cotton procurement centres in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) As a nodal

agency of the Government of India to undertake MSP operations, as and when kapas prices touch the MSP level, Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) opens procurement centres in various cotton growing States, depending upon the arrivals of kapas in the market yard and availability of other infrastructural facilities like ginning and pressing and warehousing etc. for processing and storage of cotton bales respectively. In order to help the cotton farmers located in remote areas, CCI also does operate satellite centres and arranges transportation of kapas to the processing points. This is being done every year.

(b) State-wise details of procurement centres operated by CCI during the current season *vis-a-vis* cotton season 2004-05 are as under:—

State	2005-06	2004-05
Punjab	16	14
Haryana	13	11
Rajasthan	26	23
Madhya Pradesh	17	17
Gujarat	57	47
Andhra Pradesh	62	71
Karnataka	21	19
Tamil Nadu	8	8
Orissa	7	7
Maharashtra	35	33
Total	262	250

Grading System

876. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) propose to introduce grading system for stock brokers in BSE, NSE and other stock exchanges as reported in Business Standard dated January 9, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the possible merits and demerits of introducing such a grading system; and

(d) the other steps taken to ensure protection to small time brokers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that it has prepared a draft concept paper on rating of market intermediaries, to begin with for brokers and has invited public comments on the concept paper. SEBI in its concept paper had outlined the factors that need to be taken into account while arriving at a rating decision by rating agencies. These include various parameters such as organisation structure, risk management policy and system, policy on investor interest, process and procedures in place, management policy on compliance, financial history/background, firm's positioning etc.

(c) As intermediaries play an important interface between investors and exchanges, it was felt that there was a need for professional rating of market intermediaries which could serve as additional information which the investors can take into account while dealing through a SEBI registered intermediary. It would also help investors evaluate and compare intermediaries in terms of quality, competence, professionalism and standards of ethics being adopted by market intermediaries. It will also help spur growth of professionally managed entities. It is believed that it would ensure greater transparency in operations, strengthen the disclosure requirements and risk management systems, and improve the compliance standards. Benchmarking with others in the field is expected to spur the intermediaries to constantly improve and upgrade their performance. Any rating process carries an element of subjectivity.

(d) The concept paper proposes rating on voluntary basis and any broker, big or small, is free to opt for rating. The concept paper has also proposed that appropriate weightages may be given to various factors by rating agencies to provide for a level playing field to smaller as well as big brokers.

Mumbai Urban Transport Project

877. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra had initiated a Mumbai Urban Transport Project for improvement of traffic and transportation conditions in Mumbai with the help of World Bank aid;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cost of the project has been worked out;

(d) if so, the number of which the cost is to be shared and the nature and extent of World Bank and Central assistance proposed or secured for the purpose; and

(e) the time by which the work on the project is likely to be launched and the time of by which the same is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra, jointly with the Ministry of Railways, has initiated Mumbai Urban Transport Project to improve traffic and transportation situation in Mumbai Metropolitan Region, with financial aid from the World Bank.

(b) to (e) Details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Generation of Employment

878. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether about Rs. 500 crores meant for generation of urban employment was returned unused last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action initiated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Review of Implementation of Land Reforms**

879. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently carried out any national review of the implementation of land reforms in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the land reforms are being carried out at a much lower scale than has been envisaged;

(d) if so, the present position in this regard; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Land and its management falls within the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the States as provided in entry 18 of the State List (List II) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The Ministry of Rural Development plays an advisory and coordinating role. Land Reform measures are discussed in the periodic Revenue Ministers and Revenue Secretaries conferences and decisions taken to accelerate the pace of implementation of land reforms. The Ministry of Rural Developments monitors the status of implementation of Land Reforms through Quarterly/Monthly Progress Reports.

*[English]***Training to Local Artisans under SGSY**

880. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to train local artisans under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) if so, the details of the programme prepared in this regard; and

(c) the other steps taken by the Government to provide proper support and encouragement to tap the inherent talents and capabilities of the rural poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Skill upgradation, both technical as well as managerial, of rural poor including rural artisans to enable them to take up economic activities for sustainable income is an integral component of the existing swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) being implemented as per approved guidelines. Marketing support involving market intelligence, development of markets, consultancy services and institutional support for marketing of the goods are also provided under the scheme.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development has been organizing SARAS Fairs at the national and regional levels and Gramshree Melas through CAPART. These fairs have provided rural artisans a platform to sell their products beyond the limits of the local markets and also help them in getting exposure to the market and marketing techniques. Workshops are organized during these fairs to upgrade the skill of rural artisans.

Crop Credit

881. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for reducing the crop credit interest rate and to enhance the loan limit by amending the NABARD Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also a demand to instruct the NABARD to lend the loan to farmers directly;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Government keeps on receiving requests from different quarters on several aspects of lending to farmers including reduced rate of interest on crop loans, enhancing the loan limits, direct lending to farmers by NABARD, etc., on an ongoing basis. NABARD is mainly involved in refinance of agriculture loans disbursed by banks. Interest rates charged by commercial banks and cooperative banks have been deregulated. However, the interest rate on loans by Commercial Banks upto Rs. 2.00 lakhs should not exceed the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR). India Banks' Association (IBA) has advised Public Sector Banks to charge a rate of interest of not more than 9% per annum on crop loans upto Rs. 50,000/-. As regards enhancement of loan limit, the scale of finance at the ground level is decided by Banks in consultation with District Level Technical Consultative Committee (DLTCC).

Basic Civic Amenities in Slums and Illegal Colonies

882. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 35 per cent of Delhi's population lives in slums and illegal colonies with no sewage facilities; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing basic civic amenities in the slums and illegal colonies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that no such survey has been conducted.

(b) Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that in unauthorized colonies located on private land, Hon'ble Delhi High Court in CWP No. 4471/1993 has allowed provision of roads and drains, water and electricity. Delhi Jal Board is supplying water through hydrants and tankers.

So far as jhuggi clusters/slums are concerned, Slum and JJ Department (MCD) is providing minimum basic amenities like brick laying in the lanes, storm water drains, toilets and baths, dustbins, Dhalaos, Basti Vikas Kendras and Shishu Vatikas.

[*Translation*]

Silk Production

883. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of silk during the last three years in each silk producing state;

(b) the targeted production of silk during the current year; variety-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The production of silk during the last three years in each silk producing states is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The variety-wise targeted production of silk during the current year *i.e.* 2005-06 is given below:

Variety	Raw Silk Production Target (MT)
A. MULBERRY	
Bivoltine	1200
Cross Breed	15800
Total (A)	17000
B. VANYA (Non-Mulberry)	
Tasar	400
Eri	1500
Muga	130
Total (B)	2030
Grand Total (A+B)	19030

(c) Several programmes and schemes to achieve the target have been instituted. The important ones are:

1. During the X Plan period, under the Catalytic Development Programme, a provision of Rs. 181.00 crores has been made for providing assistance to sericulture farmers/reelers to encourage them to adopt improved technology aiming towards improvement in quality and productivity;
2. The Central Silk Board (CSB) has evolved new bivoltine breeds with assistance from the Japan International Co-Operation Agency (JICA). The

commercial exploitation of these breeds has resulted in the production of international standard import substitute grade of mulberry raw silk in the country;

3. Through R&D efforts, the CSB has made a break through in tropicalising the bivoltine silkworm and has developed new varieties of mulberry plants with higher yields resulting in significant improvement in silk productivity;
4. The CSB has developed improved multi-end reeling units to encourage large scale production of international grade quality silk. These improved machines are being popularized among the reelers through the Catalytic Developmental Programme at important reeling clusters all over the country and are producing gradable quality raw silk using the reeling package developed by Central Silk Technological Research Institute of Central Silk Board;
5. The quality of yarn and fabrics in non-mulberry sector has also improved considerably through the introduction of motorized silk reeling/spinning machines and setting up of Common Facility Centres. The CSB has developed new designs in non-mulberry sector and same are being popularized under the brand "Vanya Silk";
6. The CSB has recently launched futures trading in cocoon and raw silk through National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange Ltd. (NCDEX) which, can be effectively used as a tool to cover the risks associated with price fluctuations to boost the production of silk in the country;

7. Following specific collaborative projects are being implemented in different states to exploit the region specific potentialities for sericulture development to enhance silk production:

- Special Swamajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) for tasar and eri culture in Bihar and Jharkhand;
- Development of eri culture in Andhra Pradesh;
- Pilot Project for the development of eri culture in Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Kerala;
- Micro project for introduction of eri culture in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh;
- Special SGSY project for the development of mulberry sericulture in Mizoram;
- Project for the development of oak tasar in Uttaranchal and Manipur;
- Manipur Sericulture Project and Chhattisgarh Sericulture Project with the assistance of Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC);
- Special SGSY Project for the development of muga silk in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland;
- Project for development of muga and eri silk in Bodoland areas of Assam; and
- Cluster development project for the development of sericulture in Bihar, Maharashtra, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram and West Bengal.

Statement

State-wise production of mulberry and Vanya raw silk during the last three years i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05

(Qty: in tonnes)

State	2002-2003					2003-04					2004-05				
	Vanya Silk					Vanya Silk					Vanya Silk				
	Mulberry	Tassar	Eri	Muga	Total	Mulberry	Tassar	Eri	Muga	Total	Mulberry	Tassar	Eri	Muga	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Andhra Pradesh	5629	21	—	—	5650	6054	14	—	—	6068	5084	16	10	—	5110
Assam	15	—	463	96	574	8	—	480	99	587	9	—	554	104	667

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Anunachal Pradesh	2	—	13	0.5	16	—	—	3	0.2	3.2	Neg.	—	4	0.1	4.1
Bihar	5	8	30	—	43	6	8	18	—	32	8	8	15	—	31
Chhattisgarh	2	64	—	—	66	1	118	—	—	119	2.3	120	1	—	123.3
Gujarat	The state has discontinued Sericulture activities vide letter No. G.R. No. SRI 1293-609KDI dated 10.7.2002														
Himachal Pradesh	17	—	—	—	17	12	—	—	—	12	12	—	—	—	12
Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	0	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu and Kashmir	100	—	—	—	100	85	—	—	—	85	90	—	—	—	90
Jharkhand	2	90	—	—	92	—	84	—	—	84	NEG.	91	1	—	92
Karnataka	6760	—	—	—	6760	5949	—	—	—	5949	7301.9	—	—	—	7301.9
Kerala	3	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	4	8	—	—	—	8
Madhya Pradesh	8	7	—	—	15	9	13	—	—	22	14	14	—	—	28
Maharashtra	65	9	—	—	74	42	8	—	—	50	37	5	—	—	42
Manipur	27	1	458	Neg.	486	27	1	434	Neg.	462	54	3	431	0.1	488.1
Mizoram	5	—	Neg.	Neg.	5	5	—	3	—	8	5	Neg.	3	0.1	8.1
Meghalaya	2	—	271	5	278	2	—	317	6	325	2.5	—	327	5.4	334.9
Nagaland	Neg.	—	78	—	78	—	—	96	—	96	0.5	0.2	98	0.1	98.8
Orissa	6	54	—	—	60	2	37	Neg.	—	39	2	33	1	—	36
Punjab	4	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	4
Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0.3	—	—	—	0.3
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0
Tamil Nadu	490	—	—	—	490	285	—	—	—	285	443	—	0.6	—	443.6
Tripura	5	—	—	—	5	4	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	4
Uttar Pradesh	10	3	—	—	13	9	2	—	—	11	9.5	2	—	—	11.5
Uttaranchal	10	—	—	—	10	9	3	—	—	12	9	4	0.6	—	13.6
West Bengal	1450	27	3	0.5	1481	1453	27	1	0.2	1481.2	1520.09	26	2	0.2	1648.29
Total	14817	284	1316	102	16319	13970	315	1352	105.4	15742.4	14620.1	322.2	1448.2	11016500.49	

SS, CSB—Nil

Neg—Less than 50 kg.

*[English]***New Drug for Malaria**

884. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Scientists have tested a new drug for the treatment of Malaria;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new drug has been put to use to eradicate Malaria in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the result achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, scientists have tested new combination drugs for treatment of malaria these are Co-artemether, a combination of artemether and lumefantrine, artesunate in combination with chloroquine or sulpha pyrimethamine which were evaluated by KEM Hospital, Mumbai and National Institute of Malaria Research, New Delhi respectively for treatment of *P. falciparum* malaria.

(c) and (d) Yes, the strategy of combination therapy (Artesunate + Sulfa Pyrimethamine) has been approved by Directorate of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme for drug resistant areas qualifying for change of drug policy.

Rural Teledensity

885. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the teledensity of Urban India as on 31 December, 2005;

(b) the teledensity of rural India as on 31 December, 2005;

(c) the reasons for not finding an increase in rural teledensity inspite of an unprecedented growth over the last three years; and

(d) the action being taken by the Union Government to improve the rural teledensity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The urban teledensity is 34.77% as on 31.12.2005.

(b) The rural teledensity is 1.8% as on 31.12.2005.

(c) The reasons for less increase in the rural teledensity are:

- Poor availability of power
- Affordability
- Scattered human population making provisioning of telecom services techno-commercial less viable
- Insurgency and inaccessibility on account of difficult terrains, etc.

(d) A number of steps have been taken by the Government to increase the telephone density in rural areas, which include the following:

- (i) Setting up of the Universal Service Obligation Fund by the Government for provision of telephones in the rural areas;
- (ii) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has relaxed the distance for laying outdoor cables from 2.5 Kms to 5 Kms for Landline Exchanges which would facilitate larger coverage in the rural areas from existing exchanges; and
- (iii) Increased provision of WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) phones by BSNL.

Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project

886. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project (MUIP) is to be shared between Central & State Governments;

(b) if so, the per cent of share of each Government;

(c) whether the Centre has released its contribution to this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Government has received Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for Mumbai under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) which includes Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project (MUIP). The funding pattern under JNNURM for cities having population of 40 lakh or more stipulates that the Central Government, the State Governments and the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/Parastatals should share the cost of the projects in the ratio of 35:15:50 respectively.

(c) to (e) Funds under the mission are released after appraisal of City Development Plans (CDPs), DRPs and Memorandum of agreements, (MoAs) and signing of tripartite agreement among Central Government, State Governments and ULBs, after the approval of Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee. The above requirements have not been completed as yet.

[Translation]

Review of Functioning of CAPART

887. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any periodic review of the functioning of CAPART and its fund distribution pattern during the last three years and current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government reviews the findings of the meetings of the committees constituted for CAPART in the States;

(d) if so, the number of meetings organized in this regard during the said period, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government is aware that many Non-Government Organizations funded by CAPART have been

appointed as members of the committee meant for scheme sanction and fund allotment;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of financial grant provided to each such NGO during the said period; and

(g) the steps taken to streamline the functioning of CAPART?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Textile Export

888. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries to which textile export has been made by India alongwith the quantity and value thereof during the last three years till date, year-wise;

(b) the details of foreign exchange earned thereby; and

(c) the names of the Textile producing States and the steps taken to increase the Textile exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) India's textile items are exported to more than hundred countries of the world. A Statement showing year-wise and value-wise textile exports to top 20 countries is enclosed.

(c) Most of the Indian states and Union Territories are producing textile items, Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to strengthen Indian textile industry for meeting the growing global competition. Some of the important initiatives taken are:

(i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.

(ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.

- (iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.
- (iv) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The mission comprises four mini-missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new market yards/improvement of existing market yards.
- (v) Ministry of Textiles has recast the Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) and Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme (APES) for speeding up the implementation of the Schemes and to actualize the vision of attaining export target of \$50 billion by 2010. This scheme is based on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and envisages engaging of a professional agency for project execution.
- (vi) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.
- (vii) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.
- (viii) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items are allowed to the garment exporters, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.
- (ix) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced w.e.f. 20.4.2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @ 10% under TUFS in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.
- (x) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (xi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

Statement

*Country-wise Total Textile Export (including RMG)
(Chapter 50 to 63)*

(Value Mn. US \$)

Sl.No.	Country	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006 (Apr-Aug' 05)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	USA	2908.34	2931.82	3231.99	1542.95
2.	UK	833.14	922.64	995.36	519.87
3.	German F Rep.	745.46	829.33	0.00	393.83
4.	U. Arab Emts.	804.95	1121.09	1079.03	338.48
5.	France	519.72	589.87	618.60	289.16
6.	Italy	429.61	537.74	624.95	280.01
7.	Spain	277.34	335.19	381.59	204.80

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Saudi Arab	250.26	320.73	326.72	142.22
9.	Canada	369.05	350.54	343.52	137.80
10.	Netherland	283.95	291.74	263.81	126.15
11.	Bangladesh	192.47	269.52	272.18	111.86
12.	Japan	235.40	244.64	216.75	103.40
13.	Belgium	216.40	215.97	230.90	102.01
14.	Turkey	143.57	217.64	222.34	94.10
15.	China P RP	81.22	142.97	117.32	93.46
16.	Korea RP	203.52	249.88	182.42	80.19
17.	Denmark	94.56	123.26	132.56	75.04
18.	Egypt A RP	90.89	121.63	131.15	66.09
19.	Sri Lanka	140.08	182.03	157.67	59.56
20.	Australia	136.19	130.51	137.78	58.07
21.	Other Countries	2932.02	3386.95	3857.23	1187.63
World Total		11888.14	13515.69	13523.87	6006.48

Source: Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India. DGCIS, Kolkata.

**Installation of Mobile Server in
North Eastern Region**

889. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the absence of an independent Server in Guwahati for six North Eastern Region States are likely to further deteriorate the mobile services;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to instal dependent Server as well as other devices in the region to ensure better connectivity of mobile phone;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any comprehensive scheme has been drawn out to improve and update mobile phone services

in the region in coordination with the private Mobile Service Providers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) No, Sir. For the purpose of Telecom Services, the North Eastern Region is divided into two service areas namely Assam and North-East Telecom Circle. Access Service Licenses have been granted to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and three Private Operators each in these service areas who provide mobile service.

The respective Mobile Service Providers of these services areas have installed their Mobile Switching Centres (MSCs) in Guwahati (for Assam Telecom Circle Service area) and at Shillong (for North-East Telecom Circle service area). In addition, MSCs have also been installed by the Operators at Aizawal, Jorhat and Dimapur.

BSNL is making all out efforts to expand its mobile network and enhance capacities in North Eastern Region to provide service up to Sub-Divisional Headquarters. BSNL has already covered 131 cities/towns/stations in Assam and 94 cities/towns/stations in North East Telecom Circle service areas. Apart from BSNL, private Operators licensed in these service areas are also providing mobile service in the North Eastern region. The presence of multiple Operators in the NE region has led to competition which would improve and update mobile services and also reduce the tariffs to the consumers of this region.

Reduction in Postal Charges

890. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the utilization of postal service has been drastically reduced during the last few years due to advancement of E-mail, telephone, mobile and internet services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the postal department has incurred huge losses during the last three years;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to reduce the rates of postal charges and improve the postal services; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Post Offices have a wide range of services. There is a continuous growth in traffic and revenues earned from business of premium products like Speed Post, Business Post, Express Parcel Post and Retail Post. Revenue and traffic figures of premium products during last three years are given in part (a) of the enclosed Statement.

Likewise, business both in Postal Life Insurance and rural Postal Life Insurance has also shown an upward trend. Sum assured and premium income in PLI and RPLI during last three years are given in part (b) of the enclosed statement.

There is a general increase in Savings Bank and Savings Certificate business in post offices also as seen from part (c) of the enclosed Statement.

However, there is a decline in traffic pertaining to traditional mail over the years due to advancement of alternative communication media like E-mail, telephone, mobile and internet services, and the service provided by private couriers to the public.

(c) and (d) The deficit of the Department during the last three years is as under:

Year 2002-03	Rs. 1364.40 crores
Year 2003-04	Rs. 1375.22 crores
Year 2004-05	Rs. 1381.84 crores

(e) and (f) At present, there is no proposal to reduce the rates. The Department has comprehensively inducted technology to meet customer expectations, to manage different operations, to enhance its efficiency and to contain costs. These interventions have been undertaken to improve quality of service.

Statement

(a) Revenue & traffic figure of the premium products during last three years

Products	Traffic (in crore) and revenue (Rs. in crores)					
	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Traffic	Revenue	Traffic	Revenue	Traffic	Revenue
Speed Post	6.34	243.01	8.27	298.35	9.60	354.16
Business Post	49.58	276.86	65.36	365.11	77.80	473.06
Express Parcel Post	0.58	26.10	0.67	31.45	0.66	37.70
Retail Post	1.15	7.87	4.64	33.65	8.15	50.50

(b) Sum assured and premium income in PLI and RPLI during last three years

Year	PLI		RPLI	
	Sum assured (Rs. in crores)	Premium income (Rs. in crores)	Sum assured (Rs. in crores)	Premium income (Rs. in crores)
2002-03	2110.21	590.84	3347.94	171.35
2003-04	2846.66	698.17	5949.97	245.32
2004-05	3830.64	904.58	7207.96	380.87

(c) Statement showing increase in SB & SC work in post offices during the last three years.

Year	Gross funds handled (Deposits & withdrawal) (Rs. in crore)	No. of saving accounts (all types) in crore	Saving certificate deposits (Rs. in crore)
2002-03	105128	14.91	33190
2003-04	139855	14.42	39166
2004-05	183801	16.15	33718

Taxes Outstanding

891. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of arrears of income and other corporate taxes being outstanding during each of the last three years till date;

(b) the number of persons/companies involved in it; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The amount of arrears of income tax and corporation tax outstanding during the period under reference is as under:

Financial Year	Amount of arrears outstanding
2005-06 (As on 1.1.2006)	Rs. 84,693 Crore
2004-05	Rs. 98,614 Crore
2003-04	Rs. 87,886 Crore
2002-03	Rs. 72,290 Crore.

(b) Person-wise or company-wise details of arrears are not centrally maintained.

(c) Apart from the statutory steps being taken for recovery of outstanding tax dues as prescribed under the Income Tax Act (including attachment of bank account, debtors, etc., attachment and sale of immovable property, etc. the following special measures are also being taken to expedite recovery of direct tax arrears:

- Monitoring of recovery of arrears in large cases by a Task Force.
- Identification of cases involving substantial amount of arrears pending before Commissioners (Appeals) and ITAT and requesting these authorities to dispose of such appeals early so that the demand can be collected during current financial year itself.
- Requesting the President of ITAT not to allow stay of demand beyond 180 days as prescribed in section 254 (2A) of the Income Tax Act.
- Requesting Settlement Commission to dispose off high-demand cases expeditiously.

Compulsory Voting

892. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Funds for Infrastructure

893. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has been approached for assistance to implement a viability gap funding for infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the World Bank thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Monsoon Prediction

894. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the monsoon prediction in our country is not being made accurately;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to buy United States made weather prediction instruments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The Monsoon prediction in our country is being done with reasonable accuracy. The success rate of India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts since 1988 has been high. During the last 18 years (1988-2005) IMD forecasts were qualitatively correct in 16 years, i.e. 89% of years. The exception was during years 2002 and 2004 both of which were drought years. The 2002 drought was due to exceptionally low rainfall during the month of July (49% of long term period) caused by unexpected sudden warming of sea surface over equatorial central Pacific that started in the month of June. It may be mentioned that the large deficient rainfall of July, 2002 was not predicted by any prediction group in India or abroad. In India, for the operational long forecasting of monsoon rainfall, the main approach used is based on statistical models. It is not possible to have 100% success for forecasts based on statistical models. The problems with statistical models are inherent in this approach and are being faced by forecasters "world wide". The alternate approach based on numerical models has also not shown very high success rate in predicting monsoon rainfall over India. But numerical models have the potential to provide forecasts as per the users demand in terms of temporal and spatial distribution.

(b) No, Sir. Long range forecast of monsoons cannot be made directly with instruments. For this purpose observed data of past many months needs to be put into numerical or statistical models.

However, looking at the potential of numerical models, IMD has already adopted a prediction system based on numerical models in addition to its existing system based on statistical models. For this purpose, IMD under a collaborative research program with Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore has adopted a numerical model developed at the Experimental Climate Prediction Centre (ECPC), Scripps Institute of Oceanography, USA. The ECPC model adopted by IMD was used to prepare an experimental forecast for monsoon 2005 and performance was found to be satisfactory. This model can be used by IMD for operational work only after some validation.

(c) and (d) In view of (a) and (b) above, Question does not arise.

*[Translation]***Encroachments in Footpaths**

895. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale encroachments have taken place in footpath in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the role of the Government in clearing this encroachment; and

(d) the success achieved by Government in clearing these encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and the Delhi Cantonment Board have reported that no encroachment on footpath has taken place in their area. Whenever any encroachment is noticed the same is removed immediately. The Public Works Department (PWD), Government of NCT of Delhi has also reported that no permanent encroachment exists on footpaths of PWD roads.

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has stated that there are encroachments on almost all the roads in local commercial areas despite repeated action from time to time for their removal. Encroachments on the right of way when noticed are cleared regularly.

The MCD has indicated that action is taken from time to time to remove the encroachments by conducting raids when the goods of the encroachers are removed/ Seized and prosecuted under relevant provisions of DMC Act. Efforts are made to prevent recurrence of encroachments that are cleared.

*[English]***FDI Cell**

896. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to create separate FDI cell in the Ministry of Textiles to mobilize FDI inflow; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Supply of Water to Sonia Vihar Plant

897. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure immediate release of Ganga Water to Sonia Vihar Water Treatment Plant, Delhi by the Government of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved therein;

(c) whether about 9,000 kilometer long water pipeline of Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has outlived their life and about 50 percent of the potable water goes waste through holes in the rusty pipelines; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to replace rusty pipelines to save wastage of precious water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Delhi Jal Board (DJB) and Ministry of Water Resources (Indus Wing) have informed that meetings were held by Ministry of Water Resources with all concerned, including officials of Uttar Pradesh, in order to expedite release of water from Tehri Dam to made available raw water to Sonia Vihar Plant. DJB has further informed that as temporary arrangement a formula has been proposed for release of 300 cusecs of water to Delhi in the months of April to December, and release of lesser quantity during the remaining three months of the year.

(c) and (d) DJB has further informed that their distribution network covers more than 9,000 kilometer of water pipelines which were placed in position at different times. As far as leakage from the pipelines is concerned, it occurs from the joints of older pipe lines and on account of illegal connections and large scale use of on line

boosters. Detection & repair of leakages of the pipelines and rehabilitation of old pipelines are undertaken by Delhi Jal Board as a continuous process.

Expansion of I.T. Sector

898. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan for expansion of IT services including mobile and broad band service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the proposed estimated expansion against the existing capacity and the expenditure involved; and

(d) the ways and means of meeting the total expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) With regard to broadband, Government has announced Broadband Policy 2004 to accelerate growth of Broadband services in the country. Broadband Policy envisages 20 million broadband subscribers by 2010. BSNL in collaboration with DOT is presently providing broadband connections in 233 cities catering to 4.2 lakh broadband customers.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) cellular subscriber base is 1.43 Cr. which covers all the 21 out of 23 Licensed Services Areas which excludes Delhi & Mumbai. The present Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) cellular Mobile Phone Subscriber base is 6.94 Lakhs and 8.32 Lakhs in Delhi and in Mumbai respectively. MTNL and BSNL have expansion plans using 3G technologies.

Norms for Mutual Funds

899. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether norms for mutual funds are likely to be eased;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have informed that they are at present not considering any proposal to ease norms for mutual funds.

Water Scarcity in India

900. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per recent UN study several metropolitan cities in world especially in Asia, Africa and Europe are likely to face acute water scarcity due to increasing population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cities in India which are likely to face acute water shortage due to increase in population by 2010 AD; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to solve this problem in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) World Water Development Report released by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) estimates that 7,000 million people in 60 countries will face water scarcity by 2050. The full extent of global water crisis would depend upon factors like population growth, consumption pattern and policy relating to waste-water re-use. Climate change will contribute approximately 20 percent towards global water scarcity.

(c) and (d) A statement showing demand, availability/supply position for 35 metropolitan cities compiled by regional committees of Ministry of Water Resources is enclosed. In order to provide safe drinking water and other infrastructure facilities including water supply, the Government has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3.12.2005 along with two omnibus schemes namely (i) Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) and (ii) Integrated Housing and Slum

Development Programme. 63 cities have been selected on the basis of population criteria as per 2001 census and religious/historic and touristic importance for coverage under the Mission. The cities/towns not covered under JNNRUM are eligible for assistance under UIDSSMT.

Guidelines for implementation of the schemes have been circulated to the State Governments. Setting up desalination. Plants is also permissible under this schemes.

Statement

Water demand, water availability, present and future source of water extracted from the status reports on water resources requirements and its availability in urban areas prepared by the regional committees

(Based on data furnished by the Department concerned of the respective State Governments)

Sl.No.	Urban Agglomeration	Water Demand		Water Availability/Supply		Present source of water supply	Resources to meet future demand
		2001	2021	2001	2021		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Ludhiana (Punjab)	242 (MLD) (Domestic) + 125 (MLD) (Industrial)	580 (MLD) (Domestic) + 160 (MLD) (Industrial)	375 MLD	There will be no shortfall in future	Under Ground Water through tube wells. Industry is making its own arrangement	50% through canals (Sidhwan canal) and 50% by tube wells. Assumed that industry will make its own arrangement
2.	Amritsar (Punjab)	175 (MLD) (Domestic) + 42.11 (MLD) (Industrial)	267 (MLD) (Domestic) + 52.64 (MLD) (Industrial)	232.56 MLD	There will be no shortfall in future	Under Ground Water through tube wells. Industry is making its own arrangement	50% through canals (UBDC system) and 50% by tube wells. Assumed that industry will make its own arrangement
3.	Faridabad (Haryana)	89.5 MGD (406 MLD) including 29.5 MGD (133 MLD) for Industrial and the balance for other uses.	160.77 MGD (730 MKLD) including 41.8 MGD (189 MLD) for Industrial and the balance for other uses.	40 MGD (182 MLD) Present supply demand will be met by canal system. Tube wells and Ranney wells.		Through tube wells	By canal water (Mewat canal) and ground water.
4.	Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)	255 (MLD) (Domestic) + 80 (MLD) (Industrial)	482 (MLD) (Domestic) + 80 (MLD) (Industrial)	Total supply is 265 MLD Shortage is 70 MLD.	From identified sources is 630 MLD.	Kolar river, Upper Lake, Tube wells and Dug wells.	Kolar river, Upper Lake, Ground water Namada river

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Indore (Madhya Pradesh)	318.20 (MLD) (Domestic) No Major Industry	671 (MLD) (Domestic) No mention of Industry	Total supply is 183.5 MLD. Shortage is 134.70 MLD	Extra requirement works out to 487.5 MLD, which has to be met by constructing projects on Narmada river.	Narmada river. Yashwant sager reservoir and Ground water.	Additional water supply project on Narmada river. A major project on Narmada river is also required.
6.	Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)	214.312 (MLD) (Domestic) + 25 (MLD) (Industrial)	327 (LD) (Domestic) + 25 (MLD) (Industrial) which is only the present demand	Total supply is 145 MLD. Shortage is 94.51 MLD.	The assessed requirements for 2021 will be met from identified sources.	Khandari Dam and Gour river. Pariat Dam and Phaguwa Ghat Narmada river & Ground water.	A location for intake on Narmada river near Tilwara Ghat has been identified to meet additional requirement of water and Ground water.
7.	Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	956 (MLD) (210 MGD)	1817 (MLD) (400 MGD)	Total supply is 770 MLD (170 MGD). Deficit is 186 MLD (40 MGD).	From identified sources is 2000 MLD (440 MGD).	Osmansagar, Himayatsagar, Manjira Phase- I & II and Manjira Phase- III & IV. Ground water through bore wells.	To meet the future water demand, the proposal prepared by HMWSSB envisages drawing raw water from foreshore of Nagarjunasagar in three phases.
8.	Visakha- patnam (Andhra Pradesh)	314 (MLD) (69 MGD) + 264 MLD (58 MGD) industrial requirement	521 (MLD) (115 MGD) + 592 MLD (130 MGD) industrial requirement	For VMC area total supply is 168 MLD (37 MGD). Deficit is 146 MLD (32 MGD).	For VMC area total supply is of the order of 168 MLD (37 MGD). Deficit will be 353 MLD (78 MGD).	Mudesaralova, Yeleru, Rairwada, Meghadrigedda Thalipudi Reservoir Scheme and Gosthani river	To increase the present draws from Yeleru Left main canal and Thalipudi Reservoir. Drawing water from Jhanjavathi reservoir and additional water from Godavari river.
9.	Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh)	150 (MLD) (33 MGD)	270 (MLD) (60 MGD)	Total supply is 155 MLD (35 MGD).	From identified sources is 270 MLD (60 MGD).	From Krishna River (Surface source) and Ground Water (including infiltration galleries in Krishna River Basin)	From Krishna River (Surface source) and Ground Water (including infiltration galleries in Krishna River Basin)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Bangalore (Karnataka)	1176 MLD (LDR) 1680 MLD (HDR)	2232 MLD (HGR&LDR) 1910 MLD (LGR&LDR) 3189 MLD (HGR&HDR) 2729 MLD (LGR&HDR)	705.5 MLD	2575 MLD	1. Arkavathy 2. Cauvery (i) Stage-I (ii) Stage-II (iii) Stage-III	Cauvery Stage-IV (i) Phase-I (ii) Phase-II (Cauvery Stage-V Sufficient to meet water demands up to 2025. To meet demands beyond 2025, BWSSB has to go for new resources.
11.	Nagpur (Maharashtra)	361 MLD	600 MLD (for consumption rate of 155.25 lpcd) 670 MLD (for consumption rate of 172.50 lpcd).	430 MLD	2670 MLD	Gorewada Tank, Kanhan river and Pench Irrigation Project	Rahuri Barrage on Kanhan river (350 MLD). Jamghat HE Project (1827 MLD). Additional Ground Water of 450 MLD.
12.	Greater Mumbai (Maharashtra)	3878 MLD (total requirements per GMMC norms) 2056 MLD (domestic requirement as per CPHEEO norms)	5081 MLD (total requirements per GMMC norms) 2741 MLD (domestic requirement as per CPHEEO norms)	2906 MLD (surface water) 60 MLD (ground water)	5293 MLD (surface water) 288 MLD (ground water)	Tulsi lake, Vihar Lake, Tansa dam, Vaitarna dam, Upper Vaitarna dam, Bhatsa dam and ground water	Middle Vaitarna, Gargai, Pinjal, Kalu project and ground water.
13.	Nashik (Maharashtra)	199 MLD (as per CPHEEO norms) 179 MLD (as per NMC with 135 lpcd)	345 MLD (as per CPHEEO norms)	Total water supply is 185 MLD including 7 MLD non domestic demand	325 MLD from surface sources and 16 MLD from ground water sources	Gangapur dam and Dama dam	Gangapur dam and Dama dam and also with construction of Gautami and Kashyapi dams.
14.	Pune (Maharashtra)	635 MLD (total requirement as per PMC) 468 MLD (domestic requirement as per CPHEEO norms)	777 MLD (as per CPHEEO norms)	At present 750 MLD water is supplied to the PMC area.	892.20 MLD from Khadakwasla project and an additional 29.64 mld from ground water	Khadakwasla Project and Temghar dam	PMC required to identify new sources since sanction to draw water from Khadakwasla project is valid up to 2002.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Kolkata (West Bengal)	2258.4 MLD	3124 MLD	3207.7 MLD	Future requirement can be met from surface and ground water sources	River Hooghly is the only source of surface water for KUA. Water Treatment Plants are functioning for water supply. Groundwater is also used through deep tube wells and hand tube wells.	Future demand has been proposed to be met by installation of new plants as well as increasing the capacity of the existing treatment Plants e.g. Garden Reach Water Works and Palla Water Works.
16.	Asansol (West Bengal)	136.35 MLD	206 MLD	165 MLD	Shortfall in future supply is projected as 14 MLD	Damodar, Ajay and Barakar river.	Completion of RCFA Part III water supply Scheme. Tapping of ground water resources etc.
17.	Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)	588.50 MLD	1226.50 MLD	310 MLD	1600 MLD	Ganga river, canal and tube wells.	Ganga Barrage, Kanpur
18.	Agra (Uttar Pradesh)	270.97 MLD	425.97 MLD	Figure not indicated in report	345 cusecs from Gokul barrage and Agra barrage.	Yamuna river and tube wells.	Gokul barrage and proposed Agra barrage.
19.	Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)	431 MLD	776 MLD	410 MLD	Future requirement will be met from Sharda Sahayak Canal System.	Gomti river and tube wells	3rd and 4th water works of Sharda Sahayak Canal System.
20.	Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)	210 MLD	330 MLD	235 MLD	Future requirement will be met from construction of second water works.	Ganga river and tube wells.	—
21.	Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)	180 MLD	300 MLD	140 MLD	Future requirement will be met from construction of second water works.	Yamuna river and tube wells	Second water works have been proposed to meet future requirement.
22.	Meerut (Uttar Pradesh)	267.37 MLD	400.20 MLD	267.37 MLD	Figure not indicated in report	Tube wells	—
23.	Patna (Bihar)	Figure not indicated in report	628 MLD (6.28 lakh K litres/day)	135 MLD (1.35 lakh K litres/day) and 60000-80000 KI/day.	The future needs for year 2021 and beyond can be met from Ground water.	72 Nos. of high yielding tube wells.	Ground water is available in abundance and the future needs for year 2021 and beyond can be met.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24.	Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)	Figure not indicated in reported	601 MLD (6.01 lakh K litres/day)	Present requirement is met from surface water source.	Future availability from surface water sources only.	Dimna Lake, Sitarapur lake and by pumping from ponding across Submarekha created by low height weir near mango bridge.	Chandil dam across Submarekha and Icha dam across Kharkai river.
25.	Dhanbad (Jharkhand)	Figure not indicated in report	635 MLD (6.53 lakh K litres/day)	Present requirement is met from surface water source.	Future availability from surface water sources only.	Small ponding at Jamadaba on river Damodar.	Bokaro Barrage and Konar dam.
26.	Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	809 MLD	1230 MLD	299 MLD	Future availability from surface water, ground water and seawater sources	Poondi, Cholavaram and Red Hills reservoirs system and ground water.	Gap may be bridged through Krishna Water Supply Project. Balance need to be met from other sources.
27.	Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)	249.41 MLD	437.858 MLD	153.284 MLD Gap of 9.157 MLD	276.254 MLD Gap of 161.604 MLD	Siruvani River Source Pillur Water Supply Scheme	Pillur River Scheme-II, scheme for Koundampalayam and Vadavalli Town panchayat from Bhavani river near Nellithurai and Aliyar river scheme.
28.	Madurai (Tamil Nadu)	215.04 MLD	264.53 MLD	115 MLD present gap of 99.96 MLD	Future availability expected to increase from proposed water supply schemes.	Surface water through Vaigai water supply scheme. Sub- surface water from 6 pickup wells. Metakkal, Thatcampathu, Kochadai collector well, Kochadai, Manaloor and Thiruppuvanam.	Kallar River Supply Scheme. Cauvery River Source, Rejuvenation of Tanks and supply Channel in and around Madurai Corporation and proposal for bringing additional water directly from Vaigai dam instead of drawing from riverbeds.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29.	Kochi (Kerala)	274.2 MLD	358.7 MLD	250 MLD	By implementing various schemes the availability will be nearly equal to demand	Kochi water supply schemes and seven other water supply schemes	Apart from the present sources, two augmentation schemes and four new water supply schemes.
30.	Rajkot (Gujarat)	135 (Domestic demand) 162 MLD (Total demand)	315 MLD	94 MLD Short Fall is 69 MLD	94 MLD Short fall is 221 MLD	Aji-I Water Supply Scheme, Nyari-I Water Supply Scheme, Bhadar Water Supply Scheme, Nyari-II Water Supply Scheme, Drinking water from Mahi canal	It is proposed to raise the capacity of Nyari-I dam by rising earthen dam and widening of water weir. Extension of distribution network is also proposed.
31.	Surat (Gujarat)	573 MLD	1440 MLD	Installed capacity (Surface + Ground) is 673 MLD Average water supplied is 540 MLD	24x7 supply is envisaged in the year 2021 in Water Supply Master Plan.	River Tapi is the major source of water. The Water Works are Varachha, Sarthana, Rander.	Rain water recharging and harvesting plan, modernization of existing infrastructure, private sector participation etc.
32.	Vadoara (Gujarat)	275.90 MLD	460 MLD	275.85 MLD At present there is no shortfall	275.85 MLD Future shortfall of 184 MLD has been projected	Shri Sayaji Sarovar French wells in Mahi river Fazalpur Poicha, Raik, Dodka. Tube wells.	Vadodara Municipal Corporation has prepared two master plan. Source Augmentation on Narmada River basin and Upgradation of distribution system.
33.	Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	Figure not indicated in report.	279 MGD (1266 MLD)	Average daily water supply is 529.786 MLD	Future supply estimated to be 334 MGD (1516 MLD)	Filter plant at DDW, French well, Raska project, Intake well-I, Bore wells.	Filter plant at DDW, French well, Raska project, Intake well-I, Intake well-II and Bore wells.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
34.	Delhi	(a) 893 MCM* (2445 MLD) (b) 1326.56 MCM* (3632 MLD)	(a) 1574 MCM (4310 MLD) (b) 2288 MCM (6265 MLD)	1231.04 MCM/year (3369 MLD)	4017.28 MCM/Year (11000 MLD)	River Yamuna, River Ganga, Bhakra Storage and ground water	Apart from the present sources water is also proposed to be made available from the proposed Tehri Renuka, Kishau and Lakhwar-Vyasi dams
35.	Jaipur (Rajasthan)	361.1 MLD (BIS norms) 349 MLD (CPHEEO norms)	796.5 MLD 685 MLD	Present water supply is of the order of 313 MLD.	Availability is expected to increase from proposed surface water sources	Tube wells, Ramgarh Lake & TW outside urban areas, Hand pumps, Cavity wells.	From existing Bisalpur dam and from proposed Isardah dam.

(a) *As per CPHEEO norms @ 172 LPCD

(b) ** As per DJB proposal @ 274 lpcd

Note: This statement is based on the data/information furnished by the concerned Department of the State Governments.

International Bandwidth

901. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has suggested the Union Government to allow resale of international bandwidth to introduce more competition in the segment;

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

(c) the terms and conditions prescribed by TRAI for resale of international bandwidth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended the introduction of "Resale" in the International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC) segment of International Long Distance (ILD) market be introduced after five years of opening up of ILD sector *i.e.* with effect from February 2007.

(b) The recommendations are under consideration. No final decision has been taken so far.

(c) TRAI has not recommended any terms and conditions.

No-Frill Account

902. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued any directions to the nationalised and commercial banks regarding no-frills account;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of compliance of banks on the RBI directions; and

(c) its impact on the account holders particularly the savings bank account holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) With a view to provide banking services to all segments of the people, particularly the poor, the Reserve Bank of India has advised all the scheduled commercial banks to make available a basic banking 'no frills' account either with 'nil' or very low minimum balances as well as charges that would make such accounts accessible to vast sections of the population. So far, 69 scheduled commercial banks have introduced 'no-frills' account.

(c) The introduction of 'no-frills' account is expected to benefit large sections of the population in opening a savings bank account with very low minimum balance and facilitate their inclusion into the banking system.

Share of Speed Post

903. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the overall market share of the speed post is only ten per cent as compared to the private courier companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to overcome the conditions to improve market share of speed post business and to capture a larger share;

(d) whether the charges of speed post for the local mails are higher in comparison to private courier charges; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to reduce the charges of the speed post for local mails to compete the private couriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) A survey undertaken in 2001 estimated the market share of Speed Post to be around 8.41%. Based on the growth projections of Express Market in the survey and the actual revenue earned by Speed Post, the market share of Speed Post is estimated to have increased to around 11%. Speed Post has shown a healthy growth of 22 to 23% per annum, over the years.

(c) Number of value additions, like free pick-up facility, door to door delivery, internet based track and trace, volume based discount and credit facility have been provided over the years. Number of booking counters and offices with late hours of booking has been increased. Further, special attention is being paid to the marketing and promotion of Speed Post.

(d) The range of rates for local mails charged by the private couriers covers rates below as well as higher than the local Speed Post. Department of Posts offers a

range of services from Postcard at 50 paise, inland letter card at Rs. 2.50, Book Post at Rs. 4.00 and letter at Rs. 5.00 in addition to Speed Post. Private couriers do not offer such a range of services. Taken together, the market share of mail products offered by Department of Posts is around 50% of the mail market.

(e) There is no proposal at present to reduce the charges of Speed Post.

Export Competitiveness

904. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) and service tax incidence have an adverse impact on export competitiveness;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to encourage export competitiveness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No Study has been undertaken by this Ministry which indicates that the Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) and service tax incidence have an adverse impact on export competitiveness. However, as per information provided by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, a study conducted by Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) indicates that Service Tax and Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) would increase the overall cost of exportable product by 1.2%.

(c) As per information provided by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, some of the initiatives/strategies which are aimed at encouraging export competitiveness, under the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09, include:

- Simplifying procedures and bringing down transaction costs.
- Neutralizing incidence of all levies and duties on inputs used in export products under various export promotion schemes.
- Providing increased market access to certain focus products.

- Facilitating technological and infrastructural upgradation through import of capital goods and equipment under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG).

Autonomy to CSIR

905. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give more autonomy to CSIR to ensure that innovators of new technology get adequate monetary rewards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether CSIR also promotes public private participation in Research and Development; and

(e) if so, the details there?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Greater autonomy shall be provided to the CSIR for enabling it to move more into public-private partnership (PPP) mode. The year 2006 will be the year of next phase reforms in CSIR, which are needed not only for enhancing PPP but also for CSIR's continued relevance to the National Innovation System. The required reforms were identified through Kelkar committee. A time bound action plan for implementation of these reforms has already been drawn and the process of implementation is underway.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) CSIR has a well laid out practice for sharing part of the monies realized through external earnings with innovators. The guidelines for such sharing are reviewed from time to time in order to align them with the changes in internal and external settings. The broad pattern of sharing currently prevalent is as follows:

Source	Innovator's Share
Premia and royalty received from Technology/IP Licensing	40% of the receipt
Contract Research	15% of Contract amount minus Capital expenditure
Consultancy	2/3rd of the intellectual fees.

CSIR is taking several new initiatives for encouraging Public-Private-Partnership (PPP). Indeed CSIR conceptualized and implemented the New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI), the largest PPP in the country within the R&D domain. Further CSIR is in the process of considering the recommendations of Sivaram Committee for enhancing and deepening Public-Private-Partnership in CSIR for implementation. These include:

1. Allowing investment of knowledge as equity (sweat equity) in private/public sector companies.
2. Setting up of incubation centres at CSIR laboratories.
3. Setting up knowledge alliances by CSIR constituent laboratories with industry in the new and emerging areas of science and technology.
4. Allowing mobility of researchers from CSIR to industry/R&D institutions and *vice versa* for seamless transfer of knowledge and learning of newer skills.
5. Providing flexibility to CSIR in ownership rights of intellectual property and/or knowledge base for closer interaction with industry.
6. Promoting CSIR as an innovation centric organization by allowing CSIR scientists to setup venture companies while being in service.

Performance of District Rural Development Agencies

906. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of review of performance of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) carried out if any, together with the findings thereof;

(b) the details of DRDAs found to be deficient especially in terms of management of funds, implementation of schemes and benefiting the targeted groups etc. in each case;

(c) whether conduct of audit of the accounts of DRDAs in statutory to be carried out by independent audit agencies;

(d) if so, the rules governing appointment and termination of the statutory auditors and scope of their exercise; and

(e) the details of instances where DRDAs accounts have been referred to the C&AG for scrutiny?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Performance of DRDAs is reviewed constantly through various monitoring measures such as District Level Monitoring, field studies by National Level Monitors. Periodic examination of accounts and fund utilization/management is also conducted by the office of the Chief Controller of Accounts of the Ministry.

(b) The Ministry of Rural Development has put in place a mechanism to ensure proper management of funds by the DRDAs, at the time of release of second instalment a detailed scrutiny is undertaken in which the position of utilization of funds and progress of implementation of programmes are taken into account.

(c) and (d) The statutory auditors of the DRDAs are the State Accountants General. As per the Scheme guidelines, the accounts of DRDAs are required to be audited by Chartered Accountant or any other auditor appointed for the purpose. According to the Guidelines of Accounting Procedure circulated by the Ministry, preference will be given to Chartered Accountants listed in the panel of AGs of the States or Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG).

(e) The Accounts of DRDAs are open to test audit by the C&AG. In terms of the Scheme guidelines, the C&AG has the right to conduct the audit of the accounts of the society and for this purpose shall have the right of access to the books of accounts and other relevant records of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs).

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange Reserves

907. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) total foreign currency reserve till 31st December 2005 with the Government and the deficit incurred in comparison to last year; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the foreign currency reserve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) India's foreign exchange reserves (including foreign currency assets, gold, special drawing rights and the reserve tranche position at the IMF) stood at US\$ 137.2 billion at end-December 2005, compared with US\$ 141.5 billion at end-March 2005, indicating an erosion of US\$ 4.3 billion during April-December 2005.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not have a policy target with regard to level of foreign exchange reserves. However, the broad principles guiding exchange rate management include a policy to maintain a level of foreign exchange reserves which takes into account not only anticipated current account deficits but also liquidity-at-risk arising from unanticipated capital movements.

Payment of Outstanding Dues

908. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of phone companies are yet to clear huge outstanding dues of the Government;

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

(c) whether any direction has been issued by the Government to these phone companies;

(d) if so, the names of companies who did not comply with the directions; and

(e) the details of action taken against those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Details of outstanding dues against the various Telecom Service Providers as on 31.01.2006 is given in the Statement. The outstandings are mainly on account of disputes raised by the Service Providers on amounts determined as payable. In several cases there are disputes before various forums like Courts and Tribunals where recovery

is held up due to stay orders. In a few cases the Telecom Service Providers are under liquidation.

(c) and (d) Payment of outstanding dues are followed up with the Telecom Service Providers regularly. The names of Service providers against whom dues are still outstanding are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The action taken by the Government include reminders, invocation of available Bank Guarantees, arbitration proceedings and follow up with the official liquidators. Suspension and cancellation of the licenses as per License Agreements have also been resorted to in some cases.

Statement

Licence Fee dues outstanding in respect of Telecom Companies as on 31.01.2006

(Amount: Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	Name of Licensee	Service	Dues outstanding
1	2	3	4
1.	BPL Mobiles Comm. Ltd.	CMTS	29.00
2.	Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	CMTS	0.51
3.	Koshika Telecom	CMTS	453.00
4.	Spice Comm. Ltd.	CMTS	10.56
5.	Archana	E-Mail	0.21
6.	Business India	E-Mail	0.10
7.	Data line	E-Mail	0.21
8.	Datapro	E-Mail	0.16
9.	Elnet Technology Ltd.	E-Mail	0.08
10.	ICNET Ltd.	E-Mail	0.03
11.	Data Access Ltd.	ILD	15.64
12.	VSNL	ILD	49.00
13.	Tata Power Co.	IP-II	0.06
14.	Rail Tel	IP-II	1.79
15.	Arvind Mills Ltd.	PMRTS	0.28
16.	Mobilkom Ltd.	PMRTS	0.01
17.	ITI Ltd.	PMRTS	0.02
18.	ABC Communication India Pvt. Ltd.	Radio Paging	19.39
19.	Beltrom Telecomm. Ltd.	Radio Paging	0.02
20.	BPL Systems & Project Ltd.	Radio Paging	0.32

1	2	3	4
21.	D.S.S. Mobile Comm. Ltd.	Radio Paging	10.38
22.	Easycall Comm. (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Radio Paging	4.81
23.	Elder PWI Comm. Ltd.	Radio Paging	8.62
24.	Elder PWI Paging Service Ltd.	Radio Paging	17.33
25.	Matrix Paging (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Radio Paging	10.42
26.	Microwave Comm. Ltd.	Radio Paging	18.41
27.	Modi Korea Telecomm Ltd.	Radio Paging	24.57
28.	Netherland-India Comm. Enterprise	Radio Paging	10.77
29.	Punwire Mobile Communications	Radio Paging	460.98
30.	Punwire Paging Service	Radio Paging	81.90
31.	RPG Paging Services Ltd.	Radio Paging	16.06
32.	Telesistem (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Radio Paging	2.20
33.	Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	UASL	0.49
34.	Tata Teleservices	UASL	4.28
35.	Microwave	V-Mail	1.84
36.	ITI Ltd.	VSAT	0.05
37.	Dataline & Research	VSAT	1.00
38.	HECL	VSAT	38.66
39.	Marcast	VSAT	1.74
40.	Satnet Telecom	VSAT	1.11
Total			1,296.25

Inflation Rate

909. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inflation rate is likely to rise from four per cent to five per cent during the period between January 2005 to January 2006 as per the assessment of the Government;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has examined the possibility of any adverse effect like fueling up of inflationary pressure as a result of remittances from abroad; and

(d) if so, the action generally taken to check the inflationary pressure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b)

The annual point-to-point inflation rate in terms of the wholesale price index (WPI) for the period January 2005 to January 2006 was as under:

Month/Year	Inflation Rate (%) WPI*
January 2005	5.54
February 2005	5.01
March 2005	5.39
April 2005	5.91
May 2005	5.55
June 2005	4.32
July 2005	4.29
August 2005	3.66
September 2005	4.06
October 2005	4.71
November 2005	4.21
December 2005	4.40
January 2006	4.35

*Based on weekly averages.

(c) and (d) The Government reviews price situation based on various factors including remittances from abroad and undertakes policies as and when required. The anti-inflationary policies of the Government in the recent past included strict fiscal and monetary discipline; rationalization of excise and import duties of essential commodities to lighten the burden on the poor; effective supply-demand management of sensitive items through liberal tariff and trade policies; and strengthening the public distribution system.

Conversion of WLL into Mobile Service

910. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has converted the Wireless Local Loop (WLL) service of private mobile operators into complete mobile service through required license fee;

(b) if so, the details of mobile operators and the number of their WLL service for which approval has been accorded under the scheme during each of the last three years and current years; and

(c) the revenue earned during the last three years and in the current year as on January, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) All the Private Basic Service Licencees offering Wireless Local Loop (Limited Mobile) service had migrated to Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services Licence in November, 2003. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The revenue earned by the Government from these licencees is as follows:

Year	License fee (Rs. in crores)	Entry fee + Penal Interest (Rs. in crores)
November 2003 to March 2004	151.21	2168.76
2004-05	452.78	
2005-06 (upto December 2005)	588.78	

As details are collected quarter-wise, the figures for month January, 2006 are not maintained.

Statement

Details of Wireless Local Loop (Limited Mobile) service and migrated to Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services Licence in November, 2003

Sl.No.	Name of the Licensee	Service Area
1	2	3
1.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
3.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	Bihar
4.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	Delhi
5.	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Delhi
6.	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Gujarat
7.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	Gujarat
8.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	Haryana

1	2	3
9.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh
10.	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Karnataka
11.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	Karnataka
12.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	Kerala
13.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
14.	M/s Bharti Infotel Ltd. (formally M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.)	Madhya Pradesh
15.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	Maharashtra
16.	M/s Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	Maharashtra
17.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	Orissa
18.	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd.	Punjab
19.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	Punjab
20.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	Rajasthan
21.	M/s Shyam Teleslink Ltd.	Rajasthan
22.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	Tamil Nadu
23.	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Tamil Nadu
24.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	UP (East)
25.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	UP (West)
26, 27.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	West Bengal & A&N

*[English]***Schemes for Development of Cities of Gujarat**

911. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes proposed for the development of various cities of Gujarat this year alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose;

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has submitted any proposal in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decision being taken in this regard;

(d) whether the World Bank is providing any financial assistance for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the project-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Allotment of Lands

912. SHRI SUDAM MARNDI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1835 dated March 15, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in collecting the information; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected and action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) The complete information is awaited from concerned agencies and the matter is being pursued with them.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Indian Post Office (Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 30(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 2006 under sub-section (4) of section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3697/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:—

- (i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) (Sixth Amendment) Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 738(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 2005.
- (ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing or Lending in Foreign Exchange) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 739(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 2005.
- (iii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Exchange Derivative Contracts) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 750(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 2005.
- (iv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Deposits) (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 28(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 2006.
- (v) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 29(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3698/06]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 41(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2006, containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 60(E) dated the 9th February, 2005, issued under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3699/06]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) The Customs (Compounding of Offences) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 755(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) G.S.R. 746(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 89/2005-Cus., dated the 4th October, 2005.
- (iii) G.S.R. 1770(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus (N.T.), dated 3rd August, 2001.
- (iv) G.S.R. 1821(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of export.
- (v) S.O. 1822(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of export.
- (vi) S.O. 1(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd January, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (vii) S.O. 43(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification

No. 36/2001-Cus (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.

- (viii) S.O. 91(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of export.

- (ix) S.O. 92(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of import.

- (x) S.O. 114(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3700/06]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3701/06]

- (5) A copy of the Prevention of Money-laundering (Maintenance of Records of the Nature and Value of Transactions the Procedure and Manner of Maintaining and Time for Furnishing Information and Verification and Maintenance of Records of the Identity of the Clients of the Banking Companies, Financial Institutions and Intermediaries) (Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English

versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 717(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum, under section 74 of the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3702/06]

12.02 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Twenty-Fourth Report

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I beg to present the Twenty-Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (14th Lok Sabha) on "Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan".

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We shall now take up item No. 5—Railway Budget.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MD. SALIM (Kolkata—North-East): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, four persons have been killed in firing in Jammu and Kashmir. A child of 9 years has also been killed. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was decided in the Leaders Party meeting that there would be no Zero-hour today. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the Budget Speech of the Railway Minister.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the Minister of Railways.

*Not recorded.

12.03 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET 2006-07*

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to present the Budget Estimates 2006-07 for the Indian Railways at a point in time when, there has been a historical turn around in the financial situation of the Indian Railways. Our fund balances have grown to Rs. 11,000 cr and our internal generation, before dividend has also reached a historic level of Rs. 11,000 cr. With this unprecedented achievement, we are striding to realize the Hon'ble Prime Minister's dream of making Indian Railways the premier railway of the world. Sir, this is the same Indian Railways which, in 2001 had deferred dividend payment, whose fund balances had reduced to just Rs. 350 cr and about which experts had started saying that it is enmeshed in a terminal debt trap. You might term this a miracle, but I was confident that: I extend my thanks all of them. ...(*Interruptions*) They should keep patience for listening me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They have decided that today they will listen you.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: They are good people.

*"Mere zunu ka natija zaroor niklega,
isee siaah samandar se noor niklega."*

Sir, the whole nation can see today that track is the same, railwaymen are the same but the image of Indian Railways is aglow. This has been the result of the acumen, devotion and determination of lakhs of railwaymen. Sir, the general perception so far has been that Railways' finances cannot be improved without increasing second class passenger fares. But my approach is entirely different. In my view, improvements can only be brought about by raising the quality of services, reducing unit costs and sharing the resultant gain with customers. Therefore, instead of following the beaten path, we decided to tread a new one.

*"Hum bhi dariya hai, apnaa hunar hame maloom hai,
jis taraph bhi chal padenge, rastaa ban jayega."*

Financial turn around of Indian Railways

Sir, I take pride in informing this House that in the first nine months of the year 2005-06, the Railways' output

has been record breaking. The growth in freight loading is 10% and in freight revenues it is over 18%. Based on the trends up to now, the freight loading target is being increased from 635 mt to 668 mt and the goods revenues target from Rs. 33,480 cr. to Rs. 36,490 cr. Thus, Railways would achieve incremental freight loading of 111 mt in two years itself, which will be 133% higher as compared to the incremental loading of 83 mt of entire Ninth Five Year Plan period. Tenth Plan targets of 624 mt loading and 396 billion tonne kilometers have been surpassed one year in advance. Sir, I not only hope but firmly believe that we would surpass the Tenth Five Year Plan's incremental target of 63 billion tkm for freight business by over 200%.

According to Revised Estimates, Passenger Earnings, Other Coaching earnings and Sundry Other earnings are likely to register growth of 7%, 19% and 56%, respectively. Gross Traffic Revenues are expected to be Rs. 54,600 cr, which are higher as compared to the previous year and Budget Estimates of the current year by 16% and 7%, respectively.

Ordinary Working Expenses are likely to increase by Rs. 1,200 cr. mainly due to post-budgetary increase in fuel prices. Lease charges paid for rolling stock taken on financial lease have till now been shown as operating expenditure, without segregating interest and principal repayment component. As mentioned in my speech last year, to bring in more transparency and better accounting practices, necessary changes in accounting system have been made to reflect expenditure on lease charges accordingly, with necessary approval. These changes in the accounting system have effected a reduction of Rs. 1,616 cr. in the operating expenses. Overall, Revised Estimate of Ordinary Working Expenses has been kept at Rs. 35,184 cr, which is Rs. 416 cr lesser as compared to the Budget Estimates. As a result of these changes in the accounting system, an improvement of around 3% is also reflected in the operating ratio.

According to the Revised Estimates of the current year, Indian Railways' internal resources before dividend, would reach a historic level of Rs. 12,966 cr. Even after setting aside the effect of the accounting changes mentioned earlier, this amount would be Rs. 11,350 cr. Fund balances would be at a record level of Rs. 11,280 cr. and the operating ratio is expected to improve to 83.7%.

*Also placed in Library, See No. LT 3703/06.

[Shri Lalu Yadav]

Technical Upgradation and Modernisation

The technological upgradation in every field of Railway working will be given the utmost priority so that the reliability of services can be improved to gain customers' confidence and also bring down the operating and maintenance costs.

Wagons are Railways' revenue earning assets. While the Railways modernized their locomotives and coaches in nineties, wagons presently deployed still use the technology of the eighties. It is not possible to load our covered and open wagons beyond 64 tonnes, except with certain heavy commodities. RDSO is designing new high capacity wagons. Commodities like coal can be loaded up to 70 tonnes in these new wagons. Prototypes of these wagons will be developed in the coming year and trials will be completed. Regular production of the new wagons, with payload to tare weight ratio of even better than 3:1, will start from 2007-08. All possible efforts will be made to start manufacturing aluminum and stainless wagons also in 2006-07 to improve the payload to tare weight ratio.

Sir, while this is an important achievement, it is not enough. In the future we have to manufacture 25 tonne axle load wagons which can carry loads up to 80 tonnes and whose payload to tare weight ratio is around 4:1. We need to manufacture special wagons to increase Railways' share in the transportation of commodities like motor vehicles, petrochemicals, etc. at present this technology is not available in our country. Therefore, transfer of technology will have to be encouraged for developing such wagons for which the Railways will provide the necessary policy framework.

Use of modern Signaling and Telecommunication Technology

The advanced railways of the world are extensively using modern signaling and telecommunication technology to enhance safety, streamline train operations and increase line capacity. Using such technologies is cost effective. I, therefore, have decided that modern signaling and telecommunication means will be used for improving safety and enhancing line capacity for an in depth study of various advanced signaling and telecommunication alternatives. This team will submit its report within three months. After reviewing the report, a policy will be framed for deciding extensive use of these technologies.

Use of IT In Improving Railway Services

There has been a remarkable improvement in operating efficiency of freight transportation with the help of Freight Operating Information System. In the first phase of this project Rake Management System has been implemented at all major locations. In the second phase, Terminal Management System will also be implemented at all major locations. Apart from this, work is also progressing speedily on control charting, crew management and Coaching Operations Information System. Next year, all efforts will be made to implement Control Charting System on all the divisions. The complete computerization of Control Office, Coaching Operations Information System and interfacing of both these systems with National Train Enquiry System will benefit passengers and other rail users.

Railways run more than 2500 ordinary passenger trains everyday. From the point of view of speed and line capacity, MEMU and DEMU trains are more suitable in some circumstances. Therefore, I have decided to introduce MEMUs and DEMUs in future. This will not only enhance line capacity of various rail sections, but will also reduce the journey time.

Public Partnership and Public-Private Partnership Schemes

Today, when Indian Railways are scaling historic heights in freight and passenger business, we will not allow resource constraints to hamper expansion of rail network. We will encourage public partnership and public-private partnership schemes for effecting significant improvements in rail services and development and expansion of rail network. To this end, a level playing field under a transparent policy will be provided to investors by further simplifying the policy of public-private partnership. This is the need of the hour:—

*"Ek kadam hum badhe, ek kadam tum,
aao milkar naap de, phasle chand tak."*

We invite State Governments, local bodies, ports and private sector to invest in rail projects. Ministry of Railways will make available many models of public partnership and public-private partnership. Till now, such projects were being implemented by SPVs under MOU agreements. Under this policy, eligible rail projects will also be awarded through open bidding so that a level playing field can be provided to all the parties by making the entire process

competitive and transparent. It has also been decided to encourage such partnerships for unviable projects by arranging viability gap funding. At present, many partnership projects involving an investment of few thousand crore rupees, are under implementation. We would like to expand and develop the railway network by increasing the extent of this partnership many times over.

We are constructing 500 ROBs on cost sharing basis with many State Governments. Sir, through this august House, I request all State Governments, and local bodies to come forward for the construction work of ROBs. I would like to assure the House that Railway would not lag behind in making available its share of Rs. 7,500 cr. out of total amount of Rs. 15,000 cr required for construction of one thousand ROBs. All proposals that are received from State Governments, for construction of ROBs, with cost sharing commitment, which fulfill necessary conditions would be processed without delay.

Our policy of permitting private parties to run container trains has been well received. 14 applicants have deposited Rs. 540 cr as registration fee. All the eligible applicants will be permitted to run container trains before 31st March and model concession agreement will also be prepared by the end of the current year. Through this august House, I would like to assure all stake holders that a level playing field would be made available without any discrimination.

I am happy to inform the House that the first double stack container train in Indian sub-continent would be inaugurated in the first week of March which is likely to make rail-based container transportation more economical and competitive.

Rail linked container depots and integrated logistic parks will have to be created to make the new container policy successful and increase railways' share in non-bulk freight business. Railways have enough land in its goods sheds, which could be made use of for this purpose. In this regard, we would encourage creation of such facilities under public-private partnership schemes by making a transparent policy in a short time. With the help of this policy, we would be able to mobilize sizeable investments in container depots and container wagons. Today the hon'ble Minister of Finance is taking us to task. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): He takes all to task. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Last year I had announced a new Wagon Investment Scheme. This scheme has become popular among customers and so far proposals have been received for manufacture of 25 rakes at an investment of Rs. 250 cr.

For transportation of specific commodities like motor vehicles, special wagons are needed which are presently not included in this scheme. New container train operators would also need container flat wagons in sizeable numbers. Under the present policy, customers can avail the benefits of wagon investment schemes and new container policy only by procuring wagons directly whereas in other modes of transportation, practice of leasing trucks, aircrafts, etc. is also prevalent. Therefore, we will have to develop a strong wagon leasing market for which we will take suitable policy initiatives.

Record Breaking Output in Freight Business

In the current year, we are fast moving towards establishing a new record of loading 668 million tonnes, with a historic growth of 11%. This is the second consecutive year when we have increased our market share with a growth rate higher than the growth rate of the economy. This record breaking performance has been possible through reduction in wagon turn round time and through additional loading of 4 to 8 tonnes per wagon. This has enabled an increase of 100 mt in our loading capacity and generation of over Rs. 5,000 cr in freight revenues. This is the foundation of our financial turn around.

With the increase of just 1 tonne in the loading capacity of a wagon, our annual loading capacity goes up by about 1 crore tonnes. In the last two years, we have increased the loading capacity of key wagons by 4 tonnes per wagon and enhanced the Railway's annual loading capacity by 4 crore tonnes. Further, by starting 23 tonne axle load BOXN freight trains on identified routes, we have made our presence amongst the few countries which run heavy axle load trains. I would like to congratulate the entire railway family and particularly, the civil and mechanical engineers for unit cost of our freight traffic in the current year is lower than in 2001 not only on constant but also on current prices. Despite heavy increase in diesel prices and additional burden of thousands of crores of rupees on account of salaries and pension, Railways have reduced their unit cost which is a historic achievement. In a competitive environment, one can be successful only by sharing the benefits of

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

reduction in per unit cost with customers. This is what we have done.

Sir, I am happy to inform the House that it has been decided to run 25 tonne axle load trains on two routes, for the first time in the Indian sub-continent, in the coming year as a pilot project. These primarily non-passenger routes are Dallirajhara to Bhilai and Daitari to Banspani. Next year, after taking stock, 23 and 22.3 tonne axle load trains will be introduced on important traffic routes, in a phased manner. Simultaneously, over the next five years, the feeder routes to the new freight corridor will be strengthened to make them fit for 25 tonne axle loads.

Sir, the changes made last year in the system of train examination have yielded positive results. Taking this further, on certain identified routes the validity of brake power certificate for closed circuit rakes has been increased from 6000 to 7500 km. With a view to increase the average lead of railway freight, Preferential Traffic Schedule has been modified and it has been decided that freight booked for distances beyond 800 kms. will be given priority within the class.

The development of terminals and execution of traffic facility works on the highest priority has been taken up in order to reduce the wagon turn round time. Efforts have been made to introduce round the clock working in major sidings and goods terminals and enable them to handle full rakes. Apart from this, the system for wagon maintenance and freight train examination and also crew links and locomotives of trains are being rationalized. In fact, the team-work, coordination and synergy of the various departments in the Railways has enabled this historic achievement.

To maintain double digit growth in the coming year, these measures would be further intensified. To ensure continued improvements in the wagon turn round time adequate fund allocation would be made to terminal improvement and traffic facility works. Information Technology as a management tool would be extensively used in freight transportation, to enable a keen watch to be kept on the rakes, effective pipeline management and terminal management.

In order to meet the rising demand of traffic, an increase of about 25% will be made in the wagon manufacture next year. In addition to this, thousands of new wagons will be got manufactured and made available for traffic through wagon investment scheme and new

container train operators. It is expected that the largest number of wagons will be manufactured in the year 2006-07 and a new milestone will be established. Considering the pace of growth of our freight traffic, expansion of the production capacity of wagons in the near future is essential. Similarly, it is proposed to increase the production of electric locomotives by 17% and diesel locomotives by 5%. Production of high power locomotives is also being increased to ensure optimum utilisation of line capacity.

Reduction of Losses in Passenger Business

Sir, we have succeeded in increasing profits in the freight segment by adopting the "increase volumes- reduce unit costs" strategy. It has been decided to adopt the same strategy in the passenger business too, and work towards cutting losses. It has been decided to cut down losses in the coaching services by about Rs. 1000 cr in the coming year and by 50% in the next three years by increasing the number of coaches and occupancy of trains, reducing travel time and reducing losses in the catering and parcel segments.

Hon'ble Members have continuously been requesting to increase the speed and reduce the travel time of popular passenger trains. Sir, the All-India railway timetable was first published in the year 1866 by the "Bradshaw company". The benefits of modern rolling stock, signaling and track structure, however, have yet not been fully reflected in the existing timetable to increase the speed of passenger trains. Hence, I had decided to re-work this all-India timetable de-novo, that is, with Zero base in the current year. This work is proceeding on high priority and for this, computerized simulation techniques, as necessary, will be employed. As a result of the review conducted so far, it has been decided to convert more than 200 mail/express trains to superfast mail/express category by increasing their speeds. With the preparation of a new time table on zero base, the journey time of a majority of the Shatabdis, Rajdhani will reduce and certain Mail/Express trains is likely to decrease by up to four hours.

Sir, efforts are also being made to reduce the travel time of New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Express in two phase, by one hour in each, so that Howrah Rajdhani Express departs after office hours and reaches Howrah before office time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Is Siyaldah also included in it?

SHRI LALU PRASAD: It is not mentioned in it, I will tell about it in reply. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Tell us which is not mentioned. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Similar efforts are being made to reduce the travel time of all Rajdhani Expresses including New Delhi-Patna Rajdhani.

Spare coaches made available by increased train speeds and better utilisation of rake links are being used for augmenting the number of coaches in popular passenger carrying trains. The number of coaches in about 190 popular passenger carrying trains is being increased up to 23-24 coaches. With the augmentation of these trains by about 500 coaches waitlisted passengers can get confirmed reservation thereby enabling Railways to earn Rs. 200 cr additionally every year.

The running of longer passenger trains results in reduction in the unit cost per train kilometre and increase in the revenues per train kilometre. Hence, a project to increase the platform lengths at 200 stations at a cost of Rs. 60 cr. has been approved to enable running of more 23-24 coach length trains. In addition, it is proposed to extend the platform lengths on about 250 more stations. Sir, there will be no fund constraints in completing these projects and, in the course of the year, all infrastructure necessary to run longer trains will be put in place.

To improve the load factor of AC classes I had started a pilot project from 26 January 2006 for upgradation of lower class passengers to higher class without any additional payment. From today this is available on all Rajdhani and mail/express trains. Both Indian Railways and the passenger would gain together by this scheme:-

*"Hum na haare par wo jeete, aisa hai prayas
musafir ho rail ka raja, hum sabki ye aas."*

Reduction in losses in Parcel and Catering Business

While we do provide inexpensive transport to the traveling public, we do not provide free food nor do we

book parcels at very low rates. Yet the Railways incur losses of over Rs. 1000 cr. on these.

Policy of leasing out the pantry cars and catering units at large stations through open bids has yielded good results and the license free received from pantry cars has increased manifold. As in the current year, next year also, the process of awarding licenses for pantry cars and catering units at major stations through open bids will be continued further.

Apart from regular meals, modern facilities to make available catering items will be made available at stations and trains. Food plazas, food courts, etc. will be opened and automatic vending machines will be installed to dispense cold drinking water and other beverages. This will not only improve catering facilities but will also help in cutting its losses.

The present capacity utilization in case of parcel is less than 25%, which is causing a loss in this business. During the current year, we have reduced these losses by registering a growth of 30% in parcel earnings through better capacity utilization. To achieve our objective the leasing policy of brake and parcel vans have been liberalized. To improve the capacity utilization, open tenders will be invited with the reserve price initially set at the scheduled parcel rates, and in case of inadequate response this would be reduced to 50% in the first instance and finally to 25%. Now parcels can be loaded and unloaded at all stations where the halt is 5 minutes or more and the leaseholders can themselves prepare the loading manifest. To eliminate the incidence of theft in luggage vans all brake vans carrying parcels and luggage will be strengthened with steel walls. Assistant Guards cabins could also be leased out to the lease holders of brake van and parcel van, apart from the courier companies. The 150 kg ceiling for booking luggage in the brake van has also been removed.

Generally, ordinary passenger trains have brake vans at both ends, each with four tonne capacity. Most of these brake vans are running vacant due to lack of demand. It has been decided that the luggage portion of all such brake vans of ordinary passenger trains would be converted to second-class compartments. Over a two-year period this would result in savings of around 300 GS coaches and also reduce parcel losses.

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

Year of Passenger Service with a Smile 2006

Sir, we have decided that the year 2006 shall be the year of Passenger Service with a smile.

*"Mun me bhav seva ka, hotho par muskan,
Behtar seva wazib daam, rail ki hogi yeh pehchan.
isliya Badhi hai U.P.A Ki Shan,
Aur Ja rahi hai inki Jan"*

Strategy to shrink queues at booking counters

More than 10,000 tickets are being issued everyday through the interest. From today the facility of i-ticket has been made available on all mail and express trains. The charges leviable on issue of e-tickets have been reduced by Rs. 20 per ticket in higher classes and by Rs. 15 per ticket in sleeper class. Passengers can now buy i-ticket and e-ticket through Rail Travel Service Agents also. The extension of this facility will help reduce queues at PRS counters.

At present, PRS is functioning at 1290 locations in the country while UTS is functioning at 380 locations. By the end of the current year, in all 1310 PRS centres and 425 UTS centres will be operational. It is proposed to open 800 more UTS centres at all 'A', 'B', 'C' & 'D' category stations and some important 'E' category stations in the coming year. A pilot project is on the cards to install 200 automatic ticket vending machines in Mumbai suburban area of Central and Western Railways. These machines will be connected with the UTS and will dispense tickets automatically through smart cards.

To make unreserved tickets available freely, we have formulated a '*Jansadharan Ticket Booking Scheme*'. Under this scheme pre-paid UTS counters will be available to unemployed youth. Apart from this, under the '*Gramin Ticket Booking Service*', agency will be given at roadside stations to unemployed rural youth for issuing tickets. These two schemes will be introduced on identified stations on pilot basis.

Improvement in passenger amenities

To modernize the passenger amenities, we have decided to make all 'A' & 'B' category stations as model stations. It has been decided to take the help of architects in all divisions to make station buildings more beautiful, comfortable and with modern look. Sir, I would like to assure the House that passenger amenities works will

not suffer from any fund constraints and the public will see a visible difference in the get up and available facilities at all major stations in next two years.

Sir, about 1.60 cr. passengers travel on Indian Railways everyday. Apart from increasing non-fare revenues from commercial publicity, catering, parking, banking, etc. the stations offer immense possibilities as regard their beautification and modernization. To exploit this fully, modern facilities, such as ATM, cyber cafes, etc. would be provided at all major stations speedily.

A new policy for commercial publicity has been drawn up, under which the publicity rights for an entire division would be given to a single agency selected through open tender. Initially this would be implemented as a pilot project on a few divisions. A pilot project is on to upgrade retiring rooms, waiting rooms, station buildings, lavatories, etc. under public-private partnership schemes, at a few station. This would be further expanded.

Modern facilities in Passenger Trains

LHB design passenger coaches of new technology are available only in Lucknow-New Delhi Shatabdi Express and Mumbai-New Delhi Rajdhani and August Kranti Express. In the coming year, along with Patna and Sealdah Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains will be run with these modern coaches.

Four popular trains would be provided with the world-class passenger amenities and interiors. These four trains are Hazrat Nizamuddin-Gwalior Taj Express, New Delhi-Patna Sampurn Kranti Express, Chennai Bangalore Vrindavan Express and New Delhi-Barauni Vaishali Express. Passengers will relish the experience of traveling in this modern, done-up coaches.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam):
What about Hyderabad? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I am telling.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: During rebuilding of coaches, it is proposed to provide facilities such as more comfortable seats, public address system and electronic information display, better lights, etc. The aesthetics of the coach interiors will be improved by using modern materials in coach flooring, inside walls and roof.

IRCTC has been entrusted with the entire responsibility of providing all passenger amenities in Mail and Express passenger trains. Corporation will award license through open bidding to provide all services including catering, bedroll and cleanliness of trains and toilets. These services will also be made available on such mail and express trains, which do not have a pantry car. Feedback forms taken from passengers will be monitored through a computerized system and all possible efforts would be made to improve services based on these suggestions. All these activities will be started on a few trains as a pilot project. On successful implementation, it would be extended to other trains.

Railway Safety

Sir, I am happy to inform the House that overaged tracks and bridges and track circuiting works on all stations on A, B and C routes will be completed to March 2007. After completion of these railway safety works, light rails on golden quadrilateral and its diagonals will be replaced by heavy rails and the works of multi-aspect colour light signaling will be completed at all the stations located on A and C routes. The balance works under Special Railway Safety Fund will be completed by March, 2008. Sir, what is even more gratifying is that the renewal of assets becoming due after 2001 is being sanctioned on a concurrent basis and executed. Thus, all the renewal works due up to 2004 have been sanctioned. With the completion of above safety works there has been a remarkable reduction in railway accidents and the number of consequential trains accidents has come down from 473 in 2001 to 234. Sir, we are making sufficient fund provision under Depreciation Reserve Fund and I am confident that now the railways will not be short of funds for completing their safety related works.

Railway Security

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is deploying escort parties for about 1000 passenger trains everyday. Access control and security at about 600 stations is being

provided through the RPF. In order to provide security to women passengers, the Railways are providing special squads in compartments reserved for women in the suburban rail area also special arrangements are being made for the security of women. In view of the important role of the RPF in the security of passengers, the modernization of this force is being given special attention. On Republic Day this year, 7 RPF employees were honoured for exceptional work with bravery medals by His Excellency, the President of India.

Staff Welfare

Sir, with their continuous hard work 14 lakh railwaymen have effected a historic turn around in the financial position of the railways. In my New Year message to railway men I had assured them that to the extent possible their expectations would be met in the current year.

*"Kaamagaaro ki lagan se, hai tarakki sabki,
hausla inka badhao, ki yeh kuchh aur baddhe."*

For the valuable contribution made by the railwaymen to the turnaround of the Indian Railways, I propose to increase the contribution to Staff Benefit Fund for the next year by almost nine times from the present level of Rs. 26 per employee to Rs. 226 per employee. To expand the facilities in staff quarters and staff colonies, the allocation is proposed to be enhanced significantly.

Sir, due to non-availability of community halls in railway colonies, non-gazetted employees face many difficulties for occasions such as marriages etc. For the facility of employees we have decided to construct 100 community halls.

Adequate funds would be made available for speeding the construction works of officers and staff quarters, community centres, staff institutes and officers' clubs in the headquarters of all new zones, divisions and other areas including the headquarter of East Central Railway at Hajipur. These construction works will be completed in a time bound manner, after acquisition of the land.

Sir, the running staff are required to stay in running rooms, which are often far from their headquarters. Away from their homes, the running staff face difficulties in arranging their food at odd hours. Therefore, based upon consensus achieved after consultations with all concerned staff federations food at nominal rates will be made available to running staff during duty hours.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Also serve chickens in railway.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I will also serve chicken but first let other departments have it, then we will give.
...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, gangmen and keymen maintain the track in difficult conditions. I myself have seen them working in adverse conditions like severe summer and biting cold. Therefore, for about 1 lakh such employees, I have decided to make available quality shoes, socks, gloves, summer/winter uniforms and necessary implements.

Improvement in medical facilities

It has been decided to set up one new super-specialty hospital with facilities in cardiology and nephrology at Patna in East Central Railway. Apart from this, three new divisional hospitals at Agra, Raipur and Nanded and construction of Phase I of new hospital building at Integral Coach Factory, Perambur have been sanctioned. It has been decided to construct guest rooms in Central Hospitals and super-specialty referral hospital. It is proposed to make available sufficient funds to provide artificial limbs, etc. to physically challenged employees.

Human Resource Development

The staff strength of railways has, compared to 1990, come down by about 3 lakhs, while the throughput in this period has gone up considerably. As a result the staff productivity in this period has approximately doubled. To maintain improved productivity Railway's manpower needs have to be rationalized in such a way that there is no shortage of manpower in safety and operation and no staff are idling on unnecessary posts. At the same time, the railway employees have to be equipped with multiple skills and not just single skill. Given the growth rate of our throughput, we have to succeed in doubling the per employee productivity again in the next 7-8 years.

Special Recruitment Drive for filling up vacancies SC/ST/Backward Classes

Sir, a special recruitment drive is on in the current year for filling up vacancies scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. So far over 6,000 vacancies have been filled. As per the new decision of the government, a special drive will be launched to fill up the backlog of vacancies in the other backward castes next year.

Extension of the period of concession in the maximum age limit of the candidates belonging to SC/ST/Backward Classes

Owing to socio-economic condition, candidates belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes living in rural areas are not able to apply for Government jobs within the prescribed age limit. Hence, I have extended the period of concession of the maximum age limit, expiring on 3rd February, 2006, by a year.

Railway Recruitment Boards

To simplify the recruitment process in railways, the application form has been simplified. Candidates can now also download the application form from the RRB website or use a photocopy of the Employment Notification. On-line examinations have been successfully organized by RRB, Bangalore and Chennai, for recruitments in certain categories. It is planned to expand this to other categories of posts and other recruitment boards.

Sir, the average candidate seeking a job in the Railways finds it difficult to obtain necessary verification of certificates from gazetted officers. Hence, it has been decided that it would now not be necessary for candidates appearing in RRB examinations to send attested copies of the certificates along with the application except caste Certificate.

Concessions

In the last budget, I had announced 50% concession in Second Class fares to farmers and milk producers for travel to institutes of National level in other parts of the country for the purpose of training/learning better agricultural practices and dairy farming. Considering the requests received from farmers all over the country, I propose to give this concession in Sleeper Class also.

It is proposed to give 50% concession in Second Class & Sleeper Class fares to persons who have lost their limbs in accidents or due to any other causes, for travel to institutes of national level, for transplantation of artificial limbs like Jaipur Foot, etc. along with attendant.

Public Sector Undertakings

The performance of Public Sector Undertakings has been satisfactory during the year 2004-05 also. During 2004-05, Indian Railway Finance Corporation registered a turn over of Rs. 1959 cr. posted a net profit after tax of Rs. 405 cr and paid a dividend of Rs. 115 cr. Container Corporation of India Limited registered a turnover of

Rs. 2052 cr. with a net profit of Rs. 429 cr. and paid a dividend of Rs. 94 cr. IRCON International Ltd. has registered a turnover of Rs. 1014 cr with a net profit of Rs. 62 cr and paid a dividend of Rs. 20 cr. RITES Ltd. registered a turnover of Rs. 240 cr with net profit of Rs. 41 cr. and paid a dividend of Rs. 12 cr. IRCTC earned incomes of Rs. 128 cr as against Rs. 70 cr during the previous year and posted a net profit of Rs. 5 cr. Rail Tel Corporation of India registered a revenue of Rs. 65 cr against Rs. 26 cr in the previous year. RVNL incurred an expenditure of Rs. 393 cr on capital account on works in progress. The total revenues of KRCL have increased from Rs. 245 crores to Rs. 288 crores showing an increase of 18% compared to the previous year.

Outstanding achievements of Railways in sports

An international World Railway Badminton Championship was organized by Railway Sports Promotion Board in November 2005 at New Delhi. Indian Railways emerged as champion in this competition. In the Commonwealth Wrestling Championship 2005 held at Cape Town, South Africa, Indian Railway wrestlers won 6 Gold, 3 Silver and 3 Bronze medals. Apart from this, Indian Railway sportspersons have, this year, won nine national titles in athletics, basketball, diving, handball (Women), Kabaddi (Women) and powerlifting.

The Neelgiri Mountain Railway has been declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO. This, along with Darjeeling Himalayan Railway have been described as Mountain Railways of India.

While presenting the Budget for the current year, I had announced that free training would be imparted to railway personal of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries. The training Programme has received overwhelming response and has generated good will for Indian Railways. It has been decided to extend this training programme to Mekong-Ganga Cooperation countries as well.

Passenger Services

Sir, on the 18th of February "the Thar Express" has been introduced between Munabao in India and Zero Point railway station near Khokhrapur in Pakistan. This weekly broad-gauge express passenger train would help cultivation of people to people contact of the two countries.

People of all religions and communities from all corners of the country visit dargah of Khwaja Garib Nawaz

Hazrat Muinuddin Chishti Saheb in Ajmer to pay their obeisance. For the convenience of devotees, I propose to run Graib Nawaz Express from Ranchi, Kishanganj and Bangalore (Yashwantpur) to Ajmer.

Indian Railways have started running 150 kmph speed trains in Delhi-Agra Section. Now the journey between Delhi-Agra can be covered in just 1 hour 56 minutes. Soon a 150-kmph passenger train will be started on the Delhi-Kanpur-Lucknow route also. Next year the maximum speed of some mail/express trains connecting towns such as Ajmer, Jaipur, Varanasi, Chapra etc. will be increased from 110 kmph to 120 kmph.

New Trains

I propose the following services for the year 2006-07:

1. Valsad-Udhna (Surat)-Chhapra-Sonpur Sharmik Express (weekly)
2. Ahmedabad-Patna Azimabad Express (weekly)
3. Muzaffarpur-Kolkata (Chitpur) Tirhut Express (weekly)
4. Darbhanga-Kolkata (Chitpur) Mithilanchal Express (bi-weekly)
5. Kishanganj Garib Nawaj Express (weekly)
6. Yeswantpur Garib Nawaj Express (weekly)
7. Ranchi Garib Nawaj Express *via* Varanasi (weekly)
8. Saharsa-Patna Kosi Express (daily)
9. Sonpur-Chhapra-Jammu Tawi Mour Dhawaj Express (weekly)
10. Delhi-Patna Garib Rath (AC) (weekly)
11. Delhi-Mumbai Graib Rath (AC) (weekly)
12. Delhi-Chennai Graib Rath (AC) (weekly)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please. You can make suggestions during the course of discussion, not now.

...(Interruptions)

There are Air Conditioned trains for poor people.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): What about Tamil Nadu?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD:

13. Saharsa-Amritsar Graib Rath (AC) (bi-weekly) *via* Barauni, Hajipur, Sonpur, Chhapra, Gorakhpur
14. Bangalore-Darbhanga Express *via* Chennai, Patna (weekly)
15. Link Express between Darbhanga and Guwahati with 5609/5610 Avadh-Assam Express (Daily)
16. Delhi (New Azadpur)-Saharsa Poorabiya Express *via* Lucknow (weekly)
17. Valsad-Udhna (Surat)-Kanpur Udyogkarmi Express (weekly)
18. Rae Bareli-Pratgarph-Lokmanya Tailk (T) Link Express (bi-weekly)
19. Bhubaneswar-Baripada Express (tri-weekly)
20. Durg-Gorakhpur Express *via* Faizabad (weekly)
21. Delhi-Rai bareli Express (tri-weekly)
22. Chennai-Mangalore Express (tri-weekly)
23. Chennai-Trivananthapuram Express (daily)
24. Chennai-Trivananthapuram Express (weekly)
25. Chennai Egmore-Nagercoil Express (weekly)
26. Chennai-Coimbatore Express (weekly)
27. Madurai-Tirupati-Manmad Express (weekly)
28. Howrah-Puri Express (bi-weekly)
29. Bhubaneswar-Pondicherry Express (weekly)
30. Visakhapatnam-Nizamabad Express (bi-weekly)
31. Howrah-Mumbai Express (weekly)
32. Tatanagar-Yesvantpur Express (weekly)
33. Chennai-Bilaspur Express (weekly)
34. Nagpur-Raipur Intercity Express (daily)
35. Pune-Lucknow Express (weekly)
36. Indore-Bhopal Intercity Express (daily)
37. Bhuj-Bareilly Express (tri-weekly)
38. Jabalpur-Jammu Tavi Express (weekly)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi):
What about those trains which were announced earlier?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: All have been commenced.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Speech of the hon'ble Minister.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD:

39. Jaipur-Amritsar Express (bi-weekly)
40. Radhikapur-Sealdah Link Express with 3453/3454 Gôur Express (daily)
41. Mathura-Alwar Passenger (daily)
42. Machilipatnam-Tirupati Fast Passenger (tri-weekly)
43. Gudur-Tirupati Passenger (daily)
44. Hajipur-Sonpur-Chhapra-Siwan-Thawe Passenger (daily)
45. Mailani-Palia Kalan Passenger (MG) (daily)
46. Jalandhar City-Nakodar DMU (daily)
47. Asansol-Bokaro (MEMU)
48. Bankura-Ranchi Passenger *via* Purulia
49. Jodbani-Kolkata Express (tri-weekly) (after gauge conversion)
50. Ajmer-Udaipur City Express (after gauge conversion)
51. Purna-Nanded-Patna Express (after gauge conversion) (weekly)
52. Purna-Adilabad Passenger (after gauge conversion) (weekly)
53. Nanded-Adilabad Passenger (after gauge conversion) (daily)
54. Madurai-Rameswaram Passenger (after gauge conversion) (daily)

*Not recorded.

55. Kumarghat-Agartala (after commissioning of new metre gauge line) (daily)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prabunath ji, nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going in record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lalu ji, please wait one minute.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When I told him to sit down, you stood up.

[English]

Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD:

Extension of trains

It gives me great pleasure to announce the extension of run of the following services:

1. 6039/6040 Chennai-Varanasi Ganga Kaveri Exp. (4 days a week) to Chhapra (2 days a week)
2. 3245/3246 Danapur-New Jalpaiguri Capital Express to Kamakhya (Guwahati) (4 days a week)
3. 7605/7606 Mumbai-Nanded Nandigram Express to Nagpur (after gauge conversion)

4. 7203/7204

5. 439

6. 1321/1322

7. 355/356

8. 6513/6514

9. 385/386

10. 7227/7228

11. 8507/8508

12. 8305/8306

13. 8467/8468

14. 8563/8564

15. 211/212

16. 8239/8240

17. 9105/9106

18. 207/208

19. 4887/4888

20. 5631/5632

21. 1095/1096

Vijayawada-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express to Kakinada Town & Bhavnagar

Tirupati-Ongole Passenger to Chirala

Pune-Nanded/Mudkhed Passenger to Nizamabad

Hyderabad-Chittapur Passenger to Wadi

Bangalore-Bijapur Express to Bagalkot (after gauge conversion)

Sholapur-Bijapur Express to Bagalkot (after gauge conversion)

Vasco-Vijayawada Express (4 days a week) to Howrah

Visakhapatnam-Nizamuddin Hirakud Express to Amritsar

Raipur-Sambalpur Express to Bhubaneswar

Puri-Jaipur Express to Jodhpur

Bangalore-Visakhapatnam Prashanti Express to Bhubaneswar

Puri-Sambalpur Passenger to Rourkela

Bilaspur-Itwari Express to Nagpur

Ahmedabad-Delhi Mail to Haridwar

Okha-Surendranagar Passenger to Bhavnagar

Haridwar/Kalka-Jodhpur Express to Barmer

Guwahati-Jodhpur Express to Barmer

Pune-Ahmedabad Ahimsa Express (tri-weekly) to Jodhpur

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

22. 6311/6312 Tiruvananthapuram-Jodhpur Express to Bikaner
23. 9777/9778 Jaipur-Agra Fort Express to Gwalior
24. 1469/1470 Jabalpur-Kota Express to Jaipur
25. 1271/1272 Itarsi-Bina Vindhyachal Express to Habibganj
26. 193/194 Jaipur-Kota Passenger to Shamgarh
27. 5267/5268 Lokmanya Tilak (T)—Muzaffarpur Express to Raxaul
28. 1DM/2DM Delhi-Meerut City Passenger to Muzaffarnagar
29. 2967/2968 Jaipur-Chennai Express to Coimbatore
30. 823/824 Tiruchhirappalli-Kumbakonam Passenger to Mayiladuturai (after gauge conversion)

They are not listening, they are missing my speech.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: There is provision of all the trains.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lalu ji, you please sit down for one minute.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD:

31. 6231/6232 Mysore-Kumbakonam Express to Mayiladuturai (after gauge conversion)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going in record, you please listen to me. Please sit down. Railway budget is being introduced so I request you that you please put your demand of your constituency or any provisions at the time of discussion.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the proper time. Only the hon'ble Minister's speech will go in the record and nothing else.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD:

32. 895/896 Tiruchhirappalli-Thanjavur Passenger to Mayiladuturai (after gauge conversion)
33. 751/752 Madurai-Manamadurai Passenger to Rameswaram (after gauge conversion)
34. 753/754 Madurai-Manamadurai Passenger to Rameswaram (after gauge conversion)
35. 4201/4202 Mathura-Lucknow Express (via Faizabad-Varanasi) to Patna (3 days a week)
36. 4845/4849 Jodhpur-Ahmedabad Express to Bandra (T)
37. 2555/2556 Gorakhpur-Rohtak Gorakhdham Express to Bhiwani

They are not listening entire thing, I will get it published in all the newspapers. ...(Interruptions) All the states have been covered. They are missing.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Silence please. This is not the proper way.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD:

Increase in Frequency

I am reading about the proposals for the entire country regarding the extension of trains and increase in their frequency and they are urging me to speak on the gauge conversion. I will tell about gauge conversion later.

Hon'ble Members will be happy to know that frequencies of some popular trains shall be increased. Details are given below:

1. 1037/1038 Patna-Pune Express from weekly to bi-weekly. ...(*Interruptions*)

Our trains run ...(*Interruptions*) They should listen me patiently. I am just now going to tell as to when will be done. They should not get impatient. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD:

2. 2683/2684 Bangalore-Ernakulam Express from weekly to bi-weekly

I am submitting about Bangalore-Ernakulam Express, it already runs from Patna. ...(*Interruptions*) I have made it bi-weekly. ...(*Interruptions*). This train is running from Patna, earlier it was weekly, now it has become bi-weekly. Lakhs of Students of Bihar study in Pune so now it has been made bi-weekly. ...(*Interruptions*) It is a commendable step on the part of railway to run this train from Patna. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of the hon'ble Minister.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD:

3. 2661/2662 Chennai Egmore-Tenkasi Pothigai Express from bi-weekly to 3 days in a week (will run daily to Sengotai after gauge conversion)
4. 2715/2716 Amritsar-Nanded Sachkhand Express from 5 days in a week to daily
5. 377/378 Belgaum-Miraj Passenger from 5 days in a week to 6 days in a week

6. 379/380 Belgaum-Miraj Passenger from 4 days in a week to 6 days in a week

7. 2811/2812 Hatia-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express from weekly to bi-weekly

8. 5625/5626 Bangalore-Guwahati Express from bi-weekly to tri-weekly

9. 2501/2502 New Delhi-Guwahati Sampark Kranti from bi-weekly to tri-weekly

10. 2345/2346 Howrah-Guwahati Saraighat Express from tri-weekly to 5 days in a week

11. 2327/2328 Howrah-Dehradun Upasana Express from weekly to bi-weekly

12. 4319/4320 Kathgodam-Dehradun Express from bi-weekly to tri-weekly

I have been receiving requests that the 2649/2650 Karnataka Sampark Kranti Express running daily between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Yeshwantpur (Bangalore) should cover more territory of Karnataka. In deference to these suggestions, I propose to re-route the 2649/2650 Karnataka Sampark Kranti Express to run via Itarsi, Manmad, Pune, Hubli, Arsikere, Yeshwantpur twice a week.

In response to public demand, I propose to re-route 3289/3290 Rajendranagar-Jammu Tawi Archana Express, presently running via Varanasi, Sultanpur and Lucknow to run via Raebareilly, Pratapgarh and Lucknow.

Construction of Freight Corridor

Sir, in my reply to the Railway Budget Discussion in April 2005, I had informed the House the importance of constructing a Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor on the Golden Quadrilateral and its diagonals. Hon'ble Prime Minister had also announced from the ramparts of the Red Fort that a Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor would be developed. I am happy to inform the House that, it is now proposed to construct Dedicated Multimodal High Axle Load Freight Corridor with computerised control on Western and Eastern routes at an estimated cost of

*Not recorded.

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

Rs. 22,000 crores. In the first phase of the Eastern Corridor Project, a separate freight corridor will be built from Ludhiana to Sonnagar via Ambala, Saharanpur, Khurja and Allahabad.

They should first listen me, let me read the entire speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am demanding front corridor from Kolkata while it is being given from somewhere else. Who so ever has sent this proposal it should be from Kolkata. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Will he not allow me to take credit for it. ...*(Interruptions)* First he should let me read the entire speech.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the proper time. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Please let me also take some credit ...*(Interruptions)* He should speak only after I finish my speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Acharia ji, you should speak at the time of discussion,

[English]

this is not the proper time.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Earlier it was upto Howrah, now it is to be extended upto Haldia. ...*(Interruptions)*

The primary feeder routes from Sonnagar to Durgapur via Gomoh, Sonnagar to Tatanagar via Garhwa Road and Barkakana to Bokaro via Chandrapura will be upgraded in order to carry heavier trains of coal and steel traffic. It will also be extended upto ports in West Bengal as per traffic needs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of the hon'ble Minister.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: They should first listen my entire speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lalu ji, you please continue your speech.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: The primary feeder routes will be converted to dedicated freight corridor at the appropriate time. The Western Corridor will start from Jawaharlal Nehru Port and will be routed via Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Palanpur, Jaipur and Rewari to Tuglakabad and Dadri. Both the corridors will be joined by a link between Dadri and Khurja. The feeder routes of the Western Corridor connecting ports of Gujarat will be upgraded. Hon'ble Prime Minister would be inaugurating these projects soon.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the proper time. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of the hon'ble Minister.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD:

Enhancement of production capacity of Rail Wheel Factory Chhapra

Sir, in my last Budget Speech I had announced the setting up of a new wheel manufacturing plant in Chhapra.

*Not recorded.

Due to unprecedented increase in freight loading, the demand for our wagons has increased significantly. Therefore, we have decided to increase the capacity of this plant from 50,000 to 1,00,000 wheels per year.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the proper time. I will not allow you.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please speak at the time of discussion.

SHRI LALU PRASAD:

The production capacity of Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, is proposed to be increased from 1250 to 1500 coaches. The expansion of the production capacity of RCF, Kapurthala is also underway. With this our annual coach production capacity will go up by 26% to 2900 coaches. The metre gauge workshop at Bhavnagar will be converted to broad gauge to be able to overhaul 50 broad gauge coaches every month. This year, maintenance facilities for freight stock at 34 places will be upgraded. Similarly, the maintenance facilities for coaches will be upgraded at 19 places.

[*English*]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, nothing in includes for Andhra Pradesh, no new trains, no extensions, no corridor etc. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the proper time I will not allow you.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD:

Expansion of Samastipur Workshop

Presently Samastipur Workshop produces 25 new wagons every month. The production capacity of this workshop will be increased and it will also rehabilitate 50 wagons every month.

Construction of DMU Shed and Wagon Workshop at Sonpur

Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) services in and around Sonpur are being increased. This would require DMU coaches to be homed at Sonpur. Hence, the setting up of a DMU shed at Sonpur is being proposed. The setting up of this shed will enable proper maintenance of DMU coaches. At present there is no wagon overhauling workshop in East Central Railway. In view of increasing requirement, it is proposed to set up a wagon overhauling workshop at Sonpur, with the capacity to overhaul 180 wagons per month.

[*English*]

13.16 hrs.

(*At this stage, Shri Shrichand Kriplani and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

13.17 hrs.

(*At this stage Shri Shrichand Kriplani and some other hon'ble Members went back to their seats*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of the hon'ble Minister.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD:

Proposal regarding Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala

The production units of the Railways are second to none in quality. They only need full autonomy to enable them to compete with other companies at home and abroad. Many cities in India are likely to have metro systems in the next few years. To face the challenges thrown up by the changing scenario, the suggestion to declare RCF Kapurthala a wholly owned PSU under

*Not recorded.

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

Ministry of Railways is being considered and a decision will be taken after discussions with the factory staff and all other stakeholders.

Investment strategy

Sir, under the new investment strategy of the railways, highest priority is being given to route-wise throughput enhancement works on high-density network. Due to completion of low-cost high return traffic facility and terminal improvement works, there has been a remarkable improvement in the productivity of the wagons. All the pending throughput enhancement works will be completed in the next three years and funds will not be a constraint for them. The gauge conversion of alternative route between Delhi and Mumbai via Rewari-Ringus-Phulera will be completed by 2007-08 and the doubling work of alternative route between Delhi and Howrah via Moradabad-Lucknow-Mugalsarai will be completed by 2008-09. The doubling of Gonda-Gorakhpur-Chhapra-Barauni-Katihar will be done on priority and will be completed by 2008-09. Similarly, port connectivity and throughput enhancement works of iron ore circuit will be completed in the next three years in a time-bound manner.

Sir, since the Budget of 2002-03, allocations to projects have been made on the basis of State-wise formula. With such distribution, difficulties have been faced in time bound completion of doubling and electrification projects required for throughput enhancement. Therefore, it is proposed that such projects be kept out of the purview of this formula.

13.23 hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD:

Annual Plan 2006-2007

Sir, I would now like to present the Annual Plan 2006-07. The Plan outlay for 2006-07 has been kept at Rs. 23,475 cr. This is the largest ever plan and is 32%

higher than the plan outlay for the current year, excluding outlay provided for national projects. It is a matter of price for every railway servant that more than two-thirds of the proposed plan outlay will be mobilized through internal generation and extra budgetary resources. The internal resources will contribute as much as 46%.

The Plan outlay includes a provision of Rs. 1,720 cr. towards payment of capital component of lease charges and an outlay of Rs. 2,240 cr. on safety related works being carried out through the Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF). For the year 2006-07, the total funds received from General Exchequer are Rs. 7,511 cr., which include Rs. 1,365 cr. for SRSF, Rs. 711 cr. from the Central Road Fund leaving a net budgetary support of Rs. 5,435 cr. for distribution to different planheads. The corresponding figure of last year's Budget Estimates was Rs. 7,231 cr. including almost Rs. 2,700 cr. for the SRSF and Rs. 711 cr. from the Central Road Fund.

In addition to the budgetary support, a provision of Rs. 10,794 crore is proposed through internally generated resources, which is higher than last year's budgeted amount by Rs. 6,076 crore. The total amount to be mobilized through extra-budgetary resources is Rs. 5,170 crore out of which Rs. 4,170 crore will come through market borrowing to be utilized for the procurement of rolling stock, Rs. 500 crore is expected to be raised by RVNL for investment in various railway projects and balance Rs. 500 crore will be raised through newly launched Wagon Investment Scheme.

The thrust of the Annual Plan is towards early completion of throughput enhancement works, safety, development and expansion of the network to sustain higher growth rate in Railways. This year, the total outlay for five major plan-heads has been kept at Rs. 4,396 crore with Rs. 1,510 crore on New Lines, Rs. 1,300 crore on Gauge Conversion, Rs. 1,052 crore for Doubling and Rs. 226 crore for Electrification. The outlay on metropolitan transport projects has been kept at Rs. 308 crore. Apart from this, Rs. 1,750 crore will be spent through RVNL for projects to be executed by them. The outlay on safety related planheads, is Rs. 2,922 crore for Track Renewals, Rs. 590 crore for the Bridges and Rs. 1,518 crore for Signalling & Telecommunications, Rs. 436 cr for construction of ROBs/RUBs and Rs. 275 cr for manning of unmanned level crossings.

Additional funds of Rs. 2,092 crore have been sought from Ministry of Finance for the national projects of

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

7. Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur of Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur, Tenkasi-Virudunagar
8. Attur-Salem of Cuddalore-Salem
9. Mailaduturai-Villupuram of Thanjavur-Villupuram
10. Pudukotai-Karaikudi of Trichy-Manamadurai
11. Basavanabagewadi-Bagalkot of Solapur-Gadag
12. Mysore-Chamrajnagar
13. Neemuch-Ratlam
14. Samakhiali-Gandhidham of Gandhidham-Palanpur

Doubling

During 2005-2006, doubling of about 300 kms is likely to be completed while for the year 2006-07, a target of 435 kms has been fixed. The completion of doubling of Gonda-Mankapur, Cheonki-Lohagara-Katiadandi, Kanpur-Panki 3rd line, Bhimsen-Juhi in Uttar Pradesh, Chhapra-Hajipur, Chhapra-Ekma, Maheshkunt-Thana Bhipur, Kursela-Semapur in Bihar, Yeswantpur-Tumkur and Hospet-Tornagallu in Karnataka, Titlagarh-Kesinga, Sambalpur-Sarala and Jharsuguda bye-pass in Orissa, Kalapipal-Phanda in Madhya Pradesh, Singur-Nalikul, Baruipur-Dhapdhapi, Bansberia-Triveni in West Bengal, Ernakulam-Mulanturutti, Kayankulam-Mavelikara in Kerala and 78 kms of Jalandhar-Jammu Tawi in Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir would add to the line capacity on certain congested routes. The doubling of Patna-Gaya line would be speeded up so as to complete it in the next two years.

13.28 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary came and stood on the floor near the Table)

Hon'ble Members will be happy to know that the works of new lines of Manoharabad-Kothapalli, Chhapra-Muzaffarpur via Garkha, Maker, Rewaghat and Oblavarpalli-Krishnapatnam have been included in the budget. Proposals for Araria-Galgaliya, Chhota Udepur-Dhar and Tindivanam-Tiruvannamalai via Ginjee New Line, Aluabari-Siliguri gauge conversion of Chengalpattu-Villupuram doubling have been sent to Planning Commission. The construction work would be taken up after requisite approvals. Gauge conversions of Virudhunagar-Manamadurai, Kolar-Chickballapur, Dindigul-

Pollachi-Palghat, Pollachi-Coimbatore and Bharuch-Samani-Dahej have been included in the budget. Doubling of Padapahar-Banspaani, Guntur-Krishna canal, Dausa-Bandikui, Munderwa-Babhnan, Gorakhpur-Baitalpur, Ghaghraghat-Chowkaghat, Bhatni-Jiradei and Chengannur-Chengavanam have also been included in the budget. In addition, works of doubling of 148 km section of Utritia-Sultanpur-Jaffrabad, Sambalpur-Titlagarh and Khodri-Annupur, Vijaynagram-Kotvalasa third line and Tugalakabad-Palwal fourth line have been included in the Budget.

Railway Electrification

Against the Tenth Five Year Plan target of 1800 route kms. of electrification, 1280 kms. have been completed and by the end of the coming year the set target will be achieved. I am happy to inform the House that the electrification of the Chennai-Kolkata route of the golden quadrilateral has been completed and electric traction train services have been introduced. By the end of this financial year electrification of Ernakulam-Tiruvananthapuram section will also be completed. The electrification of diesel sidings of public sector undertakings, aimed at enhancing throughput, is also progressing speedily. A feasibility study will be carried out for electrification of Gonda-Gorakhpur-Chhapra-Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati rail route.

Surveys

A number of surveys have been taken up in the last two years. 65 surveys have already been completed. The remaining surveys are in various stages of progress. A large number of demands are continuously being received for taking up new projects, which are difficult to be fulfilled in the present scenario with large shelf of projects and limited resources. However, based on demands, following surveys are proposed to be taken up:

New Lines

1. Prantik-Siuri
2. Murkongselek-Pasighat
3. Kusheshwarsthan-Saharsa
4. Gunjaria-Gazole
5. Loharu-Bhiwani
6. Rama Mandi-Maur Mandi via Talwandi Saheb

Jammu and Kashmir and Northeast region, namely Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla, Jiribam-Imphal Road (Tupul) and Kumarghat-Agartala new line and gauge conversion project of Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam. Funds will be made available by the Ministry of Finance during the course of the year depending on the progress of the work.

13.26 hrs.

(At the stage Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma and some other hon. Members left the House)

Ongoing Projects

Sir, National Projects are progressing expeditiously. To connect Agartala, the capital of Tripura, with rail network the work of Kumarghat-Agartala new line will be completed during 2006-07. Similarly, on Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla new line project, sections from Udhampur to Katra and Quazigund to Badgam have been targeted for completion during 2006-07. The completion of Udhampur-Katra section will provide rail link to the famous pilgrim centre of "Mata Vaishno Devi."

A provision of Rs. 500 crore has been made for speeding up the progress of construction of Bogibeel bridge on Brahmaputra river in Assam, road-cum-rail bridges over river Ganga at Digha near Patna and Munger and rail bridge over river Kosi at Nirmali in Bihar. Regarding the construction of Road-cum-Rail bridge in Digha, discussion are being held with the Department of Road Transport and Highways to get their support and the construction will be completed in a time bound manner.

State Government of Haryana has agreed for sharing 50% cost of Rewari-Jhajjar-Rohtak new rail line. This project will be completed in a time bound manner in the next three years.

New Lines

I am happy to state that new lines from Chandigarh to Mordina of Chandigarh-Ludhiana, Banka-Barahat of Deogarh-Sultanganj and Hassan-Shravanabelagola of Hassan-Bangalore have already been completed. Sanjauli-Bikramganj of Ara-Sasaram, Bishrampur-Ambikapur and part of Kolayat-Phalodi are expected to be completed during the year. The work on Gandhinagar-Kalol is also in advance stages.

In 2006-07, Railways propose to complete over 550 kms of New Lines. The sections include:

1. Bikramganj-Ara of Ara-Sasaram
2. Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi
3. Keonjhar-Daitari of Banspani-Daitari
4. Sakri-Biraul of Sakri-Hassanpur
5. Manu-Agartala of Kumarghat-Agartala
6. Hathua-Bathua Bazar of Hathua-Bhatni
7. Udhampur-Katra and Quazigund-Badgam of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla
8. Karimnagar-Jagityal of Peddapalli-Nizamabad

With the completion of these sections, the new line projects of Ara-Sasaram, Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi, Daitari-Banspani and Kumarghat-Agartala would get fully completed.

Gauge Conversion

Gauge conversions of Secunderabad-Bolarum of Secunderabad-Mudkhed, Barsoi-Radhikapur of Jogbani-Katihar-Radhikapur, Sakleshpur-Subramaniya Road of Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore and Thawe-Siwan of Kaptanganj-Thawe-Siwan-Chhapra have already been completed. Further, gauge conversions of Delhi-Rewari, Kanpur-Farukhabad of Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura, Palanpur-Samakhiali of Gandhidham-Palanpur, Kumbakonam-Mailaduturai of Tanjavur-Villupuram, Virddhachalam-Attur of Cuddalore-Salem and Thanjavur-Tiruvarur of Trichy-Nagore-Karaikal are likely to be completed during the current year.

During the year 2006-07, a target of completion of over 1100 kms of gauge conversion has been fixed. The sections include:

1. Jayanagar-Darbhangha of Jayanagar-Narkatiaganj
2. Senchoa-Silghat of Lumding-Dibrugarh
3. Katihar-Barsoi of Jogbani-Katihar-Radhikapur
4. Ajmer-Chhitaurgarh of Ajmer-Udaipur
5. Kinwat-Mudkhed of Mudkhed-Adilabad
6. Sonamukhi-Rainagar of Bankura Damodar Railway line

7. Khurja-Raya new line via Mat, Surir, Bajna
8. Tanakpur-Bageshwar
9. Rail link to Tonk-Devli
10. Anupgarh to Kolayat via Khajuwala
11. Khammam to Podattur
12. Edapally-Guruvayur
13. Sabarimala-Chenganur
14. Nagapattinam-Thircherai
15. Erode-Satyamanglam
16. Talguppa-Honavar
17. Sivok-Rangpo
18. Kalyan-Ahmednagar
19. Lohna-Muktapur via Alinagar, Trimuhani, Bahedi, Shivajinagar
20. Sitamarhi-Jayanagar via Sursand, Bhithamod
21. Bhagwanpur-Samastipur via Mahua, Patepur, Tajpur
22. Veer-Hari Hareshwar
23. Lalganj-Bachhrawan via Gurubakshganj

13.30 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Sansuma Khungur Bwiswmuthiary went back to his seat)

Gauge Conversion

1. Kosamba-Umarpada

Doubling

1. Koraput-Kirandul
2. Kottavalasa-Koraput
3. Bhadrak-Nergundi 3rd line
4. Hajipur-Bachwara
5. Muzzafarpur-Hajipur
6. Baruiipur-Sealdah 3rd line
7. Lucknow-Varanasi via Rae Bareilly, Amethi
8. Bumpur-Asansol

Suburban Transport Projects

Sir, Hon'ble members have often apprised me of the problems of suburban rail services of Mumbai City. For improvement and expansion of these services, the work of DC-AC conversion is in progress. I am happy to inform the House that last week, the DC-AC conversion between Igatpuri-Kasaraghat section of Central Railway has been completed in the first phase of this work. The conversion of Kasara-Titwala section will be completed during 2006-07. Thereafter, the conversion work up to Mumbai CSTM and Churchgate will be completed in coming years, in a time bound manner. Despite the limitations of the present system, keeping the problems of the metropolitan commuters in mind, I have directed that four additional rakes for the suburban services of Western Railway be made available in the coming year. In addition, two more rakes for passenger services in the Thane-Turbhe section of Central Railway will be made available by March, 2007.

I am happy to mention that the extension of Kolkata Circular Railway from Princepghat to Manjherhat has been completed and commissioned to traffic. The extension from Dum Dum to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport will also be completed soon. On Chennai MRTS, Tirumailai-Tiruvamniyur section of Tirumailai-Velacheri phase II has already been commissioned. There have been geotechnical problems on the remaining section from Tiruvamniyur to Velcheri which have been sorted out and this section is targeted for completion during 2006-07.

Sir, I am happy to inform the House that the work of extension of Chennai MRTS from Vellacheri to St. Thomas Mount has been included in the Budget.

Budget Estimates 2006-07

Sir, I shall now deal with the Budget Estimates for 2006-07.

For the year 2006-07, the freight loading target has been set at 726 million tonnes and freight output at 479 btkms. Continuing the double digit growth in freight, passenger and parcel businesses, a growth target of 11% has been set for the freight and passenger revenues and 19% in the other coaching segment. Revenues in freight, passenger, other coaching and sundry other earning segments in the year 2006-07 are expected to be Rs. 40,320 cr., Rs. 16,800 cr, Rs. 1400 cr. and Rs. 1308 cr. respectively. On the basis of these assumptions and considering the various rationalization measures proposed

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

in the Budget, the gross traffic receipts (GTR) are estimated at Rs. 59,978 cr. These are Rs. 5278 cr. higher than the Revised Estimates of the current financial year.

Ordinary working expenses are estimated to be Rs. 38,300 cr. around 9% more than the revised estimates of the current year. It is proposed to appropriate Rs. 7790 cr. and Rs. 4307 cr. respectively to the Pension Fund and the Depreciation Reserve Fund. The total working expenses will, thus, amount to Rs. 50397 cr., leading to Net Receipts of Rs. 9,581 cr. As per the budget estimates, the internal generation before dividend would be Rs. 14,293 cr. and the operating ratio is expected to be 84.3% in 2006-07. At the end of next year, fund balances are expected to be at a level of Rs. 12,819 cr.

A memorandum on the rate of dividend payable to General Revenues for 2006-07 is presently under the consideration of the Railway Convention Committee. Based on the recommended rate of 6.5% for 2005-06 for 2005-06 the dividend liability for 2006-07 works out to Rs. 3208 cr. Along with payment of Rs. 663 cr. towards deferred dividend, an amount of Rs. 3871 cr. becomes payable to General Revenue. This, liability will be discharged in full.

The above provisions are expected to fetch the internally generated funds required for the annual plan, which are Rs. 10,794 cr.

Proposals relating to freight rates & passenger fares

Dynamic Pricing Policy

Railways' passenger fares and freight rates remain unvarying for all seasons and for all routes, whereas tariffs in the airline and road sectors vary depending upon the demand and the season. In order to be able to effectively face the challenges posed by stiff competition, in the current year we had started a discount scheme for non-peak season and empty flow direction for freight rate, which has been successful. As an extension of this policy, I propose to introduce a Dynamic Pricing Policy for freight as well as passenger, for peak and non-peak seasons, premium and non-premium services, and for busy and non-busy routes. As per this policy the rates for non-peak season, non-premium service and empty flow directions will be less than the general rates and the rates for peak season and premium services could be higher than normal. For the freight the non-peak season

would be 1st July to 31st October. For the passenger segment this period would be 15th January to 15th April and 15th July to 15th September.

Sir, generally the public apprehends that fares and freight would increase in the Rail Budget. This apprehension has, however, been proved baseless in every Railway Budget presented by me. In my view the basic "mantra" for success in a competitive market is not increasing tariffs, but reaching the benefits of reduced costs to customers. I would like to express this in the following words:

*"Aam admi hee hamara devta hai,
vah jeetega toh hum bhi jeet payenge,
tabhi toh yeh tay karke baithey hain,
faisla ab usi ke hak mein jaayenge."*

It was in the interest of common man that while replying to the debate on "Supplementary Demand" last year, I had announced a reduction of Re. 1/- in passenger fares and a rebate of up to 20% in respect of freight, in empty flow direction. As a continuing exercise, I propose no increase in passenger and freight services, and instead announce the following reductions of up to 30%.

Freight Services

I do not propose any across the broad increase in freight areas for 2006-07.

Sir, to simplify and rationalize goods tariff, I had, last year, reduced the classification of items, from over 4000 to 80 groups of commodities. As a result, goods tariff, which was running into more than 500 pages earlier, has been condensed to a few pages. Continuing this process further, I propose to reduce the number of commodity Groups to a mere 28. In 2005-06, the total number of classes in the freight tariff schedule were reduced from 27 to 19. The highest class—250 for charging freight was lowered to 240 in 2005-06. In the next year, I propose to lower this highest class to 220. With this, there will be a reduction in freight rates of diesel and petrol by around 8%. Over the next three years the highest class will be lowered below 200. Over the next three years, except rates of some light commodities, the rates for the highest classification would be less than double that of the lowest classification.

To ensure that the process of rationalization does not result in abnormal increase in freight rates of lighter

commodities, I had announced introduction of new classes 90 W1, 90 W2 and 90 W3 for charging of lighter commodities. The existing rates for these classes are not evenly spaced from the rate of break even class 100. These classes are therefore proposed to be replaced with new classes, namely, LR1, LR2, LR3, LR4 and LR5. The new classes will be equivalent to 90%, 80%, 70%, 60% and 50% respectively of the class 100.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD:

Non-peak season incremental freight discount scheme

The demand for freight transportation dips from 1st July to 31st October on account of monsoon. Hence, during this period, under non-peak season incremental freight discount scheme, freight rebate of 15% will be offered for incremental freight revenues of over Rs. 5 cr in a month and 10% if the incremental earning is less than Rs. 5 cr. This rebate will be applicable for all commodities except coal, minerals and items with classification below 120.

Empty flow Direction Freight Discount Scheme

Sir, the truck rate for Delhi to Guwahati is considerably higher than the rate for the return trip whereas the railways charge the same rate in both directions. It is seen that 40 out of 100 freight trains return empty. The additional expenditure in loading freight in the empty flow direction trains is quite low. Hence, I announce a heavy discount on incremental freight in the empty flow direction. For distances beyond 700 kms., the discount will be 30% during non peak season and 20% in the peak season. The scheme will be applicable for all items loaded in covered wagons. In the case of open wagons, the discount will be applicable for all commodities except coal, coke and iron-ore for export. In peak season, this discount will be applicable for open wagons for distances over 1000 kms. only.

Loyalty Discount Scheme

Sir, to encourage the transportation of cement and iron & steel by rail, I announce Loyalty Discount Scheme.

Under this scheme, during the non-peak season, if over 90% of the production of any steel or cement factory is transported by rail, a discount of 1% in freight would be given. The discount will be half percent if the share of rail transportation is above 50% but less than 90% of the total production. This discount will be applicable on the transportation of finished products only. The discount will not be given for the transportation of raw materials or clinker being used in these industries.

Long-term freight discount scheme

Merchants want to make transportation arrangement for goods on a long term basis. Hence, we have empowered zonal railway administrations to offer long-term freight discount to attract new customers and new freight traffic. Under this scheme, zonal railway administration will be able to offer a discount of up to 20% during non-peak season and up to 10% in the peak season, over the normal rates, for a period of three years. For loading in empty flow direction, the discount would be up to 20% and 30% during peak season and non-peak, season, respectively.

Terminal Incentive Engine-on-load Scheme

With a view to bring down the wagon turn round time, we have, as announced in the last Budget, formulated a new Terminal Incentive cum Engine-on-load Scheme. Customers who fulfill the conditions laid down in the scheme and invest in their terminals so as to bring down the loading and unloading time, and complete loading/unloading in lesser time, will qualify for 5% rebate in the first year. Over the next ten years the rebate will be given at a diminishing rate and would be 1% from the fifth year onwards.

Mini Rake and 2-point rake scheme

Considering the popularity of mini rake and two-point rake scheme, this facility will now be made available both in the peak and non-peak season. During the non-peak season, mini-rakes, 2-points rakes will be made available without any additional charge, whereas during the peak season, for commodities up to class 130, the freight rates charged for commodities loaded in such rakes will be 5% more than the rate for block rake trains.

Freight Forwarder Scheme

Sir, to increase Railways' share in the piecemeal traffic segment, I announce a new Freight Forwarder

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

Scheme. For goods booked under this scheme during non-peak season, freight will be charged under Class LR2 in empty flow direction and under Class 100 in the loaded direction. During peak season, the freight will be charged under Classes 100 and 130 respectively. For round-trip loading *i.e.* for loading offered simultaneously for both the directions, the freight will be charged under LR2 during non-peak season and under Class LR1 during peak season. The scheme will be applicable only for freight offered for more than 700 kms.

Passenger services

Sir, in the context of Railways' sound financial position, I present the outline of my new vision.

*"Maine dekhe hain saare khwab naye,
likh raha hoon main inqilab naye"*

Sir, the fares of AC First Class and AC Second Class are more than the fare for general class by over 14 times and 7 times, respectively. This has blunted our competitiveness in air-conditioned classes, which is having an adverse effect on the occupancy of these classes. Hence, I propose to rationalize the passenger tariff structure as has been done for the freight tariff structure. In the new structure, the fares of AC First and AC Second Class will be 11.5 times and 6.5 times the Second Class fare, respectively. With this, there will be a reduction of about 18% in the fares of AC-I and 10% in that of AC-II. Sustained rationalization measures over the next three years will sharpen the competitive edge of the Railways.

Fully Air-conditioned Garib Rath

Sir with a view to providing fully air-conditioned but affordable service to passengers in long distance trains, it has been decided to run a fully air-conditioned Garib Rath on a pilot project basis. Initially the superfast AC Graib Rath will run between Delhi-Patna, Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Chennai and Saharasa-Amritsar. The fares on these trains will be about 25% lower than the present AC-3 tier fares. In line with this objective of providing affordable air-conditioned service, we will also make efforts to start fully air-conditioned double decker trains.

For the convenience of passengers, the renewal period of Monthly Season Tickets is being increased from 3 days to 10 days. Simultaneously, the superfast charges applicable on MSTs and QSTs is being reduced to one-fourth of the current levels.

Railway Fare and Freight Committee and some other committees have recommended rationalisation and simplification of the complex military goods and coaching tariff. Therefore, we have decided to rationalise and simplify the tariff fixation mechanism for military traffic on no-profit no-loss basis. Instead of fixing it on the basis of cost incurred in earlier years, this tariff will be based now on the principle of no profit no loss on current prices. Similarly, parcel and luggage tariffs have also been rationalized.

Conclusion

Sir, the excellent performance of railways has been possible only due to the able guidance provided by Hon'ble Prime Minister. He has always encouraged us and provided constructive assistance. On behalf of the entire railway family, I express my gratitude to him. I also thank all the railwaymen who, working as an excellent team, have completed the given tasks with dedication and devotion. I also profusely thank passengers and other railway users who have continuously cooperated with us and I hope that they would continue to do so in future also.

Sir, I consider myself fortunate for having the opportunity to serve the nation through the railway service. I would like to assure the House that we will be continuously striving to meet the expectations of public by constantly improving railway services. During discussions on the Railways, Hon'ble Members have always boosted our morale. While wishing that they continue to harbour these sentiments, I would like to say.

*"Yeh inaayat nahin, mera vishwas hai,
daurey mehengei mein rail sasti rahe,
apnaa inaaam humko to mil jayega,
rail par aapki sarparasti rahe."*

With these words, Sir, I commend the Railway Budget 2006-07.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3.30 p.m.

13.37 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty minutes past
Fifteen of the clock.*

15.40 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Forty minutes past
Fifteen of the Clock.*

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 6—Shri Handique.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 27th of February, 2006, will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. General discussion on Railway Budget for 2006-07.
3. Discussion and voting on—
 - (a) Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2006-07;
 - (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2005-06; and
 - (c) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2003-04.
4. Consideration and passing of the Government of Union Territories and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2006 after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following subjects may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) Need to distribute food grains to the families living below poverty line by providing them ration cards earnestly on the basis of new survey.

- (2) Need to check poor quality foodgrains being supplied by the Government fare prices shops and to take stringent penal action against guilty officers.

[*English*]

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Sir, following subjects may be included in the List of Business for the next week, that is, 27th February to 4th March, 2006.

1. In view of the enormous loss caused by the fury of unprecedented floods in Sutlej Basin, there is an urgent requirement of Central Assistance to re-align National Highway-22. A comprehensive plan to undertake this big project is an immediate and urgent need keeping in view the strategic character of this highway.
2. Intervention of Central Government in the finalisation of formalities for the much awaited construction of 'Renuka Bandh' in Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh. The intended project is of vital public importance, as also that it would provide much needed water to the national capital.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sunil Kumar Mahato—not present.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, the following subjects may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) The price of every food-item like milk, potato, pulses, tomato, water, power, flour, rice, onion, sugar, refined oil, LPG and kerosene oil has increased unprecedented upto 30-50 percent within year due to not paying appropriate attention by the Central Government and as a result of it people are suffering a lot.
- (2) Unemployment has increased manifold due to closure of factories in the country. Many factories have been closed down as Jaipur Metal is lying closed and labourers are being retrenched in Ball Barring Company and a number of factories are on the verge of closure. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government that closed factories may be revived.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) To review the section 295(2) (c) of Income-Tax Act as far as principle of fare rented value is concerned and expecting from the Finance Ministry for intervention to reserve the rights to equality and to ensure the PSU employees to decrease 20 per cent house perks specially D.S.P. employees. Even the other employees of PSUs like NSPCL are not burdened with these fictitious income-tax as they have been provided with accommodation.
- (2) A comprehensive fertilizer policy should be taken so that the farmers of our country will not commit suicide and the growing problem of selling wheat for the farmers of Punjab as well as other States should be looked into so that they get remunerative price.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. K.S. Manoj—Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Sir, the following items may be included in the week's agenda:—

- (1) It has been decided by the Government of India that under National Food for Work Programme 60 percent amount would be spend on labour and 40 percent amount on material for a particular work. Concrete construction material requires 80% expenditure and only 20% amount is spent on labour. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government that the concrete construction in rural areas *i.e.* Shishigali, Gram Panchayat Bhawan, Samudayik Bhawan, Sanskar Bhawan, drainage system, stairs (pachari) to ponds and rivers, concrete godown and other concrete construction works may be included in national work so that the work of permanent nature may take place in the villages.
- (2) Guru Ghasidas University of Bilaspur district in Chhattisgarh may be accorded status of Central University because ECCA also exists therein. Headquarters of railway zone division, High Court and thermal power station are situated here. It is Schedule Caste dominated district.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) Need to check the high rocketing prices of all the items including the prices of food articles.
- (2) Need to give right of power sharing to Rajasthan complying with the Hydro Power Projects agreements accomplished with Punjab in 1984 for adequate power supply to Rajasthan so as to emancipate it from the image of backward industrial state by bringing all-round development therein.

15.50 hrs.

**MOTION RE: SEVENTEENTH AND
EIGHTEENTH REPORTS OF COMMITTEE
ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND
RESOLUTIONS**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 8.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY (Adilabad): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the House do agree with the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Reports of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 21 December, 2005 and 22 February, 2006, respectively."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the House do agree with the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Reports of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 21 December, 2005 and 22 February, 2006, respectively."

The motion was adopted.

15.51 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

Re: Steps for balanced and equitable development of all parts of the country

(English)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 9 : Further discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. Mr. Sonowal was on his legs last time. He may continue now.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on 16th December, 2005 I was deliberating on the need to restructure the Indian Constitution. I suggested that time has come to completely review our Constitution to usher in a truly federal India. The present highly centralised political system of management has undoubtedly failed to ensure equal growth and development of each part of the country. I expressed my view that the imbalanced growth of our country is a definite cause of political unrest in some parts of the country. The necessary to restructure our Constitution should be earnestly attended to.

Sir, I also agreed that the present Constitution has denied the States their right to carry out their own course of governance and development. The content of planning and the pace of development are dictated to the States by the highly centralised system. I had no hesitation to assert that the Planning Commission has succeeded in making some States more equal than others. Today here, I wish to add some more observations in support of my Resolution.

The regional political parties have taken roots in our country. People are supporting regional parties in a significant way. The national parties rightly acknowledge the growth of the regional parties. It can be certainly interpreted as a vote against the highly centralised system. The national parties have always advocated the need of a strong Centre. However, the common man feels that his hopes and aspirations are not fulfilled by a strong Centre. This feeling is growing and is bound to grow more.

The present Constitution also allows the strong Centre to adopt discriminatory attitude towards selected States. My State, Assam, has been repeatedly subjected to

political discrimination. Let us recall that the Congress party led by Pandit Nehru was prepared to leave out Assam to merge it with East Pakistan. Our great Assamese leader late Gopinath Bordoloi persuaded Mahatma Gandhiji against the plan, and Assam remained a part of India. The deliberate policy of discrimination against Assam has been pursued event till today. The Armed Forces Special Powers Act is applicable in Assam to shoot and kill innocent persons in the name of containing extremism.

The recent incident of killing of Shri Ajit Mohanta by the Indian Army and also the killing of nine number of innocent villagers by the police forces at Kakopathar, Tinsukia district are the burning examples how the Constitutional management system of the country is violating the fundamental human rights of the people of Assam. This House must also express its serious concern about how the common people after Kakopathar's incident spontaneously coming to the streets from all over Assam under the broad day light to register their protest democratically against the inhuman action of the Government forces and also to raise the slogan in favour of ULFA. This, I feel, is a clear indication of people's sheer frustration and loss of confidence over the present Constitutional system. The IMDT Act was enacted to reduce the small Assamese nationality to a minority by the unabated flow of illegal migrants from Bangladesh. After a legal fight of five years, the hon. Supreme Court scrapped the IMDT Act. Now, the Centre is amending the Foreigners (Tribunal) Order 1946 to bring back the provisions of IMDT by backdoor. This is the latest most glaring example of discrimination against Assam. The purpose of the Central Government has remained the same. The objective is to out-number the indigenous Assamese by the Bangladeshis and their descendants over a period of, say, 20 years. The Centre is pursuing policies in complete disregard to the voices of the people of Assam. Such arrogant attitudes are possible only in a highly centralised system of governance.

Sir, the extremist groups are operating in different parts of the country. However, the Armed Forces Special Powers Act is applicable only in Assam and other North eastern States. The people of the North Eastern region unanimously have been raising their voice against this Act. Even the Prime Minister officially announced on 1.11.2004 that Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 is draconian and anti-human rights. This Act, therefore, deserves to be repealed on lines of POTA. I repeat that along with uneven economic growth rate, discriminatory

[Shri Sarbananda Sonowal]

and arrogant attitude of the Central Government are responsible for provoking thousands of youths to take to arms. The present Centre-State relations are detrimental to empowering the States.

Every State has the potentiality to grow economically on its own and also on a sharing basis to be guided by the spirit of federalism. The States must be allowed their rights over their resources. The present policy of draining out resources from one State to enrich other States is bound to generate more discontentments in the near future. Only when individual States become economically sound and strong, shall India be strong as a whole.

More populous States should not dictate policies to harm less populous States. A restructured Constitution has become imperative to encourage all the States to become equal partners in the building a prosperous India.

I hope that the views that I have presented here will echo in the political thinking of other hon. Members of this House. Let us evaluate the reality created by the present Constitution. A huge country should have the wisdom to have a thorough re-look at the present Constitution.

I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to initiate the discussion on the need to restructure our Constitution to ensure balanced and equitable development of all parts of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution moved:

"That this House expresses its concern over the regional imbalances created by the lack of development of different parts of the country and urges upon the Government to take urgent steps for the balanced and equitable growth of different parts of the country, particularly the remote areas, in order to strengthen the federal structure of the country."

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the resolution moved by my brother Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. I support his views. I would like to say that there is no doubt in it that India has progressed too much but that progress did not take place at par throughout the country. If different states are taken, we find competition even amongst them. Some

States have progressed more, some States less. After State, if you go through the region you will see only that region has developed which has domination and other region could not develop. I have experienced this because I have suffered this. The country has not progressed. The way in which it should be developed.

I would like to ask what have we contributed or able to do something for a common man or a small village since independence till date, if we move towards villages of India which we called real India, we see that situation is worse there even today.

16.00 hrs.

If you go to my village, you will find there a primary school and there will be a room and two teacher there. They will also attend the school on turn basis and one teacher will be teaching five classes together. Sometimes he would have been teaching second class, sometimes third class and sometimes fourth and fifth classes. No one class would stand first or second and you are talking about providing big education to the children of India. What has been my experience till date. I would like to share it with you. The Primary educational institutions of villages from primary to higher Secondary Schools are in a very pathetic condition. They are under staffed and under structured. You will find that they do not have any basic facilities. They do not have black board, state, chalk and staff. They do not have anything at all and those children have to face competition with children of urban areas. How the people have migrate from villages to cities? If any person of village becomes patwari or clerk, he move towards cities because there is no road, no power supply, no potable water, no school, no hospital in villages. There is nothing in the villages. If power supply in villages is interrupted in any way it is never restored. If transformer is burnt, then it will not be set right for months together. But how it is possible to interrupt power supply in city even for a minute.

How can the supply of water in the city be discontinued even for a while? Supply of electricity and water is smooth there. They are equipped with the facilities like colleges, medical colleges and dental colleges. All the roads there are pucca ones and there are parks and vehicles. I mean to say that the expenditure incurred on Delhi Metro is more than the funds allocated in the annual budget for the entire Jammu and Kashmir. If you visit hilly areas and areas of Doda, Udhampur or Kathua, you will be surprised to see that people there

don't have even a bathing soap. You will find them all in tatter. They shiver in winter season. They don't possess even sweaters and blankets to save themselves from cold.

More miserable is the condition of agriculture there. You'll see that these are the most backward areas from the agriculture point of view and the growth rate of agriculture is nil. Horticulture growth in the villages has declined to zero percent. So far as the industry is concerned, no industry could be set up in villages and if there are any, they remained confined to cities only. Raw material and labour is available in the villages but they lack industries. Villages have totally been deforested and deprived of water supply also. I mean to say that we have been talking of development since long back and do so even today. We say we shall develop cities. But the fact is that people are continuously rushing to the cities from villages.

16.03 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

We say that we'll bring the villages with this much population under urban development. But, I would like to say that such an area would be heavily populated where all kinds of facilities exist. You see that people of rural background, backward class people. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe people, minority or other backward class people, or backward area people have settled down in cities after getting benefits accrued to them on account of their caste and region and this led to huge rush of population in cities. Their children are getting education in cities. Wards of poor rural people who are presently living in villages can't compete with them since they have already come to cities by availing benefits. Those already settled down in cities, have already availed benefits from there. I regret to say that even at present the condition of a daily wager. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Would you kindly yield for a minute?

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: No. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the hon. Member yield for a minute? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you yielding?

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: No, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is in the list of speakers. You can speak when your turn comes.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: If he wants me to reply his question, we will sit and discuss it separately. I would like to tell that there are three regions namely Jammu, Kashmir and Laddakh in our State. These three regions have their own dialects and cultures. When it comes to the matter of domination and equality with regard to these regions, it seems far from reality. The Chief Ministers there since 1947 have been from the same region. That's why regional imbalance is talked about there. So, I would like the Government to bring about balance there. If we really want development, the facilities would have to be provided to the poor as well as the people residing in remote areas. Special attention has to be paid towards them. In my Parliamentary Constituency, there are several stretches measuring upto 86 kms where one has to travel on foot. Since, there is no connectivity people there have to travel on foot upto 20-50 kms. How can a child there compete with one living in urban area that has all facilities like school, money and tuitions whereas the rural child lacks all such facilities. That's why an urban child manages to compete and our rural child lags behind. This is because we could not develop all the regions simultaneously which have led to regional imbalance. We choose a particular city and go on providing all facilities there for its development. For instance, Delhi. Every year, nearly four to five lakh people come to Delhi in search of their livelihood and become daily wager or businessman here. The same condition prevails in Mumbai and Kolkata. When there is no jobs or business opportunities in the villages, rural people are sure to migrate to the cities.

*Not recorded.

[Chaudhary Lal Singh]

this practice should be checked because it has led to brain drain from villages.

As my colleague has just said that this is the one strongest reason for which the entire country is not moving on the path of development. This is a fact. How can our democracy by remaining strong under such circumstances? You have to think over it. Today you see that major chunk of votes is polled in villages. Majority of the poor and common man caste votes, whereas an urban man neither himself nor allows his wife to caste vote. Yet they avail all the benefits. The supply of power and water to them is not disrupted. Pucca roads and the parks would be constructed for them. Hence, all round development can't take place unless we work wholeheartedly.

We have undoubtedly announced that Rashtriya Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Scheme would be implemented countrywide w.e.f. 2nd February and one who doesn't get any work and card within 15 days, can complain of the same. I would like to ask as to how many people have been issued cards and provided employment as on date i.e. 24 February? So far as I know, nobody has got anything, whereas we had enacted this law after doing homework for five to six months. All the schemes remain confined to only those people who dislike it. When it comes to the development of the village, these people feel hurt. Their only intention is how to develop the cities, whereas the cities are already developed. Whether we should take the cities to the Moon or the Sky now to develop them further. But those who have nothing are not being given any importance. We create confusion for them, so please pay attention towards them. I request you to necessarily pay attention towards them. The rural and backward people need reservation also. One an individual reaches a higher post or rank what is the need to provide reservation to his wards? His entitlement against reservation should be vacated. Once an individual becomes affluent, he loses his stake to reservation.

Reservation is meant for the underdeveloped and the inhabitants of the third world. We are living in the third world. If the frontrunners still succeed in availing all benefits, the country is bound to lag behind. We talk about the third world or the under privileged while our attention is focused on the privileged people. We are the witness. Thus I cautioned in the morning that several people suffer deprivations. Real India remains out of focus. I request you to kindly ponder over it, as to what we

can do, what we have done and what we intend to do for the villages for the under developed and the real Indian voters who have elected and sent us here as Member of Parliament.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): I fully support the resolution moved by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal on 16th December and congratulate him for moving such important resolution which is being discussed today in Lok Sabha. This resolution reflects that this House is concerned over the regional imbalances. In fact, various regions of the country, especially the remote desert areas, hilly areas, coastal area and remote rural areas of the major States have not been even least benefited by developmental programmes and are still out of the mainstream of development. I am from Uttaranchal. This Parliamentary constituency is entirely hilly region spread over the area of approximately 15 thousand kilometer. I brood over the factors responsible for regional imbalances prevailing in these areas and how these can be removed; and in case these cannot be removed, the repercussions thereof. Just now Shri Sarbananda and other Members told that the regions, where regional imbalances crop up, lag behind in the race of development and this hampers industrial development even in the industrial area, propagation and imparting of education, construction of roads as per the requirement. Not only that, it also leads to the migration of people from that area. Only the people, who are not able to migrate or get jobs anywhere, continue living there. The youths of that area remain unemployed and all these factors lead to unrest, agitations and ultimately extremism. Now a days, Nepal, adjoining Uttaranchal is suffering from the scourge of Maoism, which has started casting its shadows over Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and our entire border areas because the youths of these areas are unemployed. Earlier there use to be Maoist activities but now a days these have increased. All these are against the interests of the nation. All such incidents happen there. As Shri Lal Singh ji has mentioned, taking into consideration such a situation in north east that region was declared as disturbed area under Article 370 and for the first time given a package of Rs. 24 thousand crore. Separate provision has been made for the North-East region. I have mentioned earlier also that Central Himalayan Region i.e. Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal are still peaceful areas. My question is whether we shall take care of these areas only when the condition of these areas, in terms of industrial roads and other development further deteriorates and the backwardness leads to the upsurge

of insurgency and then only these areas would be declared as disturbed areas. Healing touch is being given to the area affected by terrorists activities and in the name of healing touch; funds and packages are also being provided to those areas. I want to know why these situations should be allowed to emerge? At present, 10th Five Year Plan is going on. Planning Commission must give priority to the most backward area of the country. Exercise was conducted for giving priority to backward states but it was opposed by the developed States whose contention was that allocation meant for them should not be reduced simply because they have already progressed. Thereafter, the next phase came wherein it was decided that districts should be identified and subsequently Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana was introduced. The manner in which the National Sam Vikas Yojana has been implemented is very unfortunate. At present, there are four districts in my parliamentary constituency whereas earlier there was only one hill district, and the same was bifurcated into two districts and with the passage of time those two districts were divided into four districts. It is a very good thing that out of them the smallest district having 4 development blocks has been included into the Sam Vikas Yojana, though there are total 26 Development Blocks, but the remaining three districts remained neglected. Those districts got Rs. 45 crores but others got nothing.

Thereafter, come the National Good for Work Scheme and that too was launched in the same district. Other three districts remained neglected. Almora, Pithoragarh and Champawat are the other three districts and out of them Champawat is the smallest. Again, Employment Guarantee Scheme was introduced and this was also introduced in that very district. I mean to say that when the entire area is hilly from the geographical point of view and the entire system is the same, why we talking about only four development blocks. There are 26 development blocks. 22 blocks are still left when will their turn come? When will their roads be improved and when irrigation and school facilities will be provided there. Opening big educational institutions there cannot even be imagined. After independence 59 years have passed. I would like to draw attention to the fact that there are loopholes in SGRY, SIBP, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Projects and the schemes being implemented by DRDO. The Minister of Rural Development is present here. I would like to bring this matter into his notice. Allocation is being made for them for the forth years. According to this, 20 per cent of it is to be spent for the betterment

of the sources of drinking water and another 20 per cent on the water conservation. Thus, 40 per cent of the allocation has been spent. The sources of water are the same and the amount is being provided every year for the same water sources. The matter is where that very amount should be spent. Consequently that money is being misused. The allocation made is not being utilized properly.

There is also a question of small irrigation channels (gools). The small channels constructed under minor irrigation for four years are being constructed afresh. The small channels have already been constructed and they are again being constructed. Each and every district is receiving Rs. 10 to 12 crore, but it is not being ascertained as to what is the quantum of work to be done, and whether this fund is actually required or not. The standard determined by the Government of India are not being followed while utilizing these funds. These are being misused. Small Channels are being constructed on the rainy drains and no result thereof is visible. All the responsibilities have been entrusted to the Gram Pradhan. If a school is to be built under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Rs. 6 to 7 lakhs are usured by Pradhanji. If small canal is to be constructed in a village with Rs. 10 to 12 lakhs, the same will be constructed by the Pradhan. If a developmental work is to be done in the village under MPLAD scheme, that work will also be executed by the Pradhan, but he is not expert. All the contracts have been awarded to the village Pradhan. This affects the durability and quality of the village assets. I am speaking about my parliamentary constituency. While the schools are being inaugurated, it is seen that the raining water is leaking through roof of the school. The developmental work should be balanced one. When the funds from the Government of India flow to the State, there should be monitoring and control over their utilization. There is no penal provision for the Gram Pradhan as he can not be suspended. Consequently, the cases of continuous misuse of these funds are being detected in the regions where the developmental work is not being implemented in a balanced and equitable manner.

In this regard, I had earlier mooted a proposal here. It has been repeatedly demanded that the criteria of head-wise allocation should be reconsidered as this is supposed to have created regional imbalances. The population has decreased there and it has decreased more than earlier because the people have migrated from there in quest for jobs. The roads should be constructed there in the

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

villages in proportion to the size of population, as roads are required there. The costs on the roads of hilly areas are two, two and a half or even three times more than that of plain areas. In addition to it, equal funds are being provided for other construction works but the freight charges of the materials whether it is cement, iron or other things carried by trucks are much that the construction cost increases two or three times more. The funds for that region should be provided state-wise districts-wise and not head-wise. The developmental works lead to the development of area, and in this way the durable assets cannot be created. The funds, undoubtedly, are provided for the major construction work but the same runs short and further shortage of funds is caused by the State.

I belong to Uttaranchal and I therefore, would like to put some points. The State of Uttaranchal was created in this very House with the cooperation from all quarters. We wished that the State of Uttaranchal would be formed and it was formed. The State of Uttaranchal came into existence on 9th January 2002. Just within one year it was given a status of special category state. It was given an industrial package for ten years i.e. from 7th January 2003 to 7th January 2013, to develop infrastructure and to bring industrial development and industrial prosperity with the intention that the unemployed get employment and heavy industries be established in the newly formed state and such atmosphere is created which may help the state to be self dependent. But unfortunately, the package given by the Government of India for a period of ten years during the period of 2005-2006 was withdrawn. I feel sorry that the package given by the NDA Government was taken away because ultimate power rests with the Government whether it gives or takes away and thus the package was taken away. It has caused a big loss to industrial progress of the State.

The State was given the status of a special category state under which there was a provision that ninety percent share of the planning would be given by the Government of India and in the tenth plan period an amount of Rs. 9500 crore was allocated for the development of the state of Uttaranchal. Besides, it was also decided that the grant either given by the Ministry, the Planning Commission, the Asian Development Bank, Dubai, any financial institutions from abroad or outsourced from the market but if such fund is spent on developmental works, then the 90% out of it would be borne by the Government of India. But during the current

financial year, Government of India has taken a decision that the expenditure to be made on the developmental work through outsourcing would be borne by the State Government while the State Government do not have its own resources. When NDA Government was in power there, a sum of Rs. 3000 crores had been taken from Asian Development Bank and about thirty lakh American dollars had been taken from Dubai as loan. Likewise, the Government of Uttaranchal has taken a loan of Rs. 27000 crores from other financial agencies. The expenditure is being made in connected areas and not in remote areas. The contracts have been given to foreign companies. The non-cooperation by the Union Government is creating a lot of problems there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana was a big dream. We have already brought it to the notice of hon'ble Minister and this time also we are doing it again that in first phase. The population of one thousand persons had been kept at the first phase and the population of 500 persons was in the second phase. The NDA Government had made special provisions for hilly and tribal areas that a road would be made for the population of 250 persons. The mention of Bharat-Nirman finds place in the President's Address wherein it has been stated that the population of 500 is for hilly and tribal areas. The Minister of Rural Development, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad is very sensitive in this regard. I would like to say that the revenue villages of hilly areas with a population of 250, 300, 350, 400 and 500 and the number of villages with more than 500, is not even 20%. And the number of revenue villages with a population of 1000 persons is not even five percent. If the norm of a population of 500 persons is maintained and the standard of 250 person is removed, then most of the villages can never be linked to. It should therefore be considered. Whether the Hon'ble Minister would like to respond to this.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): The villages falling in plain areas with one thousand population and hilly and tribal areas with five hundred population would be connected within four years and when it is done, then the work on the areas with one hundred population would be taken up. But the Bharat Nirman Programme is a time bound programme wherein the areas with more than one thousand population in plain areas and more than five hundred in the hilly and tribal areas would be connected by roads. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sir, everything would be clear when the Minister replies.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Thank you very much if it happens. I do not know what will be the circumstances after four years. But this norm is not there and due to this there is a confusion and fear as the Himalayan area is so vast and the mention of the area with 250 population is not there, so everybody is worried. We would appreciate if a written assurance is given to us. I request you to look into this.

Now the main point is that as to why such regional imbalances came into existence? There are many reasons to it which I have mentioned. Due to norms and distances such imbalances emerge. But one of the main reasons is political intervention. For example, so and so man is holding good position, so and so is a Minister or some body powerful is behind him and the particular area is his constituency and a DRM Office should be opened in the area. Likewise one says that this office should be opened in Kolkata and the other says that it should be opened in Dhanbad because it is my constituency. Thus, the office got transferred from this place to another. If somebody is in power in another area he tries to ensure that a factory is established in his constituency. The biggest example of it is Rai Bareilly and Amethi. I read in the newspaper that scheme for Rs. 600 crores have been announced for Rai Bareilly and Amethi. While not a single scheme was announced in my own constituency. The newspapers reported even to the extent that Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was removed from his post because he denied to establish a petrol institute at Amethi and for his he was penalized. Such kind of political intervention should stop. For this purpose, there is a Planning Commission in the country. State Planning Commission is in the states and the planning deptt. is there in the districts. It should be decided as per their guidelines. As long as the possibility for political intervention is there, ordinary Members of Parliament like us, who represent remote areas, our constituency will remain neglected and this regional imbalance will continue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sir, it is correct that there should not be a political intervention in the matter of development. But you are doing political intervention in speech and politics.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I have just cited it as an example because it all had been published in the newspapers. Rest of Uttar Pradesh remained

neglected. I do not want to say much regarding Uttar Pradesh. But in our State of Uttaranchal two medical colleges have been opened within a radius of thirty kilometers, one at Haldwani and another was opened at a distance of 29 km by the Health Minister of Uttaranchal and the area of 400 km. beyond that got nothing. Our hon'ble MP Babaji is sitting here. Two medical colleges have been opened in his area at a distance of thirty kilometers. But in our entire area of 400 km from lipulek to Tibet Border, there is no medical college or hospital. Where would go the people residing there. It would be a welcome step if it is done in a balanced manner. If the whole country stand together, we would be able to accomplish the dream of a developed India through people's cooperation, balanced development and an all round development. This resolution has been brought in the national interest. Hon'ble Minister and all the hon'ble Members would certainly agree to it and if it is passed unanimously, it would be a great success in the ongoing Budget Session of 2006. I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan—Not present.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the resolution moved by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal in this House is regarding the regional imbalance that has been growing in various parts of the country due to the lack of development in these places and this is a very important issue. I support this resolution. I believe that the Government would take some positive steps in this direction after holding a meaningful discussion on the above resolution. As far as efforts are concerned, the issue of regional imbalance has always remained an important constituent of every Five Year Plan notwithstanding the fact as to which party is occupying the treasury benches, but despite that we have not achieved the desired results and nothing has been done to efficiently remove the regional imbalance/disparity from our country. This is definitely a very serious problem and if this problem is not addressed well in time, it can lead to very disastrous results. Mr. Chairman, Sir, some states of the country are really developed and the condition of some other states is very bad. If we take first 20 states, we see that the population of Uttar Pradesh is more than 16 crores, approximately 17 crores. Out of these 20 States, Uttar Pradesh stands at 17th position. Orissa at 18th, Jharkhand at 19th and Bihar at 20th position. Delhi is the most prosperous state and Bihar is the poorest State. This disparity should be removed. The Statement

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

of the Vice-President of the country, Shri Bhairu Singh Shekhawat is very important in this regard, that if the 26 crore people who are living below poverty line are not brought in the main stream of the country, then they can bring a big revolution. Today, if we look at the issues that we discuss in the House and the House remains concerned about those issues, be it terrorism, separatism, or Naxalism if we see the root cause of the problem, we will find that it is because of regional imbalance. It is because of unemployment, helplessness and no job all round for the educated youth and when people feel that justice is not being done to them and all the doors to justice are closed for them, then in such times a person is forced to turn towards violence. Therefore, there is a need to sincerely work on this problem.

The Prime and basic question is that, the path we adopted for the development of the nation, the standards which we choose to bring forward the nation on the path of progress, basically all those policies were wrong. What have the poor people and the unemployed people got during these 15 years of economic liberalization, the regions which were neglected have been neglected all the more so and the prosperous regions have become all the more prosperous. The growth rate remained 8.1 percent during the last six months and this growth rate has largely increased in the IT and telecom sector. There are 10 crore unemployed people in the country out of which every two are from the village.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the important thing is this that the way our traditional industries like—handloom industry, cottage industry and most importantly the agriculture has been neglected in our country, that has led to these disastrous results before us. If we do not pay attention towards all these issues and do not revive our traditional industries, and protect our cottage industries and agriculture, which is the largest employment providing sector, then I do not think that we can reap some good results in our country. Recently, we have announced that there would be foreign capital investment in the retail market. The big houses of the country have jumped into the market. I would like to ask as to where are we doing justice to the poor person, this step will lead to unemployment amongst small shopkeepers as well as the retail sellers. Such kind of policies being adopted and work is being done in our country are not going to help the poor people at any cost. Therefore, the Government should pay attention towards all these things seriously.

Hon'ble Finance Minister has set up a backward State Grant Fund involving five thousand crore rupees. Hon'ble Shri Raghuvansh ji is sitting here. I would like to tell him that although this fund has been set up, but no guidelines have yet been framed to spend the fund there. I would request that at the time of framing guidelines for incurring expenditure, it must be ensured that the backward and neglected areas are paid adequate attention, otherwise this fund would have no meaning.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the end I would like to say that if the Government want to make real development in the country as well as to keep a check on present economic and political policies than the first question which arises is that as long as labour oriented industries in place of capital oriented ones, are not set up in our country, our country can not solve the problem of unemployment of more than 100 crore population at any cost. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government to seriously think over this issue and realize that there can be serious consequences because of the reasons for which regional imbalance has grown in the country and the entire responsibility for the same shall lie on the Government ultimately.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the entire House in supporting the resolution moved by Shri Sonowalji.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this House is discussing an important issue which is, how to remove the regional imbalance in the country. Each year the Government resolves in its Budget as well as Five Year Plans to remove the regional imbalance but with a heavy heart I have to say that so far there have been ten Five Year Plans but there has been no decline in regional imbalance/disparities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when our country got independence, a Planning Commission was constituted which is headed by the hon'ble Prime Minister. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru chaired the first meeting of the planning Commission. In his speech he had mentioned that the job of Planning Commission would be to formulate Five Years Plans for the country and draft a map for the development of the nation as well as make efforts for this development and secondly, another important task is to work efficiently to remove the regional disparities in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now my friend Shri Ramji Lal Suman was submitting his views before you. I fully support his statement but would also like to add that the Government of this country has played a role in allowing regional disparities to grow inside the country. I would like to know as to what the Union Government has spent on the upliftment of the neglected, backward, financially weaker, lesser educated and poor states. Our money has been utilized for the development of Delhi, Kolkatta, Chennai and Mumbai. You must have seen how the banks discriminate.

You hail from Bihar. The guidelines of Reserve Bank and Finance Ministry are not adhered to and our money is spent here. The money meant for some states is utilized somewhere else. It is very unfortunate that natural calamities like flood and droughts occur in our state every year due to which crores of rupees go in waste. Similarly, it happens in other States also. The infrastructure gets damaged not just in our state but in other states as well but no special relief is provided to our state. Ten years back houses of 9 lakh poor people got damaged. We felt happy when hon'ble Prime Minister granted funds for building two lakh houses for poor people. We welcome that but we cannot let go off the present Government although we are their supporters. We expect them to do something positive this time also. Last year also Budget was presented and this year also it will be presented on the coming 28th date as has also been mentioned by Shri Ramji Lal Suman, they have declared 170 districts as backward areas. These include 36 districts of Bihar.

[Translation]

What were the recommendations of the international group, whether it submitted its report or not, where is that report? The funds should have been spent during the last one year whereas nothing has been spent and the Hon. Finance Minister has not said a word about where he has diverted the funds. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to give us our due share even of the previous year while announcing this year's budget, otherwise the regional imbalances would remain. I request him to show generosity in every sector be it the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana or Sam Vikas Yojana. The Minister of Rural Development is present here. He belongs to the poverty ridden state and understands everything. He is successfully running his department. I would like to ask him and the Government as to how the Sam Vikas Yojana is being implemented? He is a Member of

Parliament and so are we and the Hon. Minister is also present before us. Is the opinion of the Members sought with regard to the implementation of these schemes? One can very well see how the bureaucracy is overshadowing the politicians. We are also representatives of the people. I do not talk of imbalanced share, it is the duty of the collector or any other officer or the Planning Commission to see to it. There should be such an arrangement so as to ensure the involvement of the Members representing the Constituency. Different state Governments have different ways of implementing the Central Government schemes, 15-20 districts of Bihar were left out in the Sam Vikas Yojana. Now, the new Government is in power in Bihar. It was decided by the Government and even during the regime of the Rabri Devi Government that all the remaining districts would be covered under that scheme. That we shall fund the scheme through the State's Fund but the present Government is launching it. The Union Government through the Rural Development Department or other department intends to do away with the system.

As far as the question of national highways and electricity in our state, is concerned I would like to state the national highways were constructed in Bihar and their four laning was announced and the State Government was asked to bear 40 per cent expenditure by roping in the investors. From where a poor state like Bihar would bring an investor, who would go there to invest? If someone would submit a tender worth crores of rupees then who amongst the villagers would be hired for that work? So, we are thinking to get work done through big capitalists. I regret to say that this discrimination should be done away with. The hon. Vice President rightly said that a revolution may take place, but I think the revolution has already begun. He belongs to that area, he knows it.

Today, struggling is taking place through Nepal, the border is open. Efforts to destroy the economic backbone of the country are being made. All the criminals and anti-social elements are pouring in through the porous border of Nepal. The areas adjacent to Nepal be it Uttar Pradesh, Bihar or West Bengal face enormous difficulties owing to this. When we repeatedly complain the hon. Minister passes on the buck to either the Ministry of Defence or the Ministry of Home Affairs. Whosoever be responsible but the Government must at least make efforts to check it. A few days back the hon. Minister of Home Affairs while giving a reply said that they have posted SSP in

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

every area. But we have not seen any SSP patrolling in our area. How would he do that in the absence of roads, how the borders would be safeguarded?

Sir, the people of Bihar have made great sacrifices for this country. Rashtrapita Mahatma Gandhi launched the freedom movement from that very area and resolved to ameliorate the condition of poor through small scale and cottage industries. The people of Bihar are a meek and weak lot who do not assert themselves but once they become agitated the whole country would be in a state of tumult. I would request the Government to pay special attention to Bihar in view of its penury, helplessness and unemployment and give it a chance to come at par with other states. Right now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman said that we rank twentieth. How could we rank twentieth? What was their intention before the partition of Bihar when Jharkhand was our part. The headquarters of big industries have been set up in Kolkata and Delhi like the factory of Tata was in Bihar but its headquarters was in Mumbai. All the factories like Bokaro, Hathiya, C.C.L. B.C.L. have been separated from us. Jharkhand has been separated. They should have given some royalty to Bihar, it has been the repeated demand of the people to formulate a price based policy which was never formulated by them. Similarly, big headquarters, sales tax, income tax, excise were not given to the states? Similarly, they have tried to curtail the development of the state and we should get compensation. We unitedly opposed the move of division of Bihar and we got the sittings of the House adjourned or two days. The hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs assured us that they would not make one state poor and another rich. Today, Shri Nitish Kumar ji is the Chief Minister of Bihar. We were together and handed over a plan to the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. We were given an assurance of compensation but not a single penny of compensation has been paid to us? Where did that money go, where is our share? All the mines, jungles, rivers, educational institutions, technical education institutes have gone there. We have nothing in Bihar. The Union Government should pay special attention to Bihar. We are glad that the Government has acknowledged it in the Common Minimum Programme that the imbalances in the country and in Bihar would be removed. I request the representatives of the Government present here to apprise the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Finance of our sentiments and provide funds for the development of Bihar and ensure that this Fund is properly utilized.

With these words I extend my support to the motion moved by the hon. Member.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, we have all agreed to live in a federal system. The basic reason is that in spite of different religions, different castes, different regions and different ambitions, we all believe that pooling of the resources will help us in better development of the nation as a whole and the area in which we are living. This will also bring security to all of us, reduces expenditure on several fronts, etc. But, unfortunately, because all things were not taken in total sincerity, there were regional imbalances, which are growing day by day. That is why, as my predecessors have said, I wholeheartedly support this Resolution which is put forth by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.

Basically, the reason why the regional parties are also coming up is this. It is very easy to provoke people if there were to be disparities in a very big way. That is the reason why, even for example, in Andhra Pradesh if there were to be a demand for a separate Telangana Region, some leaders are interested in their own ends. When people are coming, obviously, it means that there is a feeling in their mind that the development is not as expected by them, not in one year but over a long period of five to ten decades.

Similar is the case in various other States. If this were to continue, where is it going to lead us? It will lead us to the same old country where the developed countries will take advantage of the situation. So, it is for the federal Government to take the initiative to see that these things will not be repeated and the gaps are filled.

All of us agree that Bihar, Chhattisgarh, parts of Uttar Pradesh and Orissa are under-developed States. We all want that a special package must be given to the States more particularly to see that there is some kind of production or manufacturing activity. It is not just by doling the funds. Allocation of funds to a particular State is to ensure that the people are motivated there and they are provided with some work so that they can generate wealth and realise how they are backward, and how they are falling behind the other parts of their own country. That is not being done. In some parts, the Government doles out some money simply because they are backward. It does not go into the details as to how that money is being used, whether it is really being used for

development there or it is being swallowed by somebody. That also is to be taken care of. If the Central Government were to think that it is not their job to see whether the State Governments use it badly or in a useful manner, then the same situation will continue forever. Unfortunately, I can understand a legislator trying his best to get more funds for his own constituency. A Member of Parliament asks for more funds for his constituency to ensure that he can satisfy the people there and get their laurels. But, Sir, when I come to the Centre and become a Minister in the Central Cabinet, my view should not be to develop my own constituency and my own State. If I think in terms of developing my own constituency and my own State, in spite of being a Central Minister, I cease to be a Central Minister, that means I do not deserve to be a Central Minister. Unfortunately, these trends have become prevalent in these days also in the Central Government. That is to be curbed. I sincerely request almost all the Central Ministers to think for the nation as a whole and certainly not to go by their own States, their own regions and their own constituencies.

In this context, I wish to mention that today when the Railway Budget was presented, most of our Members from Andhra Pradesh, above Party lines, felt that injustice has been done to Andhra Pradesh. Since Independence Andhra Pradesh has been totally neglected in the field of Railways. We all agree to it. All of us are very sober, very obedient and we do not quarrel with each other or quarrel for every issue. But, that should not be taken as a weakness. If that were to be taken as a weakness, these things will keep on accruing and finally we will just blast. That is not good for the nation. It is not particularly for Andhra Pradesh, it applies to every State. There must be rationality. The duty of the Government of India is to see as to which part of the country is lagging behind. It is its duty to see for what reason it is lagging behind and how to correct it. It is also its duty to see whether it requires some funds for putting some industry there, for carrying out some activity there or for agriculture.

Why are we living in a federal State? Bihar has got coal. Some State has got iron ore, and some other State has got water resources. The areas where water resources are there, let them improve in that direction. Let the area, where there is coal, improve in the field of coal. But, unfortunately, each State quarrels with the other State for river water and never allows the water to be used fully. It is because of the disputes between the States that the water is getting wasted and flowing into

the sea. Otherwise, billions of acres of land could have been cultivated and there would not have been shortage of food-grains in this country any time. It is not only that, we could have exported foodgrains to several countries in Africa and other parts of the world. We could have earned a lot of foreign exchange. We could have flourishing food-processing industry. We could have improved our economy. It is not only between States, if for example the gap were to be increased between rural areas and urban areas, what will be the consequences? Already, people are migrating from rural areas to the urban areas. Slums are developing like anything. Poverty is there.

Naturally, the disparity between rich and poor creates animosity between one section and the other. That leads to lack of peace, violence, criminality, terrorism and naxalism. What are the reasons? These are all because of the disparities between region and region, between area and area and between State and State.

Sir, this is a very serious matter raised by my colleague. I am of the definite opinion that we should all take it seriously and we should not think in a narrow way and we should not think of having our own Panchayat President. Suppose a Central Minister thinks in a narrow way and says: "I will create this for my own constituency. I will put it in my own area." Then, what will happen to others? All the people have to live together. Obviously it is not one man. I agree that we are all human beings. There can be a feeling that one can do something for his own area. He can do it but it should not be in such a manner that all others would agitate. The difference can only be marginal. Suppose if a particular area is backward, then you identify that area and get a special package for that area from the Government of India with the consent of the Parliament. Then, there will be no heart-burning. When all of us agreed to live in federalism, all of us would be ready to give a federal package to a particular area with the consent of everybody. How can anybody say 'no' to that? But that is not being done. These tendencies are very bad and these have to be corrected.

I would like to express an opinion through you, Sir, that it should not be taken lightly because it is a Private Member's Resolution. This must be understood by every Member. Yes, as a Member I fight. If I become a Minister and do the same thing, then what is the point? All of us must have some ethics, some moral values and some vision. We must know what would be the consequences tomorrow.

[Shri K.S. Rao]

Sir, while supporting and appreciating the Member who has brought this Private Member Resolution, I would only request the hon. Chairman and also all other Members to take it very seriously and apply it in every manner to bring unity among ourselves, and also see that there is unity in the country.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Resolution which has been moved by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal because it deals with the regional imbalances.

Sir, the regional imbalances in the country dampen the spirit of nationalism and national integration. Regionalism should be completely stopped because this is one country and one federal system. There are Constitutional provisions under article 371(a) to (d) whereby the regional imbalances could be curtailed. I do not understand how till date there is clamour for more regionalism, more separatism and formation of new States. There has been a gap in the development. The economic indicators like health, education, drinking water, communication, electricity and the nutrition value, which the people take in these backward areas, have never been considered. That is why, 54 years after the Independence, we are still discussing about the regional imbalances. The Governments, for the last couple of years, have not been able to deliver properly to the people. Though there has been a special provision under article 371 of the Constitution with respect to the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat, still you will see that places in Gujarat like Kutch are completely neglected, and in Maharashtra, the region of Vidharbha, where the Development Council exists under this provision, still there is regional imbalance. Article 371 says:

"(b) the equitable allocation of funds for developmental expenditure over the said areas, subject to the requirements of the State as a whole."

17.00 hrs.

Further, it says:

"(c) an equitable arrangement providing adequate facilities for technical education and vocational training, and adequate opportunities for employment in services under the control of the State Government, in respect of all the said areas, subject to the requirements of the State as a whole".

I was quoting from the Constitution. So, these requirements, which are supposed to go to these areas, these backward regions of the country, have not been able to reach them. That is why, the provision has been provided. Though the provisions are provided, when a Government comes and when they make a programme, they have a certain sectarian attitude and they take a partisan attitude.

Today, 26 per cent of the people are living below the poverty line. These 26 per cent of the people are not in the urban areas. There are a few in the urban areas. But most of them are distributed in the backward areas of, say, Andhra Pradesh or in the backward areas of Orissa, the KBK districts or western Orissa or in the Telengana region in Andhra Pradesh or in the Nandurbar region in Maharashtra or in Jharkhand where we can take Hazaribagh and Palamu regions. These are the thrust areas. So, we have to give some Constitutional protection to these thrust areas. Then only these areas can come at par with the other developed areas. Otherwise, we cannot achieve the objective.

If you have a programme, like Mr. Rao was just saying regarding component programme or a limited time bound programme for seven years, with that we cannot achieve the objective because we have seen and experienced it. Hon. Chairman, Sir, when you were the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, I remember you had visited my district and you know the nutrition condition there, how it was and how people were dying of starvation. Writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court. It was proved that starvation deaths had taken place at Kalahandi. Today, I am happy that the KBK programme has been launched and it is launched with sincerity now. But there is a gap of about four years between the announcement and the launching. So, when you give the idea to the people, when you make promises to the poor people of the backward areas, you must immediately make a package for them and start off the project.

In the case of KBK programme, it was delayed. So, you will see that these 26 percent of the people, who are living under the poverty line, are subject to all kinds of inhumanities.

If you go through the Report of the Human Rights Commission, it is very clearly mentioned there that how in these regions the people are suffering. It is not that only during natural calamity, they are suffering but they

are also suffering in the better days. The Public Distribution System has failed. The health facilities are not there because this subject comes under the State List. So, unless they are not given the Constitutional protection under article 371 by the Government by inserting article 371(e) or (f) or by making another insertion in the Constitution, these backward areas can never get any benefit or cannot get justice in a democracy.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak, and I solely support this Resolution moved by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal regarding imbalances. He is from Assam. For Assam and for the North-East, there is provision under article 371. There is provision for some districts. There is provision for Nagaland. But till today Assam is rife with terrorism. Terrorism is rife there. Tribalism is rife there. How come the goods have not been delivered in the North-East? We have created a separate Ministry for the development of North-East region, called DONER. But how is it that it is not reaching the people?

Arunachal Pradesh, with its vast natural resources, is still backward. I would like to tell the Chairman about the irony of fate. Today, the irony of fate is that if we want to develop any region, all the natural wealth of the country is lying in the backward regions. It may be Jharkhand. It may be Bihar. It may be Orissa. All the natural resources like iron ore, bauxite, gemstones, graphite are lying in the backward areas. All the minerals are lying in the backward areas. So, when the Central Government or the State Government encourages globalisation—today a lot of FDI is coming in—naturally we are bound to face the problem.

You are bound to face a problem like rehabilitation and resettlement of the tribals because for the last 54 years, they have been completely neglected. On their land and on their properties you want to build up big industries and do globalisation without resettling them. There is bound to be an agitation. So, it is a prime responsibility of this august House that these 26 per cent people, who are spread over the backward areas of the country, should be rehabilitated and special component programmes should be initiated so that they can come out of the throngs of poverty and come into the mainstream of development.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda):
Sir, I congratulate the hon. Member, Shri Sarbananda

Sonowal, for bringing this important issue for discussion today through the Private Members' Resolution.

Sir, we are all really worried and express our serious concern for the regional imbalances created by the lack of development in different parts of our country and we all share his proposal for equitable growth in different parts of the country which are backward.

There are several reasons for the backwardness of some areas in different States of the country. Some are naturally backward because of the less rainfall in those areas and lack of irrigation facilities, as there will be no rivers or lakes in some of these parts. Some areas are backward because of the historical background that they were ruled by the feudal kings for a long time who never cared for the development of these areas.

The third backwardness is because of the short sightedness of the rulers who refuse to develop different parts of the country in a proper way. We should have a vision while we are taking up the development. Unfortunately, this is also lacking in our country after the Independence in the last six decades.

Just now I heard our colleague from the ruling party, Shri K.S. Rao. I fully agree with him. Even today's Railway Budget is one of the glaring examples of how regional imbalances are taken up very carelessly. Everything, every new train starts from Patna and ends in Chennai, as if these are the only two parts of this country. I do not say that Bihar is a wonderfully developed city. I had been to Bihar recently. I saw in Baruni a big centre, a junction with 2,000 acres of the railway land which is lacking development for the last several decades. But, unfortunately, it did not become the parliamentary constituency of any Railway Minister and hence it is neglected.

Sir, whether it is a question of a new railway line or new freight corridor or arranging extra trains or arranging the coach centres, regional imbalances also should be taken into consideration. If this is not taken seriously, naturally there will be much unhappiness. Today, for example, I do feel that the new Railway Budget has got very positive features. In spite of the increase in the prices of diesel, there is no increase in the passenger fares. But why nobody is happy here is because those who are to deliver the goods do not create an impression that they are impartial. That will create a very negative impact on the entire Railway Budget. Almost everybody

[Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy]

starting from the ruling party up to the Opposition, right and left, everybody is unhappy.

17.10 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

I think this should be taken definitely into consideration when the Railway Budget is going to be finally settled.

Here, I would like to refer about the backwardness of some other areas. I come from Andhra Pradesh, that too from telengana which is one of the very backward areas. There was a serious concern when the State was reorganised and some sections in Telengana expressed their doubts whether in the united State justice will be done for Telengana area. Some promises were made. But, unfortunately, as these promises were not fulfilled, in the last 46 years, after the re-organisation of the States on linguistic basis, again and again agitations are coming up for re-division of the State into Telengana, into Rayalaseema and into other parts. This is a every unfortunate thing.

This is one very backward area because historically it was ruled by Nizams for more than 150 years and totally the old Hyderabad State lacked any development. We propose that for the development, all these agreements which were made from time to time should be implemented with all honesty. Unfortunately, they did not implement it. It has become part of the Constitution also. It is not only in Telengana, but even in Vidarbha there are certain constitutional provisions to defend the interests of that backward area. But, unfortunately, due to the short sightedness these are not being implemented. We asked for a Rs. 10,000 crore special development package for Telengana, irrigation facilities to be improved by completing all the pending projects in the next five years, re-opening of the closed industries in this Telengana part and also we requested for the new industries to be opened in these areas.

Above all, to create the confidence in the people of the backward area, they should be given an opportunity to oversee the development in that area. There is a watchdog organisation which is called Regional Council. That is what I was telling as the constitutional guarantee by accepting it, making it as a part of the Constitution. But, almost a decade back or one-and-a-half decades back, these Regional Councils are removed. These

Regional Councils will not be elected from somewhere. Only the members from those constituencies of that particular backward area will become the members of this Regional Council. They will have a right to suggest what should be the development activity and also they will have the responsibility to check on the accountability, on the income and expenditure in that area. This is one very important way of creating confidence in the people that the money of the backward area is not taken away and spent for advanced developed areas.

Unfortunately, in Telengana and also in Vidarbha these are not being implemented.

The regional imbalances create several other problems also. If these was a proper regional balance of development, I am sure, there would not have been a demand for a division of the States in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar creating new States of Chattisgarh and Jharkhand. For example, Jharkhand is a place with abundant natural resources. But, unfortunately, it was neglected. In other States, in western Orissa, in this part of the area also the development has not taken place and we found that in the last two-three years people suffered in a very big way in that area.

I would like to remind you that there were more than 400 suicides in Vidarbha alone this year. That is among the peasantry. More than 1,000 people committed suicide in Telengana part in the last five years. This is because of lack of irrigation facilities in these areas.

So, while we think of development, the Government of India should take all these things into consideration. The rise in the sensex or other stock markets or the increase in the price of gold and silver will not make India shine; India will shine when all the backward areas will get proper justice, irrigation facilities, drinking water and all that.

Sir, I represent Nalgonda constituency in Telangana area which is having the highest problem of drinking water. That is the place where fluoride is very high. Our hon. Minister for Rural Development, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh had been to Nalgonda district. He had personally seen that. Out of 1,100 villages, more than 850 villages are affected by this. Unfortunately, in my constituency, people become crippled by the age of 23 to 30. They cannot even walk, the bones are deformed and children are born with defective bones. This type of unfortunate thing is taking place because this is the part of the most backward area of Andhra Pradesh.

For the development of backward area, the Government should have a comprehensive plan. That comprehensive plan should extend for the next ten years. It should have a special budget. The State should not be left with suggestions that you go and develop the backward areas. I believe in the next ten years if the Government of India can spare one lakh crore of rupees for the development of the backward areas and be given straight controlling from the national Centre, it is possible to develop some of these areas.

At the same time, I also suggest that the land reforms should take place in all parts of the country. Unfortunately, even this year, the Government of India is not planning about the land reforms. There is a link between the poverty and the land reforms. Almost 60 to 65 per cent of the population still are living in the rural areas. Most of them live on agriculture. Population of 24 crore is working as agricultural labour or depending on agriculture. They do not have their own lands.

There is a big problem taking place in the peasantry. In the Census of 2001, a shocking revelation has come. In 1991, there were about 11 crores of peasants in this country. In 2001, 71 lakh peasants have disappeared from the profession of agriculture. Most of them have become paupers, sold away their lands and went out into other professions. This number is more than the population of several countries of Europe. Most of these peasants have disappeared from their profession, become paupers, particularly in the most backward areas of our country. So, irrigation facilities, land reforms and direct investment from the Government of India to reduce the imbalances, starting the new industries in the most backward areas and a comprehensive plan from the Government of India only will help them to reduce the imbalances in our country.

I hope, this resolution will help and this discussion will help the Government of India to have a re-thinking about improving the backward areas and reducing the imbalances.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is really heartening to know that the Resolution moved by a learned Member from Assam, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal on December 16, 2005 has come up for discussion today. This is a topic which is very close to the hearts of many Members not because we discuss about the backwardness of a State, backwardness of a region, backwardness of a district, but at the same time, the

imbalances which have been created because of geographical reason, because of political reason are still continuing.

Sir, I would like to mention about the rider, which the hon. mover of his Resolution has put in this Resolution. The rider is that the remote areas be developed so that it would strengthen the federal structure of the country. It is not only concerned with the imbalances and it is not only concerned with underdevelopment, but it also encompasses the viewpoint that to have a good federal structure in this country there is a need for a concerned growth. It is for this reason that the issue of regional balance has been an integral component of every Five Year Plan. However, the perception is that regional imbalances have actually got accentuated, particularly, over the last 15 years. Why I am saying 15 years? I am saying this because of the liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation. This idea is being talked about in a very big way, especially, since 1991, to be very specific.

Different parts of the country are in different stages of development, and development has not been uniform. History records of even pre-independent India or of even before, that is, before the Europeans arrived in this country. I may mention that there was no uniform development in this country. But at the same time, I may say, a pledge was taken by the founding fathers of this independent India that we will strive to have a uniform developed nation.

At the same time, a mention has also been made that it is not only an imbalance between State and State, but within the State the intra-State inequalities has not been adequately addressed. Regional disparities still persist within all States including the relatively prosperous States of this country, though in some States it is greater, and in some States it is less. The Centre or the Union Government has a greater role to play here, and the role is to promote balanced development of all States and regions within States, so that opportunity will be provided to develop evenly.

I should mention that for the first time the 10th Five Year Plan recognised that the concept of regional disparities would need to go beyond economic indicators and encompass social dimensions as well. The 10th Plan had accordingly advocated on a multi-pronged approach to provide additional funding to backward regions in each state, coupled with governance and institutional reforms.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

These were the two major initiatives that were advocated in the 10th Five Year Plan.

For several years, direct investment in Public Sector Units, and capital and other subsidies for the Private Sector in backward regions was seen as the best way of addressing regional imbalances through capital formation as well as income and employment generation.

How do you develop an area which is underdeveloped? You either provide some special grant to that area, invest more money through different plans and programmes; or you empower people through different financial institutions, create certain assets which will give them gainful employment. These are the two methods which we have been adopting for the last 58 years. For the first time in the Tenth Five Year Plan it was mentioned that we should target certain groups and empower them. We have had this programme for the last four-five years, it may be Sam Vikas Yojana or may be other programmes which are being implemented.

The other mechanism which continues till date is ensuring a greater share in Central finances for backward regions through the transfer formula. During the discussion on Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to both Houses of Parliament, Gadgil Formula for transfer of assets from the Centre to States was also mentioned. That is another mechanism through which funds can flow to the provinces. That also in a way strengthens the federal structure.

We have the Planning Commission and we have Finance Commissions every five years. The broad approach emerges from the experience of lessons learnt from the past. The first approach involves proper identification of backward areas, targeting them and improving infrastructural deficiencies. The second approach would be to seek to improve the overall environment through development of infrastructure, institutional reforms and incentive structures.

Most of the more developed States are located in the Western and Southern parts of the country. A majority of them have a coastline. The weaker parts of this country are located in the East, North and the North-East. Some days back I had read in a newspaper which stated that it is the coastal areas which are going to develop in the next 15-20 years. What programmes and plans do we have today? I will come to that aspect later. Relatively, the backward States are in the Eastern and the Northern parts of the country.

India's growth has been seen in those States where urbanisation is already high. The growth rate of coastal areas will grow faster; the growth rate of hinterland will grow, but at a slower pace. This will increase migration, which another Member also mentioned. North-Eastern States need special attention because they will be our gateway to the East. More attention should be paid to that part of the country.

I should thank hon. Member Sarbananda Sonowal for moving this broad Resolution. It is very appropriate because major nations from the Eastern part of the Asian continent will find a window to our country in the North-East. North-East will be the major area which can be developed in a bigger way. It is in a very disadvantageous location now and it needs proper attention and special intervention. We have special category States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute!

Hon. Members, the time allotted for discussion on this Resolution is over and I have a list of 14 Members to speak on this. If the House agrees, the time may be extended by an hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: We agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time for discussion on this Resolution is extended by an hour.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, the main assets of the weaker States are two. One is the forest and the second is the minerals. Here, I should mention the term 'public good'. Constitution has been amended and powers have been taken by the Centre that for the protection and development of the forests, Central Government will intervene and it has the prerogative to control and expand the forest cover. In that respect, the weaker sections of the State, who live in the forests, especially, the tribals, who have been living for quite a long time and getting their sustenance from the forests are today being denied of their livelihood. For very petty matters, the State Government has to run to Centre, to Delhi to get a certain clearance of a minor nature—for medium irrigation project, minor irrigation project. This has been happening for the last 20 or 30 years. The State Government is not competent enough and that is the wisdom of the Centre. The State Government is not competent enough to protect the forests. Centre sitting in Delhi is competent to protect the forests which are in the remote areas of the State! This is how the decision has been taken. In a

way this is also denying the rights to the weaker sections of the society. I do not know as to whether the Government will consider this aspect but there is a need to discuss this aspect. When we are talking of empowerment of the weaker sections, especially, the tribals who live near the forests or inside the forests, this aspect should also be discussed and proper attention should be given to this issue.

Secondly, most of the weaker States of this country are mineral rich, be it West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa or Andhra Pradesh in comparison to the western and southern States. These are the States which are weaker. For the last many years, we have a system of royalty. Royalty is fixed, keeping again the 'public good' in view. It is for the first time, in the 11th Finance Commission's Report, a mention was made. Though earlier it was there that in every three years the royalty is to be increased, but it took 15 years or 18 years. The State Government had to come to the Supreme Court to get a decision from the Centre but no decision was taken. No compensation was given. It is mentioned for the first time in the 11th Finance Commission's Report, which was accepted. All Finance Commissions' Reports are accepted by the Government. Here, it was mentioned that every three years, enhancement of royalty should be made. In the 12th Finance Commission's Report, an addition was made that if royalty is not enhanced, then compensation also should be given to that respective State and that amount should also be given to that respective State just to protect the interests of other industries. Industries here mean production of energy, power, electricity. This was there. But different States are not getting that required amount. This is another problem. In a way, the Centre is denying the State's due-money or funds—which is their legal right.

Recently, for the last four or five years, a number of employment generation programmes have been created. It is to give employment to the unemployed youth in rural areas and also to provide gainful employment to the unemployed youth and also to create assets. Specific districts have also been identified. Here, the idea was to assist the development of backward areas so that direct flow of financial support would be there. The Centre should come out in a bigger way. Despite this, the desired development has not occurred.

Our good friend Shri Deo from Kalahandi mentioned about a special project for KBK. This project was for six years. I am sorry to mention here that during these six

years, which started during the Nineties, at no point of time, fund was allotted. More than Rs. 700 crore was targeted and the budgetary provision was made. Every year, a certain amount was also given to be utilized in those three undivided districts of Orissa. A special mechanism was set up so that it could deliver the goods to the required targeted people. But, during the last five years, the allotted amount was never utilized fully. It was always a case of less utilization every year. But, in the last year, you will be surprised to know, when the allocation was more than Rs. 250 crore, the utilization went up to Rs. 308 crore in the last year. Even if we calculate all the six years, still Rs. 45 crore was left unspent. Why I am saying this is that the basic problem today is not of allocation of funds, the basic problem is of utilization of funds. The delivery mechanism has to be strengthened. When we decide that certain area is under developed, we have to provide funds. But the delivery mechanism has to be equally prepared to absorb that money so that the required result can come. The outcome is more important, as has been told earlier so that when preferential funding is being made. My only request would be that strict conditional reforms also should follow. The basic approach has to be on outcome-driven. It should be an instrument and not an end in itself. At the same time, I would also mention that the whole process should be transparent. Unless these three or four factors are not met, I do not think, whatever money you may pump in to whichever place, as has been mentioned by the hon. Member from Udhampur, the desired result will never come. At the same time, I would also say that for historical reasons, for geographical reasons, a number of States have been lagging behind. Some years ago, I think, a decade back, in 1991-92, in a major way, doors were opened. One of our eminent thinkers of this country has brought out a book.

He has drawn a line there from North to South mentioning that there will be a great divide in 2040. The western side of this country starting from Delhi to Chennai *via* Nagpur, will prosper and will be at such a level, which will be equal to most of the western countries, the developed countries; and the eastern side will fall back. But this is a picture, which we should not live to see. Our attempt, when I say our attempt, should be that all of us collectively should strive to have a concerted growth of this country.

While participating in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, I had mentioned that

[Shri B. Mahtab]

some parts of this country are quite equivalent to the sub-Saharan areas of Africa, and while certain areas will be developed, which will be equal to California. When we dream of 2020 and want to develop the rural areas and also the urban areas, to provide urban amenities in the rural areas, attempts also should be made that under-developed States should develop at a greater pace.

Orissa, for instance today, is in the threshold of industrialization. Today, I am really sorry to mention, the manner in which the Railway Budget Speech was read out, and the matter that was subject for so much of unrest, has actually pained me. I was under the impression that investment would be made where return would be greater and at a faster pace. That should be the motto of this age that we would invest in such a place where we would get quick return. And, where are we investing? We are not investing where we would get quick return. Of course, we would be discussing about the Railway Budget, but it seems that the Railway Budget is between Lalu and Velu; it is not between only Patna and Chennai, it is between two persons, two individuals. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): No, Sir. It is not true. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I am sorry to say it, but we had expected it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please do not disturb him. He has already taken a longer time. Let him conclude now. Let the other speakers also get opportunity.

SHRI T.K. HAMZA (Manjeri): Sir, what Mr. Mahtab says is correct.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, Orissa today is poised for an industrial revolution especially in steel, in alumina. There, a huge spurt in freight movement is likely to be taken up in the next few years. But what is the investment? It is only in the infrastructure. It is in the ports, it is in the railways, it is in the energy sector, and it is in the road sector, these are the four major areas where investments, if are made, in a greater way we may develop the infrastructure and develop the economic activities of this country. And, today the economic activity is there where the minerals are there, where the movements are there. But for the last many years this investment is not there in Orissa.

Sir, take for instance, Orissa, where I come from. We do not want doles. We do not want support for a person that would come for five years and then everybody would forget about him. We want to create assets. We want to create assets that will give return not only to our State but also to this country, so that this country would prosper, so that the federal structure will be more strengthened.

At the same time, we also witness that much attention has not been paid. That is why, I wholeheartedly support the Resolution that has been moved by Shri Sonowal today.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): At the outset, I must appreciate Shri Sonowal who has moved the Resolution, as it is very pertinent and relevant in the present state of our country.

Regional disparity is inherent in our country since very long years. It is a disparity, which sometimes breeds a sense of discrimination; the sense of discrimination leads to a sense of frustration, which even leads to animosity, which generates violence; the violence then leads to social disaster that we are witnessing in our country.

We are diverse in geography, in resources, in traditions and in history. The fact is that since independence, the thinkers of our country have been conceiving a slew of steps in order to bridge the gap between 'haves and have nots'. But still the disparity is very much persistent. It is in terms of regional disparity, intra-State disparity and inter-State disparity. Those States which have the bounty of nature, which have adequate resources can prosper, provided the requisite plans could be conceived for development of those regions.

Sometimes fortune smiles upon them who have the natural endowments. India is a country, which has drought somewhere, flood somewhere else and snow at some other place. Naturally, we have to devise area-specific, zone-specific, regional-specific programmes to bridge the gap between 'haves and have nots'. Regional disparity is a curse on our country. Being an Indian, we are also a victim of global disparity. In terms of human development index, India is ranked 127th in the world.

Naturally, disparity is evident not only in our country; it is very much in existence globally. Central planning of our economy was envisioned in order to strike a balance. In this regard, a number of institutional instruments such

as Planning Commission, Finance Commission, National Sample Survey Organisation, etc. have been devised for a periodic review of our economy so that the imbalance could be done away with. Now, the question is whether the growth and standard of living would converge or not. It is true that convergence theory assumes that in the case of acceleration of economy, some regions having better resources could be developed through economic trajectory.

When the law of diminishing returns will occur due to differential marginal productivity of capital then convergence may take place but the fact is, there is no sign of convergence. On the contrary, the gap is widening. Naturally, we will have to have some sort of introspection because we have the Planning Commission, Finance Commission and other such institutional arrangements. How do those institutional mechanism perform is really to be reviewed.

Now, we are in the age of liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation. The question is whether the post-reform era has been able to change the disparity or to make any effect on the aspect of disparity because now any State in the country can invite foreign investment by resorting to market mechanism. They can invite the foreign capital by dint of their own way. So, most of the States are now independent to invite investment in their respective States. If we simply resort to more sharing, more funds, more assistance or more grants-in-aid, some lacunae, some deficiencies of running the states would have evaded our attention.

Governance is also a vital component of development of any region. The areas which have been infected by poor governance must entail poverty and penury also. Most of the funds of our country are being siphoned off before they reach the beneficiaries and Panchayat level, etc. The second thing is, a number of States historically have been led by the largesee of Central Government in terms of grants and assistance. For developing the country as a whole, we have demarcated the States of our country into special category States and General Category States so that we can make area-specific or State-specific programmes. If we look at the growth of our GDP, we will find that the GDP growth during 1950-1980, that is between three decades accelerated to only 3.6 per cent; during eighties it accelerated to 5.6 per cent and during nineties it has further accelerated to 6 per cent. Reform brings about structural changes both domestic and foreign

but the most salient feature which needs to be attended is that in the post-reform era the public investment has decelerated.

Sir, even during the eighties, the public investment accounted for 45 per cent of the total investment in our country. But in the post reform era, the public investment has decelerated much to the dismay of all because without adequate public investment those backward areas could not be developed as is desired. I am representing West Bengal. Just now my friend, Shri Mahtab was stating very correctly that West Bengal was earlier regarded as the most progressive State in the country. One historian—I cannot recall his name—was quoted as having said that Periclean Athens was the School of Hellas, the eyes of the Greece, the Mother of Art and eloquence of the Greek civilization. It was described as prosperous and progressive as West Bengal. But now the students of my State have to travel to Southern India for having quality education. The patients have to travel to Southern India for having better health facilities. However, West Bengal had produced four Nobel Laureates. Now West Bengal has been regarded as a State with the most unemployed people in the country. The number of unemployed people has been growing by leaps and bounds in the State. Right now, out of four crore and two thousand unemployed youths in the country, West Bengal has 72 lakh youths. Around 65000 industrial units have been closed down. The poverty and penury has become the order of the day and by exploiting this poverty and penury, the extremist forces are rearing their uncouth faces in the various districts of my State.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you conclude, I can call another Member also today.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, please let me continue. I am also in hurry as I have to catch a flight.

As per human poverty index published by the Planning Commission, Bihar has been ranked as the highest. But on the other hand, Chandigarh, the smaller State, Delhi, Lakshadweep and Kerala, from where you are hailing, are making very impressive progress in human poverty index. You know that in pursuance to the human poverty index, which is being followed in the international arena, the Central Government also tried to introduce the same concept in order to ascertain the human development index of our country.

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

18.00 hrs.

Sir, insofar as *per capita* consumption is concerned, it has been brought out that the States of Goa, Delhi and the Union Territory of Chandigarh are making very good strides. Therefore, it is evident from the report presented by the Planning Commission that disparities are very much persistent amongst the various States of our country. The *per capita* State domestic index, which is also one of the parameters to assess Human Development Index, shows that there are serious disparities amongst the various States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you conclude your speech now? It is already six o'clock.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, I am concluding within a few minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may continue next time also. Otherwise, you have to conclude immediately. It is already six o'clock.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: If that is permissible, then it would be a good news for me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I you can conclude now, then I can call another speaker. You know we have decided to increase one hour for the discussion on this subject. We have 20 minutes more. So, you may conclude your speech now.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, I will go by your direction. I would conclude within two minutes.

My request to the Government is that more public investment must be made available to the backward regions of the country. Not only that, there should also be a provision for a devolution index in order to let the common people know as to how the State Finance Commissions are performing. It is because in the process of devolution when a State gets its share it should be not treated as a money that could be spent for any purpose. The revenue being shared by the Centre with the States, as mandated by the Constitution, by way of devolution should not be made use of in a frugal manner. Our economy cannot afford such frugal spending by any State.

The second thing is that the State Finance Commissions are keeping the common men of the State

in the dark by not disclosing as to what share they are devolving to the municipal and other panchayat level bodies. I hail from the State of West Bengal and I do not know as to how much of the share has devolved from the State Finance Commission of West Bengal to the municipal and other panchayat bodies in the State. For an overall development and an all-inclusive development of States multi-pronged mechanism has to be evolved and all the constitutional bodies and statutory institutions would have to be converged in such a direction so that we are able to bridge the gap for which we all are striving for.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, there is no divergence of opinion with regard to the Resolution moved by hon. Member, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal that there should be a level-playing field, there should be no regional disparity and no regional imbalance. There are Members who have already mentioned about many points which I am not going to repeat. But my point is, how to achieve it. That is the moot point. There should be regional parity and not disparity. There are two things on which we can focus our attention. One is agriculture and the other is the industry. Take the example of the policy of the Government of India. There is something called priority sector lending. Every public sector bank is entitled to give 40 per cent of the loans to priority sector. It means rural credit. Nearly 18 per cent is earmarked for agriculture and another 22 per cent is for the small scale industry, education and other things. Taking the case of priority sector lending, you will come to know that most of the banks do not fulfil the mandatory provision of giving 18 per cent rural credit. As a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance, I can tell you that out of 27 public sector banks, last year, only 13 public sector banks followed the mandatory provision of giving 18 per cent credit to the agricultural sector. The remaining 14 banks have not followed it. It is the State Bank of India, the biggest bank of the country, which has its rural agricultural credit upto 11.99 per cent. Now the percentage of the State Bank group as such comes to 13.32 per cent and all the public sector banks combined together have given 15.68 per cent rural credit to the agricultural sector. Unless you give rural credit in sufficient quantity, the remote and backward areas will not develop.

Priority sector lending is no more a charity and it is no more a subsidy. You will be surprised to know that the rate of recovery in the private sector lending is more than that of the corporate sector lending. The Non-

Performing Assets in the priority sector lending is less than the corporate sector lending and the rate of interest which the banks charge on the priority sector lending is more than the corporate sector lending. In the corporate sector lending, the rate of interest is hardly five to six per cent whereas the priority sector lending is at the rate of more than ten to eleven per cent. You take the example of self-help groups. The rate of interest of the self-help groups is 11 per cent but the recovery is 98 per cent in most of the cases. I would request the Government that they should concentrate on this point. Whenever we examined the banks, they said that the offtake in the corporate sector is so high that they are unable to attain 18 per cent of rural credit. But it should be the rule of the country, it should be mandatory and it should be seen that all the banks give 18 per cent of total lending for rural credit.

The next point is on credit deposit ratio of the public sector banks. How much money do the banks collect from a State through deposit and how much money they lend? The CD ratio in most of the backward States is much less. The banks collect much more money and they invest much less. So, the Government should impress upon the public sector banks that they should invest more in the backward areas. But that is my second point.

The third point is with regard to NABARD. If, out of this 18 per cent, they fall short of even one per cent, what is the position? Suppose the figure as regards the State Bank of India is around 12 per cent of agriculture sector lending. They are supposed to give the balance 6 per cent to the NABARD.

NABARD is supposed to lend it to the State Governments. But the State Governments are incapable of lifting that loan from NABARD because the States here are incapable of giving their share. That is why, there is lack of infrastructure building in the rural areas. I would request the Government that if the State Government is incapable of lifting loan from NABARD with regard to the infrastructure building, they should see to it that some concession is given to the backward area.

Hon. B. Mahtab has raised one point with regard to mining. I come from a State where mining is the most important thing. What I mean to say is that there is a lot of controversy on how much of mining product should go out and how much should come in. There should be a Mining Policy in each state. Sometimes, it is only sold at the rate of throwaway price. Most of the time we sell out the backward areas. They sell out their mining ores, their

natural resources. But they get a pittance in return. A country like Japan does not have any mineral resources. It takes our mineral resources and even then becomes the second biggest economy in the world. So, there should be some policy with regard to this. There should be a clear-cut mining policy. There should be a comprehensive rehabilitation policy in case where there is industrialization and where the people are shifted for installation of any industry.

You know, what happened in Orissa recently. There was a firing and 12 tribal people were killed. It happened because once in 1990, the money was given, the rehabilitation package was given to those people, the compensation was given. They took it. But the Government did not try to set up an industry. After taking money, they again stayed there. Now, after about 13 years, they wanted more. The Government did not give. Rather, there was a misunderstanding. There was firing and 12 people were killed. It has created a lot of commotion inside the State of Orissa. So, I would appeal through you to the Government that they should have a comprehensive rehabilitation policy package throughout the country. Everybody should adhere to that. Otherwise, what happens is that once this happens, a very wrong signal goes to the industrial sector. No industry comes forward because they think that as there is a law and order problem they need not go. That is why, a backward area remains perpetually backward.

I would say if we focus on agriculture, we should create a rural entrepreneur. Andhra Pradesh is the number one example. It is because it was a poor State about 30 years back, most of the people were coming to Orissa as day labourers. Now, it is just the other way round. It is Oriya people who are going out. The Telugu people are not coming. So, irrigation is the most important thing which should be focused. Shifting of crop is also an important thing. Let us not simply go by this paddy crop. Most of the time it does not give us any profit. For shifting of the crop, the Agriculture Universities should be greatly involved in the country. The Agricultural Universities' job is not just to award some degrees. What these Agricultural Universities are there for? They should be working as a consultancy service to agriculture like at which place which crop should be grown. They should test the soil. They should advise these farmers where to grow these crops and what is the demand of any crop. So, the Agricultural Universities should be involved in a great way.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

As regards the Government's claims about the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, I would say it is a good Scheme. I do not deny it. But I would appeal to the Government—also to some Ministers who are sitting here—that it should not only provide employment or earnings to the poor, the Government should also see to it that the quality of assets created out of this Scheme should be good. It should not be just a throwaway money of this Government. It should not be a charity, just to give away some money, so that nobody does any work. The asset of quality has to be created. It should be created in the rural areas. That will become a harbinger for the development of those areas. So, as regards the project, it should be prioritized. As hon. Mr. Mahtab says, it is a question of implementation.

Everybody now says that the MPLADS has failed in its objective and so you should scrap it. Why should you scrap it? It is said that it should be scrapped because it has not achieved its purpose. I will just say that I have given one project for Rs. 42 lakh for building a Town Hall in my constituency in Balasore. But, for the last nine months, the plan and estimate is not being approved. What shall I do? You say it is not being implemented. Yes, it is not being implemented. But I am not an Engineer. I am not an official. I do not have the responsibility of passing the plan and estimate. The Government is saying one thing. The district administration said that because the money involved is to the tune of Rs. 42 lakh, it could not do it; it would go to Bhubaneswar, it would go to the headquarters and the Chief Engineer would do it. The Chief Engineer said: "What responsibility do I have? I have no interest in that." So, they are not doing it. What can I do? Therefore, it should be seen that there are very strict norms that if any officer fails to discharge his responsibility, he should be punished. There is a system of reward and punishment.

My last point is with regard to this. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has mentioned about that. He has left. Shri Mahtab also mentioned about that. It is not a question of lack of money. The most potent point is this. What about the quality of governance? I will first appeal to the most backward States that they should look inwards. Recently, about two or three months back, there was a report of the Transparency International. The Transparency International has viewed that in India, most of the backward States are most corrupt. The first one is Bihar, the second one is Jammu and Kashmir and the third one is all the North-Eastern States. Do you mean to say that only if you give money, then it will prosper? It will not prosper unless it is properly utilised. There is a very

close nexus between poverty and corruption. Most of the States are poor. Even in the Transparency International List, I found that the 10 most poor States are in this country. They are also the most corrupt States. The ten most honest States in the world are also the richest. So, there is a close relationship between prosperity and honesty, poverty and corruption. So, that is why, to that extent, we must also see that the State Governments come forward. Poverty is not only the creation of the Centre or somebody outside but poverty is also, most of the times, a creation of ourselves. Whatever money we get, we do not properly utilise it. So, we should see to it that we look inwards.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ramadass. You can speak a few words and then continue next time because the time is over.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, I will finish it in ten to twelve minutes. At the outset, I would like to say that I fully endorse the Resolution moved by our hon. Member and I do agree with him that regional disparities are perpetuated over a period of time. The solution given by the Member is that there should be constitutional changes and the federal structure of the nation must be changed. It is not acceptable to me because regional imbalances that we are seeing today are due to various reasons. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ramadass, you can continue next time.

Now, the Secretary-General has to read the Messages.

18.19 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

(English)

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the

Government of Union Territories and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2006 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th February, 2006."

2. Sir, I also lay on the Table the Government of Union Territories and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2006, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 2006.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up notices received for 'Zero Hour' mentions.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I would like to draw the attention of this House towards a very sad incident about the untimely demise of Gudiya and ruining the life of her husband Arif Mohammed who was taken prisoner of war by Pakistani forces during the Kargil war. Gudiya received national attention because of personal humiliation. One has to understand the psychological reasons for Gudiya's sufferings which ultimately resulted in the failure of her organ and death recently. All this has happened due to the fault of the Commanding Officer of the Army. As hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is present here and was also Minister of State for Defence Affairs, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through this mention that recently an ex-Army Officer Brigadier R.P. Singh has alleged that because of the carelessness of the Army and selfishness of some Army Officers, the family life of not only Arif and Gudiya but three other families have been affected. Ultimately Gudiya expired in prime youth at the age of 25. We have been informed that Arif Mohammed and his colleague Jagir Singh. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. After all it is only a small matter.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I will come to the crux of the matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, this is an issue of national importance. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Arif Mohammed and Jagir Singh, both were engaged in mine laying and breaching activities by the Army during the Kargil war, when they went

missing. The Commanding Officer reported them as deserters wrongly. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your demand. This is all. You want an enquiry. That is the only thing.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: No, the problem here is that they went missing and the Commanding Officer reported that they have deserted the Army. 'Deserting the army' and 'taken as prisoner of war' are two different things. The problem lies with the decision of the Army. It is because a promotion is held up if the Commanding Officer reports that his junior officers have been taken prisoners of war. If the Commanding Officer reports that the persons have deserted, after a certain time period, no action is taken against that Commanding Officer. He is allowed to sit for different promotional exams and this has happened after these two jawans were reported as missing. Here, the problem arises because C.O. mentioned that they have deserted the Army. You imagine the humiliation that the family of Arif Mohammed and family of Jagir Singh went through.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to it. One aspect is about Gudiya. How much humiliation she had to suffer. But the other aspect is what action the Government is going to take against the Commanding Officer who reported these two persons as deserters. Whether adequate compensation in place of the humiliation they underwent is going to be given to those families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, I would bring the matter to the notice of the hon. Defence Minister.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Thank you.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakpura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, many times in this Session I have been requesting the Chair to allow some special time to debate on these issues.

[Translation]

Gudiya is no more.

[English]

But what about the future of that child? Child is also going to face this emotional agony.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you have not given notice. It will not go on record. You have no chance. Your voice will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: Sir, I am requesting some special debate should be allowed because the wives of the Army jawans are facing hard life. It is a question of women and children issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, please give a notice for a discussion but not now.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): The hon. Minister is present here. My question, which I am raising, is in the interest of all. That is why I am here. ... (Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the price of milk is Rs. 20 per litre which was Rs. 17 per litre in the year 2005. In the same way potato is being sold at the rate of Rs. 10 per kg., which was available at the rate of Rs. 4-5 per kg. The price of pulse is Rs. 38 per kg which was Rs. 30 per kg earlier. In the same way there is increase in the price of tomato also. Today, water bill has increased to Rs. 200 from Rs. 60. Due to all these things the common man is in distress. Today, 10 kg wheat flour bag is available at Rs. 140, which was being sold at the rate of Rs. 110 earlier. Today the rice is being sold at the rate of Rs. 32 per kg, which was available at the rate of Rs. 21 per kg. The price of onion has also increased. Today, sugar is available at the rate of Rs. 22 per kg, which was Rs. 19 per kg. earlier. Once its price had risen to Rs. 25-26 per kg. Today, five litre refined oil is available at the price of Rs. 240 which was being sold at Rs. 215 earlier. The price of LPG gas cylinder, which you are going to increase on 28th, has increased to Rs. 295 from Rs. 244. Today, kerosene oil is available at Rs. 30 per litre, which was being sold at Rs. 20 per litre earlier. I mean to say that the prices of eatables are increasing continuously. The Union Government should pay attention in this regard. The Government should have control over the price rise and the prices of commodities must be brought down. Your government has taken over the charge by changing our government. Your government is known as UPA government, which means *Ulat Plat* Association. ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): What name you are giving. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: I am giving you the correct name. You have changed our government. If *ulat plat* government performs well, I think the country will progress. If the price rise takes place in the country, then the public will not spare you. I think that the Union Government will pay attention in this regard. Today, the price of 'thali' has increased, today common man sings Jana Gana Mana the national anthem but he is hungry. I think that when we sing Jana, Gana Mana, you will definitely pay attention towards the people of the country and have control over the price rise. I have raised this issue in the interest of the entire House. I think, hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will also give direction to the hon. Minister and ask the Union Government that price rise should be checked definitely.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to talk about Rural Employment Scheme, Employment Guarantee Scheme, Employment Assurance Scheme, Minimum Programme Scheme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and other National rural Scheme of the Government of India under which foodgrains is provided in lieu of the work. Majority of the works sanctioned for the villages and cities are related to earthwork. Out of the fund released under these schemes 70 per cent amount is spent for the payment of wage to the labourers and the remaining 30 per cent is spent on other works. On the other hand, the government release meagre amount for 'Pucca' construction work such as construction of metalled road, bridge, culvert, school building, community center, Sanskar Bhawan, Godown, drain and for construction of stairs in the river, rivulets. Due to paucity of funds, these employment-oriented works get affected. The Government of India have introduced the Employment Guarantee Scheme wherein it has been guaranteed that the labourer working under the above scheme will get Rs. 60 per day. If these works are got done under the employment guarantee scheme the earth works get washed away in the rainy season. When the work gets washed away it does not have any meaning. Only some people get employment from it. I demand, from the government that 'Pucca' works enumerated by me should also be included in the employment oriented schemes so that development takes place in the village permanently. With this the people will continue to get

facility for 20-25 years. If Sanskar Bhawan is constructed, the people will get moral education. If school building is constructed, the children will get education. Similarly, If Gram Panchayat Bhawan is constructed the Panchayat will take care of rural work, if male and female ghats are constructed, the people will use them for taking bath. These works will have the sustainability of 20-40 years. I say that instead of doing general works, these works should be included in the Employment Guarantee Scheme. Its ratio should be enhanced to 50:50 from the present ratio of 40:20. The fund should be provided in this ratio and food grains should be provided in lieu of the work done. Sanction should be granted to these works. I demand from the Government that such works should be included in the National Programme Scheme so that the people get livelihood and facilities also. With the "Pucca" construction work the people of the village would also be

benefited. Therefore, I demand from the government that all the programmes of National Rural oriented scheme should be included in the Employment Guarantee Scheme.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 27th February, 2006.

18.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Monday, February 27, 2006/ Phalgun 8, 1927 (Saka).

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