

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

(Fourteenth Series, Vol. XXII, Eighth Session, 2006/1928 (Saka)

No. 22, Friday, August 25, 2006/Bhadra 03, 1928 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
OBITUARY REFERENCES	1-3
OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER	3
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	4-39
*Starred Question Nos. 426-431	4-39
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	39-362
Starred Question Nos. 432-445	39-75
Unstarred Question Nos. 3477-3676	75-362
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	362-368
MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA	368-369
ASSENT TO BILL	369
INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY PARTICIPATION AT THE 114TH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)	
Report	369
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS	
First and Second Reports	370
STANDIGN COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	
One Hundred Seventy-seventh Report	370
PRESENTATION OF PETITION	370
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	371-392
(i) The findings of enquiry into veracity of Zee News telecast dated 13-8-2006 on Shri Manikrao Hodliya Gavit, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs	
Shri Shivraj V. Patil	371

*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

(ii)	Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 10th, 12th and 14th Reports of the Standing Committee on Energy	
	Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde	374
(iii)	Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 12th, Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel pertaining to the Ministry of Mines	
	Shri Sis Ram Ola	375
(iv)	Status of implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	
	Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	376
(v)	Statement Correcting Reply to Unstarred Question No. 2525 dated 18th August, 2006 regarding forecasting of earthquake	
	Shri Kapil Sibal	378
(vi)	Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 127th, 141st and 157th Reports of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants pertaining to the Department of Biotechnology	
	Shri Kapil Sibal	378
(vii)	Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers pertaining to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	
	Shri B.K. Handique	380
(viii)	Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Tenth Reports of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers pertaining to the Department of Fertilizers	
	Shri B.K. Handique	386
(ix)	Statement Correcting Reply to Unstarred Question No. 3050 dated 23rd August, 2006 regarding funds to NGOs for AIDS Control Programme	
	Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi	390
	CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (RESERVATION IN ADMISSION) BILL, 2006	393-400

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	400-431
(ii) Situation arising out of the use of derogatory and insulting language about Hindu Deities in the text books of M.A. Course of IGNOU and Steps taken by the Government in this regard	400-421
Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra	400
Shri Arjun Singh	401
Kumari Mamata Banerjee	402
Shri Santosh Gangwar	411
Yogi Aditya Nath	417
Shri Ganesh Singh	419
(ii) Situation arising out of non-implementation of Subarnarekha Project in West Bengal and steps taken by the Government in this regard	421-431
Shri Adhir Chowdhury	421
Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi	421
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	425
Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy	426
Shri Sunil Kumar Mahato	427
STATEMENT UNDER RULE 199	431-436
Explanation by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development about his resignation	
Shri A. Narendra	431
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need to accord approval to the proposal of Gujarat Government for setting up an Export Zone in Saurashtra, Gujarat	446-491
Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai Barad	447
(ii) Need to provide financial assistance for solving the drinking water problem in district Mathura, Uttar Pradesh	
Shri Kunwar Manvendra Singh	447

(iii)	Need to set up a Food Park in Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu	
	Shri N.S.V. Chitthan	448
(iv)	Need to provide infrastructural facilities in the Anand Parbat area of Karol Bagh Parliamentary Constituency	
	Smt. Krishna Tirath	448
(v)	Need to address the problem of malnutrition in children in Chhattisgarh and other parts of the country	
	Ms. Ingrid Mcleod	449
(vi)	Need to open a Central School in Jalaun Garautha Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh	
	Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	450
(vii)	Need to provide education, employment and infrastructural facilities in Tumkur Parliamentary Constituency, Karnataka	
	Shri S. Mallikarjuniah	450
(viii)	Need to provide facilities to the tourists at Pushkar in Rajasthan	
	Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	451
(ix)	Need to check the spread of Encephalities in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country	
	Yogi Aditya Nath	452
(x)	Need to release adequate foodgrains to Uttaranchal under Public Distribution System	
	Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	453
(xi)	Need to formulate mechanism to prevent the child labour in organized and unorganized sectors	
	Shri Santasri Chatterjee	453
(xii)	Need to open a hospital with all facilities in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh	
	Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq	454
(xiii)	Need to permit Members of Parliament to use beacon lights on vehicles for their identification	
	Shri Rajnarayan Budholla	454

(xiv)	Need to open an Agriculture Products Retail Centre under National Horticulture Mission in Patna, Bihar	
	Shri Ram Kripal Yadav	455
(xv)	Need to set up a domestic airport in Ramanathpuram Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu	
	Shri M.S.K. Bhawani Rajenthiran	455
(xvi)	Need to implement Sixth bi-partite Settlement between All India IDBI Employees Association Mumbai and Board of Directors, I.D.B.I.	
	Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul	456
(xvii)	Need to check smuggling of coal in Jharkhand and West Bengal	
	Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta	457
(xviii)	Need to take rehabilitation measures in flood affected areas of Beed Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra	
	Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad Patil	457
(xix)	Need to expedite the work relating to various Railway Projects at Chhapra, Kaptanganj and Maharajganj in Bihar	
	Shri Prabhunath Singh	458
(xx)	Need to regularise the services of temporary workers in Bangalore and other parts of the country	
	Shri M. Shivanna	459
(xxi)	Need to look into the procedure adopted by the Uttranchal Government for issuing the caste certificates to S.C. category	
	Shri Munshi Ram	460
	WILD LIFE (PROTECTION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2006	491-533
	Motion to consider	
	Shri A. Raja	491
	Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar	493
	Shri Tathagata Satpathy	496
	Shri S.K. Kharventhan	500
	Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran	502

Shri Shailendra Kumar	505
Shri Vijayendra Kumar	506
Shri Munshi Ram	508
Dr. Karan Singh Yadav	509
Shri Dushyant Singh	510
Shri Ramdas Athawale	513
Shrimati Maneka Gandhi	513
Shri M. Appadurai	517
Shri Bikram Keshari Deo	518
Shri Kiren Rijiju	521
Shri Lakshman Singh	523
Clauses 2 to 7 and 1	530
Motion to Pass	530
VALEDICTORY REFERENCE	533-536
NATIONAL SONG—Played	536
ANNEXURE-I	
Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	537-538
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	538-544
ANNEXURE-II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	545-546
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	545-548

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 25, 2006/Bhadra 03, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of two of our former colleagues, Shri Yoganand Saraswati, and Shri K.A. Rajan.

Shri Yoganand Saraswati was a Member of the Tenth Lok Sabha from 1991 to 1996 representing Bhind Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Saraswati began his career as a teacher in Brahmcharyashram, Bikaner in 1933. Thereafter, he joined the service under the then Princely State of Bikaner, and served in various capacities. In recognition of his distinguished services, he was awarded a Gold Medal by the Raja of Bikaner. Shri Saraswati later served the Indian Army during the Second World War from 1941 to 1945.

A person with a spiritual bent of mind, Shri Saraswati was an authority in the fields of religion and philosophy. He also authored a book titled "Amrit".

Shri Yoganand Saraswati passed away on 23 July 2006 at Bhind, Madhya Pradesh at the age of 95.

Shri K.A. Rajan was a Member of the Sixth and Seventh Lok Sabhas from 1977 to 1984 representing Trichur Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala.

An able Parliamentarian, Shri Rajan was a Member of the Committee on Government Assurances during 1977, and the Consultative Committee, Ministry of Labour.

An engineer by profession, Shri Rajan was associated with erstwhile Cochin State Prajamandal. An active trade unionist, he served as the State Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress; as Office-bearer in All India Port Dock and Waterfront Workers' Federation during 1975; and All India Electricity Employees Federation during 1977.

Shri K.A. Rajan passed away on 17 August 2006 at the age of 80.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends, and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given a notice to suspend the Question Hour. There is a rein of terror in the....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, I will allow you to raise it after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, three workers of the National Hydel Power Corporation have been murdered....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, I would request you to please raise this issue after the Question Hour. The situation will not worsen in one hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: These notices for suspension of the Question Hour are becoming suspension of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to allow this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded, and nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Sir, please allow the matter to be raised after the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I will allow it, and I have said it too.

11.03 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I believe that I should once again express my feeling of thanks to all the Leaders for their help in normalising the functioning of the House Yesterday. I am thankful to all of them. This is what I always expected from them, and I got it too.

But at the same time, I must once again express my strongest possible condemnation about the incident that has happened. Please see that the image of the House is not further tarnished.

Yesterday, I saw all that was being said about us in some of the TV channels, and also read about it in all the newspapers today. The people are ringing up, sending e-mail messages and they are using the harshest possible words about us. Is it not the time for us to make great introspection about what would be the future of this country if the Parliamentary democracy becomes non-functional?

I am not referring to any one hon. Member, any party, or parties. I am appealing to all hon. Members here, and I am sure, the country which is watching us will only appreciate if we respond to their expectations and see that this highest forum of people of this country discharges its duties and functions in a manner expected of us.

Thank you for your kind cooperation. I will try to allow every hon. Member today who have notices of urgent matters after the Question Hour and the Calling Attention Notice. Please cooperate with me. I will try to call everybody, and there will be no particular choice. Please cooperate; you will find that you will get more chances.

11.04 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rakesh Singh, Q. No. 426.

Development of Cities

*426. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to implement single window civil administration system in the selected cities under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Development Authorities and Housing Boards carrying out parallel responsibility of the development of cities and civic amenities are likely to be done away with;

(d) if so, whether the Government has examined all such possibilities and its impact on urban development and basic amenities to be provided to the citizens; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (e): Administration of the cities in the country falls in the domain of the State Governments concerned. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) is intended to give a fillip to the improvement of infrastructure and governance in the selected cities. The JNNURM seeks to bring about efficient and people friendly civic governance along with providing better infrastructural facilities. Even though there is no specific mention of single window civil administration system in the basket of reforms to be undertaken by the State Governments and Urban Local Bodies, there is, however, emphasis on speedy transaction of business through

implementation of reforms like introduction of e-governance using IT applications, enactment of Public Disclosure Law, enactment of Community Participation Law, etc. Development authorities and Housing Boards are institutions set up by the State Governments. However, as per the Constitution 74th (Amendment) Act 1992, State Governments are expected to transfer all 18 functions including planning envisaged in the 12th Schedule of the said Act to the local bodies. One of the mandatory reforms to be undertaken by the State Governments under the JNNURM, is the implementation of the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act 1992. Ministry of Urban Development has been impressing upon the States from time to time to fully implement provisions of the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act 1992.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of regret that such a simple question could not be replied in a simple way. I asked a very simple question whether the Development Authority and Residential Boards are likely to be wound up. I have to read the 12th Schedule of the 74th Amendment Act, 1992 to understand the reply that has been given in response to my question. Since I have asked the question, I shall have to ask the supplementary also. I would like to state that the Government is going to provide thousands of crores rupees for the project based development in selected cities of the country under this important scheme. But the type of the development work that has been envisaged by the Government is proposed to be implemented through local bodies. Though Union Government, does not openly admit it but it has been indirectly emphasized that the local bodies should be entrusted with the responsibility of executing work and SIDCO Improvement trust, Development Authorities etc. should be wound up. Here the important point is whether the local bodies have the required infrastructure and whether these bodies will be able to provide quality work. Will the quality of the work of local bodies be checked as per the existing norms or whether the Government will devise separate norms for them and then consider to implement it.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I want the hon. Member

and the House to note that under our Constitution, urban development is a State subject. Even though it is a State subject, we have launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, which is huge not only in terms of significance, but in terms of the financial implications. You are aware that there is a Seventy-fourth Amendment to the Constitution under which vital functions are to devolve on the urban local bodies. There are 18 functions which are to devolve on the urban local bodies. I cannot, through this forum, say whether the State Government should keep Development Boards or not, whether they should keep Planning Boards or not. However, I am trying to see that maximum functions devolve on the urban local bodies as per the programmes to be taken up under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. I can assure the Member that we are trying to take care of the quality of implementation of these programmes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, still I have not received the correct reply to my question. I wanted to know whether the infrastructure available with these local bodies is sufficient to fulfill this responsibility along with their present assignments. Besides, I asked about the quality and the same remains unanswered...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I have not received a my reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go on repeating. He said that it is a State matter and they are doing it. Please ask him what the Centre can do in this regard.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I would like to assure the Member that the Government of India is trying to help build capacities both at the levels of urban local bodies and State Governments. Since urbanisation is relatively a new phenomenon in the country, there is a need to build the capacity. We are taking specific steps to see that this capacity building is attended to.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cities that have been selected under this scheme includes a prominent city of my parliamentary constituency, Jabalpur, Katni. Whenever we talk about development, what comes

to the fore is certainly integrated development. It is the responsibility of public representative and the Government to see that the benefit these schemes reach the entire city. There is a cantonment board also in Jabalpur where a large number of people reside and the people of that area are not covered under this scheme....(*Interruptions*). Consequently a large section of the population remains deprived of the benefits of this scheme. Sir, please see the 'D' part of the question. My question is also about the civic amenities and the same is being asked here that a large section of the population continue to be deprived of the benefits of this scheme. My pointed simple is whether the inhabitants of the cantonment board will be included in this scheme or will be deprived there?

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, as for Jabalpur city, I am happy to inform the Member that the City Development Plan of Jabalpur city has been received; it has been appraised and it has been approved. As for the Cantonment Board, the Seventy-Fourth Amendment mandates that election is to be held in Cantonment Board. There is a problem because the Defence Ministry exercise control. I am talking to the Defence Ministry.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is very simple....(*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It will not be recorded. Mr. Minister, please do not respond to that. This habit is not good.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I am talking to the Defence Ministry to see that this problem is sorted out. Until it is sorted out, I would not be able to give any categorical assurance.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a correct answer has not been given....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, further action may be taken, if answer is not to the point.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: What is the use of asking a question if the same is not answered? ...(*Interruptions*) I seek your protection....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please give notice for protection, please see what can be done under the rules.

[*English*]

You cannot go on until you get a satisfactory answer. The whole Question Hour cannot be taken up by you.

[*Translation*]

DR. ARVIND SHARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the importance of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Scheme multiplies in view of the forthcoming Common Wealth Games 2010. There should not be any inconvenience in National Capital Region of Delhi during the Commonwealth Games. This scheme was dreamt by of our respected former Prime Minister, Late Rajiv Gandhi. So, Hon'ble Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singhji should work for the equitable development of rural and urban areas. I want to know whether the adjoining cities of NCR, Delhi like Sonapat, Panipat, Rohtak, Gurgaon, Faridabad will also be included in the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Scheme?

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I appreciate the question because it relates to the need for preparing ourselves for Commonwealth Games to be held in India in Delhi in 2010. We have a separate plan in regard to the National Capital Region territory. The cities within the National Capital Region territory will be attended to in a separate programme and not as part of Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission.

[*Translation*]

DR. ARVIND SHARMA: Mr. Speaker, sir, more than ten lakh....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If answer is not satisfactory, then discuss with the hon. Minister personally.

...(*Interruptions*)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded after the hon. Minister. Dr. Sharma, would you kindly take your seat?

DR. BABURAO MEDIYAM: Sir, under the JNNURM it is being said that E-Governance is going to be promulgated and single-window administration is advocated in the scheme. My pointed question to the Minister is whether the Urban Land Ceiling Acts of various States like Andhra Pradesh would be superseded by the JNNURM or not? The Minister may kindly enlighten me on this.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Firstly, under the reforms to be undertaken through Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, the Urban Land Ceiling Act is to be scrapped. As for Andhra Pradesh Government, it has made a commitment, and we are sure that they would live up to their commitment.

SHRI MOHAN JENA: Sir, the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission is a city-based programme. It has been set up with Rs. 1 lakh crore outlay to cover 60 cities in the country. It would seek to build the capacity of our cities for management. To tap technical resources, the Mission envisages the creation of a Voluntary Technical Corps in each city. The success of the Mission will depend on its ability to enlist the support of a large number of partners and stakeholders.

Sir, in order to garner financial resources in the infrastructure sector, public-private partnership have been envisaged in the Scheme. Hence, my question is regarding the objective of the Scheme. Would the Scheme strengthen the local elected bodies, that is, the Local Self Government or will it gradually open the floodgate of total privatisation in urban sector?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: One of the important reforms of the Mission is to see the urban local bodies come into their own, gain importance and gain in their capacity as well. There is no question of privatisation as such under the Mission. This is a programme which is being administered through the State Governments, and through urban local bodies.

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: I would like to know from

the Minister as to what is the total fund allocation for the development of Coimbatore city under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. When would the first instalment be released?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, have you got the information?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I have got the information.

Tamil Nadu has submitted the City Development Plan for Coimbatore. It has been apprised, and it has been approved. I will not be able to give the minute details about this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 75 cities have been selected across the country under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. My parliamentary constituency, Patna and Gaya cities have also been selected under this scheme. Through you, I want to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he has received a detailed project report regarding the fund allocated for Patna and Gaya during this financial year? If so, the time by which you are going to release this fund so that work could be started there.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The City Development Plans from Bihar Government have been received only in the last few days. Detailed Project Reports have not been submitted. As for financial allocations, there is no ceiling. It will depend on the kind of projects they prepare and the kind of quality of reports they prepare.

MR. SPEAKER: I have forgot to make an announcement. It was my fault not to do so earlier. There was a letter of resignation from a hon. Member, which I have rejected. I am inviting him to come and attend the House. Please inform this is him.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit the hon'ble Minister that Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission is going to be introduced in the country. The UPA

Chairperson who is sitting here and she is related to the family of that national leader on whose member this scheme has been names. Her in-laws home is also in Allahabad....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not relevant. Why are you mentioning these things?

[*Translation*]

Please ask your question. What is the need to go into the genealogy?

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Allahabad had been the epic centre of freedom struggle. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru started freedom struggle right from that place. I want to know whether this programme is proposed to be started from Allahabad and whether priority will be accorded to this city under this scheme?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Why not the Speaker's town? Of course, Allahabad should get priority.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The City Development Plans of Allahabad have been received only in the last few days. The Detailed Project Reports have not been received. As and when they are received, they will be treated in a very positive way. I am aware of the specific historical significance of Allahabad City.

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody shares that view.

Amendments to Companies Act

[*English*]

*427. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is laying stress on higher penalty for violation of the Companies Act, 1956 and other governance norms by the companies while finalizing the framework for the new company law;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is focusing on the issues of transparency and disclosures; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) The Government is considering a comprehensive revision of the Companies Act, 1956 to enable the corporate legal framework to be more effective in the emerging economic environment and encourage good corporate governance. While preparing the proposals for the new legislation, the requirement of enabling the reasonableness, appropriateness and effectiveness of the penalties in the context of the gravity of the offence is being kept in view. In order that the proposed law enables self-regulation with accountability, provisions for suitable disclosures with requisite transparency are also being examined. In addition the e-Governance Project of the Government, namely MCA-21, would further facilitate easy access to information pertaining to the companies.

Legislative proposals in this regard are being prepared in the form of a comprehensive Companies Bill that would be introduced in the Parliament in due course for consideration.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Regarding rationalization of offences and penalties under the Companies Act, I remember that the UPA Government had appointed an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri O.P. Vaish on 4th May 2005. May I know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, whether that Committee has submitted its report and if so, what is the action taken on the report?

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: At present, all offences under the Companies Act are to be tried and prosecuted in the courts. There is no in-house mechanism which will resolve these cases. Whether the offences are of minor in nature or major in nature; all the them must go to the courts. The UPA Government had decided to appoint a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri O.P. Vaish, who is a renowned lawyer in the country, to find

out and suggest ways and means to streamline the prosecution mechanism of the pending cases. There are about 45,000 cases which are pending in various courts; and some of them are even 20 years old. The average penalty imposed by the courts is Rs. 2247. But the time taken is almost five years to 20 years. So, the Government is considering the report seriously and we are trying to resolve the issue. There are about 16,000 cases, involving minor technical offences. So, we are trying to find out ways and means of resolving the issue.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: There seems to be multiplicity of regulators and duplication of law relating to governance and financial transparency. How is the Government going to solve these problems? Since the JPC had also addressed this issue in relation to the stock scam, how is the Ministry addressing the issues relating to corporate governance norms by listed companies, apart from SEBI's regulation? When will a comprehensive Companies (Amendment) Bill be introduced in the Parliament?

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: SEBI looks after the mechanism of the companies which are listed on the stock exchanges. Once companies go for a public issue or IPO, they have to comply with certain terms and conditions under clause 49 of the SEBI's Listing Agreement. SEBI has its own regulations under they are sectoral regulators. But the parent law is Companies Act of 1956, and there is no clash of interest between the two Acts—the SEBI performs its duty in the case of companies which are listed; the Companies Act performs its duty in the case of companies whether they are listed or unlisted.

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody else to put Supplementary Questions?

Mr. Minister, your answer has disarmed others!

[Translation]

Cost of Power Generation

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*428. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the MINISTER OF POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has explored the possibilities of lowering the cost of power generation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the fuels used in power generation in the country at present;

(d) the estimated average cost of power generation during 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 in respect of various projects in the country as a result of using each kind of fuel; and

(e) the details of expenditure incurred by the Government on research and development for lowering the power generation cost in the country?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) A number of steps have been taken for reducing the cost of power generation.

The Electricity Act, 2003 creates a competitive framework for generation which should exert a downward pressure on costs.

The National Electricity Policy lays down maximum emphasis on full development of feasible hydro potential. Hydro electricity is cheaper in long term.

For thermal power, the policy states that economics of generation and supply of electricity should be the basis for choice of fuel from among the options available. It would be economical for new generating stations to be located either near the fuel sources e.g. pithead locations or load centres.

The Tariff Policy provides that all future requirement of power should be procured competitively by distribution licensees except in cases of expansion of existing projects or where there is a State controlled/owned company as an identified developer. For Public Sector Projects, tariff of all new generation and transmission projects should

be decided on the basis of competitive bidding after a period of five years.

Captive coal mining for thermal projects is being encouraged with a view inter alia to lowering the cost of fuel for coal fired stations.

Operational efficiency of poorly performing thermal power stations have been increased by pursuing Renovation and Modernization programme.

The terms and conditions of tariff of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) for the period 2004-09 have improved the operational norms.

Mega Power Policy provides for zero customs duty for import of capital equipment and deemed export benefits for domestic supplies.

The following fiscal concessions have also been given with the objective of lowering the cost of generation.

- Reduction on custom duty on Naphtha from 10% to 5% (Basic Customs Duty) + 16% (CV Duty) for power projects.
- Reduction of duty on Natural Gas from 10% to 5% for power projects.
- Reduction of customs duty on coal from 25% to 5%.

(c) Coal, lignite, Natural gas, Liquefied Natural Gas and liquids fuels Low Sulphur Heavy Stock (LSHS), Heavy Furnance Oil (HFO), Naphtha, High Speed Diesel (HSD) etc. are conventional fuels used in India for power generation.

(d) The cost of generating power varies from station to station depending upon the capital cost, vintage, technology used, fuel, size of plant, location etc. The average cost for generation for central sector plants from different fuels in 2004-2005 and 2005-06 is given in the Annexure.

(e) Central Sector Research and Development expenditure during the year 2002-03 was Rs. 12072.98 crores, 7.7% of this was spent on production, generation and distribution of energy.

Annexure

Cost of Generation (Tariff) of Central Sector Generating Stations existing as on 1-4-2004 for 2004-05 and 2005-06 in Paise/kWh Ex-Bus (New Terms and Conditions of Tariff with improved norms) at 80% PLF

Sl. No.	Type of the generating station	Cost of generation (Tariff) Rs.Kwh	Cost of generation (Tariff) Rs./Kwh
		Years Units	2004-05 Paise/kWh
1.	Coal stations-pithead	117	123
2.	Coal stations-non pit head	190	194
3.	Average cost of coal stations	142	147
4.	Lignite based thermal station	171	171
5.	Natural Gas Fuel	152	167
6.	Liquid fuel (Naphtha/HSD)	536	700

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have three sectors for power generation in our country, namely, Central Sector, State Sector and Private Sector. Electricity is the most vital need of our life. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of such power generation projects, and the quantum of electricity generated by them on the basis of 80 per cent plant load factor on an average during 2004-05 and 2005-2006 along with fuel used by them and estimated cost of electricity generated there from.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, till 1992-93 the plant load factor was 57 per cent in the

country. It is now 75 per cent. Hon'ble Member wanted to know the data relating to plant load factor for 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. For this we will have to calculate the load factor of the whole country or load factor of every State. I will inform the hon. Member in this regard after collecting information.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, three years ago it was said that the cost of power generation in hydel sector is less than half of the cost of power generation in thermal sector. We are utilizing only 17 per cent potential of the hydel sector in our country. There is huge potential for power generation in hydel sector and that electricity is cheaper too. What are the endeavour of the hon. Minister for generation of more power in this sector and whether there is any time bound programme in this regard?

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: We have great achievements in hydel sector. There is potential of generating at least 60000 megawatt of electricity in the Himalayan region. As per the figures of survey conducted by us there is potential of 50,000 Mega Watt of electricity generation in Arunachal Pradesh alone. But very little work has been done there in the hydel sector. I myself have talked with the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh in this regard. I have also talked to the Chief Ministers of North-Eastern States, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu-Kashmir in this regard. It is true that electricity generated in hydel sector is cheaper. Its cost is less or than a rupee. There is some fluctuation in the cost because it depends on the condition of the places where power stations are established. So its cost may differ between 89 paise to Rs. 2.00 but this is the cheapest electricity today. We are trying our best and at many places we have signed MOU with private companies. Some Members had asked and how without bidding can it be possible but many States have signed MOU for 100 Mega Watt hydel power projects and in many States work is going on in this regard and we are also promoting it. A few such States have also signed MOU for more than 100 Mega Watt Hydel Power Projects. We are trying to find out a way of it. We have to generate more power. In hydel power sector we have NHPC through which we are also trying to generate electricity as well as taking help of the private sector. We all want transparency in it. Bringing transparency in it, we want to expedite this work particularly in Arunachal

Pradesh and North-East region and our department is moving forward in this direction.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole country is facing problem of shortage of electricity. Due to shortage of electricity all round development of our country is taking place with a snail's pace. I want to ask a straight question to the hon. Minister. All sugar mills in India particularly in Uttar Pradesh generate electricity themselves. After making sugar from sugarcane from the bagasse somewhere 15-20 Mega Watt and at some places up to 30 Mega Watt of electricity is generated from it which is more than their requirement. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether he will provide a list of sugar mills that can generate electricity and whether he will provide electricity to the villages from such sugar mills?

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is not related to my Ministry but related to my friend's Ministry but as you said first of all electricity goes to the State grid and from that grid it is transmitted all over the State. The electricity which is not used by anyone goes to the national grid or to the State grid.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has also made a mention of our State. I am grateful to him that he is taking interest of our State also. But when the cost of production comes up, there are two reasons for it. First the execution of project gets delayed which results in the escalation of cost and second in long term Hydro electricity is very cheap. The hon. Minister of both Ministries namely Non-Conventional Energy and power are sitting here. The Standing Committee on Energy has also recommended to do away with the practice of delay of eight to ten years in execution of the projects but our Ministry of power has not found any solution to it. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps is he taking with a mission mode to do away with the delay in execution of Hydel projects. In comparison to coal and other sectors, you are not paying required attention to hydel projects. What steps are you going to take in this regard?

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that till now we could not pay much attention to hydel projects. The Himalayan range is the area from where we can get more electricity. Two to four DPRs had been prepared. I myself have conducted meetings for this.

I had called the Chairman of NHPC, Secretary and heads of all concerned utilities and conducted a meeting to see how fast we could do this work. The hon. Member had told me about Arunachal Pradesh. I intervened and called a meeting of Chief Minister and Chief Secretary of Arunachal Pradesh. There was an apprehension in their mind that we are handing over it to private hands. We are calculating the cost of projects in respect of which DPRs are prepared and if we have to handover this work to them we have to think as to how to recover the money spent by NHPC. But we have to start power generation as early as possible. So, we want to work on both of the fronts. We want to bring transparency in it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, he also mentioned about hydro station. Earlier it took 6 to 6½ years to complete a hydro station but now it will take only 60 months. We are also trying to reduce it further. We are bringing schemes for it by giving more orders for production of more machineries to heavy industries and by prioritizing heavy industries like that happens in China. We have three factories like BHEL and they have generated three lakh Mega Watt hydro electricity. We are also thinking on that line whether we can move forward in this direction by investing our own capital and capital available with our Ministry and NHPC? We are thinking like this so that electricity could be generated as early as possible.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It was a very positive response but you should be brief.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Sir, the rate of power generation is...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: In future, Leaders will not be called to ask supplementary in Question Hour.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please do not impose this restriction because sometimes we want to ask a question. Due to higher rates of electricity our

industry, agriculture and households, all are facing problems. I know that it may be a bit digression from the subject. But I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the cost of generation of electricity in our neighbouring countries and developed countries in comparison to our country? Has any survey or any effort been made to know the comparative rate of electricity in these countries. If not, then, will the Government make any efforts in this direction.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rate of electricity in India is the lowest. If we compare it with other countries like United States of America, then we see that the rates are very high there. I would not like to compare it with developed, developing and under developed countries but would like to say that even today our rates are very low. The cost of per unit electricity from pithead coal based station is Rs. 1.17, from coal based non pithead stations it is Rs. 1.90 per unit, from average per-coal station it is Rs. 1.42 per unit, from lignite based stations it is Rs. 1.71 per unit, from gas based stations it is Rs. 1.52 and from Nathpa based stations which the costliest, it is Rs. 5.36 per unit whereas hydro electric is the cheapest and its cost is 90 paise per unit. It is around 84 to 90 paise.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, you would agree that there is a big power crisis throughout the country, be it in Delhi, West Bengal or other States. Why does the Government not set up more and more power generation centres? [Translation] We will have to set up more power generation centre for electricity. [English] Will the Government make a review of the situation in the country? The Minister says, if we see America and India, our price is much cheaper. India is India and America is America. Our standard of living is different from the American standard of living. Why should we compare America with India? We are proud of our country...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: I have never compared it...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: You did compare it. ...(Interruptions)

Sir, the monopoly sector in power is raising price of power like anything. It is charging additional fuel surcharge and security surcharge. People are just fed up with it. They feel disturbed. Will the Government tap more and more power generation potentials like the hydro-electrical and allow private sector or joint ventures to enter into this field so that we do not have to depend on one monopoly sector?

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: First of all, I must clarify that I have not compared India with America. I had referred it just as an example of a developed and developing country.

MR. SPEAKER: We are proud of our country.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Everyone should be proud of our country. Whatever resources are available within our country, we should exploit them for the people, particularly poor people, of our country. It is there in the Common Minimum Programme of UPA.

I must bring it to your notice that the power sector is in Concurrent List. Both the Central Government and the State Governments have to take care of it....(*Interruptions*) If we have to do it on our own, we will have to bring in a Constitutional amendment.

I am aware that there is power shortage in the country and that is why I am personally taking keen interest. I have called the Chief Ministers and talked with them about capacity addition. Yesterday, I had called the Chief Ministers of Delhi and Haryana. Keeping in view the coming Commonwealth Games in 2010, we have signed an agreement of 5,300 MV between Damodar Valley Electricity, NTPC and Haryana. Sir, we are well aware that States are deficit in electricity generation. We are looking into it. Madam has given a suggestion, particularly with regard to Kolkata.

[*English*]

We know she is having special interest in West Bengal. We will try to ease the position as soon as possible.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir,

today our country is facing two problems—one is the cost of electricity and other is its availability. Besides, we will have to coordinate to minimize the environmental pollution for this purpose. Nuclear and Hydro energy are very important. Through you, I would like to congratulate the Government that India-US nuclear deal with reopen vast avenues in the field of nuclear energy. At present the share of nuclear energy is only 2 per cent. About Hydro Power Sector, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that Nepal and Bhutan have the potential of generating 2 lakh megawatts of power. The hon'ble Minister of Bhutan has inaugurated a new plant of 1000 megawatts. India is getting 150 megawatt of electricity from the first phase of the plant. Do the Government propose to get more electricity from these two countries so that we can concentrate on the fields of transmission and distribution? Today the biggest problem is not generation but it is transmission and distribution because of which the country has to bear 50 per cent losses.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Brevity is the virtue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that we are getting electricity from Bhutan and this project is a joint venture of India and Bhutan. Government of India had invested huge capital in it. Now we are getting electricity from Taal. It is true that we can also get ample amount of electricity from Nepal for which we are holding talk with Nepal. We can get at least 60000 megawatt of electricity from Nepal. My department has made an effort to reduce transmission losses by providing electricity from the nearby unit. This will reduce transmission losses.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we need resources like coal and uranium for power generation in Jharkhand. There dams have been constructed on rivers. Though the people came under submerged areas of these dams but heavy amount of electricity can be generated from these dams. I would like to know from the Government whether it proposes to

set up a new project in Jharkhand for reducing the cost of power generation? If so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking about the cost of power generation.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: But I can answer because Jharkhand is a little backward State. Therefore, the Department of Power has taken keen interest in it. I would give one example of Tenu Ghat plant which was running below 40 per cent PLF. So, we provided them assistance of NTPC and now the PLF has gone to more than 70 per cent. Therefore, we are also providing such type of excellence.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us be very brief in asking the question.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, it is seen from the reply that the cost incurred on research and development in 2002-03 is Rs. 12072.98 crore. Obviously, it is a huge money. May I know from the Minister what is the outcome of such a huge expenditure and in the meantime what new proposals could the Government take up for reducing the cost of generation after incurring such a huge cost on R and D?

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: As regards research and development, we have specific laboratories in three to four places. They have been doing research on reduction of period in putting up power generation stations, reduction in transmission losses, etc. I have all the figures and details but it will require some time to tell. So, I will give it to the Member if it is required.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance for Drinking Water Projects

429. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to approach the World Bank to seek assistance for drinking water projects in urban areas;

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

(c) the efforts being made by the Government for facilitating early execution of these projects particularly in Uttar Pradesh?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Provision of drinking water in urban areas is an important sector for which World Bank has extended assistance to various States from time to time. At present, there are 3 on-going State level World Bank assisted projects which are covering drinking water supply: (a) Karnataka Urban Water Supply Project (US\$ 39.5 million); (b) Karnataka Municipal Reform Project (US\$ 216 million) and (c) Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project (US\$ 300 million).

In addition, Government proposes to approach the World Bank for assistance to the following urban sector projects which include a component of drinking water supply:

S. No.	Name of the Project	Present Status
1.	Andhra Pradesh Urban Reform and Municipal Services Project	Project has been prepared and involves World Bank assistance of US\$ 233 million.
2.	Gujarat Urban Development Project	Project preparation has started. Tentatively, the amount being considered is US\$ 130 million.

S. No.	Name of the Project	Present Status
3.	Maharashtra Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project	Project Concept Note has been received by the Ministry of Urban Development from the State Government. After the necessary approval of the Planning Commission, it will be posed to the World Bank. Details will be worked out during the project preparation.

No. Proposal has been received from Government of Uttar Pradesh for a drinking water supply project.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble minister has stated that the World Bank sponsored drinking water projects for the urban areas being run in three places. Among them Karnataka Urban Drinking Water Supply Project is of 39.5 million dollar, Karnataka Municipal Reforms Project is of 216 million dollar and Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project is of 300 million dollar. Apart from this, these projects are being run in some other states among which prominent one's are Andhra Pradesh Urban Reforms and Municipal Services Project, Gujarat Urban Development Project and Maharashtra Urban Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project. The hon'ble Minister has said that he has not received any proposal from Uttar Pradesh while I have information that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent a proposal in this regard. Has that proposal has been suppressed? I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he will try to find out that proposal or whether he will ask the State Government to send it. Since Uttar Pradesh is a very big State and its condition is also very bad, we demand that either he should ask the Uttar Pradesh Government to send that proposed again so that the projects of Uttar Pradesh can also be included in the projects to be launched by the Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Repetition does not make your question any stronger and please do not make insinuations every time.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, this Question deals with Urban Drinking Water Supply Project. My answer is

that we have not received a proposal from the State of Uttar Pradesh for the Urban Drinking Water Supply Project.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you anything more to ask? The Government has not yet got the proposal from the State of Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has just talked about the urban projects of Uttar Pradesh but today the condition of rural areas of the state is very bad. There is water crisis in the rural areas. We have sent a proposal for Pachnad Dam. It is a mega project Rs. 2000 crore. We have had talks with the Water Resources Minister in this regards on several occasions, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the Pachnad Dam which falls in Chaknagar area of Etawah district in my constituency. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent a proposal in this regard, will he sanction this project and provide funds for it?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got such projects?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I think, the hon. Minister is referring to irrigation projects and other projects. Amongst the on-going projects, there is no Uttar Pradesh-specific on-going project in water supply. But in the pipeline, to be proposed not to the World Bank but to the JBIC, there is the Ganga Jal Project for Agra. There also in the pipeline the Uttar Pradesh Diversified Agricultural Support Project which has to be proposed to the World Bank and as I said the Ganga Jal Project for Agra which has to be proposed to the JBIC. There are other projects not relating to water, for example, there the Uttar Pradesh

Health System Development Project; there is the Uttar Pradesh State Road Project and there is the Uttar Pradesh Vidyut Development Project.

Sir, if the hon. Member writes to me, then I can give him the entire details and then he could tell me whether anyone in my office has made a mistake.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that there is acute shortage of water in my state especially three districts of my constituency namely Kathera, Udampur and Doda. I demand from the hon'ble Minister to make arrangements for water supply in my area under World Bank assistance plan.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is from the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, in my list here I do not have any proposal received from the State of Jammu and Kashmir. There is one Jammu and Kashmir Urban Development Project which has to be proposed to the ADB and that is the only one that is pending. Unless the hon. Member tells me the name of the project and when it was sent, it would be difficult for me to answer.

MR. SPEAKER: He will write to you unless he is misinformed.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIVANKAR: Mr. Speaker Sir, Maharashtra has submitted a proposal of Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project to the Union Government. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister the cost of the project submitted by the Maharashtra Government in U.S. dollars and extent to which municipal bodies have been included and the time by which the aforesaid project is likely to be approved and forwarded to the World Bank.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the Maharashtra Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project is a project that is under consideration. We have received a project

concept note from the State Government. This has to be approved by the Planning Commission and then posed to the World Bank.

The brief details of the project are like this. The project aims at making the urban local bodies emerge as financially independent, technically sound and managerially professional entities to handle efficiently and successfully water supply and sanitation service delivery. The project note sent by the State Government indicates that the project cost is Rs. 7000 crore which is quite high. The amount of World Bank assistance will be finalised after the detailed project report is prepared. The Ministry of Urban Development has forwarded the proposal to the Department of Economic Affairs. This must have the approval of the Planning Commission and thereafter, it will be posed to the World Bank.

It Refunds

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the complaints of delays in refunds of Income Tax to the assesseees;

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

(c) the amount of refunds payable during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the assesseees have been compensated for belated payment of refunds;

(e) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken for timely refund of taxes to assesseees?

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. There is delay in issuing of refunds in some cases despite the streamlining of procedure for

issuing of refunds by comprehensive computerization programme of the Income-tax Department. However, the Department has put in place an effective mechanism for redressal of grievances relating to delay in refund.

(b) Details regarding delayed refunds are not maintained. Normally, returns are processed within four months and refunds are issued. However, some delay is caused due to shortage of manpower. In some cases, verification of taxes paid or deducted is required causing delay in issuing of the refund till verification process is over.

(c) The details of total amount of money refunded by Income Tax Department to the assesseees during the last three years are as follows:

Financial Year	Amount of Refund (in Rupees crore)
2003-2004	25,737
2004-2005	28,514
2005-2006	29,435

(d) Yes, Sir. Income Tax Act provides for interest under Section 244A to the tax payer for delayed refund. The present rate of interest is 6% per annum.

(e) The details of total amount of interest paid to the assesseees for the last three years are as follows:-

Financial Year	Interest paid to the assessee (in Rupees crore)
2002-2003	6268
2003-2004	4701
2004-2005	3865

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

(g) Some of the steps taken by the Department to ensure timely refund of taxes to assesseees are:-

(i) Computerized processing of returns has been introduced to ensure timely issue of refunds.

- (ii) Guidelines have been issued by CBDT to process all returns and issue refunds within four months of filing of returns.
- (iii) Administrative measures like regular inspection by higher authorities are taken.
- (iv) Income Tax Department is in the process of increasing manpower.
- (v) The dematerialization of TDS certificates is already under process and verification will be done electronically.
- (vi) Electronic Clearing System (ECS) has already been introduced in 12 major cities to directly credit the refunds in to the bank account of taxpayer. It is proposed to extend ECS to 24 more cities in near future.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister the number of cases of bogus claim of refunds by filing fictitious returns of income with fictitious TDS certificates which have come to the notice of the Government. I also want to know whether any criminal proceedings have been initiated by the police against bogus claimants. If so, how many cases have been filed throughout the country?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am sorry that I would not be able to give the number of cases of the so-called bogus refund claims. That is not the main question in the first place. If you want to know the case filed, I will have to collect the data from the country. But since a vast majority of the income returns do not go through a scrutiny process, if there is a refund claim in the return, in the normal course that refund will be granted. It is only in the scrutiny cases and appeal cases it could be identified and found out whether the claim is bogus or not.

MR. SPEAKAR: Cases which are not allowed are bogus.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Is the Government having any proposal to credit the refund amount directly in the assesseees bank account without any abnormal delay to help the assesseees and to avoid bogus claims?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes. We advise the assesseees to quote their PAN and their bank account

number. If PAN and bank account number are quoted, then refunds will be credited directly to their bank account.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: How many individuals are involved during the last three years in cases of refund and how many of them are high network individuals declaring their annual income in their return as more than Rs. 10 lakhs?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This kind of a classification is simply not possible. Data is linked in that way. I can give the number of refund claims. In 2001-02, it is 4,92,468; in 2002-03, it is 7,35,155; in 2003-04, it is 4,46,990 and in 2004-05, it comes to 4,04,477. Classification is not based on a company or high network individuals. But I can tell you the number of individuals who have declared their annual income as Rs. 10 lakhs and more. It is a very small number. The efforts is to increase that number. I believe that there are at least a lakh of such people in South Delhi alone.

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister has stated that about Rs. 15,000 crore have been paid as interest for delayed processing of income returns over the last three years. What has been observed is that the returns are highly subjective in their kind of assessment by the concerned officers and this leads to considerable delay. What is the Minister doing to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the processing of income tax returns?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: *Prima facie* it may appear that the interest paid out is very high. It is a *prima facie* impression. One has to understand why interest is paid. TDS is not within the control of the assessee. TDS is deducted. Many assesseees may be entitled to refund of TDS but ~~since~~ it is the deduction by the State Government because of the law made by the Parliament, the assesseees are entitled to it when the money is returned to him. But as long as the money is with the Government, it is Government money and we use it for Government expenditure. Government is enjoying that money. So, when it is refunded, interest has to be paid. That has nothing to do with the delay of anyone in the Department.

Secondly, there are appeal effect cases. Assessment is made and a certain amount of money is assessed as tax. The business of the Recovery Officer and the

Assessing Officer is to collect that money as soon as the assessment is made. The assessee goes on appeal. The appeal may take two or three years. Now, if, in the appeal, he succeeds fully or partially, the appeal effect has to be given to him and the money has to be returned. This is not the fault of any officer either. But I do not think that you should take that the entire amount is due to the fault of any officer. This is the manner in which income tax is collected and excess payments are refunded.

[Translation]

Plantation of Jatropha

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*431. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that thousands acres of cultivable land is lying useless in the country;

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

(c) whether the increasing prices of crude oil in the international market has made the Government to rethink on plantation of Jatropha under Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP);

(d) if so, the area of land identified in each State/ Union Territory for plantation of Jatropha;

(e) the States which have taken lead in the plantation of Jatropha;

(f) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be saved annually with plantation of Jatropha; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage the plantation of Jatropha in the country?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) As per the Wasteland Atlas of India-2005, brought out by the Department of Land Resource, Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad using satellite imagery data, an area of 552.69 lakh hectares in

the country is estimated to be wastelands/barren lands. Out of this, 121.17 lakh hectares is unculturable, being barren, rocky, snow-covered etc. Remaining 431.52 lakh hectares is culturable. This includes 304.97 lakh hectares of non-forest culturable waste land and 126.55 lakh hectares of degraded forestland. The State-wise details on the extent of these culturable wastelands are at *Annex-I*.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Keeping in view the increasing prices of crude oil in the international market, meeting the domestic demand for petroleum-diesel partially through bio-diesel route is contemplated. *Jatropha* has been identified as an important source of bio-diesel. Its plantation can be taken up on non-forest waste lands, degraded forest lands and areas identified for plantation purposes under the existing area development programmes like the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP). Out of the 431.52 lakh hectares culturable wastelands, it is estimated that 322.96 lakh hectares would be suitable for plantation of *Jatropha*. The State-wise area that is potentially available for *Jatropha* plantation is at *Annex-II*.

(e) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu,

Uttaranchal, Chattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have initiated step to promote *Jatropha* plantations on their own.

(f) The National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board, Ministry of Agriculture projected that by the year 2008-09, *Jatropha* plantations would extend over an area of about 31 lakh hectares. These plantations would produce an estimated 29.14 lakh tonnes bio-diesel (at the rate of 0.94 tonnes per hectare) annually. This level of bio-diesel production in the country would result in a likely saving of foreign exchange equivalent to about Rs. 9,500 crore per annum at the current import parity price of diesel in international market of Rs. 27.87/litre of HSD.

(g) The Planning Commission has accorded "in-principle" approval to launch a National mission on Bio-Diesel by the Ministry of Rural Development. The National Mission is to be implemented in two phases i.e. Phase I as Demonstration Project extending over a period of 5 years and Phase II a self-sustaining expansion of Bio-diesel Programme. In the Demonstration phase about 5 lakh hectares of *Jatropha* plantations would be taken up in both non-forest wastelands and degraded forest lands.

Annex-I

(Area in lakh ha.)

S. No.	State	Total Wastelands	Culturable non-forest waste lands	Degraded forest waste lands	Total culturable wastelands
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	45.27	19.49	22.62	42.11
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18.18	7.17	0.01	7.18
3.	Assam	14.03	8.00	6.03	14.03
4.	Bihar	5.44	2.45	2.86	5.31
5.	Chhattisgarh	7.58	4.23	2.95	7.18
6.	Goa	0.53	0.42	0.05	0.46

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Gujarat	20.38	18.65	1.56	20.21
8.	Haryana	3.27	2.67	0.51	3.17
9.	Himachal Pradesh	28.34	8.94	1.14	10.08
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	70.20	3.60	6.64	10.24
11.	Jharkhand	11.17	2.95	7.76	10.71
12.	Karnataka	13.54	5.64	6.46	12.10
13.	Kerala	1.79	1.15	0.42	1.57
14.	Madhya Pradesh	57.13	34.54	21.74	56.28
15.	Maharashtra	49.28	32.00	14.07	46.07
16.	Manipur	13.17	13.17	0.00	13.17
17.	Meghalaya	3.41	3.36	0.00	3.36
18.	Mizoram	4.47	4.02	0.45	4.47
19.	Nagaland	3.71	3.69	0.01	3.70
20.	Orissa	18.95	10.61	7.52	18.13
21.	Punjab	1.17	1.16	0.01	1.17
22.	Rajasthan	101.45	86.58	9.62	96.20
23.	Sikkim	3.81	0.01	0.75	0.76
24.	Tripura	1.32	0.68	0.64	1.32
25.	Tamil Nadu	17.30	7.81	8.13	15.94
26.	Uttaranchal	16.10	4.28	1.20	5.48
27.	Uttar Pradesh	16.98	14.43	2.17	16.60
28.	West Bengal	4.40	3.19	1.03	4.21
29.	Union Territories	0.32	0.076	0.20	0.28
Total		552.69	304.97	126.55	431.52

Annex-II

(Area in lakh ha.)

Sl. No.	State	Area identified for Jatropha plantations
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.71
3.	Assam	8.08
4.	Bihar	3.80
5.	Chhattisgarh	6.94
6.	Goa	0.32
7.	Gujarat	17.99
8.	Haryana	1.71
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3.32
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.25
11.	Jharkhand	9.83
12.	Karnataka	10.11
13.	Kerala	1.12
14.	Madhya Pradesh	48.34
15.	Maharashtra	43.08
16.	Manipur	11.77
17.	Meghalaya	2.71
18.	Mizoram	3.32
19.	Nagaland	2.58
20.	Orissa	14.54
21.	Punjab	0.24
22.	Rajasthan	52.21

1	2	3
23.	Sikkim	0.75
24.	Tripura	1.02
25.	Tamil Nadu	14.23
26.	Uttaranchal	3.60
27.	Uttar Pradesh	7.73
28.	West Bengal	2.24
29.	Union Territories	0.23
Total		322.96

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Mr. Speaker, barren land and shortage of crude oil are major problems before the country. I have drawn the attention of hon'ble Minister through my question to start plantation of Jatropha on the barren land. Hon'ble Minister is serious towards such a scheme in principle. Hon'ble Minister has formulated such schemes but nothing concrete has been done in this direction to make the 431.52 lac hectare of barren land that in the country to that has been identified appropriate for the plantation of Jatropha. In my State Madhya Pradesh one lac hectare of barren land is available. Through you, I want to know from the hon'ble Minister whether his ministry has provided any assistance for the plantation of Jatropha on barren land in 2004-05 and if so the amount thereof? And have the Government formulated any policy for providing such assistance to such proposals?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is very serious for the development of Jatropha plantation as it is important for energy security and many States have shown interest in this. Nine states were provided Rs. 49 crore for this purpose. All the states have been asked to promote the projects under bio diesel mission and make a success of the project by going in for plantation of Jatropha on barren land.

Energy deficit could be met by this. States have shown interest in this and the country also needs it. It finds a mention in Vedas and Charak Samhita too. This

is also known as Ratanjot. It is called Kanan Anand and Van Anand in Sanskrit. It is very important. That's why the Government is launching a campaign and urging the State Governments for their cooperation. N.G.O.'s are also coming forward. There is no doubt that in this way we might utilize the barren land and meet the energy needs.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall send a project to you.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Yes Sir.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

General Credit Cards

*432. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted all banks, including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to issue General Credit Cards (GCC) in rural and semi urban areas;

(b) if so, the details and the features thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reserve bank of India has issued guidelines to all scheduled commercial banks/ Regional Rural Banks on 27th December, 2005 for issuing General Credit Cards (GCCs) to their constituents in rural and semi urban areas. As per the guidelines, the GCC holder will be entitled to draw cash from the specified branch of the bank upto the sanctioned limit which should not exceed Rs. 25,000. The limit may be periodically reviewed and revised/cancelled depending on the track record of the account holder. Under the scheme, there would not be any insistence on security and the purpose or end-use of the credit. Interest rate on the facility may be charged, as considered appropriate and reasonable. With a view to target women as beneficiaries of bank credit, they may be given a preferential treatment under the GCC Scheme.

(c) The objective of the GCC scheme is to provide

hassle-free credit to banks' customers including labourers and persons belonging to low-income groups, without any insistence on security or end use of the credit.

Import Duty on Ship Breaking Industry

*433. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ship breaking industry is providing employment to a large number of manual workers of Northern States;

(b) whether the present rate of duty levied on ship breaking for the scrap metal is higher than the duty levied on the metal scrap in neighbouring countries particularly Bangladesh and China;

(c) if so, the comparative figures of duty levied in India vis-a-vis neighbouring countries;

(d) whether the Government is aware that due to this higher duty, employment is coming down in the industry; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The ship breaking industry provides employment to manual workers mainly in the state of Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Basic customs duty on ships for breaking-up in India is 5%. As per Integrated Database of World Trade Organization (WTO), rate of customs duty on ships for breaking-up in Bangladesh is 1000 Bangladesh Taka per light displacement tonnage or LDT (about 3.7% on *ad valorem* terms based on current prices). In Pakistan, the customs duty rate is 5%, while for China, the rate is 3%.

(d) Due to gradual decline in ship breaking activity, the number of workers engaged in this industry has come down in recent years. This, however, cannot be attributed to the duty structure as the customs duty rates on ships for breaking-up in India and the neighbouring countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan are not significantly different

Employment in ship breaking industry is coming down on account of a number of factors, some of which are listed below:

- (i) Prices of old ships for demolition in the world market have gone up substantially during the last five years.
- (ii) There is shortage of ships for breaking.
- (iii) Less stringent implementation of international environmental and labour safety regulations relating to ship recycling in Bangladesh has resulted in shifting of tanker breakage business to Bangladesh.

(e) Following remedial measures have been taken/ proposed to be taken for revival of ship breaking industry:

- (i) ships imported for breaking have been exempted from additional duty of customs of 4%, which is applicable to almost all items of imports.
- (ii) 5% customs duty (earlier it was 0%) has been imposed on melting scrap bringing it at par with the duty on import of ships for breaking-up.

In addition to the above, following steps are being taken by the Government of Gujarat:

- (i) in Alang/Sosiya ship recycling yards, the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) has developed adequate physical, social, health and environmental infrastructure and it has plans to develop more facilities like reception jetty and general berth which will help in safer and quick cutting of ships.
- (ii) GMB has also framed a new comprehensive policy giving certain concessions to ship breaking industry, which is under consideration of Government of Gujarat.

[Translation]

Hydrogen as a Fuel

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*434. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any concrete steps in the field of research and actual production of hydrogen as a fuel in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has allowed foreign companies to set up hydrogen energy projects in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of the hydrogen energy projects currently functioning in the country and projects proposed to be set up in future; and

(f) the role of hydrogen energy in the overall national energy security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been implementing a broad based research, development and demonstration programme on hydrogen energy for about two decades. Recognising the importance of hydrogen as a fuel for the future, a National Hydrogen Energy Board was set up by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in October, 2003. The Board consists of high level representatives from Government, Industry, Academia and public figures. A National Hydrogen Energy Road Map, prepared under the direction of the National Hydrogen Energy Board, has identified steps to be taken for research, production and applications of hydrogen energy upto 2020 and beyond.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has not received any proposal from any foreign company to set up hydrogen energy projects in India.

(e) Research, development and demonstration projects have been supported on different aspects of hydrogen energy and fuel cell technologies. Indian Oil Corporation Limited has set up a hydrogen dispensing station at its R and D Centre in Faridabad, Haryana. The National Hydrogen Energy Road Map provides direction for taking up future projects on hydrogen energy in the country.

(f) Hydrogen energy is expected to play an increasing

role in the overall national energy security of the country in the next two decades. The National Hydrogen Energy Road Map has projected the target of one one million hydrogen fuelled vehicles and 1000 MW hydrogen based power generation capacity in the country by 2020.

[English]

Assets of Defaulting Organisations

*435. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks are insisting on attaching the brands of defaulting organisations alongwith the secured assets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any directions/clarifications have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the bank concerned may take steps to attach the brand(s) of the defaulting borrower if its/their value is significant compared to the outstanding dues of the borrower and the primary/collateral security available with the bank.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Investor Protection Fund

*436. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Investor Protection Fund (IPF) has been established by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI);

(b) if so, the objectives and quantum of funds made available;

(c) the relation of IPF with Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF);

(d) the budgetary allocation under IPF and expenses incurred during 2005-06 and the current year;

(e) whether cases of the procedural formalities in IPF being unreasonably complex have come up; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) It was proposed in the Budget for 2006-07 to set up an Investor Protection Fund (IPF) funded by fines and penalties recovered by SEBI. These amounts are presently credited to the Consolidated Fund of India as required under securities laws [Securities Contracts (Regulations) Act, 1956, the SEBI Act, 1992, and the Depositories Act, 1996]. The IPF can be established after the relevant laws are amended permitting credit these amounts to the IPF.

(b) The broad objective of the IPF would be protection of investors in securities. The specific objectives would be determined in consultation with SEBI.

(c) The Investors Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) is set up under the Companies Act and is administered by the Ministry of Company Affairs, while IPF is proposed to be set up under the aegis of SEBI under the securities laws.

(d) No budgetary allocation has been made for IPF so far as it is to be set up with amounts collected by SEBI by way of fines and penalties.

(e) and (f) The establishment of IPF would require an amendment of the securities laws.

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana

*437. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently modified guidelines of the Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revised guidelines have been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC);

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the revised guidelines are likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) During the course of the implementation of the Scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), it was observed that there was a need to have a relook on the guidelines of the scheme and certain modifications would be required to enhance the effectiveness of the scheme in tackling the issue of urban poverty. Accordingly, proposals were formulated and as per the prescribed procedure, Expenditure Finance Committee appraised the same. It has now been decided to continue the Scheme of SJSRY, in its present form, during the 10th Plan period and for continuing this scheme into the 11th Plan, an evaluation needs to be done.

[Translation]

**Development of Infrastructure
for Judiciary**

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*438. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

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

(a) the funds allocated/released from Central share to each State for development of infrastructure for judiciary during each of the last three years;

(b) the new facilities created out of these funds for judiciary in various States;

(c) whether the funds are also provided for promotion of legal education in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The funds released as Central assistance to each State under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructure for judiciary during each of the last three years is given in statement-I enclosed.

The scheme is for development of infrastructure in terms of court buildings and residential premises for the judicial officers and this is a continuous process. State Governments construct buildings in consultation with the concerned High Courts. Information on new facilities created in the States/UTs out of central funds released in the last three years is not available.

(c) and (d) The Central Government does not directly provide funds for promotion of legal education. However, central support is provided under Non Plan to the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal and recurring grants are provided to the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi and the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) provides development grants to eligible universities for development of higher education and research in various subjects including law. A statement showing general development grant allocated, released to various universities in the country is at statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Funds released to States/UTs for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary including Family Court

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Amount Released during 2003-04	Amount Released during 2004-05	Amount Released during 2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	283.92	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	100.00

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	40.00	0	200.00
4.	Bihar	526.66	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	244.00	0	90.00
6.	Goa	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	324.09	0	0
8.	Haryana	137.20	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	53.20	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	60.80	0	0
11.	Jharkhnad	132.36	0	0
12.	Karnataka	359.26	0	0
13.	Kerala	216.51	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	25.00	0
15.	Maharashtra	708.00	20.00	0
16.	Manipur	0	0	100.00
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	114.00	0	100.00
19.	Nagaland	134.00	0	280.00
20.	Orissa	166.35	0	0
21.	Punjab	197.67	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	300.07	0	0
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	416.54	0	0
25.	Tripura	152.00	0	220.00
26.	Uttaranchal	76.00	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1090.86	0	0
28.	West Bengal	878.07	0	0
Total		6611.56	45.00	1090.00

1	2	3	4	5
Union Territories				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	60.80	0	0
2.	Chandigarh	167.20	0	0
3.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
4.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
5.	Delhi	324.00	0	0
6.	Lakshwadeep	0	0	0
7.	Pondicherry	152.99	9	100.00
Total		684.00	0	100.00
Grand Total		7315.56	45.00	1190.00

Statement-II**University Grants Commission**

Statement showing the position of the grant allocated/released to Law Universities under Development Assistance Scheme during 10th Plan period

Sl. No.	State/Name of University	X Plan allocation 2002-2007	Grant released 2002-03 to 2006-07 upto 23rd August, 06
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	NALSAR Univertisy, Hyderabad	200.00	160.00
Karnataka			
2.	National Law School of India University, Bangalore	105.00	63.00
Madhya Pradesh			
3.	National Law Institute University, Bhopal	215.00	86.00

1	2	3	4
Chhattisgarh			
4.	H.N. Hidaytulla University, Raipur	100.00*	50.00*
Delhi			
5.	Indian Law Institute, New Delhi (Deemed University)	300.00	300.00

* Special development grant for young universities. No allocation under general development to H.N. Hidaytulla University, Raipur,
 Note: It may be mentioned that allocation was made to all eligible Universities as 10th Plan allocation which includes Law Departments also.

[English]

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Reduction in Debt Servicing

*439. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from North-East States to reduce their debt servicing burden;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the debt position as on date;

(c) whether any loan taken by the North-East States during each of the last three years have been waived-off; and

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura have requested Government of India from time to time to reduce their debt servicing burden, keeping in view their weak financial position. Statement showing requests from these States and action taken thereon is given in statement-I enclosed. Statement showing Central loans outstanding against all North Eastern States in respect of Ministry of Finance as on 31st July 2006 is given in statement-II enclosed.

(c) and (d) No debt write-off has been awarded to the North Eastern States during the last three years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of State	Year	Request	Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2003-04	Waiver of debt serving liabilities of Rs. 200 crore for Financial year 2003-04.	General Debt Relief facility recommended by Eleventh Finance Commission based on an improvement in their fiscal performance on the revenue account was in operation during that period. Request of State Government could not be agreed to beyond this facility.
		2005-06	Request for Ways and Means Advance of Rs. 200 crores.	Medium term loan of Rs. 200 crore was provided to the State Government during 2005-06.

1	2	3	4	5
		2005-06	Request for Rs. 200 crore from NSSF to service Ways and Means Advance loans.	Rs. 200 crore from NSSF was provided to State Government to service the loan.
2. Assam		2004-05	Request for moratorium for 5 years on repayment of Gol lonas of Rs. 1940 crore.	Requests could not be agreed to as requests for loan waiver and/or moratorium on repayment of principal/ interest thereon are considered by the Government only on the recommendations of the Finance Commission.
3. Manipur		2004-05	Request for a medium term loan of Rs. 609 crore.	State Government was provided medium term non plan loan of Rs. 609 crores during 2004-05 to tide over fiscal problems.
		2005-06	Request for long term loan from NSSF for servicing medium term loan.	Request of State Government to provide Rs. 609 crore from NSSF to service medium term loan has been accepted.
4. Nagaland		2003-04	Conversion of Medium term loan into grant.	Medium term loan of Rs. 365 crore released to the state in 2002-03 was converted into grant by Central Government.
		2004-05	Request for a medium term loan of Rs. 200 crore.	Request was not agreed to by the Central Government, in view of comfortable fiscal position of the State during the year.
5. Tripura		2004-05	Request for debt relief as debt burden of the State was heavy.	State's outstanding loans towards Government of India (Ministry of Finance) contracted upto 31-3-2004 and outstanding as on 31-3-2005 amounting to Rs. 444.95 crore have been consolidated and made payable at 7.5% rate of interest and rescheduled for repayment in 20 equal annual instalments as per the Twelfth Finance Commission recommendations.

Statement-II

The details of Central loans outstanding against North Eastern States in respect of Ministry of Finance as on 31st July, 2006

Sl. No.	Name of States	Outstanding loans as on 31-7 2006 (in Crore of Rupees)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	444.81
2.	Assam	2274.92
3.	Manipur	1351.24
4.	Meghalaya	340.54
5.	Mizoram	321.13
6.	Nagaland	351.7
7.	Tripura	495.89
8.	Sikkim	194.43
Total		5774.66

Violation of Norms by MNCs

*440. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange has found several multinational companies guilty of violating foreign exchange norms as reported in the *Times of India* dated July 29, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have ascertained the exact reasons for such violations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Appellate Tribunal for

Foreign Exchange has upheld the adjudication orders passed by the Special Director of Enforcement, in appeals filed by 10 multinational companies and employees of one company listed in statement-I enclosed. The details of penalties involved in the appeals in the cases adjudicated against multinational companies are given in statement-II enclosed.

(b) to (e) These multinational companies had paid salaries and given perquisites to their expatriate employees abroad without the permission of Reserve Bank of India. As per available information, six multinational companies and employees of one company have filed writ petitions in Delhi High Court against the orders of the Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange. List of the said companies is given in statement-III enclosed.

Statement-I

List of appeals filed before Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange (ATFE) by 10 multinational companies and employees of one company in which adjudication orders imposing penalties were upheld

Sl. No.	Appeal No.	Name of MNCs employees
1	2	3
1.	690/2003	The Fuji Bank Ltd.
2.	708/2003	Nokia India (P) Ltd.
3.	478/2004	Motorola India (P) Ltd.
4.	359/2004	UFJ Bank Ltd.
5.	537/2004	Deutsche Bank A.G.
6.	712/2003	Ericsson India (P) Ltd.
7.	502/2004	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.
8.	412/2004	Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (formerly known as Sakura Bank)

1	2	3	1	2	3
9.	261/2004	M/s Sony India (P) Ltd.			Employees of M/s Sony India (P) Ltd.
10.	816-839/2004	H. Shiraki and Ors	11.	523/2004	Samsung Corporation

Statement-II

Amount of penalty involved in appeals filed by MNCs and employees of one MNC

Sl. No.	Appeal No.	Name of MNCs employees	Penalty imposed
1.	690/2003	The Fuji Bank Ltd.	1 crore
2.	708/2003	Nokia India (P) Ltd.	5 crore
3.	478/2004	Motorola India (P) Ltd.	1 crore
4.	359/2004	UFJ Bank Ltd.	45 lakh
5.	537/2004	Deutsche Bank A.G.	25 lakh
6.	712/2003	Ericsson India (P) Ltd.	15 crore
7.	502/2004	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	5.50 crore
8.	412/2004	Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (formerly known as Sakura Bank)	35 lakh
9.	261/2004	M/s Sony India (P) Ltd.	5 crore
10.	816-839/2004	H. Shiraki and Ors Employees of M/s Sony India (P) Ltd.	1,57,10,000
11.	523/2004	Samsung Corporation	1 crore

Statement-III

List of companies who have filed Writ Petitions in Delhi High Court against the orders passed by Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange (ATFE)

Sl. No.	Appeal No.	Name of MNCs employees	Position of Writ Petitions
1	2	3	4
1.	690/2003	The Fuji Bank Ltd.	Pending Directed the petitioner to furnish the bank guarantee against payment of penalty.

1	2	3	4
2.	708/2003	Nokia India (P) Ltd.	Pending
3.	478/2004	Motorola India (P) Ltd.	Pending
4.	712/2003	Ericsson India (P) Ltd.	Pending Directed the petitioner to furnish the bank guarantee against payment of penalty.
5.	261/2004	M/s Sony India (P) Ltd.	Pending Directed the petitioner to furnish the bank guarantee against payment of penalty.
6.	816-839/2004	H. Shiraki and Ors Employees of M/s Sony India (P) Ltd.	Pending
7.	523/2004	Samsung Corporation	Pending

GDP Spent for R & D

***441. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:**

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the actual amount and percentage of GDP spent on research and development in the field of science and technology;

(b) the comparative data for GDP expenditure for S and T with neighbouring countries especially China;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take specific measures to effect increase in higher allocation of funds and human resources to compete with other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) According to the available official Research and Development Statistics, the expenditure incurred on research and development in the field of

science and technology during 2002-03 was Rs. 18000.16 crores which forms 0.8% of India's GDP. Based on UNESCO Statistics (2005), a table comprising of the data on R and D expenditure as percentage of GDP for select neighbouring countries including China is enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The S and T Plan outlay of Scientific Departments/Agencies has been enhanced from Rs. 12,022 crores in 9th Plan to Rs. 25,243 crores in 10th Plan. Also, various initiatives have been taken by the Government to encourage investment on R and D both in industry and institutions through several fiscal incentives, income tax relief on R and D expenditure, weighted tax deduction for sponsored research, custom duty exemption on goods imported for use in Government funded R and D projects, tax holiday and other support measures such as support in the form of grants for industrial R and D projects, support to R and D projects through sector specific programmes of various scientific and economic Ministries and national awards for outstanding R and D.

Further to enhance human resource capabilities in the country various programmes/schemes have been initiated by the Government from time to time. Some of these programmes include:

- Setting up of centres of excellence/advanced studies in the universities and academic institutions.
- Creation of core groups of professionals with necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.
- Creation of new scientific Departments/Organisations.
- Fund for Improvement of S and T Infrastructure in Higher Educational Institutions (FIST).
- Manpower development training/re-training programmes through associateships/fellowships including Science and Technology based training for entrepreneurial development.
- Provisions for temporary placement of scientists and technocrats under the scheme of scientists' pool.
- Creation of supernumerary posts.
- Fast Track Scheme for Young Scientists.
- Better Opportunities for Young Scientists in Chosen Areas of Science and Technology (BOYSCAST) fellowship to visit international laboratories and institutions.
- Fellowships targeted towards performing scientists such as Swarnajayanti, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowships, The Ramanujan Fellowships, The Ramanna Fellowships etc.
- Contact programmes to attract and motivate brilliant young scientists to take up R and D as a career.
- Providing financial assistance to scientists to participate in international conferences and training programmes abroad.
- Early Faculty Induction Programme, which aims at attracting bright and young under-graduate students in Engineering and Technology/

Pharmacy/Architecture, etc. to take up science as their career.

- Invitation to distinguished men and women of Indian origin settled abroad for short term technical assignments to assist in frontier and emerging areas of S and T.
- Appointment of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and persons of Indian Origin in the permanent faculty positions in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

Statement

R & D Expenditure as percentage of GDP for Select Neighbouring Countries Including China, 2000-02

Sl. No.	Name of Country	R and D as % of GDP
1.	Singapore	2.20
2.	China	1.3
3.	India	0.80
4.	Nepal	0.67
5.	Pakistan	0.27
6.	Thailand	0.24
7.	Sri Lanka	0.20*
8.	Egypt	0.19

*1996

Sector Reform Programme for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

*442. SHRI ANANDRAO V. ADSUL:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved and implemented sector reform programme for rural water supply and sanitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it has helped to ensure satisfactory and sustainable rural water supply;

(d) whether there is any proposal to implement pilot projects for expanding the reform package to other districts; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented in all districts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. The Sector Reform Programme (SRP) for Rural Water Supply was launched in 1999 on pilot basis with the objective of institutionalizing community participation in the rural water supply programme. Similarly, the Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) was restructured and implemented as Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), also in 1999.

(b) and (c) Rural Water Supply

Sector Reform Projects were sanctioned for 67 Districts in 26 States. The salient features of the Sector Reform Projects were:

- (i) Adoption of a demand-driven approach based on empowerment of villages to ensure their full participation in the project through a decision making role in the choice of scheme design and management arrangement.
- (ii) Emphasis on awareness generation and training of all stakeholders.
- (iii) Ensure as integrated service delivery mechanism by streamlining the functions of the agencies involved in project implementation.
- (iv) 10% (at least) capital cost sharing up front in cash and 100% sharing of O and M cost by users. The proportion of capital cost shared should increase proportionately with increasing service demand. The community contribution was initially in the form of cash or kind (labour, land or material), which was changed to cash only for all except for BPL/SC/ST, who could pay in kind.

- (v) Taking up of conservation measures for sustained supply of water through rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge structures.

The total outlay of the SRP projects was Rs. 2060.45 crore of which Government of India share was Rs. 1922.85 crore. Government of India has so far released Rs. 1145.56 crore and the reported expenditure till date is Rs. 1209.61 crore. Further, 77636 of 86860 schemes taken up under Sector Reform Project have been completed and of these 76817 have been handed over to the local community for operation and maintenance.

Sanitation

The Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) under the restructured CRSP was launched with effect from 1-4-1999 following a community led and people centered approach. TSC moves away from the principle of state-wise allocation to a "demand-driven" approach. The programme gives emphasis on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) for demand generation of sanitation facilities. It also lays emphasis on school sanitation and hygiene education for bringing about attitudinal and behavioral changes for relevant sanitation and hygiene practices from a young age.

The TSC is being implemented in 559 districts of the States/UTs with support from the Government of India and the respective State/UT Governments. Projects have been approved for another 8 districts recently. The States/UTs draw up a TSC Project for the select districts to claim GOI assistance. At the district level, Zilla Panchayats implement the project. In case, Zilla Panchayat is not functional, District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) can implement the TSC. Similarly, at the block and the Panchayat levels, Panchayat Samitis and respective Gram Panchayats are involved in implementation of the TSC.

(d) and (e) With the experience of the Sector Reform Project (SRP) and with a view to institutionalize community participation in the rural drinking water supply sector, Government of India upscaled SRP into the scheme of Swajaldhara in December 2002. Swajaldhara can be taken up in all rural districts of the country. Presently projects are ongoing in 500 districts. Similarly, Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) can be taken up in all rural districts of

the country and presently projects are ongoing in 559 districts, with another 8 approved recently. Since both the programmes are demand driven, the time frame for implementation in all districts will depend upon requests from the respective States/UTs.

Rural Business Hubs

*443. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Rural Business Hubs functioning in each State, location-wise;

(b) the aim and objectives of such hubs;

(c) the source of funding of these hubs;

(d) the details of governing bodies constituted for the purpose;

(e) whether the Rural Business Hub scheme is likely to be extended to the remaining States, if any; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be extended?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) 50 MOUs have been signed for setting up Rural Business Hubs (RBH) in the States of Uttaranchal, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The details, location-wise are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Following are the aims and objectives of RBH.

Aim

Usher in prosperity to the rural areas of the country and all sections of the society by reaping the benefits of rapid economic growth unleashed through the economic reforms and synergistically harnessing the relation between resource/skill rich rural areas and technology/marketing skills of the industry, the entire process mediated/facilitated by empowered PRIs.

Objectives

1. To promote agriculture and allied activities as growth engines for rural development.
2. To promote Rural Non-Farming Enterprises (RNFE) so that rural employment is generated.

3. To identify rural products which have potential for national/international markets and standardize their quality.
4. To ensure value addition in rural products so that the rural income is enhanced.
5. To identify interested Business Houses having required marketing/technical skills.
6. To foster mutually beneficial relations between the producers and business houses as identified above.
7. To facilitate e-enabled information services in rural areas which will act as information Hubs for further development.
8. To facilitate smooth credit flow to viable business propositions.
9. To identify business opportunities in the field of bio diesel and develop them.
10. To identify business options in the field of distribution of power and develop them.
11. To achieve convergence of Central Sector Schemes (CSSs) and relevant institutions at the Block Panchayat level.
12. To build the capacity of PRIs to plan the economic development of their areas and implement these plans.

(c) The following have been envisaged as sources of funding to the Rural Business Hubs:

- (i) The Rural Business Hubs have been envisaged as business proposition on Public-Private-Panchayat-Partnership (PPPP) and are expected to be self-generating and self-supporting.
- (ii) However, it may call for initial start up investments or it may involve a gestation period for which funds are to be mobilized by one or more of the partners.
- (iii) This partnership may get incorporated as a formal company under the Companies Act in which case there will be equity contribution,

borrowings from financial institutions, debentures etc. as per the provisions of the Company Act.

- (iv) The venture may get registered as Partnership Firm in which the partners will be contributing and there will be institutional borrowings.
- (v) There are a number of schemes of the line Ministries having financial assistance which can be availed of.

(d) There is no Governing Body for the RBHs as such and individual RBHs are to be managed by the structure to be agreed between partners and included as conditions in the MOU. However, the following institutions are in place for facilitating and overseeing the implementation of the concept:

- (i) There is a National RBH Council chaired by Minister for Panchayati Raj and co-chaired by Shri S.K. Munjal of CII (Confederation of Indian Industries).
- (ii) National RBH Executive Committee with Secretary (PR) as chairperson.
- (iii) There are RBH Councils in 12 States headed by Minister/Secretary, Panchayati Raj Department and comprising members from the industries, departments of the State Government, financial institutions etc.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. This initiative has been extended to all States/UTs having Panchayati Raj Institutions. RBH Councils are in the process of being established in the remaining States/UTs.

Statement

List of MOUs Signed under the RBH Initiative

Sl. No.	Date	Name of GB/BP/ District State	Name of the Company	Product
1	2	3	4	5
1.	13-8-05	Ramgarh Block/Nainital/ Uttaranchal	Neemrana Group and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
2.	13-8-05	Betalghat Block/Nainital/ Uttaranchal	Jai kali Gramodyog Phal Sangrak- shan evam Prasodhan Ekai and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
3.	13-8-05	Kashipur Block/Nainital/ Uttaranchal	Kashipur Agro Industries (P) Ltd. and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
4.	13-8-05	Bhimtal Block/Nainital/ Uttaranchal	Sekho, Jan Shikshan Sansthan and ITC. Ltd.	Fruit Processing
5.	13-8-05	Ramnagar Block/Nainital/ Uttaranchal	Delicia Foods (P) Ltd. and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
6.	13-8-05	Bhimgal Block/Nainital/ Uttaranchal	Suruchi Fruit Products and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
7.	13-8-05	Ramnagar Block/Nainital/ Uttaranchal	Imaginations Agri Exports and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing

1	2	3	4	5
8.	13-8-05	Haldwani Block/Nainital/ Uttaranchal	Hands K Enterprises (P) Ltd. and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
9.	13-8-05	Bhimtal Block/Nainital/ Uttaranchal	Nainital Fruit Products and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
10.	13-8-05	Kashipur Block/Nainital/ Uttaranchal	Jindal Frozen Food Products (P) Ltd. and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
11.	13-8-05	Haldwani Block/Nainital/ Uttaranchal	Bliss Food Products and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
12.	9-10-05	Pinagwan/Punhana/Mewat Haryana	DI Oils India Pvt. Ltd.	Jatropha Plantation and Bio-diesel
13.	9-10-05	Hodal and Hasanpur Blocks/ Faridabad/Haryana	DI Oils India Pvt. Ltd.	Jatropha Plantation and Bio-diesel
14.	February	Bilaspur, Chhachhrauli, Jagadhri and Sadhaura Blocks/Yamuna Nagar/Haryana	DI Oils India Pvt. Ltd.	Jatropha Plantation and Bio-diesel
15.	23-01-06	Gauriganj Block/District Sultanpur/Uttar Pradesh	Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)	Handicrafts and Handloom Products
16- 37.	22 MOUs Signed on 24-2-06	Different Gram Panchayats in State of Karnataka	Malavalli Power Plant Ltd., Bangalore, Electric Supply Company, Mangalore, Electricity Supply Company, Hubli, Electric Supply Company, Gulbarga, Electric Supply Company, Chamun- dheswari Electric Supply Company	Electricity generation/ Distribution
38- 42.	5 MOUs Signed on 24-2-2006	Five Gram Panchayats in Hampi, State of Karnataka	National Institute of Fashion Technology	Art works/Designs of Garments
43.	29-7-06	Moovalur Panchayat, Mayiladuthurai Block, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu	Classic Bio Mass	Bio Gasifier
44.	29-7-06	Kodimangalam Village, Mayiladuthurai Block, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu	Cholan Bio Mass	Bio Gasifier

1	2	3	4	5
45.	29-7-06	Kodimangalam Village, Mayiladuthurai Block, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu	Shameena Food Industries	Develop and market Quality Atta
46.	29-7-06	Vallalaharam Village, Mayiladuthurai Block, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu	KMR Industries	Coconut products
47.	29-7-06	Kappur Village, Kuttalam Block, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu	Act Chamber Bricks Industries	Quality Chamber Bricks
48.	30-7-06	Kanjanagaram Village, Sembanarkil Block, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu	Siva Sakthi Seeds	Cultivation of quality seeds
49.	30-7-06	Annavasal Village, Sembanarkil Block, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu	NAC Farm Products	Production of quality bananas
50.	30-7-06	Semangalam Village, Sembanarkil Block, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu	NAC Dairy Farm	Production of quality milk

Tax Liabilities of Foreign Joint Partners

*444. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign companies and corporates with foreign joint venture partners operating with headquarters in the country;

(b) the volume of money transactions between the parent companies abroad and their subsidiaries/partners here;

(c) the mechanism used by companies based in India to evade tax liabilities;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take effective steps to check the number and volume of

transactions and to determine their tax liabilities and for collecting the same;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India has permitted 601 companies incorporated outside India to establish Branch Office in India and 5794 companies incorporated outside India to open Liaison Office in India as on January 31, 2005.

(b) The data reporting system does not generate the information required. However, Foreign Direct Investment inflows for the period 2003-04 to 2005-06 is Rs. 53,868 crore.

(c) The mechanism used by companies based in India to evade tax liabilities, if any, may depend upon the nature of business and type of transaction and it may vary from case to case. Some of the companies may either suppress the price charged by them for sale of goods/services to group companies abroad or pay inflated prices for purchase of goods/services to group companies abroad in order to avoid tax.

(d) and (e) The Government of India has enacted Transfer Pricing Legislation by Finance Act, 2001, with effect from Assessment Year 2002-03. The provisions relating to Transfer Pricing are contained in Sections 92 to 92F of Chapter X of the Income-tax Act, 1961. In terms of these provisions, income from an international transaction is to be computed having regard to Arm's Length Price. Arm's Length Price is the price which is applied or proposed to be applied in a transaction between persons other than associated enterprise, in uncontrolled conditions. If it is found that any assessee has adopted a price that is not at Arm's Length, suitable adjustments are made in the Transfer Price by the Transfer Pricing Officer under Chapter X of the Income-tax Act, 1961. The Assessing Officer determines the tax liability of the assessee taking into account the adjustment so made by the Transfer Pricing Officer and collects the tax demand in accordance with the provisions of the Act. During the first year of Transfer Pricing audit, a total number of 999 cases of transfer pricing were decided and a total Transfer Pricing adjustment of Rs. 1212.96 crores was made.

(f) Does not arise in view of answer to para (d) and (e) above.

Grants to States without Utilisation Certificate

*445. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for States to furnish progress reports of implementation of all the rural development schemes for grant of further instalments;

(b) if so, whether some States have been provided further instalments of funds under various rural development schemes even without obtaining progress

reports/utilization certificates during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

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

(d) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of such enquiry; and

(f) the further action taken/to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development implements various schemes through State Governments/Union Territory Administration for poverty alleviation, area development, rural connectivity and other basic amenities to rural population of the country. According to programme guidelines, the first instalment is released automatically without insisting on proposal, if the implementing agency has taken the 2nd instalment in the previous year without any condition. In case of 2nd instalment or other instalments the State Governments are required to furnish financial and physical progress reports of implementation of each programme and utilization certificates for funds, at the time of submission of proposals for release of funds.

The Ministry of Rural Development has not released further instalments of funds under any of the schemes without obtaining progress reports/utilization certificates in 2004-05 and 2005-06. However, funds were released under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) in advance, without obtaining utilization certificates to tsunami affected districts of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry during 2004-05. Next year, all conditions of previous years were fulfilled.

Under Indra Awaas Yojana (IAY), the 2nd instalment was released to the States of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands in advance when they were affected by floods in 2004-05 after obtaining utilisation certificates for 40% instead of 60% of funds earlier released and normal procedure was applied in 2005-06.

Under the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), funds were released to the District Rural Development Agencies of Bihar after receiving utilisation certificates and audit reports, but the second instalment was released conditionally keeping in view drought and floods faced by the State in 2004-05. In 2005-06, utilisation certificates and audit reports were received from all District Rural Development Agencies of Bihar and the second instalment was again released conditionally after certification of expenditure to the extent of 60% of total available funds during the year. The conditions imposed at the time of release of the 2nd instalment in 2004-05 and 2005-06 have to be fulfilled by the State governments in 2006-07.

Further, instalments were also conditionally released to specific districts of States by relaxing conditions of shortfall in matching State share under SGRY, to Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. Similarly, in case of SGSY and IAY, relaxation was made for the State of Assam. Relaxation in respect of excess carry over balance under IAY in 2005-06 was also given to selected district in Bihar, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh.

(d) to (f) The Ministry of Rural Development has not conducted any enquiry as there was no release/grant to any State without obtaining progress reports and utilisation certificates in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

[Translation]

Sardar Swaran Singh Institute

3477. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction work of Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (NCES) in Kapurthala and Jalandhar route has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the targeted date for completion of construction work of the Institute, the percentage of work completed and the amount spent thereon so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for speedy completion and making it functional soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) At the Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Renewable Energy (SSS-NIRE), Wadala Kalan, district Kapurthala, Punjab, construction work is in progress. The Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Jalandhar has informed in August 2006 that 71 per cent of the awarded work has been completed and a total sum of Rs. 12.11 crore has been utilised.

(d) The Government have taken steps to provide a budget provision of Rs. 6.00 crore for SSS-NIRE for 2006-07, increase the sanctioned original outlay for capital works, which has since been fully utilized and persuade CPWD to complete the work at the earliest.

[English]

Genetically Modified Food Crops

3478. SHRI RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of genetically modified food crops that are undergoing controlled field trials and the details of institutions developing such food crops in the country;

(b) whether any company has submitted bio-safety data on any food crop to the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee for seeking permission for large-scale field trials;

(c) whether some of the agricultural universities in the country such as TN Agricultural University, University of Agricultural Science, Dharwar and the Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi, are also working on genetically modified varieties; and

(d) if so, the details and the progress of such experiments/programmes?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) sir, the following are the details of genetically modified food crops that have undergone controlled field trials during 2005 and the institutions which are developing these food crops.

Sl. No.	Crop	Institute/Industry
1.	Brinjal	M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., Mumbai M/s. Sungro Seeds Ltd., New Delhi Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi
2.	Cabbage	M/s. Sungro Seeds Ltd., New Delhi
3.	Cauliflower	M/s. Sungro Seeds Ltd., New Delhi
4.	Corn	M/s. Monsanto India Ltd., Mumbai
5.	Groundnut	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru
6.	Mustard	University of Delhi South Campus, New Delhi
7.	Okra	M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., Mumbai
8.	Pigeonpea	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru
9.	Rice	Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., Mumbai M/s. Metahelix Life Sciences, Bangalore
10.	Tomato	Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., Mumbai

(b) M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., Mumbai has submitted bio-safety data on Bt. brinjal expressing *cry1Ac* gene to the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) for grant of permission to conduct large scale field trials.

(c) and (d) Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) is working on transgenic rice and Bt. brinjal; University of Agricultural Science, Dharwad and the Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi are working on Bt. brinjal. TNAU is conducting field trials on transgenic rice lines expressing *chitinase* gene during Kharif-2006. Developmental work on Bt. brinjal at these institutes is at the initial stages of transferring the Bt. gene (*cry1Ac* gene) into their popular varieties through backcrossing programme.

OPEC Fund

3479. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether OPEC fund for international development is providing financial support to developing countries in the form of loans for developmental projects and programmes;

(b) if so, the details of loans so far received for OPEC till March 31, 2006;

(c) the projects being implemented in various States under this loan/assistance; and

(d) the amount of loan actually utilized till date?

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

(b) Till 31st March, 2006, loan amount of US\$ 218.892 million has been extended by OPEC Fund for International Development to India, for 15 projects.

(c) Only one project is currently under implementation under the loan from OPEC Fund for International Development. This is a Central Sector Project named "CIPET Expansion Project" under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. It is not specific to any particular State.

(d) US \$ 206.592 million has been utilized till date.

[Translation]

Encroachment on Public Land

3480. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land mafia have taken illegal possession of the land belonging to DDA and started construction work on National Highway No. 8 and in other parts of Delhi in blatant violation of all the rules;

(b) if so, the total area of legal/illegal land of DDA on National Highway No. 8 of Delhi under illegal possession;

(c) whether DDA have prepared any plan to evacuate the said land; and

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

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

[English]

IT Raids on Stock Brokers

3481. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Authorities have conducted raids at the residences and offices of stock market brokers at Delhi, Kolkata and in other cities recently;

(b) if so, the details of the incriminating documents etc. seized during the searches;

(c) whether any arrests have been made in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof as well as the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Since the beginning of financial year 2005-06, the Income Tax Department has conducted search and seizure operations in the case of certain stock market brokers at Ahmedabad.

(b) The documents seized during the course of search contain computer printouts, registers, books of accounts, etc. indicating suppression of profit and tax evasion.

(c) No arrests have been made by the Income-tax Department in respect of these searches.

(d) Not applicable, in view of reply to (c) above.

Construction of Motels

3482. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of Motels is allowed in Delhi;

(b) if so, the stipulations/requirements that have to be fulfilled with respect to Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and height;

(c) whether the Government has relaxed or proposes to relax the norms in any case; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) According to Master Plan for Delhi-2001, Motels are permitted in the rural zone/green belt and in commercial zones on National Highways and inter-State roads with a minimum width (right of way) of 20 metres. The minimum plot size for Motels is one hectare. The Floor Area Ratio (FAR) permitted is 15 for the first two hectares and 5 for the remaining land subject to and overall floor area of 4500 sq. M. The height of the built up structure is restricted

to nine metres and basement equivalent to ground coverage is permitted free from FAR for air conditioning plant, filtration plant, electric sub-station, parking and other essential services.

(c) and (d) Delhi Development Authority has reported that there is no such proposal under consideration.

Demolition of Flats

3483. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi High Court has held that flats constructed by more than two storied by builders are illegal and the same are required to be demolished;

(b) whether builders have constructed flats by more than two storied in various parts of Delhi;

(c) if so, the number of such flats demolished together with details thereof;

(d) whether MCD has asked builders to furnish the details of the constructions etc. made by them from the year 2000 onwards and if so, whether the builders have submitted the information; and

(e) if not, the action taken against these builders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has reported that the Hon'ble High Court in CWP No. 4582/2003 in the matter of Kalyan Sanstha Welfare Organisation Vs. Union of India and others, has directed MCD to take action, including demolition action against all buildings whether residential or commercial so as to bring them within the parameters of the sanctioned plans and in conformity of its permissible use.

(b) and (c) MCD has reported that unauthorised constructions have been detected in various parts of Delhi and action against 1450 properties has been taken, which includes demolition and sealing action.

(d) and (e) MCD has further reported that it had issued a public notice calling upon builders throughout Delhi to give complete details of buildings which they have constructed after 31-12-2000 in Delhi. No such details

have been received from builders. In the public notice, MCD has also requested the building owners to give the names of persons with whom they had entered into collaboration agreement.

Creation of Judicial Service

3484. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to create a national-level judicial service on the pattern of the All-India Civil Service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) As per the recommendations of the Law Commission of India, the directions of the Supreme Court of India in All India Judges Association case (Writ Petition No. 1022/89) and the guidelines recommended by the First National Judicial Pay Commission, creation of All India Judicial Service has been under examination of the Government. Since the creation of an All India Judicial Service would require cooperation of the State Governments and High Courts, views and comments of the State Governments and High Courts have been sought.

Further, creation of All India Judicial Service will require a Resolution in the Rajya Sabha to be passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting, followed by an appropriate enactment by Parliament under article 312 of the Constitution of India. The National Commission to Review the working of the Constitution has not recommended the creation of All India Judicial Service. No decision has yet been taken for creation of Judicial Service at National level by the Government.

Delhi Metro

3485. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DMRC is flooded with offers from within the country and abroad seeking consultancy for developing a metro on the lines of Delhi Metro;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the charges proposed in very meagre in comparison to the charges levied by the international consultants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the revenue likely to be generated on consultation charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Delhi Metro Corporation (DMRC) Ltd. has received requests from the State Governments for preparation of feasibility reports/detailed project reports for setting up Metro systems in the cities of Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai, NOIDA, Gurgaon, Faridabad and Pune. Requests have also been received from the Governments of Sri Lanka and Syria for preparation of feasibility reports for Metro systems for the capital cities of Colombo and Damascus respectively.

(c) DMRC has reported that it is undertaking consultancy, on the basis of the experience gained and expertise while executing the Delhi Metro Project, mainly to help and guide the State Governments wanting to plan similar systems in their cities. As the purpose of the consultancy services is not purely commercial, the charges proposed are meagre compared to other international consultants.

(d) The net revenue generated by DMRC Ltd. from consultancy, after meeting all expenditure related to field survey/investigation/studies, etc. is as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

2002-03	0.90
2003-04	2.08
2004-05	2.18
2005-06	4.68

Guidelines for Collateral Security

3486. DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether on applications for credit for small or

medium enterprises the City Credit Centre (Delhi) of State Bank of India is insisting for collateral security located within the municipal limits; and

(b) if so, the details of guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) City Credit Centre (Delhi) of State Bank of India is not insisting for collateral security located within municipal limits. It also accepts collateral security located outside municipal limits. As per guidelines of the Bank, properties offered as collaterals outside municipal/urban agglomeration can be considered provided the customer is agreeable to bear the cost of inspection of such property including cost of legal opinion/valuation of such securities.

Committee on Municipality

3487. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Extension of Municipality in fifth schedule area had submitted its report;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in bringing legislation to extend the Municipality in scheduled areas in the States as envisaged in the Article 243 of the Constitution thereof; and

(c) the time by which the report of the Committee is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) and (c) Various recommendations of the Committee require consultation with other Ministries/Departments which is time consuming process. The matter is receiving attention so that it could be taken to a logical conclusion at the earliest.

Heavy Rainfall

3488. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total rainfall in the country till the end of July, 2006 in the current monsoon, state-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government or State Government of Gujarat has issued any alert warning to the district administration in view of the heavy rainfall in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL
SIBAL): (a) State-wise rainfall for the Monsoon Season
upto 31st July, 2006 is given below:

Sl. No.	State/UT	Actual (mm)	Normal (mm)	% DEP	CAT
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	593.2	1022.0	-42%	D
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	760.1	1166.5	-35%	D
3.	Assam	721.0	917.6	021%	D
4.	Meghalaya	1386.9	3817.9	-64%	S
5.	Nagaland	402.1	789.0	-49%	D
6.	Manipur	369.4	548.9	-33%	D
7.	Mizoram	974.9	803.2	21%	E
8.	Tripura	1034.8	953.0	9%	N
9.	Sikkim	1115.9	1233.4	-10%	N
10.	West Bengal	778.3	719.8	8%	N
11.	Orissa	673.8	565.9	19%	N
12.	Bihar	471.0	533.6	-12%	N
13.	Jharkhand	599.5	539.9	11%	N
14.	Uttar Pradesh	411.0	387.1	6%	N
15.	Uttaranchal	521.1	606.1	-14%	N
16.	Haryana	195.7	212.7	-8%	N
17.	Chandigarh (UT)	307.1	408.8	-25%	D
18.	Delhi	289.4	297.7	-3%	N
19.	Punjab	230.9	232.9	-1%	B
20.	Himachal Pradesh	303.3	389.5	-22%	D

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Jammu and Kashmir	263.8	257.4	2%	N
22.	Rajasthan	175.6	200.1	-12%	N
23.	Madhya Pradesh	425.7	461.2	-8%	N
24.	Chhattisgarh	475.1	588.5	-19%	N
25.	Gujarat	546.2	366.8	49%	E
26.	Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman (UTs)	1449.1	1220.0	19%	N
27.	Diu (UT)		389.3	-100%	NR
28.	Goa	1710.6	1957.4	-13%	N
29.	Maharashtra	611.0	551.8	11%	N
30.	Andhra Pradesh	239.5	292.7	-18%	N
31.	Tamil Nadu	85.8	125.3	-32%	D
32.	Pondicherry (UT)	126.4	118.4	7%	N
33.	Karnataka	551.5	495.6	11%	N
34.	Kerala	1529.6	1523.3	0%	N
35.	Lakshadweep (UT)	779.9	682.6	14%	N
Country as a whole		457.1	472.4	-4%	

%Dep=Departure

D=Deficient (-20% to -59%)

N=Normal (+19% to -19%)

E=Excess (+20% or More)

S+Scanty (-60% to -99%)

NR=No Rain

Rainfall for the country as a whole for the monsoon season upto 31st July 2006 Actual: 454.1 mm, Normal: 472.4 mm, Departure: -4%.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, Warnings issued to Chief Secretary of Gujarat Government during the recent heavy rainfall situations are detailed below:

Date	Warnings
2-7-06	The enhanced rainfall activity will continue and expected to increase with extremely heavy rainfall (> 25 cm) likely at one or two places over south Gujarat during next 3-4 days.

Date	Warnings
3-7-06	The rainfall activity will continue with extremely heavy rainfall (> 25 cm) likely at one or two places over south Gujarat during next 2-3 days.
4-7-06	Scattered heavy to very heavy rainfall over Gujarat State during subsequent next 2-3 days.
5-7-06	Widespread rains with scattered heavy to very heavy falls and isolated extremely heavy falls (> 25 cm) over Gujarat region during next 48 hours.
5-8-06	Widespread rainfall with heavy to very heavy falls at a few places are also likely over Gujarat region during next 2-3 days.
18-8-06	Widespread rainfall with heavy to very heavy falls at a few places are also likely over north Gujarat region during next 24 hours.

IT Return Crediting

3489. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department is working on schemes to directly credit the Income Tax refund to the assessee's Bank Accounts;

(b) if so, financial year from which the system will come into effect;

(c) whether final decision in this regard has been taken;

(d) the erstwhile practice with regard to refund to assessee's;

(e) whether any bank has been selected whose services will be utilized for this purpose;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) The system called "Electronic Clearing System" (ECS) is already in operation in twelve cities of India since financial year 2004-2005. Efforts are being made to extend the coverage of ECS to twenty four more cities in a phased manner.

(d) The erstwhile practice of issuing refund has been

to issue paper cheques under the signature of the Income Tax authorities. However, presently refunds are being issued both through ECS and paper cheques.

(e) to (g) In the twelve cities where ECS is currently operational, the services of Reserve Bank of India have been taken for acting as a clearing-house for the electronic refunds. In the remaining cities of the country, State Bank of India, which is already acting as the clearing bank for paper cheque refunds, shall act as the ECS intermediary on behalf of the Income Tax Department.

[Translation]

Price Indices

3490. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several types of price indices are in operation in the country and there is also difference in their working out system;

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

(c) whether all the price indices are being based on the year 2001; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes Sir. There are five price indices, which are compiled at the

national level. They are 1. Wholesale Price Index (WPI), 2. Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW), 3. Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL), 4. Consumer Price Index for Rural Labourers (CPI-

RL) and 5. Consumer Price Index for Urban Non-Manual Employees (CPI-UNME).

(b) to (d) The details of price indices are indicated in table below:

Table: Features of Indices

Features	WPI	CPI-IW	CPI-AL	CPI-RL	CPI-UNME
Target population	—	Industrial Workers	Agricultural Workers	Rural Labourers	Urban Non-Manual Employees
Base year	1993-94	2001	1986-87	1986-87	1984-85
Index is released for	All India	78 centers and all India	20 states and all India	20 states and all India	59 urban centers and All India
Frequency of release	Weekly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly

Excise Duty

3491. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of revenue earned by the Government of in the form of excise duty from the multinational corporations operating in the country during the last three years?

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

[English]

Setting Up of Tidal Energy Park

3492. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand for setting up of Tidal Energy Park in Tamil Nadu;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) There is no pending demand for setting up of Tidal Energy Park in Tamil Nadu with the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Science Advisory Council

3493. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has sounded about declining standard of research and development in basic sciences;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being undertaken by the government to promote research and development in basic sciences?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has expressed concern on the current status of science in the country. Attention has been drawn to important issues concerning science which include: poor

enrolment of devoted young people into science education, declining trend of Indian science contributions at International academic level; scale of our investment in science in State and Central Universities; lack of growth of number of institutions of excellence, lack of freedom of operation in scientific and higher educational institutions.

Considering the current status of science, the Government has already taken significant measures such as: setting up of three new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER); funds for rejuvenating basic research and higher education in university sector; establishment of new research centres of excellence; strengthening of R and D infrastructure in academic institutions and research labs, institution of fellowships for encouraging young and active scientists, specific programmes for encouraging women scientists. The Government is also considering to provide a number of new opportunities to students to take up science as a career.

Basic Amenities in Resettlement Colonies

3494. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA is not providing basic amenities like electricity, water and roads to the resettlement colonies in Delhi even after a long time;

(b) if so, the details of such resettlement colonies; and

(c) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) 44 Resettlement Colonies were transferred by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in 1988. MCD has reported that it continuously takes up works for augmenting facilities in these colonies. IN so far as DDA maintained resettlement colonies are concerned, DDA has informed that adequate basic amenities like electricity, water and roads have been provided in these colonies except for electricity in Sector-26, Rohini, Phase-IV. The work of providing electricity in this resettlement colony has also been taken up by North Delhi Power Limited (NDPL).

Shortage of Coal and Gas

3495. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of the Energy Coordination Committee has been held to find ways of feeding India's growing hunger for fuel;

(b) if so, whether there is a shortage of 38 per cent of natural gas and 7 per cent of coal in the country for power generation;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage of coal and gas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) The requirement of fuel for power generation and its prevailing shortage has been drawing the attention of the Energy Coordination Committee.

(b) and (c) During 2006-07 (upto June, 2006), against a requirement of gas (at 90% Plant Load Factor) of 53.52 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD), the actual supply has been 36.7 MMSCMPD, thus leaving a gap of 31.4%.

The coal supply position to thermal power stations has improved considerably during 2006-07. The closing stock at thermal power stations at the end of first quarter of 2006-07 was about 17.3 million tones as compared to 9.7 million tones at the first quarter of 2005-06. Number of critical power stations with less than 7 days' stock reduced from 17 at the end of first quarter of 2005-06 to 2 at the end of first quarter of 2006-07.

(d) Steps have been taken to increase availability of gas from domestic sources by awarding gas blocks for exploration and production activities in various sedimentary basins of the country under New Exploration Licensing Policy and also to import of gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas.

To bridge the gap between demand and supply of coal during 2006-07, import of 20 million tones of coal has been decided. For the medium to long term measure, Coal India is stepping up production and new coal blocks

are being allocated by the Ministry of Coal to power producers/utilities for captive mining to meet requirement of their power plants.

Insurance for Buses

3496. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Insurance companies have stopped insurance for buses in the country, particularly in Bihar;

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

(c) the guidelines/instructions issued by the insurance companies in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Municipal Solid Waste Energy Project

3497. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to set up 'Municipal Solid Waste Energy Projects' in urban areas of the country in order to reduce environmental pollution and to generate additional energy;

(b) if so, the financial allocations for the projects, State-wise;

(c) whether the target set up for the purpose has been achieved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the total power being generated through this scheme annually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing an Accelerated Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban Wastes. The Programme provides for financial assistance in the form of capital subsidy ranging from Rs. 1.50 crore to Rs. 3.00 crore per MW with an upper limit of Rs. 8.00

crore per project. The amount of subsidy depends upon the type of waste and the technology deployed and is subject to eligibility and other terms and conditions. The Municipal Corporations/Urban Local Bodies and State Nodal Agencies have been requested to develop proposals for setting up projects for energy recovery from urban wastes. Besides, a number of workshops and seminars are being organized for creation of awareness and dissemination of information.

(b) Financial allocation of Rs. 11.00 crore has been made for the Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban Wastes for the year 2006-07. No State-wise allocation of funds has been made.

(c) and (d) Against a target of 80 MW for energy recovery from urban and industrial wastes for the tenth Five Year Plan, 16 projects with an aggregate capacity of over 33 MW have so far been installed during the Plan period. The two commissioned projects based on Municipal solid Wastes generated about 54 Million units of electricity during 2005-06.

SARAS Fair at Metro Cities

3498. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal to the Union Government for organizing "Regional SARAS Fair" at the metro cities of Pune, Aurangabad and Nagpur; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for organising additional Fairs in Pune, Aurangabad and Nagpur has been received. However, as per the present policy of the Government, the Ministry of Rural Development grants financial assistance to State Governments for organising only one SARAS Fair in each State annually.

Health Insurance

3499. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of health insurance schemes implemented in the country;

(b) the percentage of population covered by all these schemes;

(c) whether the Government proposes to consider the model of new health insurance scheme implemented by the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers for the entire country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has informed that as on 31-03-2005, there were in all 31 health insurance schemes run by general insurance companies. It has further informed that approximately 1% of country's population is covered under these schemes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Measures to Attract Industrial Investment

3500. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gol has offered package of incentives comprising both fiscal measures for attracting industrial investment in certain regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details there of and the facilities of waiver of taxes being made available to these states at present;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to give same relaxation to the backward districts of Andhra Pradesh in regard to waiver of taxes in respect of promotion of manufacturing industries; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by Government on the request of the Andhra Pradesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Income-tax Act provides for a 10 year tax benefits to the undertakings engaged in the manufacturing or production of any article or thing in the North-Eastern States, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jammu and Kashmir subject to certain condition.

(c) The Government has not received any such representation from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the year 2006.

(d) Does not arise.

Exemption of Income Tax under Term Deposit

3501. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the savings under term deposit scheme 2006 will be exempted from income tax;

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

(c) the percentage of deposit loss by various banks in the absence of such scheme during 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(d) the extent to which bank deposits will be increased by the said scheme?

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

(b) The Finance Act, 2006, inserted clause (xxi) in sub-section (2) of section 80C to provide that deposits up to Rs. 1 lakh in term deposits with Scheduled banks would be eligible for tax benefits. The deposits are in accordance with the Bank Term Deposit Scheme, 2006, notified by the Central Government vide S.O. No. 1220(E), dated 28-7-2006.

(c) It is not possible to estimate the deposit which would have been mobilized if the Scheme had come into operation during 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(d) The Scheme has been notified on 28-7-2006. Therefore, such details are not available.

[Translation]

Autonomy to SBI Associate Banks

3502. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether associate banks of the State Bank of India have requested the Government to constitute them as an independent bank;

(b) if so, the names and the dates on which the department received the request from each of the banks;

(c) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take a decision in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Government has not received any such proposal from the concerned banks.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Adoption of Villages by NIRD

3503. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) at Hyderabad has adopted any villages in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the contribution of the NIRD in terms of qualitative and quantitative changes that have been brought in after adoption of the said villages?

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) Do not arise.

Tanda Thermal Power Project

3504. SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ash and water effluents of Tanda NTPC power project has spread over arable land nearby villages like Samaharia, Makdumpur etc. turning hundreds of acres of land infertile and due to such pollution resulting respiratory diseases as hardship for people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to pay any compensation to the farmers for the lands becoming wasteland;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government to prevent air pollution in the area;

(e) whether any agreement has been signed to provide job at least one person of each farmer's family;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) There is no such incidence of ash and water effluents of Tanda Thermal Power Project of NTPC Ltd. spreading over to arable land in nearby villages and thereby causing pollution in the area. In this regard a Committee appointed by Government of Uttar Pradesh has confirmed in its observation that ash pond effluent at Tanda Thermal Power Project is discharged through Pucca drain and has caused no harm either to the crop or to the soil. Rather, the land is highly fertile and unaffected.

(c) to (g) Do not arise.

[English]

NEEPCO

3505. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NEEPCO has conducted any survey for commissioning of hydro power projects in the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the survey?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As informed by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO), the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of Pare HEP (110 MW), Ranganadi HEP Stage-II (130 MW), Talong HEP (160 MW), Badao HEP (60 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh have already been prepared. In addition DPRs of Dibbin HEP (100 MW), Kapak Leyak HEP (160 MW), Demwe HEP (3000 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh and Mawhu HEP (120 MW) in Meghalaya are scheduled for completion in 2007/2008, the survey and investigation activities for preparation of DPR in respect of Bhareli-I HEP (1120 MW), Bhareli-II HEP (600 MW) and Kameng Dam HEP (600 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh is pending clearance for survey and investigation. In addition, NEEPCO is updating the DPR data of Tipaimukh HEP (1500 MW) in Manipur.

Protection of Small Investors

3506. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

SHRI ALAKESH DAS:

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:

SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Company Law Board is aware that several Private Companies including Finance Companies had taken fixed deposits from the public, mainly small investors and not refunding their money long after their maturity and many of them have taken approval from Ministry of Company Affairs for making refunds in phased manner e.g. Morepan Laboratories, Duncan Industries, Escort Finance, Mcdowell Krest Finance, Rannaque Finance, Lloyds Finance, Kuber Mutual Benefit Fund, Kuber Plants, Escorts Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Company Law Board thereon; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the small investors?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Company Law Board can, on its own or on the application of the depositor, direct the company to make repayment of deposits in a manner and the time frame, indicated in the order under Section 58A (9) of the Companies Act 1956. In exercise of these powers, the Company Law Board has approved the scheme for repayment of deposits in 85 cases. Information in respect of the companies mentioned in part (a) of the Question is enclosed as statement.

(d) The Government has, inter alia, taken the following steps to protect the interests of the small investors:—

- (i) A facility has been set up for online filling of complaints by the depositors on the Ministry's website www.mca.gov.in. These complaints are being taken up in e-governance mode for speedy redressal;
- (ii) A mechanism has been put in place under which the complaints of the depositors are taken up with the companies, through the jurisdictional Registrars of Companies, for redressal of their grievances;
- (iii) Director(s) of a company which has failed to repay its deposits become(s) ineligible for appointment as director(s) of another company in accordance with the provisions of Section 274 (1) (g) of the Companies Act;
- (iv) Auditors are also required to make a statement whether any Director is disqualified from being appointed as Director under clause (g) of Sub-Section (1) of Section 274 of the Companies Act, 1956;
- (v) A number of initiatives have been taken through the "Investor Education and Protection Fund" established under Section 205C of the Companies Act 1956, to educate the investors about their rights. Awareness programmes for investors have also been undertaken through involvement of voluntary organizations and Investor associations. A new web-site www.

watchoutinvestors.com has also been created with financial assistance from the "Investor Education and Protection Fund" to help the investors to protect themselves from

unscrupulous promoters, companies and entities. This website is a national web based registry of economic defaulters, who are indicated for economic offences/defaulters.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the company	Details of Action taken
1	2	3
1.	Morepan Laboratories	The scheme for repayment has been approved by Company Law Board on 19-8-2003. The Registrar of Companies has launched prosecution against the company in the court of CJM Solan and Jalandhar for non compliance of the orders of the Company Law Board. The company has gone to High Court Shimla with its scheme of arrangement which is still pending before the Court.
2.	Duncan Industries	The Company Law Board vide its order dated 18-6-2002 formulated a scheme for repayment of matured deposits in a phased manner, within a specified time and with direction to the depositors to lodge complaint with Registrar of Companies West Bengal for non compliance of the orders of the Company Law Board. The company has filed an application before the Kolkata High Court apprehending criminal proceedings against its officers. The Kolkata High Court has granted a restraint order on the Registrar of Companies West Bengal.
3.	Escort Finance	Petition dated 28-2-2006 u/s 58AA of the Companies Act 1956 is pending with the Company Law Board.
4.	Mcdowell Krest Finance Limited	The Hon'ble High Court, of Chennai by its order dated 22-6-2001 wound up the company and the Official liquidator attached to the High Court has been appointed as the liquidator for the company.
5.	Rannaque Finance Ltd.	The scheme for repayment has been approved by the Company Law Board by its order dated 4-12-1998. The RBI has filed prosecution against the company for non compliance of CLB Order.
6.	Lloyds Finance	The Company Law Board has reviewed its order dated 16-4-1999 and 22-12-2000 regarding repayment of deposits on 1-5-2003. The Hon'ble High Court of Bombay by its order dated 12-3-2004 has appointed a special committee to manage the affairs of the company with the mandate to formulate a scheme for repayment of deposits.
7.	Kuber Mutual Benefit Fund	The scheme for repayment of deposits has been approved by Company Law Board vide its order dated 31-12-1995. The company is under liquidation and official liquidator attached to the Allahabad High Court has been appointed as provisional liquidator vide order dated 25-4-1999.

1	2	3
8. Kuber Plants	It is a plantation company and comes under the purview of SEBI.	
9. Escorts Ltd.	Petition dated 19-10-2005 u/s 58AA of the Companies Act is pending with the Company Law Board.	

Allotment of Land for Hotels

3507. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has asked Delhi and other State Governments to allocate land for new hotels anticipating a huge increase in demand for them during 2010 Delhi common wealth Games as reported in Hindustan Times dated August 14, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are shortages of hotels in Delhi and other States for the purpose of Commonwealth Games;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism has informed that it has requested the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), the Government of Haryana and the Government of Uttar Pradesh to identify sites for construction of hotels. The Ministry of Tourism also requested the State Governments and other land owning agencies including Indian Railways to allocate land for building hotels especially in the budget category.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism has indicated that there is a requirement of 30,000 hotel rooms in Delhi and its neighbouring States.

(e) Government has requested State Governments to make more land available for hotel sites. In so far as Delhi is concerned, DDA has already auctioned 9 sites out of the 22 identified hotel sites. The Master Plan of

Delhi 2001 has also been amended to enable increased commercial utilization of space in hotels, and permit hotels to come up in commercial use zones, transport nodes, commercial centres in industrial use zones and public and semi-public use zones. Further amendment to Master Plan of Delhi 2001 has been envisaged vide public notice dated 21-7-2006 which, inter-alia, seeks to liberalise norms regarding guest houses in residential premises.

[Translation]

Engineers in DDA

3508. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several engineers in DDA are not deployed on any work and they remain idle;

(b) if so, the number of such engineers at present in DDA;

(c) the number of engineers against whom enquiry regarding corruption are pending;

(d) the present status of the enquiry;

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against them; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to remove corruption in DDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that it is not a fact that its engineers are kept idle. In addition to the execution of residential projects, the engineers are required for supervision of commercial projects,

development works, fly-overs, infrastructure for Commonwealth Games etc. Engineers are also required for planning, designing, quality control, vigilance, maintenance of land and building and other administrative works.

(c) to (e) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that 32 engineering officials are involved in corruption cases, out of which 27 cases are under trial in various courts and prosecution sanction in these cases has been issued.

Major penalty proceedings have been initiated in three cases, investigation has been taken up by CBI in one case and in another case by Vigilance Department of DDA.

(f) Various steps have been taken for system improvement, bring in transparency in the functioning of DDA and to remove corruption. These inter-alia include dissemination of information to the public, setting up of facilitation centre, posting of full time Counsellors at the reception counter of DDA, display of information through DDA website etc. Efforts made for improving the system for grievance redressal include computerized monitoring of grievances, following of Citizen's Charter, effective implementation of RTI Act, 2005, computerization of records etc.

Indian Legal Service

3509. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the legal consultants of official language wing (Hindi Branch) of the legislative department of the Ministry of Law and Justice, have been included in the Indian Legal Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Officers of the Official Language Wing (Hindi Branch) of the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Law and Justice have not been included in the Indian Legal Service of the Legislative Department on the following grounds:—

(i) Indian Legal Services Officers in the Legislative Department are responsible for drafting the Bills, Ordinances, Acts, Rules, Regulations and other legal documents whereas the Officers of the Official Languages Wing (LD) are responsible for preparing translation of the said documents in Hindi/regional Languages. As such, it can not be concluded that the Officers of the Official Languages Wing (LD) are performing the same or similar nature of duties as those of the Officers of the Indian Legal Service of the Legislative Department (Main Wing).

(ii) The Indian Legal Services Officers, in the main Secretariat and Legislative Counsels in the Official Languages Wing are governed by separate set of Recruitment Rules.

(iii) The Officers in the Official Languages Wing belong to the "General Central Service" whereas the Officers of the Indian Legal Service belong to an organized Central Civil Service.

Gas Based Power Plants

3510. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) uses gas or liquid fuel in some of its gas based power plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of gas or liquid fuel has been used in such plants during the last three years till date, plant-wise separately?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, NTPC has seven combined cycle Gas/Liquid fuel based Power Plants. The details of these plants are given below:

Project Name	Location	Capacity (MW)	Primary Fuel	Secondary Fuel
Anta GPS	Rajasthan	413	Gas	Naphtha
Auraiya GPS	Uttar Pradesh	652	Gas	Naphtha
NCPS, Dadri	Uttar Pradesh	817	Gas	High Speed Diesel (HSD)
Faridabad GPS	Haryana	430	Gas	Naphtha
Kawas GPS	Gujarat	645	Gas	Naphtha
Jhanor-Gandhar GPS	Gujarat	648	Gas	Naphtha
Rajiv Gandhi CCPP	Kerala	350	Naphtha	Naphtha

(c) The quantity of gas and liquid fuel used in the above said plants during the last three years, plant-wise are given in statement enclosed.

Statement

A. Gas Consumption

(Figures in Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres per Day (MMSCMD))

Project Name	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Anta GPS	1.41	1.51	1.48
Auraiya GPS	2.08	2.12	2.08
NCPS, Dadri	2.45	2.67	2.45
Faridabad GPS	1.51	1.66	1.53
Kawas GPS	0.93	0.17	0.64
Jhanor-Gandhar GPS	2.52	2.24	1.80
Total	10.91	10.37	9.98

B. Liquid Fuel Consumption

(Figures in Kilo Litre)

Project Name	Liquid Fuel	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
Anta GPS	Naphtha	111215	91639	107906

1	2	3	4	5
Auraiya GPS	Naphtha	238070	170807	216539
NCPS, Dadri	HSD	260002	207737	218592
Faridabad GPS	Naphtha	75060	51040	34281
Kawas GPS	Naphtha	295381	655242	723393
Rajiv Gandhi CCPP, Kayamkulam	Naphtha	89807	139840	531446
Total	Naphtha	809533	1108568	1613565
	HSD	260002	207737	218592

GPS: Gas Power Station

CCPP: Combined Cycle Power Project

Norms for Investment

3511. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) rules framed for the investment in India in collaboration with a foreign company;

(b) whether the Government have received report regarding violation of these rules;

(c) if so, the details thereof for the last two years;

(d) the action taken by the Government so far in this regard; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Investments of a foreign company in India through Joint Ventures/Wholly Owned Subsidiaries are regulated by Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 and Rules/Regulations Notification, Orders issued there under.

(b) to (e) Section 13 of the FEMA, 1999 provides for imposition of penalty after adjudication for contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules/Regulations Notification, Orders issued there under. The

Directorate of Enforcement is empowered to investigate such contraventions. No investigation in respect of foreign companies for violation of Rules has been carried out during the last two years.

[English]

Government Quarters in Delhi

3512. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CPWD is the nodal agency for maintenance of Government Quarters in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number and names of pools of residences in the Capital;

(c) whether renovation work on vacation of quarters is done only in General Pool of residences and refused to other pools of residences;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove this discrimination against the allottees of other pools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to

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

Unauthorised Colonies in Delhi

3513. SHRITUKARAM GANPATRAO RENG PATIL:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unauthorised colonies in Delhi;

(b) the existing rehabilitation rules in Delhi;

(c) whether the Delhi Development Authority does not implement the rehabilitation rules properly due to lack of qualified persons in the Land Management Branch of DDA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that it had invited applications in October, 2004 to 31st January, 2005 from the Residents Welfare Associations/Societies of unauthorized colonies existing as on 31-3-2002; and 1432 applications were received and being processed.

(b) The Central Government has not framed any rules to rehabilitate people in the unauthorized colonies in Delhi. However, the policy guidelines for regularization of unauthorized colonies were issued by Government in 2001 and 2004. Government of NCT of Delhi has sought revision in these guidelines.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Recruitment of ST Persons

3514. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation rules for recruitment of SC/ST candidates are being followed in DDA;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has not recruited any Scheduled Tribe persons in its Class III and Class IV category staff for the last 24 years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of the ST candidates employed during the last three years, year-wise and post-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that the reservation rules for recruitment of SC/ST candidates are being followed in DDA.

(c) and (d) DDA has denied that it has not recruited any ST person in its Class III and IV categories staff for the last 24 years.

(e) DDA has reported that it has issued offer letters for appointment to 12 ST candidates as Section Officer (Horticulture), during 2006 out of which 8 candidates have joined duty.

Valmiki Ambedkar Awaas Yojana

3515. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of Valmiki Ambedkar Awaas Yojana (VAMBAY) in the country; and

(b) the States in which the scheme is in operation and its present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Government has been implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme called Valmiki Ambedkar Awaas Yojana (VAMBAY) with effect from 2-12-2001, with a view to ameliorating the conditions of urban slum dwellers living below poverty line, who do not possess adequate shelter. The Scheme has the primary objective to facilitate construction and upgradation of dwelling units and to provide health and enabling urban environment through community toilets. Cumulative, State-wise, financial and physical achievements under VAMBAY are given in the statement enclosed. Sanction of fresh cases under VAMBAY has been discontinued with effect from 1st April 2006 as the scheme has been merged in "Basic Services for the Urban Poor" under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and in "Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme". However, committed liabilities of VAMBAY are being met.

Statement

Statewise Cumulative details of VAMBAY Schemes in which GOI Subsidy has been released as on 30-6-2006

State/U.T.	Cumulative Allocation (GoI Subsidy)	GOI subsidy released		Total	Units		Physical Progress (As on 30-6-06)					(Rs. in lacs)
		Housing	Toilets		Housing	Toilets	Housing	Toilets				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
Andhra Pradesh	10646.000	22867.975	57.880	22925.855	99190	392	57445	16666	138	0		
Andaman and Nicobar	90.730	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Arunachal Pradesh	66.240	290.925	0.000	290.925	1293	0	0	80	0	0		
Assam	1030.800	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Bihar	4704.520	13.600	0.000	13.600	68	0	0	0	0	0		
Chandigarh	377.700	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Chhattisgarh	1335.990	1788.520	300.200	2088.720	8942	1501	5825	3117	858	645		
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	7.560	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Daman and Diu	24.680	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Delhi	5761.650	50.000	0.000	50.000	167	0	167	0	0	0		
Goa	202.150	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Gujarat	6084.960	1948.700	693.200	2641.900	20971	3466	20213	0	1538	380		

Haryana	1780.920	652.600	0.000	652.600	3263	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	285.320	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	1376.440	312.630	55.200	367.830	1389	276	578	128	0	0	0	0
Jharkhand	1567.830	1708.800	18.000	1726.800	8544	90	0	0	0	0	0	0
Karnataka	3142.240	7424.800	1582.000	9006.800	33282	7910	25904	37	5280	460		
Kerala	2911.740	5493.590	0.000	5493.590	27467	0	19784	0	0	0	0	0
Lakshadweep	6.570	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	3610.670	1655.750	50.000	1705.750	7026	250	3287	1610	20	0		
Maharashtra	18998.550	16984.075	5213.500	22197.575	76365	26081	46000	7932	18610	3510		
Manipur	200.330	288.220	0.000	288.220	1281	0	1012	129	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	205.90	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	203.520	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	107.590	294.975	6.200	301.175	1311	31	1046	0	31	0	0	0
Orissa	1982.980	124.000	0.000	124.000	620	0	276	266	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	377.250	210.300	24.000	234.300	1196	120	917	279	40	0	0	0
Punjab	3350.490	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rajasthan	5777.410	1766.880	0.000	1766.880	7767	0	3700	1300	0	0	0	0
Sikkim	22.220	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	7712.470	8499.730	4051.600	12551.350	103585	23930	98341	4851	23580	350		
Tripura	158.520	423.003	0.000	423.003	1880	0	1284	436	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Uttar Pradesh	12959.670	5407.460	31.000	5438.460	24926	155	8874	4420	0	10
Uttanchal	681.880	355.350	46.000	401.350	1849	230	464	401	110	30
West Bengal	11639.440	1921.740	196.800	2118.540	8680	984	3773	2153	777	73
Total	109393.010	80483.623	12325.580	92809.203	441062	65416	298890	43805	50978	5458
Government of India funds released under various sub-components—i.e. Demonstration Project, MIS, Dissemination of Information Research and Studies, Training for Staff										
			874.073	1165	0	125	224			
Grand Total										
				93683.276	442227	65416	299015	44029		

Polluted Water in Delhi

3516. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether large areas in Delhi were supplied polluted and dirty drinking water on July 4, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of areas which still remain deprived of drinking water in the city; and

(d) the action being taken to ensure adequate water supply to these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has informed that on 4-7-2006, 309 water samples were lifted from individual taps, public stand posts and complainant houses etc. all over Delhi. Out of which only 18 water samples were found unfit in accordance with the laid down standards. These were due to leakage in individual service connection, surcharges of sewers/waster water lines etc. The faults so found were rectified immediately.

(c) and (d) The DJB has informed that piped water supply does not exist in some unauthorised-regularised colonies of West, South-West, South and North-West Districts. However, taking into account the technical feasibility, DJB has taken up extending of piped water supply network through construction of Under Ground Reservoirs/Booster Pumping Stations and laying of peripheral mains in a planned manner in phases. Potable water is also supplied to these areas through water tankers.

Encroachment on Land of CPWD

3517. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether chunks of the CPWD land in Delhi are in illegal occupation of private persons in connivance with its officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not clearing the CPWD land even after lapse of 10 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) There is no report that CPWD officers are conniving with private persons in illegal occupation of CPWD land in Delhi.

(c) As per policy guidelines regarding removal of encroachment from public land, the encroachers have to be relocated. Reference has been made to Municipal Corporation of Delhi in most cases for taking action.

Flats for Medium Class

3518. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has discontinued the policy of constructing houses in Delhi for the middle class people;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether DDA had withdrawn the plan to constructed flats for middle class people in Dwarka, Sheikh Sarai and Rohini, and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that the policy of constructing houses in Delhi for middle class people has not been discontinued. In the recently launched 'DDA Housing Scheme 2006', 2352 two bed room houses have been offered for allotment for middle class people. In addition, 1343 MIG and 6852 LIG houses are under construction by DDA as on date.

Cases Against Bahais

3519. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases relating to economic offences have been initiated/registered against spiritual assembly

of Bahais in India;

(b) if so, the various kind of offences under which the cases have registered; and

(c) the status of these cases?

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

[Translation]

Assistance to Animation Industry

3520. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received some recommendations from the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in respect of providing assistance to animation industry keeping in view the growth of this industry;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to issue necessary directions to provide more assistance to animation industry considering the recommendations of the FICCI and keeping in view the problems and challenges prevailing in this sector;

(c) if so, the time by which assistance will be provided; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Sir, this Ministry has not received any such proposal from FICCI.

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

Export Promotion Schemes

3521. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:

SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced various schemes with a view to promoting exports under which some exemption or full exemption is given in export duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the exemption given in terms of percentage under each scheme, separately;

(c) whether there has been continuous increase in the duty being exempted under these schemes;

(d) if so, the percentage of excise duty exempted under these schemes during the last three years, separately;

(e) the details of the institutions taking benefit of these schemes;

(f) whether the Government is contemplating to scrap these schemes; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (g) The Government has introduced various schemes with a view to promoting exports. The objectives of most schemes are to neutralise the incidence of levies and duties on inputs used in export products, based on the fundamental principle that duties and levies should not be exported. Presently, the major schemes are either duty exemption or duty remission schemes. Duty exemption schemes enable duty free import of inputs required for export production. Advance Authorisation, Duty Free Import Authorisation (DFIA), Export Oriented Unit (EOU) and Special Economic Zone (SEZ) schemes are exemption schemes which allow duty free imports. A Duty Remission Scheme enables post export replenishment/remission of duty on inputs used in the export product. Duty Remission Schemes consist of (a) DEPB (Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme) and (b) Drawback. The DEPB allows drawback of import charges on inputs used in the export product. The Drawback Scheme intends to neutralise the incidence of central taxes borne on export goods.

There is yet another scheme called the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme under which import of capital goods is allowed at a concessional duty of 5% subject to an export obligation. Besides, there are product specific and country specific schemes to promote exports.

The drawback disbursed and the amount of duty foregone under these schemes during the last three years are given below:

Year	Duty Foregone (Rs. in crores)
2003-04	41060.57
2004-05	40021.86
2005-06	40329.14

The schemes are available to exporters subject to fulfillment of conditions stipulated therein. There is no proposal at present to scrap these schemes.

[English]

Tax Holiday for Oil and Gas Pipeline Laying Projects

3522. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) have requested for ten year tax holiday for oil and gas pipeline laying projects;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) All proposals relating to tax policy changes are considered as part of the annual budgetary exercise.

Beautification of Yamuna

3523. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority has sent a comprehensive plan for the Development and beautification of the banks of the Yamuna river to the Ministry for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the plan also includes the cleaning of the Yamuna river water to make it potable;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that the draft Zonal Plan for Zone 'O' and part 'P' (River Yamuna) was considered by the DDA in its meeting held on 28-6-2006 and was approved for issue of public notice inviting objections/suggestions as per the provisions of the Delhi Development Act, 1957. The draft Zonal Development Plan is based on a comprehensive study by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Pune on 'Environmental Management Plan for Rejuvenation of River Yamuna in Delhi'. The Zonal Development Plan aims at water supply augmentation and pollution abatement in the river besides eco-friendly development. The draft plan envisages the preparation of an action plan to develop sewage treatment facilities at the outfall points of the drains for improvement in the quality of river water.

Allotment of Land for Stadium

3524. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has agreed to allot/ provide land for the construction of new stadium for the Cricket World Cup to be held in 2011;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether land is being allotted by the Delhi Development Authority for the construction of new stadium in Delhi;

(d) if so, the location thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that there is no proposal for allotment of land for construction of new stadium for Cricket World Cup, 2011.

Tax Evasion by MNCs

3525. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 25 per cent of the multinational companies (MNCs) in India indulge in tax evasion;

(b) whether Income Tax department has sent notices to foreign for the recovery of over Rs. 1,200 crores;

(c) if so, the details of all such MNCs to whom notices have been served;

(d) whether Income Tax department has sought additional Commissioners in the international wing to monitor MNCs; and

(e) if so, the measures taken to recover taxes from MNCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Evasion of direct tax was detected in 411 MNCs out of 1915 such companies assessed during financial year 2005-06, which works out to 21.46%.

(b) The total arrear demand in respect of the companies under the jurisdiction of the Directorate of Income Tax (International Taxation) was Rs. 6,385.09 crore as on 1st April, 2006. Tax demand in respect of the companies has been raised over the past several years. To enforce recovery of the demand, notices are issued from time to time.

(c) Details of all the MNCs to whom such notices have been sent over the past several years are not maintained centrally. This would require examination of individual case records, involving considerable time and effort, which may not be commensurate with the objective sought to be achieved.

(d) In view of the increasing workload in the Directorate of Income Tax (International Taxation), requests

for creation of additional posts are made from time to time to improve the quality of assessment and post-assessment work.

(e) Appropriate measures for recovery of tax demand provided in the Income Tax Act, 1961 are taken to recover direct taxes from MNCs.

[Translation]

Guidelines for Loans to Private Airlines

3526. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has reviewed the guidelines relating to the term loan for providing funds to private airlines in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith details of the modified guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised the banks to prepare a well defined loan policy approved by their Board of Directors. The policy should lay down exposure limits to individual/group of borrowers, documentation standards, Sectoral exposure limits, delegation of powers including powers for write offs and review procedures, maturity and pricing policies, factors taken into consideration for deciding interest rates above the floor rate, etc. The management of the credit exposure to various sectors and borrowers is purely an internal management function and Board of Directors of the bank is authorized to frame suitable policies in this regard.

[English]

Request for Soft Loans

3527. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments have requested the Union Government for one time grant of soft loans;

(b) if so, the extent of one time grant sought by Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) the Union Government's response to the proposal of Madhya Pradesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. Government of India does not provide one time grant of soft loans to the States.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Cases Against Liquor Manufacturers

3528. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered by the Directorate of Enforcement against major liquor producers in connection with the violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) cases against them;

(b) whether investigation by the police have since been completed into these cases;

(c) if so, the findings thereof and if not the time by when the investigations are likely to be completed;

(d) the details of such cases pending for more than one year, three years, five years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for early disposal of such cases?

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

[English]

Compensation to Farmers

3529. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to acquisition of land for colonisation, farmers deprived of their livelihood and the displaced farmers get the nominal compensation for such acquired land;

(b) whether the Delhi High Court in its for reaching judgement in September 2005 has directed the Government to provide alternative land for employment to those farmers whose land have been acquired for the sake of development;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has issued directions to DDA and other State Governments to comply with the orders passed by Delhi High Court; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) has reported that it acquires land for Planned Development of Delhi by Delhi Development Authority and other Government Departments. Compensation is paid to the farmers in lieu of their acquired land as per the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. The GNCTD has fixed minimum indicative price from 1990 onwards for acquisition of agriculture land/river bed land and has revised this price last with effect from 30-8-2005 raising it to Rs. 17.584 lakh per acre of agricultural land and Rs. 5.706 lakh per acre for river bed land.

In addition to the above land value, land owner is paid 30% solatium, 12% per annum additional amount and interest @ 9% per annum for the first year and 15% thereafter from the date of taking over possession.

(b) to (e) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that as per present policy, in addition to the compensation, alternative plots are also allotted to those persons whose land is acquired for the development purpose and who are recommended for such allotment by Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. In addition, 10% shops are reserved for allotment on reserved price for those whose land is acquired subject to the condition that the acquired land should be more than one acre.

In CWP 448/2005, the Delhi High Court had vide order dated 14-9-2005, directed DDA to grant possession of the alternative plot allotted by DDA to the petitioner after making necessary adjustment of dues paid/payable by him to DDA.

Golden Jubilee of DDA

3530. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority is planning to hold its year long celebration of its Golden jubilee; and

(b) if so, the policies and programme planned to undertake during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that no such plan has been finalised.

Clearance to Hydro Power Projects

3531. SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Arunachal Pradesh has awarded major Hydel Power Projects to private parties arbitrarily bypassing the agreements with National Hydro Power Corporation;

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

(c) whether there is any delays in undertaking all the Mega Hydro Power Projects in North-East due to non-clearance of the environmental issues;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total Hydro Power Potential in the country and the share of Arunachal Pradesh in it?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Siyom (Siang Middle) Hydroelectric Project (HEP) (1000 MW) and Siang Lower HEP were transferred by Government of Arunachal Pradesh on 22-3-2000 for execution by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) in the Central Sector. However, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has since entered into a Memorandum of Agreement on 22-2-2006 for execution of these projects through private developers. In addition to these two projects, three other projects, viz. Tato-II HEP (700 MW), Naying HEP (1000 MW) and Hironag HEP (500 MW) for which the work of preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) was entrusted to NHPC under the 50,000 MW Hydroelectric Initiative, have also been entrusted to private developers by the State Government. No reasons have been given by Government of Arunachal Pradesh for replacing NHPC by private developers for implementation of these projects.

(c) and (d) A total number of 9 projects are held up in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur due to non-receipt of clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Details of these projects are given in the statement enclosed.

(e) The reassessment studies of hydroelectric potential of the country, completed by Central Electricity Authority in 1987, have placed the hydro power potential at 84,044 MW at 60% load factor. Of this, the potential of Arunachal Pradesh is 26,756 MW.

Statement

Details of Hydroelectric projects in the North East held up on account of clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	State	Agency	IC (MW)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Naba	Arunachal Pradesh	NHPC	1000
2.	Niare	Arunachal Pradesh	NHPC	800

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bhareli-II	Arunachal Pradesh	NEEPCO	600
4.	Bhareli-I	Arunachal Pradesh	NEEPCO	1120
5.	Oju-II	Arunachal Pradesh	NEEPCO	1000
6.	Oju-I	Arunachal Pradesh	NEEPCO	700
7.	Subansiri Middle	Arunachal Pradesh	NHPC	1600
8.	Subansiri Upper	Arunachal Pradesh	NHPC	2000
9.	Tipaimukh	Manipur	NEEPCO	1500

Parallel Business Speculation

3532. SHRI KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a parallel share speculation business is continuing in the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra at a large scale from the underworld lords operating from foreign soil; and

(b) the full details of corrective measures being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that it has received information about the prevalence of "dabba trading" in certain parts of western India.

(b) The Union Finance Minister had written to the Chief Ministers of all State Governments, in October, 2005, urging them to take urgent steps to stamp out "dabba trading". SEBI has informed that it had written similar letters earlier to the Chief Ministers requesting them to take urgent action in the matter. Pursuant to recent news articles regarding "dabba trading" in the state of Gujarat, SEBI has written to the Chief Secretary, Gujarat urging the State Government to immediately take all necessary steps to effectively deal with such illegal trading.

Mumbai Sewage Disposal Projects

3533. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken up the matter for consideration of the proposal of Maharashtra Government for grant/credit/loan from World Bank for Mumbai Sewerage Disposal Project Stage II with Ministry of Finance;

(b) whether the Finance Ministry has considered Maharashtra as a dept stressed State as per the revised guidelines of Stressed Debt Sustainability;

(c) whether the Maharashtra Government has sent the revised project report and additional information to the Ministry;

(d) whether the Ministry will take up the matter with the Finance Ministry for early clearance of the scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when the proposal would be cleared and the implementation of Mumbai Sewerage Disposal Project Stage II be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (f) yes, Sir. The Ministry has recommended the proposal

of Maharashtra Government for grant/credit/loan from World Bank for Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project Stage-II to Ministry of Finance in 2004. The State was, however, categorized as "debt stressed" State from debt sustainability point of view. Accordingly, the Deptt. of Economic Affairs informed that since Maharashtra is a debt stressed State, these proposals could not be forwarded to the World Bank.

In addition to above, Deptt. of Economic Affairs also informed that in November, 2004, Chief Minister of Maharashtra requested for engaging the World Bank to prepare a five year business plan for transforming Mumbai into a world class city and to include Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project Stage-II in the comprehensive plan for the city. Subsequently, Deptt. of Economic Affairs requested the World Bank in February, 2005 to field a dedicated multi-sectoral team to draft a comprehensive strategy for the city.

The World bank teams visited Mumbai twice last year and held extensive discussion with officials of Government of Maharashtra and with Task Force, appointed by the Chief Minister for preparing an Action Plan to develop Mumbai into a world class city. The World Bank team, which visited Mumbai from 8th to 21st November, 2005, has proposed a time schedule for Action Plan preparation relating to the Mumbai Development Action Plan. The proposed Action Plan involves Action by the State Government on a comprehensive package of key reforms investing and financing. As per time schedule, prepared by World Bank, the Action Plan is expected to be launched in December, 2006. The State Government has been requested to adhere to the time schedule.

In addition to above, Government of Maharashtra has approached this Ministry to consider priority works of Mumbai Sewerage Disposal Project Stage-II under Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) at an estimated cost of Rs. 502.41 crore. The proposal is under scrutiny in this Ministry.

Cloud Seeding Operations

3534. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to overcome the impact of continued droughts for years together in certain parts of the country, cloud seeding operations are proposed to be undertaken, jointly or severally by different States;

(b) whether the Government has received proposals from various State Governments in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) India Meteorological Department (IMD) does not propose to undertake cloud seeding in the near future.

(b) No proposal from any State Governments has been received regarding Cloud Seeding Operations in IMD.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Security Impact of MNC on Indian Companies

3535. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) has expressed concern over the security impact of the foreign investments in Indian companies particularly in the telecom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the suggestions they have made and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Government, in consultation with the security agencies, is appraising the impact on the national security of foreign investment in Indian companies in sectors which are considered sensitive. No decision has been taken in this regard.

Women Reservation Bill

3536. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to reintroduce the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) the progress has been made in resolving issues like reservation for women belonging to ST/SC/OBC and Minorities?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Government is considering the issue of bringing in a Bill in Parliament providing for reservation of seats for women in Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies as early as possible. With the objective of arriving at a consensus on the various provisions of the proposed Bill, consultations were held with the leaders of all major political parties. However, no consensus could be arrived at till now. The Government proposes to introduce the Bill in Parliament after a consensus is arrived at amongst the political parties on the provisions of proposed Bill so that it could be considered and passed unanimously.

[Translation]

Policy for Population in Delhi

3537. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have formulated a policy to reduce the pressure of increasing population in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether private participation would also be invited in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) was constituted under the provisions of NCRPB Act, 1985 with the responsibility of coordinating efforts of the adjoining States through the instrumentation of the regional and sub-regional plans. The Regional Plan 2021

prepared by the NCRPB provides for promotion of growth and balanced development of the National Capital Region. This Plan provides for an inter-related Policy Framework related to population, settlement systems, regional land use pattern, environmental factors, economic activities and infrastructural facilities for implementation by the concerned central Ministries, participating State Governments alongwith National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD) and other implementing agencies.

In so far as Delhi is concerned, the draft Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) 2021 while recognizing the rapid growth in population and urbanization of the city stipulates preparation of sub-regional plans within the framework of National Capital Region Plan to relieve the city of additional pressure of population. Draft MPD 2021 also envisages the assembly of land required for further urbanization through a mix of acquisition and land pooling involving public and private sector/land owners.

[English]

Pipavav Thermal Power Project

3538. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat and NTPC have signed an MoU for setting up of 1000 MW power Project at Pipavav in joint venture;

(b) if so, the present status of the project;

(c) whether the project is held up due to non-allotment of Coal Mining Block to NTPC by the Ministry of Coal;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in allocation of the coal Mining Block to NTPC; and

(e) the time by which the Coal Mining Block is likely to be allotted to NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) An MOU was signed by NTPC Limited with Gujarat Power Corporation Ltd. (GPCL) and Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB) on 20-02-2004 for setting up a 1000 MW Power Project at Pipavav in Amreli Distt. of Gujarat, as a 50:50 Joint venture project of NTPC Limited and Gujarat Power Corporation Limited (GPCL)/agencies

of Government of Gujarat, based on techno-economic feasibility to be carried out and selection of optimum fuel.

NTPC Limited, in consultation with GPCL, has taken up various site specific studies to establish feasibility of the project. Various works, related to site specific studies have also been awarded by NTPC to various agencies, which are being carried out.

Initially NTPC/GPCL had applied for allotment of coal mining block for Pipavav project. However, the same could not be allotted. NTPC Ltd. has now requested for coal linkage. Ministry of Power has recommended the request of coal linkage to Ministry of Coal. Ministry of Coal has requested NTPC Ltd. to deposit the processing fee and apply in proper format for coal linkage for Pipavav project vide letter dated 14-08-2006.

[Translation]

Merger of Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation Schemes

3539. SHRI MANSUKHBAHI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal with regard to the merger of poverty alleviation programmes and employment generation schemes alongwith increasing the financial allocations in this regard is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the revised programme is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the Government has evaluated the reasons for the failure of these programmes/schemes;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the steps taken to overcome the shortcomings in this regard; and

(e) the achievement made as a result of the steps taken by the Government.

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 (e) The Ministry of Rural Development has no pending proposal with regard to the merger of poverty alleviation programmes and employment generation schemes, as the existing schemes namely, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana

(SGSY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) focus on poverty alleviation and employment generation in rural areas of the country. These schemes are being implemented satisfactorily. These schemes have been evaluated by the independent research organizations and some shortcomings and suggestions made for further improvement in the implementation, have been brought to the notice of the programme implementing agencies for corrective measures.

[English]

Electoral Rolls

3540. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the names of a large number of legitimate voters were struck-off from the voters' lists and thus deprived them of casting their votes in Assembly elections in various States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has intimated that it is not a fact that the names of a large number of legitimate voters were removed from voters' lists and thus deprived of casting votes in Assembly elections in various States. However, some complaints about irregularities in the electoral rolls were received by the Election Commission and some were made before it. These complaints were investigated through Observers and other administrative machinery entrusted with the work of revision of electoral rolls and appropriate action was taken to rectify the rolls, wherever required.

[Translation]

Setting Up of Landroute Customs Authority

3541. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal regarding setting up of Landroute Customs Authority of India with a view to keep a vigil on the activities of land route customs centres already set up along the border of neighbouring countries

especially with Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) No such proposal of setting up of a Landroute Customs Authority of India, with a view to keep vigil on the activities of land route customs centers, is under consideration of the Government.

[English].

Gas Supply to Dabhol Power Plant

3542. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is negotiating with five countries, including Qatar for supplying gas to the Dabhol power project;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the project is likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have informed that Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) is discussing with Ras Gas of Qatar for supplying LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) for Dabhol Power Project on short terms basis. PLL and Gail (India) Limited are also discussing the issue of gas supplies to the project with other companies in different countries.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) Commercial viability of Dabhol power project of Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Ltd. is based on LNG as fuel and the commercial operations of the plant to its full rated capacity once LNG is available for the power blocks.

[Translation]

Short Supply of Gas to Raigarh Thermal Power Project

3543. SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gas available at present for Raigarh gas thermal power project;

(b) the additional quantity of gas required to run the said project on its full capacity;

(c) the organization authorized to supply the additional quantity of gas to the said project; and

(d) the time by which gas is likely to be made available to run the project smoothly?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Urban gas power project of Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Ltd. (MAHAGENCO) is located in Raigarh district of Maharashtra. Against the requirement of 4.38 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter per Day (MMSCMD) to run the power station at 90% Plant Load Factor (PLF), the average quantity of gas available for the power project has been 2.86 MMSCMD during the period from April to July, 2006. Thus, an additional quantity of 1.52 MMSCMD of gas is required to run the station at 90% PLF.

(c) M/s Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) is the organization authorized to supply gas coming from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and allocated to power plant.

(d) New and additional gas arising out of recent and future investments by ONGC is likely to be available at market price in future. After the commissioning of Dahej Uran pipeline in March 2007, additional gas is likely to be supplied subject to availability of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) at Dahej.

[English]

Mejia Thermal Power Project

3544. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for Power generation from—Kejia Thermal Power Project at the end of 11th Five Year Plan;

(b) whether setting up of 7th and 8th units of Power Plant is under the consideration of the Government; and

(c) if so, whether Mejia Thermal Power Project will be the highest power generation project in the country after setting up of these units of the project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Power Generation Capacity from Mejia Thermal Power Station at the end of 11th Five Year Plan would be $(4 \times 210 + 2 \times 250 + 2 \times 500 = 2340 \text{ MW})$ 2340 MW.

(b) Mejia Extension Units 7 and 8 ($2 \times 500 = 1000 \text{ MW}$) are proposed to be set up by Damodar Valley Corporation during 11th Plan. Detailed project report is under preparation and letter of intent/order for main plant is proposed to be placed in the initial two years of 11th Plan. The units are expected to be commissioned in 2010-11.

(c) Mejia Thermal Power Station is one of the biggest power station in the country but at present the highest generation project in the country is Talcher Super Thermal Station of NTPC having capacity of 3000 MW ($6 \times 500 \text{ MW}$).

Appointment of Notary Public

3545. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure followed for appointment as Notary Public by the Government;

(b) the number of applications received by the Government for appointment of Notary Public during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(c) the number of persons appointed as Notary Public out of these applications;

(d) the number of applications of Notary Public pending with the Government at present;

(e) the reasons for their pendency; and

(f) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) The procedure to be followed for appointing as Notary Public

is laid down under the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956. Under Section 3 of the said Act, the Central Government as well as the State Governments are empowered to appoint Notaries. The Central Government has power to appoint Notaries for the whole or any part of India, whereas a State Government is empowered to appoint Notaries for whole or any part of the State concerned. Under Rule 3 of the Notaries Rules, a person from amongst legal practitioners may apply for appointment as a notary, if he had been practising at least for 10 years. In case the applicant for notary-ship is a person belonging either to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes or a woman, then the condition for eligibility for appointment as a notary is 7 years of legal practice. A person is also eligible for appointment as a notary if he has been a member of Indian Legal Service under the Central Government or if he has been for ten years, a member of Judicial Service, or held an office under the Central Government or a State Government requiring special knowledge of law after enrolment as an Advocate or held an office in the Department of Judge Advocate General or in the legal department of the Armed Forces.

The eligible persons may apply for appointment as notary on a prescribed form i.e. Memorial, which has to be countersigned by a Magistrate, a Nationalized Bank Manager, a Merchant and two prominent local residents. The Competent Authority, designated by the Central Government, thereafter examines the Memorial and calls for comments/objections from the State Bar Council where the memorialist is enrolled as an advocate. The applicant is also requested to submit an affidavit deposing that he is neither a notary already appointed by any State Government nor his application for appointment as Notary is pending with the concerned State Government and also state the number of courts and the number of notaries in the desired area of practice. After considering the objections and the various facts the Competent Authority submits a report to the Central Government under Rule 7. On receipt of the report of the Competent Authority, the Central Government after considering the same takes an appropriate decision.

(b) to (d) A State-wise statement showing the number of applications received by the Central Government for appointment of Notary Public during each

of the last three years including current year and the number of persons appointed as Notary Public by the Central Government out of these applications, in enclosed at as a statement.

(e) and (f) The procedure followed for appointment

as Notary has already mentioned at point (a) above. The above said formalities has to be completed before appointing Notary public. No time limit has been prescribed for appointment of Notary in the Notaries Act 1952 and Notaries Rules 1956.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State/U.T.	Number of applications received during last three years including current year				Number of Notaries appointed out of these applications
		2003	2004	2005	2006	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	05	10	57	52	37
2.	Assam	—	—	—	01	01
3.	Bihar	03	01	—	05	03
4.	Gujarat	17	91	218	146	100
5.	Kerala	16	126	77	26	46
6.	Madhya Pradesh	07	14	17	13	09
7.	Tamil Nadu	04	36	76	48	63
8.	Maharashtra	72	183	345	219	216
9.	Karnataka	19	86	102	81	52
10.	Orissa	03	05	03	03	02
11.	Punjab	44	114	143	54	138
12.	Rajasthan	17	42	126	79	64
13.	Uttar Pradesh	86	245	317	105	233
14.	West Bengal	06	04	34	12	11
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	02	—	—	—
16.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Haryana	42	131	127	68	159
18.	Himachal Pradesh	01	01	02	01	02
19.	Manipur	—	01	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	Tripura	—	02	01	02	01
21.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—
23.	izoram	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Goa	—	08	07	03	01
26.	Uttaranchal	—	05	01	02	02
27.	Chhattisgarh	—	02	—	03	04
28.	Jharkhand	02	01	—	16	—
29.	Delhi	30	70	47	23	42
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Lakshdweep	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	—	01	—	—	—
33.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—
34.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	01
35.	Chandigarh	—	02	02	02	—

Price Control on Drugs

3546. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Finance has opposed price control on drugs proposed by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry is favouring to the multinational drug companies for not fixing the prices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) A Draft Cabinet Note entitled "National Pharmaceuticals Policy-2006" has been circulated by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers). This has been received by Ministry of Finance in the process of Inter-Ministerial consultations. A decision in this regard will be taken by the Cabinet in due course.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Announcing of DA

3547. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is great resentment amongst Government employees for not announcing Dearness Allowance (DA) during July, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for not announcing the same; and

(c) the steps the Government proposes to take to announce the other instalment of DA for Government employees which is due w.e.f. July, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) to Central Government Employees/Pensioners is revised twice a year w.e.f. 1st January and 1st July and normally payable with salary for the months of March and September respectively. The revised amount of DA/DR will be notified in due course.

Loans from Japan Bank for International Co-operation

3548. SHRI M. RJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is pending with the Union Government requesting early clearance for obtaining loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The following five proposals from Government of Andhra Pradesh have been received in Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs seeking loan assistance from Japan Bank for International Cooperation;

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Amount in Rs. Crores
1.	Modernization and Strengthening of Transmission system in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad	715.30
2.	Short Gestation Power Transmission Scheme-II	363.78
3.	400 KV Ring main round twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad	473.19
4.	Outer Ring Road Project, Hyderabad	3000
5.	Andhra Pradesh Minor Irrigation and Livelihood Project	1930

Out of five proposals received from Government of Andhra Pradesh, proposals at S. No. 1 and 5 have been posed to Government of Japan for FY 2006 ODA loan package for JBIC loan and proposals at S.No. 2, 3 and 4 have been kept in the Rolling Plan proposals for FY 2006-08 for JBIC loan.

Shortage of Equipments

3549. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is severe scarcity of power equipments in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove the shortage of

power equipments for the country's power plants;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a separate company for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) As per Ministry of Heavy Industries, there is no scarcity of power equipment in the country;

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Presently there is no proposal in the Ministry of Power to set up a separate company for the purpose.

(d) Does not arise.

Multipurpose Dams

3550. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservoirs of most of the multipurpose dams are filled with water and silt after the recent rains;

(b) if so, the present status of the power being produced by these dams;

(c) whether all the dams are producing power to their full capacity; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) The Central Electricity Authority is monitoring the performance of hydro electric stations associated with 26 major multipurpose reservoirs. As on 17-8-2006, out of these 26 reservoirs, 10 multipurpose reservoirs are filled nearly to the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) while the water levels of other dams was less than the FRL. Central Water Commission is also monitoring the storage of 76 important reservoirs all over India. As on 18-8-2006, out of these 76 reservoirs, 69 were having water storage more than 80% of their normal storage whereas five had water storage between 50% and 80% of their normal storage and the remaining two between 50% and 30% of their normal storage.

The multipurpose reservoir dams are designed to take care of silt deposits/sedimentation for more than a hundred years. Hence the silt deposit has not affected the generation from these stations.

(b) During Financial year 2006-07 upto 17-8-2006, the generation from hydro electric stations associated with multipurpose major reservoirs was 17122.34 MU against the targets of 14412.16 MU which is 2710.18 MU more than the target.

(c) Generation units associated with these dams are producing the power to the full capacity except the units which are under Renovation and Modernization and forced outage.

(d) The units under Renovation and Modernization require long periods of shut down, while in some units forced shut down takes place due to various technical reasons which are attended to by the Project Authorities to bring back the machines on generation.

Watch on Expenditure

3551. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Finance has any representative in Ministry of Railways to keep a watch on expenditure on the finances of Government of India and full implementation of its instructions and guidelines issued by them on expenditure management;

(b) if so, the details of achievement of the representative;

(c) whether Ministry of Railways is manipulating the instructions and guidelines issued by Ministry of Finance in the year 2004 and 2005 on expenditure management and austerity;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon;

(e) the details of vehicles sanctioned by the Finance Officers of Railways Board on replacement account on the pretext of "Operational requirement" during the last three years;

(f) the steps/guidelines issued by Ministry of Railways in controlling the expenditure on Petrol and Diesel; and

(g) the details of senior officers booked for misusing of the vehicles in Indian Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (g) A report in the matter was called for from the Financial Commissioner (Railways) the head of the Railway Financial Organisation, Railways Board. It has been confirmed by the Board that railway expenditure is incurred keeping in view the austerity instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance from time to time. Ministry of Railways implements the austerity guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance, including guidelines issued in 2004 and 2005 *mutatis Mutandis*. These guidelines have been further issued by the Ministry of Railways to all the General Managers/Chief Accounts Officers, in the field, for implementation.

The number of vehicles sanctioned under Machinery and Plant Programme during the last three years on replacement account is as under:—

2004-05	276
2005-06	133
2006-07	177

The Ministry of Railways issues guidelines from time to time to their field formations for observing austerity measures keeping in view the austerity instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance. The officers use vehicles for undertaking operational functions/requirement of the Railways. No senior officer has been booked for misusing the vehicles.

Oustees of Kaniha NTPC Power Project

3552. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is inordinate delay in payment of compensation by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to the people displaced due to the establishment of thermal power plant at Kaniha in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to expedite the payment of compensation to the displaced persons?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir. For the establishment of NTPC Talcher Kaniha Project, land was acquired by the State Government of Orissa as per the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act. A total of 3700 acres, out of which 1515 acres was private land, was acquired for setting up of the project. The period of acquisition was from May, 1987 to June, 1995. Immediately after village-wise Sec. 6(1) notification by Government of Orissa for the said lands during the above period, compensation amounts, as demanded by Government of Orissa, were deposited with the State Authorities, who in turn disbursed the payments to the entitled persons as per the award under Land Acquisition Act, from time to time. The process of land acquisition for setting up of the project has since been completed and no demand of any compensation claim by Government of Orissa is pending with NTPC Ltd.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply above.

[Translation]

Revenue and Expenditure

3553 SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made an assessment of the figures of revenue and expenditure in the first quarter of current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof in comparison to those of the first quarter of previous year;

(c) the total revenue receipt so far along with percentage thereof during the current financial year;

(d) the target fixed for revenue receipts during 2006-07;

(e) the percentage of fiscal deficit incurred during the current year so far and the percentage it is higher in comparison to previous year; and

(f) the total amount of loan taken so far from the market during the year along with the amount estimated to be taken by the end of the year?

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

(b) and (c) The revenue receipts for the first quarter of the current financial year are Rs. 52,382 crore (13.0% of Budget Estimates) as compared to the revenue receipts of Rs. 38,003 crore (10.8% of Budget Estimates) during the first quarter of the previous financial year. The total expenditure during the first quarter of the current financial year is Rs. 1,31,470 crore (23.3% of Budget Estimates) as compared to the total expenditure of Rs. 93,584 crore (18.2% of Budget Estimates) during the first quarter of the previous financial year.

(d) During 2006-07, the Budget target for revenue receipts is Rs. 4,03,465 crore.

(e) The percentage of fiscal deficit during the first quarter of the current year is 52.3% of Budget Estimates compared to 36.1% of Budget Estimates during the same period of the previous year.

(f) The total amount of Market Loans (including short

terms borrowing) is Rs. 27,776.88 crore upto first quarter of the current year against the Budget Estimate of Rs. 1,13,667.64 crore.

[English]

Service Tax

3554. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has asked the Union Government to exempt the State of Rs. 6.76 crore of service tax an additional burden on the Andhra Pradesh Government keeping in view the helping hand to poorest section of the society; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken by Union Government on the request of the Andhra Pradesh Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh, has requested for exemption from service tax payable by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh on the subsidized insurance scheme for sheep population.

(b) Cattle Insurance provided under the Central Sector Scheme and under the Integrated Rural Development Programme have already been exempted from levy of service tax. Details of the subsidized sheep insurance scheme have been sought for.

Reduction in Foodgrains under SGRY

3555. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether allocation of foodgrains particularly wheat for Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and other such schemes has been reduced considerably in Madhya Pradesh and other States;

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

(c) the remedial steps taken/to be taken by the Government 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) and (b) Under wage employment schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development, foodgrains is provided only under Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY). Against the requirement of 11.75 lakh tonnes of wheat and 16.25 lakh tonnes of rice, the availability of wheat is 5 lakh tonnes and rice 12 lakh tonnes under SGRY in 2006-07. Consequently, the foodgrains allocated to the districts in Madhya Pradesh and other States and Union Territories has been proportionately reduced.

(c) Steps have been initiated to provide cash compensation in lieu of reduced foodgrains.

Lignite-Based Power Projects

3556. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the states where Lignite-based power projects are being commissioned;

(b) the capacity of each such power project;

(c) whether certain State Governments have signed any Memorandum of Understanding with Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) for setting up Lignite-based power project; and

(d) if so, the salient features of such MoU?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The States where lignite based power projects are being commissioned and the capacity of each such power project is given below:—

Sl.	Project Name	Capacity	State
1	2	3	4
1.	Neyveli TPS-II Extn.	2x250 MW	Tamil Nadu

1	2	3	4
2.	Barsingsar Lignite TPP	2x125 MW	Rajasthan
3.	Kutch Lignite Extn.	1x75 MW	Gujarat
4.	Giral TPP	1x125 MW	Rajasthan
5.	Giral-II TPP	1x125 MW	Rajasthan
6.	Surat Lignite TPP	2x125 MW	Gujarat

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) had signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ministry of Coal, Government of Indian and Government of Rajasthan on 10-6-2002 for development of lignite deposits, their mining and lignite based power project in Bikaner District of Rajasthan with special emphasis on Palana Barsingsar-Gurha Bithnok area.

Further, NLC and signed MOU with Government of Gujarat on 28-7-2006 for jointly establishing an integrated mine-cum-power project of 1000 MW in Sough Gujarat in the first phase, with addition of 500 MW in the second phase, subject to availability of lignite reserves. NLC will have share of 74% to 89% in the equity capital of the proposed Joint Venture Company leaving balance 26% to 11% to be invested by Government of Gujarat.

The MOUs signed outline the responsibilities of the Stakeholders for development of the projects.

Rural Electrification

3557. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have sought special package for rural electrification;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the government thereon;

(c) whether any monitoring system has been put in place by the Government for monitoring the expenditure on rural electrification under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana and allied works;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any cases of diversion of funds from these schemes by the State Governments has come to the notice of the Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

The system of monitoring of the expenditure on rural electrification under Rajiv. Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana is in-built in the sanction of projects and in disbursement of funds to the implementing agencies. As per the sanction orders by Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) subsequent release of funds depends upon:—

(a) Submission of utilization certificate by the implementing agency for 80 per cent of the funds already released, duly concurred by the State Government.

(b) Maintaining project-wise accounts.

REC being the nodal agency has been entrusted with task of monitoring, reviewing, assessing and implementation of rural electrification work under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana. A Monitoring

Committee has been constituted at Secretary level in the Ministry of Power for periodic review.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

(g) In view of reply to parts (e) and (f), question does not arise.

Foreign Banks

3558. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign banks have prescribed very high minimum balance for keeping accounts in their banks to avoid small savers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) In terms of current regulations, the banks enjoy autonomy to prescribe the minimum balance in the saving bank accounts maintained with them. Generally, the banks, including foreign banks, fix the minimum balance having regard to the facilities/services offered by them to the account holders such as cheque facilities, ATM facilities, Internet Banking, any branch banking, facilities for transfer of funds, etc. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, however, issued instructions to the banks to inform the customers regarding requirement of minimum balance at the time of opening savings bank accounts. RBI has also advised all scheduled commercial banks, including foreign 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.

Rural Electrification

3559. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a Rural Electrification Policy for speedy rural electrification in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether Rural Electrification Corporation, Power Grid Corporation and National Hydroelectric Power Corporation have signed any MoU to boost rural electrification in the country;

(d) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

(e) the number of villages likely to be benefited by such agreements, State-wise;

(f) the total investment involved therein; and

(g) the progress made so far in implementation of each of such agreements?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) In compliance with Sections 4 and 5 of the Electricity Act, 2003, Central Government has notified Rural Electrification Policy on 23-08-2006. The Salient features are given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) has signed Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) to make available their project management expertise and capabilities to the States wishing to use their services under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY). State-wise details regarding allocation of work among Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) are given in statement-II enclosed.

(d) The detailed terms and conditions of an MOU signed between REC and a CPSU are as below:—

- The CPSU formulates, develops and implements the project in an identified area involving system planning, design, engineering (in accordance with REC's Guidelines, Specifications and Construction Standards wherever applicable) and procurement in accordance with agreed competitive bidding procedures.
- The CPSU establishes a suitable organizational structure for implementation of the project.

- The CPSU undertakes the project on deposit work basis (in suitable instalments).
- The project is proposed to be implemented in a time bound manner and the project so implemented is proposed to be taken over immediately after its completion by the concerned State Government/State Power Utility, who is then responsible for proper operation and maintenance thereafter.
- If the State Government/State Power Utility so desire, the CPSU may consider taking up operation and maintenance of the completed project. If the State Government so desires, the role of CPSU may be limited to project monitoring and supervision of quality of work during construction or formulation and preparation of project report.
- Funds for the execution of project is released by REC directly to the implementing CPSU including service charges as per agreement.
- Separate account for development and implementation of the project to be maintained by the CPSU.
- CPSU is entitled to service charge of 12% of project cost on pro-rata basis and the same are to be included in the project cost.
- Service charges payable to the CPSU to be 2% of the project cost on pro-rata basis for "Project monitoring and supervision of quality of works during construction".
- Service charges payable to the CPSU to be 5% of the project cost on pro-rata basis for formulation and preparation of project reports arranging project approvals, providing advisory support during procurement, if required and project monitoring and supervision of quality of works during construction.
- Additional statutory taxes payable by CPSU to be reimbursed.

(e) and (f) So far these four CPSUs have been entrusted with the work of 58 projects for 56 districts

covering electrification of 30,237 un-electrified villages under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana at the cost of Rs. 3737.76 crore. District-wise number of villages to be electrified by these CPSUs are given at statement-III enclosed.

(g) CPSUs have reported creation of electricity infrastructure in 4498 villages (out of 15,572 villages reported electrified under RGGVY) as on 18-8-2006.

Statement-I

1. Grid connectivity is the normal way of electrification of villages. For villages/habitations where grid connectivity is not feasible or not cost effective, off-grid solutions based on standalone systems are envisaged.
2. State Governments are required to prepare and notify rural electrification plans within six months which will indicate the electrification delivery mechanisms so as to provide access to electricity to all households and electrification of all villages and hamlets.
3. Ministry of Power will put in place a coordination mechanism for identifying villages to be covered in different schemes.
4. District Committees are to be set up to ensure involvement of local community in rural electrification. Adequate representation of women in these Committees is to be ensured.
5. Least cost option is to be adopted for rural electrification after taking into account full life cycle cost and explicit as well as implicit subsidies.
6. Emphasis has been given on development of economic load to make the business of rural supply economically viable.
7. RGGVY already mandates franchisee for the projects financed under the scheme. System of franchisees is to be introduced in other areas not covered under RGGVY also in phased manner to ensure revenue sustainability of the rural supply.

8. Benefit of capital subsidy given to the rural electrification projects is to be fully passed on to the consumers.
9. Annuity based approach has to be adopted for provision of capital subsidy to the decentralized generation system in order to ensure efficient operation and maintenance.
10. Programmes for encouraging energy efficient equipments specially irrigation pump sets have to be taken up.
11. The definition of rural area as laid down in Article 243 of the Constitution is being adopted for the purpose of the Electricity Act also.
12. The tariff for sale of electricity by the standalone systems is to be decided by the competitive market forces. However, the benefit of financial assistance/capital subsidy received from the Government is to be fully passed on to the consumers according to the guidelines made by the Appropriate Commission. The Appropriate Electricity Regulatory commission shall have right to intervene in case these guidelines are not implemented.
13. There is special enabling dispensation for encouraging standalone systems of upto one MW which are based on cost-effective proven technologies and use locally available resources.
14. Policy gives essential features of the franchisee arrangement for local management of rural distribution.
15. As far as possible the franchisee is to be selected on the basis of competitive bidding.
16. The franchisee is required to ensure compliance with safety regulations and also to ensure delivery of services to the consumer as per laid down benchmarks.

Statement-II**CPSU Districts**

State	Total districts	PGCIL	NTPC	NHPC	DVC	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jammu and Kashmir	14			7		7
Rajasthan	32	7				7
Uttar Pradesh	70	8				8
Chhattisgarh	16	4	5	7		16
Gujarat	25	2				2
Madhya Pradesh	48		4			4
Bihar	37	24		6		30
Jharkhand	22		8		8	16
Orissa	30	12	12	6		30
West Bengal	18	2	1*	1	1	4
Assam	23	7				7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tripura	4	2				2
Lakshadweep	1		1			
Total	295	68	30	27	9	134

*2 blocks

Statement-III*CPSU-wise and State-wise Details of Projects under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana*

Sl. No.	Name of CPSU	Name of State	Sanction				Cumulative Achievement
			No. of projects	No. of districts covered	No. of un-electrified villages covered	Sanctioned Project Cost (Rs. crores)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Powergrid	Bihar	19	20	13131	1162.04	2582
		Uttar Pradesh	10	8	6434	952.83	1265
		West Bengal	2	2	2327	199.59	225
		Gujarat	2	2		32.16	
		Rajasthan	2	2	281	79.24	
		Assam	1	1	230	66.27	
		Total	36	35	22403	2492.13	4072
2.	NHPC	Bihar	6	6	2803	233.50	
		West Bengal	1	1	467	47.10	149
		Chhattisgarh	2	2	117	101.46	
		Total	9	9	3387	382.06	149
3.	NTPC	West Bengal	1	2 blocks	225	20.30	61
		Chhattisgarh	3	3	63	47.49	
		Madhya Pradesh	2	2	72	213.92	
		Jharkhand	1	1	1295	96.99	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Orissa	2	2	1253	227.28	
		Total	9	8	2908	605.98	61
4.	DVC	West Bengal	1	1	807	77.71	216
		Jharkhand	3	3	732	179.88	
		Total	4	4	1539	257.59	216
Total (CPSUs)			58	56	30237	3737.76	4468

Loan to Unemployed Youth

3560. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loans granted to unemployed youth under various self-employed schemes by the Banks operating in the country, State-wise, especially in Karnataka during the last two years;

(b) whether the targets fixed in this regard have been achieved by these banks; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to get the target achieved by these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of targets, loans sanctioned and disbursed by Scheduled Commercial Banks under Self Employment Programmes, viz. Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SLRS) for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the enclosed statement-I, II, III and IV respectively.

(c) Various steps have been initiated by the Government/ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to improve the performance of banks under these schemes which, inter-alia, include:

- (i) Banks have been instructed to dispose of applications for loan upto Rs. 25,000 within two

weeks and upto Rs. 2 lakh within four weeks.

- (ii) Banks have been advised to issue 'No Dues Certificate' whenever required within 15 days, otherwise it is deemed to have been issued.
- (iii) RBI monitors performance of domestic Scheduled Commercial Banks under SGSY, SJSRY through the receipt of monthly/quarterly progress report.
- (iv) Progress under these schemes forms part of the agenda for discussion at various fora from grass root level to high level monitoring committee formed under the scheme.
- (v) RBI has advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks that loans sanctioned under these schemes should be treated as advances under priority sector.
- (vi) Banks have been advised by RBI that Branch Managers should be vested with adequate discretionary powers to sanction loan proposals.
- (vii) Loan applications under SGSY should be disposed of within the prescribed time limit of 5 days and at any rate not later than one month.
- (viii) Time frames have been laid down for receipt of applications from District Industry Centres (DICs) to banks as well as sanction and disbursement by banks under PMRY.
- (ix) State Governments have been requested to identify viable activities jointly by banks and DICs.

Statement-I

State-wise details of targets and total loans disbursed by banks under SGSY for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06

(Rs. in lakhs)

		2004-05					2005-06						
Sl. No.	State	Target (Financial)	Loan disbursed		Loan disbursed		Total loan Disbursed	Target (Financial)	Loan disbursed		Loan disbursed		Total loan Disbursed
			to SHGs	No. of SJs	to Individuals	No. of SJs			to SHGs	to Individuals			
											Amt.	Amt.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11748.0	19624	5820.6	14024	3768.6	9589.2	10621.4	6728	4722.3	10122	3883.8	8606.1
2.	Assam	6907.8	5398	2756.1	4233	1264.2	4020.2	3150.3	4872	2712.6	900	479.8	3192.5
3.	Bihar	32700.8	6427	2283.4	68650	14341.2	16624.5	29996.6	7208	5216.9	58105	10762.1	15979.0
4.	Gujarat	4063.0	1728	692.8	14018	2140.0	2832.7	7360.0	785	638.7	20725	4025.3	4664.1
5.	Haryana	2002.0	995	1327.7	784	208.7	1536.4	2393.1	1028	1768.5	839	269.6	2038.1
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1321.0	540	590.4	1849	576.3	1166.7	1533.0	569	596.2	1467	630.6	1226.7
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	5252.7	202	117.5	2820	1176.9	1294.5	4786.0	140	82.2	2286	1043.7	1125.9
8.	Karnataka	3099.8	2219	2319.4	2071	512.3	2831.7	3252.2	3260	2364.5	1942	751.0	3115.4
9.	Kerala	3132.9	2429	1778.6	5951	1406.6	3185.3	3632.7	2279	1764.0	5169	1752.3	3516.3
10.	Madhya Pradesh	11877.8	5623	3936.3	2587	885.3	4821.5	11579.0	4510	5230.1	3963	1721.4	6951.4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11. Maharashtra		8359.4	3109	2843.9	7399	1605.5	4449.4	13392.7	5730	6373.3	5087	1631.4	8004.7
12. Manipur		503.5	187	60.9	188	38.2	99.1	471.5	213	72.4	170	46.3	118.7
13. Meghalaya		647.9	770	334.8	404	76.0	410.8	130.5	175	53.3	117	48.1	101.4
14. Nagaland		576.7	111	163.2	1450	251.9	415.0	229.1	157	85.2	447	105.0	190.2
15. Orissa		6941.0	3792	5220.8	9880	1748.4	6969.2	8689.2	3367	4922.2	4660	724.3	5846.5
16. Punjab		1770.0	442	473.1	3492	888.5	1361.6	2497.3	511	588.8	1943	672.3	1241.0
17. Rajasthan		5505.9	1482	1176.8	11660	3325.8	4502.5	5996.6	2039	1318.6	9338	2916.9	4235.5
18. Sikkim		367.9	55	21.7	722	117.2	138.9	114.5	133	62.6	136	18.9	81.4
19. Tamil Nadu		7602.4	9233	4868.7	1548	259.9	5128.6	9443.8	15929	9183.8	1269	262.3	9445.9
20. Tripura		986.7	903	393.7	1789	362.4	756.1	365.0	358	329.0	279	56.1	385.1
21. Uttar Pradesh		22976.8	10024	7859.4	8399	1600.9	9460.3	23228.0	13254	12258.6	7317	1936.7	14195.3
22. West Bengal		8390.8	12382	3639.0	10234	1502.5	5341.4	7749.0	15184	5907.4	3172	567.1	6474.5
23. Andaman and Nicobar		6.0	26	3.5	10	3.9	7.4	15.0	33	10.5	0	0.0	10.5
24. Arunachal Pradesh		372.4	82	53.6	1593	179.3	233.0	110.0	211	79.0	154	29.0	108.0
25. Chandigarh		23.0	10	2.3	14	2.3	4.6	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	0.4
26. Dadra and Nagar Haveli*		15.0	0	0.0	14	2.1	2.1	15.0	8	6.0	40	12.0	18.0

27. Goa	96.9	71	36.6	191	44.3	80.8	190.1	103	82.3	249	59.4	141.7
28. Mizoram	123.0	90	88.5	133	34.4	122.8	45.0	24	24.0	54	17.0	41.0
29. Pondicherry	65.1	150	55.7	12	3.3	59.0	161.0	259	203.0	22	6.0	208.9
30. Lakshadweep	13.0	2	0.3	7	1.4	1.7	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
31. Daman and Diu	4.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	11.0	0	0.0	10	4.5	4.5
32. Delhi	27.9	8	2.3	3	1.9	4.2	34.0	10	12.6	61	12.0	24.6
33. Jharkhand	6622.4	1603	664.8	20370	4103.7	4768.5	8276.3	3697	1905.3	19124	4429.5	6334.8
34. Chhattisgarh	3429.3	885	665.9	5502	1480.3	2146.2	4310.7	826	1075.1	5961	1718.8	2793.9
35. Uttaranchal	1614.9	2006	1363.2	277	84.3	1447.5	2071.6	1889	1780.2	198	66.1	1846.2
Total	159338.7	92608	51815.2	202278	43998.2	95813.4	165851.1	94589	71408.8	165307	40659.5	112068.3

Note: Figures Provisional. *Dadar and Nagar Haveli

Statement-II

State-wise details of targets and total loans sanctioned and disbursed by banks under SJSRY for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06

(Rs. in lakhs)

2004-05				2005-06									
Sl. No.	State	Target (Physical)	No. of Applns.	Total Loans				Target (Physical)	No. of Applns.	Total Loans			
				Received	Sanctioned	Disbursed	Received			Sanctioned	Disbursed		
No.				No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9255	13628	8631	2695.23	6714	1762.1	11281	9522	7606	2402.4	6423	2200.81
2.	Assam	2205	1124	682	255.83	635	230.49	954	377	311	128.49	297	105.52
3.	Bihar	3345	1781	1545	545.52	1396	482.54	4234	1899	1595	587.14	1446	495.58
4.	Gujarat	14461	6534	3353	929.06	3200	892.95	12103	10954	4858	956.06	4406	863.47
5.	Haryana	2147	3518	1879	697.25	1437	519.1	3454	4492	2567	1040.34	1931	708.1
6.	Himachal Pradesh	374	473	427	219.83	422	205.68	288	321	280	109.46	272	107.89
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	2664	3249	1303	602.57	982	437.39	2609	2749	1345	894.13	1054	797.71
8.	Karnataka	2683	3779	2818	813.63	2478	712.14	3034	4061	2766	949.79	2547	878.48
9.	Kerala	429	4626	4033	1082.33	3690	904.89	2234	8391	5284	988.78	4796	1003.41
10.	Madhya Pradesh	8719	8763	4807	2532.71	2995	1821.25	9606	12685	6248	2799.51	4037	1745.51

11. Maharashtra	12595	12493	5557	1676.32	4361	1346.48	12562	15271	7237	2028.78	6039	1642.02
12. Manipur	15	10	5	2.2	4	1.75	45	5	3	1.25	3	1.25
13. Meghalaya	560	248	227	76.61	219	73.98	93	50	28	13.43	25	12.12
14. Nagaland	154	452	437	177.64	428	175.24	110	52	51	23.58	51	22.81
15. Orissa	2442	4520	3257	1008.77	2951	779.2	3929	3615	2297	709.32	1977	592.06
16. Punjab	1088	1079	833	268.92	740	233.31	521	460	260	93.63	214	78.23
17. Rajasthan	9420	11161	6726	1669.56	4343	1011.65	9596	18214	8212	2312.68	5588	1518.79
18. Sikkim	258	73	45	15.55	39	13.35	96	52	48	13.8	45	12.84
19. Tamil Nadu	2394	3681	2212	402.6	2124	374.93	1053	2870	1881	473.57	1383	429.39
20. Tripura	789	605	395	114.94	370	112.01	570	622	314	123.74	274	92.17
21. Uttar Pradesh	9840	8284	5971	2339.54	4681	1803.15	11288	13495	8764	4497.98	7130	3700.94
22. West Bengal	3382	3396	2496	563.92	1210	237.26	4156	4254	3118	621.79	2307	445.68
23. Andaman and Nicobar	25	6	4	1.09	4	1.09	0	10	9	2.40	9	2.4
24. Arunachal Pradesh	15	6	5	2.00	5	1.3	0	0	0	0.00	0	0
25. Chandigarh	363	106	59	22.7	45	15.05	80	122	46	17.77	32	12.79
26. Dadra and Nagar Haveli*	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	30	20	15	5.00	15	5
27. Goa	95	42	30	7.95	29	7.11	83	37	29	9.33	29	9.19
28. Mizoram	5	3	3	0.96	3	0.96	15	14	14	2.60	14	2.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
29.	Pondicherry	187	300	274	39.74	254	38.13	290	493	349	95.52	304	71.82
30.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	5	0	0	0.00	0	0
32.	Delhi	986	829	217	73.72	156	41.48	861	1457	359	125.55	243	82.87
33.	Jharkhand	720	479	334	124.25	305	98.92	800	539	401	154.73	369	140.15
34.	Chhattisgarh	2814	4469	2544	563.48	1924	419.51	1830	2631	1573	486.74	1135	316.22
35.	Uttaranchal	1200	1160	791	400.51	654	332.69	1296	1052	704	293.04	622	261.36
36.	Not Specified												
Total		95629	100877	61890	19926.8	48798	15067.1	99106	120786	68552	22962.3	55017	18359.2

Note: Figures Provisional. *Dadar and Nagar Haveli

Statement-III

State-wise details of targets and total loans sanctioned and disbursed by banks under PMRY for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06

(Rs. in lakhs)

		2004-05						2005-06							
Sl. No.	State	Target (Physical)	No. of Applns. Received	Total Loans		Target (Physical)	No. of Applns. Received	Total Loans		Sanctioned	No.	Amt.	Sanctioned	No.	Amt.
				Sanctioned	Disbursed			Sanctioned	Disbursed						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	43000	29443	18370	11684.0	16051	9706.9	43000	26610	18469	10875.1	11261	6701.16		
2.	Assam	15000	16031	11406	9648.6	8760	6157.2	15000	13580	7211	5209.83	3864	2138.07		
3.	Bihar	16000	16222	11891	10919.8	10510	9291.4	25000	20350	14018	12505.3	10930	8708.12		
4.	Gujarat	12500	11071	7021	3331.6	6449	3082.8	9600	11801	6853	3460.22	6192	3132.18		
5.	Haryana	10200	14880	9260	5403.1	7580	4200.8	10600	16630	10493	6097.20	8429	4254.74		
6.	Himachal Pradesh	3000	4393	3171	2546.5	2950	2373.3	3000	4081	3032	2630.84	2810	2362.56		
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	3000	1732	747	748.3	634	664.7	3000	1190	590	621.34	385	402.12		
8.	Karnataka	24000	30400	17878	10720.4	14726	8739.7	24000	33369	20918	12565.1	13630	8437.68		
9.	Kerala	25500	31625	22587	11680.2	17788	9104.4	28000	34879	26361	13060.2	18845	9383.79		
10.	Madhya Pradesh	28000	50628	27708	18165.9	22768	13715.9	32000	49075	27912	18652.8	16471	9699.28		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11. Maharashtra		39000	47154	26985	15788.5	22169	12189.5	36000	43017	27405	15222.1	22011	11766.4
12. Manipur		1500	987	500	430.2	434	325.0	1500	606	394	350.2	268	199.1
13. Meghalaya		1400	766	602	559.9	572	532.9	1400	913	604	557.81	478	399.62
14. Nagaland		1200	1054	897	909.5	105	101.0	2800	2291	2262	3019.94	1274	1616.30
15. Orissa		18000	27303	16060	10586.4	11534	7137.1	18000	29771	15378	10911	10676	5950.7
16. Punjab		9200	13770	9345	5969.5	8477	5214.7	9200	13908	8895	5677.27	6690	4094.85
17. Rajasthan		18200	28942	17002	9756.3	13494	7457.1	18700	28735	16896	9877.6	12221	6488.25
18. Sikkim		100	75	37	28.0	32	22.8	100	70	31	20.34	27	15.88
19. Tamil Nadu		25000	33463	20815	8024.8	16783	6566.0	27000	34896	21841	8383.83	17448	6777.19
20. Tripura		3000	3144	2212	1731.0	1833	1461.2	3000	3880	2339	2010.51	1901	1413.31
21. Uttar Pradesh		52000	73931	47165	32916.3	42103	28779.4	52500	67829	43829	31720.5	36131	26719.5
22. West Bengal		24000	9123	4656	3261.5	3774	2467.4	24500	9273	5071	3377.16	3900	2720.37
23. Andaman and Nicobar		400	305	150	116.0	142	109.1	200	321	191	139.02	94	64.04
24. Arunachal Pradesh		850	536	452	447.1	449	443.8	1050	989	441	403.02	241	212.02
25. Chandigarh		100	444	275	179.2	193	113.5	100	453	260	158.31	74	44.87
26. Dadra and Nagar Haveli*		50	9	5	4.0	4	3.0	50	53	30	24.00	24	16
27. Goa		500	77	53	45.3	44	34.6	500	78	51	45.61	39	33.18

28. Mizoram	200	266	144	134.5	144	134.2	1000	818	485	447.00	349	287.95
29. Pondicherry	650	664	395	181.9	355	148.4	650	754	380	155.93	300	123.31
30. Lakshadweep	50	17	12	10.0	4	2.7		6	5	4.15	5	3.9
31. Daman and Diu	50	25	22	15.5	22	15.5	50	25	14	10.66	14	10.66
32. Delhi	4500	2468	853	618.4	717	491.4	4500	2247	738	530.44	487	343.42
33. Jharkhand	9000	9164	5650	4752.8	4885	3914.7	9000	9060	5448	4750.07	4324	3331.42
34. Chhattisgarh	6000	8199	4333	2754.7	3298	2058.9	6000	9032	5184	3385.03	3457	2111.54
35. Uttaranchal	7000	8811	6277	42485	5858	3939.8	8000	9183	6496	4678.67	5895	4120.1
36. Not Specified		3377	1246	1289.7	1033	1062.2		3280	1304	1328.84	855	865.03
Total	402150	481479	296128	189607.5	246674	151762.5	419800	478453	301929	192867	221990	134948

Note: Figures Provisional. *Dadar and Nagar Haveli

Statement-IV

State-wise details of targets and total loans sanctioned and disbursed by banks under SLRS for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06

(Rs. in lakhs)

2004-05										2005-06			
Sl. No.	State	Target (Physical)	No. of Applns.	Total Loans				Target (Physical)	No. of Applns.	Total Loans			
				Received	Sanctioned	Disbursed	Sanctioned			Disbursed			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	634	524	427	104.83	402	92.63	175	196	177	19.52	176	19.47
2.	Assam	182	46	41	4.86	35	4.46	25	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Bihar	280	237	162	38.32	159	38.12	50	103	83	20.4	83	20.4
4.	Gujarat	5448	2137	1775	114.35	1752	110.53	1820	3895	2467	273.09	2446	247.52
5.	Haryana	238	274	178	44.00	146	36.5	137	165	114	26.70	107	21.03
6.	Himachal Pradesh	219	90	76	24.62	76	24.62	128	122	103	35.9	102	34.75
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	113	28	8	3.05	4	1.27	0	27	27	1.35	27	1.33
8.	Karnataka	1994	1014	792	152.87	730	138.1	302	230	221	72.74	214	70.83
9.	Kerala	20	4	4	0.46	4	0.46	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Madhya Pradesh	4747	4425	2447	623.94	1645	378.39	3905	3796	2384	720.71	1833	482.99

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
30. Lakshadweep		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31. Daman and Diu		0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0
32. Delhi		100	25	22	3.09	22	3.09	20	0	0	0.00	0	0
33. Jharkhand		0	4	4	0.83	4	0.83	50	0	0	0	0	0
34. Chhattisgarh		637	372	94	19.8	89	18.02	169	129	127	28.25	128	27.67
35. Uttaranchal		294	79	48	9.15	46	8.53	668	89	57	13.19	55	12.33
36. Not Specified													
Total		20725	14844	9556	1870.8	7852	1378.81	16703	14429	9714	2298.36	8288	1770.59

Note: Figures Provisional. *Dadar and Nagar Haveli

Commemorative Coins

3561. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to issue commemorative coins of Rs. Two, Five and One Hundred Rupees of nuclear Scientist; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pending Proposals of One Time Settlement Schemes

3562. SHRI SITARAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of the one time settlement scheme;

(b) the number of proposals of one time settlements are lying pending with each public sector bank;

(c) the action taken by banks in this regard; and

(d) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) In pursuance to the policy package on Small and Medium

Enterprises (SME) announced by the Union Finance Minister on 10-08-2005, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines on One Time Settlement Scheme for SME accounts on 03-09-2005 for uniform implementation by all Public Sector Banks to provide a simplified, non-discretionary and non-discriminatory mechanism for one time settlement of chronic NPAs in this sector. These guidelines cover (i) all NPAs in SME Sector which have become doubtful or loss as on 31-03-2004, with outstanding balance of Rs. 10 crore and below on the date on which the account was classified as doubtful, and (ii) NPAs classified as sub-standard as on 31-03-2004, which have subsequently become doubtful or loss where the outstanding balance was Rs. 10 crore and below on the date on which the account was classified as doubtful. The guidelines cover cases wherein the banks have initiated action under 'The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002', and also the cases pending before Courts/DRTs/BIFR, subject to consent decree being obtained from them. However, cases of wilful default, fraud and malfeasance are not covered by these guidelines.

(b) to (d) In terms of the guidelines, the last date for receipt of applications from borrowers was 31-03-2006 and the banks were to complete the processing by 30-06-2006. As on 31-03-2006, the public sector banks received a total of 8,206 proposals involving a total amount of Rs. 583.45 crore out of which settlement have been approved in 6446 cases involving a total amount of Rs. 379.74 crore. The progress report under the scheme for the quarter ended March, 2006 is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

*Quarterly Progress Report under OTS Scheme for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)
Accounts for the Quarter ended March, 2006*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Accounts Eligible		Proposal Received		Settlement Approved	
		No. of A/cs	Amount	No. of A/cs	Amount	No. of A/cs	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	State Bank of Hyderabad	1186	176.50	102	41.33	87	26.65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	5358	101.11	199	6.02	193	5.98
3.	State Bank of Patiala	Not Reported		134	22.23	126	20.92
4.	State Bank of Saurashtra	5785	68.58	79	1.39	43	0.52
5.	State Bank of India	191437	223.62	2128	15.47	1227	12.08
6.	State Bank of Travancore	Not Reported		22	1.11	22	1.04
7.	State Bank of Indore	1298	16.93	3	1.05	3	1.05
8.	State Bank of Mysore	262	15.62	34	7.02	30	5.40
9.	Allahabad Bank	Not Reported		6	0.21	6	0.21
10.	Andhra bank	12618	165.35	69	8.60	66	5.26
11.	Bank of India	9296	461.12	539	8.54	501	6.28
12.	Bank of Maharashtra	1624	69.86	103	3.48	88	1.75
13.	Bank of Baroda	8115	538.76	402	46.21	340	26.75
14.	Canara bank	7049	791.04	115	12.39	109	7.63
15.	Central Bank of India	13423	705.41	387	56.01	282	15.17
16.	Corporation Bank	Not Reported		34	5.80	25	5.12
17.	Dena Bank	105	44.26	13	13.70	12	5.30
18.	Indian Overseas bank	Not Reported		403	23.58	380	19.76
19.	Indian Bank	4404	297.46	459	56.79	426	42.35
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	2297	259.32	328	87.44	275	55.91
21.	Punjab and Sind Bank	3608	218.71	89	20.10	89	5.95
22.	Punjab National Bank	11976	452.54	1395	77.21	1142	59.93
23.	Syndicate Bank	4439	166.80	121	4.03	121	3.70
24.	UCO Bank	9771	102.43	479	11.91	385	10.43
25.	Union Bank of India	13173	333.30	340	18.16	288	15.79
26.	United Bank of India	5711	28.97	33	4.15	32	4.08
27.	Vijaya Bank	2024	125.39	190	29.52	168	14.73
Total		315359	5363.08	8206	583.45	6446	379.74

*[English]***UTI Mutual Fund**

3563. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government Mutual Fund Agency UTI retaining the premier position in the same sector at present;

(b) if not, the reasons for such fall of the UTI; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to bring back the organisation to its past glory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Government of India does not have any shareholding in UTI Mutual Fund (UTI MF). Government's policy is to provide an environment for the healthy growth of the capital market, including the mutual fund industry.

Revision Rate of Honorarium

3564. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the rates of Government honorarium being given to Government Counsels in Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts;

(b) whether the Government has revised the rate of honorarium/fee to Government Counsels;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is planning to hike and revise the rate of honorarium to Government Counsels;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) The details indicating the fee payable to counsel of different Courts are given in the enclosed statement-I, II.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government has moved a proposal to rationalize the fee structure of Counsel of High Courts so as to bring it at par with the fee structure of Counsel of Bombay High Court and Calcutta High Court. There is no proposal to revise the rates of fee of Counsel of Supreme Court and District Court.

(e) The proposal for rationalization of fee structure of Counsel of High Courts has been sent to the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure.

(f) The present rates of fee of Counsel of Supreme Court and District Court are reasonable.

Statement-I**Fee Payable to Counsel of Supreme Court of India, High Courts and District Courts**

A. Fee payable to Group 'A' Counsel of Supreme Court for main items of work:—

Item of Work	Fee Payable
All regular appeals and defended writ petitions (for final hearing)	Rs. 4500 per case per day
All defended admission matters (SLP/TP and writ petitions and other miscellaneous matters for admission)	Rs 3000 per day per case
Settling of pleadings	Rs 1800 per case
Appearance in miscellaneous Applications	Rs. 1500 per case
Conference	Rs. 300 per conference

B. Fee Payable to Group B, C and D Counsel of Supreme Court for main items of work:—

Item of Work	Fee Payable
1	2
All regular appeals and defended writ petitions (for final hearing)	Rs. 3000 per case per day

1	2
All defended admission matters (SLP/TP and writ petitions and other miscellaneous matters for admission)	Rs 1500 per day per case
Drafting SLP/Counter Affidavits/ Rejoinder, etc.	Rs 1050 per case
Drawing written submissions	Rs. 1100 per case
Drafting or appearance in Misc. applications (including mentioning of the case/caveat/clearance/ obtaining the number and taking date for hearing)	Rs. 900 per case

C. Fee Payable to Senior Panel Counsel of High Courts (other than the High Courts of Bombay and High Court of Calcutta) for main items of work:—

Item of Work	Fee Payable
Suites, write petitions and appeals	Rs. 3000 per case per effective hearing Rs. 500 for non-effective hearing
Applications for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court other than in Writ Petitions	Rs 1100 per case
Settling of pleadings	Rs 900 per case
Miscellaneous Applications	Rs. 900 per case
Conference	Rs. 300 per conference

D. Fee payable to Assistant Solicitor General of India, Central Government Counsel of High Courts (other than the High Courts of Bombay and High Court of Calcutta) for main items of work:—

Item of Work	Fee Payable
Civil or Criminal Writ Petition	Rs. 2250 per case
Petitions under Articles 132 or 133 of the Constitution	Rs. 900 per case per day subject to a maximum of Rs. 1800
Original suites and Civil Appeals from Decrees in original suites	Ad valorem fee
Civil or Criminal Revisions	Rs 1050 per case
Civil or Miscellaneous Applications or Petitions	Rs. 750 per case
Reference to the High Court under Sales Tax Act and Banking Company Petitions	Rs. 1050 per case or the amount fixed by the Court, whichever is higher.
Drafting Pleadings	Rs. 750 per pleading

E. Fee payable to Standing Government Counsel/ Additional Standing Government Counsel of District and Subordinate Courts:—

Item of Work	Fee Payable
Suites, Motor Vehicle Act claim cases, House Rent cases, cases under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, Arbitration Act, Consumer Protection Act, etc.	(i) Rs. 600 per day for appearance for effective hearing (ii) Rs 200 per day for non-effective hearing.
Drafting	Rs. 500 for pleading
Conference	Rs 300 per conference

Statement-II

Fee Payable to Counsel of Bombay High Court and Calcutta High Court for main items of work:—

Item of work	Special Counsel	Sr. Counsel Group-I	Sr. Counsel Group-II	Jr. Counsel
Suits Appeals, Writ/Revision Petitions including Special Civil Application in the High Court (per day per effective hearing)	Rs. 3000	Rs 2000	Rs 1250	Rs 650
Applications including interim motions, Notices, Appeals, Leave Applications, Arbitration, Company matters, Criminal Revision and other Land Acquisition References (per day per effective hearing)	Rs 1100	Rs 900	Rs 700	Rs 450
Drafting of settling pleadings and affidavits (per pleading)	Rs 900	Rs 600	Rs 500	Rs 350
Appearance before Arbitrators and Tribunals and Courts other than the High Court (per day per effective hearing)	Rs 2500	Rs 2000	Rs 1250	Rs 800
Conference/Consultation (per consultation)	Rs 300	Rs 250	Rs 200	Rs 150

**Central Economic Intelligence
Bureau (CEIB)**

3565. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) details of the Act/Rules/Guidelines that governs the working of Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB);

(b) whether the functioning of CEIB is hampered due to absence of separate Act to deal with economic crimes;

(c) if so, facts in this regard;

(d) whether the Government proposes to enact separate legislation to deal with economic crimes;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether a prosecution rate of economic crimes are much lower than other crimes in the country; and

(h) if so, steps taken to deal with economic crimes effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The working of the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) is governed by a Charter issued by the Government by which the organization is mandated to function as the Secretariat for the Economic Intelligence Council, and to act as the nodal agency for economic intelligence by receiving intelligence reports from all sources and to collate, analyse and disseminate them among relevant Government agencies.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) No proposal is under consideration of the Ministry of Finance to enact such a legislation as the existing legislations are considered adequate to deal with economic crimes.

(g) and (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Encroachment on Public Land

3566. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court in October, 2005 has directed the Union Government and the DDA to prevent encroachments on public land and decide the fate of the colonies coming up on private land and also take a decision in relation to regularisation of Sangam Vihar colony in South Delhi within three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken steps to comply with the orders of the Delhi High Court;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) DDA has reported that Delhi High Court had passed orders on 20-10-2005 in CWP No. 905/2005 titled Sangam Vihar Vikas Manch Vs Union of India and Ors to protect government land and also to take a decision regarding regularization of unauthorized colonies.

DDA has further reported that as far as prevention of encroachment on its land is concerned, DDA has been taking necessary steps in this regard.

The Ministry of Urban Development has also filed an affidavit in the Court in March 2006 inter-alia intimating the status regarding the policy guidelines for regularization of unauthorized colonies in Delhi.

Power Shortage due to Flood

3567. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment with regard to power plants affected due to flood and rise in water level of the rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the number of States facing shortage of power as a result thereof;

(c) the total loss suffered due closure of these plants during the current monsoon season, project-wise and State-wise;

(d) the quantum of power supply being curtailed to these States everyday; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure power supply from other plants to all such States?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) The information is being collected from all concerned CPSUs including State Governments and shall be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

Black Money

3568. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN?

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy to unearth and control black money;

(b) if so, the success achieved by the Government as a result of the said policy during the last two years;

(c) the reaction of the Government regarding the success achieved; and

(d) the amount of revenue collected as Banking Cash Transaction Tax since inception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Income-tax Department undertakes various punitive and deterrent steps to control black money and combat tax evasion. These include undertaking search and seizure operations, survey actions, scrutiny of returns, imposition of penalty and launching of prosecution in appropriate cases. Further, by the Finance Act, 2005, the Government have introduced two additional anti-tax evasion measures, namely, the levy of Banking Cash Transaction Tax (BCTT) to establish the trail of large cash withdrawals through banking channels and furnishing of quarterly returns of certain deposits as prescribed under section 206A of the Income-tax Act.

(b) Unearthing of black money by the Government is a result of combination of various measures taken by the Income Tax Department as well as other law enforcing agencies of the Government. Accordingly, the effect of these measures cannot be separately quantified. However, the value of assets seized during search and seizure operations carried out by the Income Tax Department in the last two years is as under:

Financial year	Value of Assets seized (Rs. in crore)
2004-05	202.27
2005-06	351.69

Further, enquiries into large cash withdrawals reported under BCTT have led to detection of tax evasion.

(c) The steps taken by the Government have been effective in tackling the problem. However, checking tax evasion and controlling black money is an ongoing activity of the Department.

(d) The amount of revenue collected as Banking Cash Transaction Tax (BCTT) since inception upto 15th August, 2006 is Rs. 969 crore.

Scam in Insurance Sector

3569. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has unearthed any scam in insurance sector during the last two years;

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

(c) the names of the officers held responsible for this;

(d) the amount involved in the said scam; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Of the six public sector Insurance Companies, three companies namely the New India Assurance Company Limited, The Oriental Insurance Company Limited and United Indian Insurance Co. Ltd. have reported cases of irregularities investigated/being investigated by CBI. The details of the cases along with names of officers responsible and amount involved are given in the statement enclosed.

(e) CBI enquires and investigates into offences pertaining to corruption and other malpractices involving public servants. The CBI on completion of investigation recommends Criminal prosecution/Regular Departmental Action (RDA) against the involved officials strictly in accordance with their findings and documentary and oral evidence on record. Further, the Companies have a well structured vigilance set up headed by a Chief Vigilance Officer who ensures that the company follows Central Vigilance Commission's (CVC) guidelines in letter and spirit. Vigilance Officers of the Insurance Companies undertake surprise inspection of the Division Offices/Branch Offices for taking corrective/preventive action.

Statement

Sl. No.	Details of cases	Name of Officer held responsible	Amount Involved
1	2	3	4
New India Assurance Co. Ltd.			
1.	Disproportionate assets beyond the Impwm sources of income amounting to Rs 8,98,701	Shri A. Venkateswara Rao, AO, Vijayawada DO, Vizag RO	Rs. 8,98,701
2.	Acceptance of bribe	Shri P.K. Das, Sr. No. 14954 Bhubaneswar DO III	Rs 5,000
3.	Fraudulent settlement of claims	Shri N.K. Singhal, AO(D) Shri Neeraj Agarwal, AM Kanpur, DO III Kanpur RO	Rs. 4.5 lakhs approx.
4.	Settlement of bogus Marine claims	Dr. G.L. Soni, Sr. DM Shri D.R. Vyas, AAO (D) Shri D.A. Sengal AAO Smt. R.P. Shah, AAO Shri M.S. Umrigar, AAO Nadiad DO, Baroda RO	Rs. 10 lakh approx.
5.	Settlement of bogus claims	Shri S.A. Parmar, Sr. DM, Baroda, RO	Rs. 23,54,961 approx.
6.	Settlement of Fraudulent Marine claim	Shri J.H. Rusat, Manager Shri C.K. Patni, DO Shri M.G. Jayaprakash, AAO, Baroda RO	Rs. 11,56,216 approx.
7.	Irregularities committed in settlement of claims	Shri M.C. Desai, DM, Kalina, DO, MRO. II	Rs. 1,72,500
8.	Trap case. Acceptance of bribe	Shri C.S. Walke, AO(D) Osmanabad BR. Pune RO	Rs. 1000
9.	Settlement of bogus Motor claims	Shri N.S. Vishwe, then AM Shri R.B. Sakpal, Asstt. Tardeo DO 111300 MRO I	—
10.	Fraudulent encashment of cheques of TCS	Shri S.C. Shetty, Asstt. DO 120100 MRO III	Rs. 1.64 crores

1	2	3	4
11.	Irregularities in settlement of Marine claim	Smt. S. Mukherjee, DM, Patna DO. I Patna RO	Rs. 2,95,250
12.	Misappropriation of cash	Shri A.P. Sarvatkar, Asstt. MRO. I	—
13.	Irregularities in settlement of MACT case	Shri M.K. Raghavendran, AM Shri M. Ramesh, Sr. D.M., Bangalore RO	—
14.	Irregularities in granting Construction Finance	Shri U.S. Kakodkar, BM, Panaji, Br. Goa, MRO. II	—
Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd.			
15.	Fake Fire/Cattle Claims—CBI Patna	Shri S.S. Gupta, BM, BO Saharsa Shr R.P. Singh, DO Shri Bijendra Jha, Record Clerk, BO Saharsa	Rs. 1,08,000
16.	Three Fake Cattle Claims—CBI Patna	Shri S.S. Gupta, BM Smt. Poonam Jha, Agent BO Saharsa	Rs. 76,000
17.	Bogus claims of non-existent firms—CBI Patna	Shri S.S. Gupta, BM Smt. Poonam Jha, Agent BO: Saharsa	Rs. 2,10,000
18.	Three fake Cattle Claims—CBI Patna	Shri S.S. Gupta, BM Shri Ranjit Pd, DO Shri N.K. Mishra, DO BO Saharsa	Rs. 53,000
19.	Five fraudulent miscellaneous and Cattle Claims—CBI Patna	Shri S.S. Gupta, BM Shri Jitendra Jha, Surveyor BO Saharsa	Rs. 98,011
20.	Two fraudulent claims of household goods and one Cattle claim—CBI Patna Cattle Claim—CBI Patna	Shri S.S. Gupta, BM Shri Rajeev Kumar, Surveyor Shri Ashok Kr., then AAO	Rs. 52,750
21.	Four Fraudulent claims—CBI Patna	Shri S.S. Gupta, BM Shri Jitendra Jha Surveyor BO Saharsa	Rs. 1,10,800
22.	Six fraudulent claims—CBI Patna	Shri S.S. Gupta, BM Shri Rajeev Kumar, Surveyor Shri Narendra Kumar Mishra, DO Shri Ratan Kumar Lal, Surveyor BO Saharsa	Rs. 1,15,520

1	2	3	4
23. Two Cattle Claims—CBI Patna	Shri S.S. Gupta, BM Shri Ashok Kumar, then AAO Shri Nagendra Kumar Mishra, DO Shri Amrendra Kr. Mishra, Asstt. Shri Mohan Mishra, Retired DO, LIC, Forbesganj Distt. Araria BO Saharsa		Rs 50,000
	United India Insurance Company Limited		
24. Irregularity in motor third party claim—CBI Chennai	Shri S. Tyagrajan, Sr. DM		50,13,000
25. Irregularity in motor third party claim—CBI Chandigarh.	The case is under investigation of CBI. Staff involvement not yet known.		2.5 crore

[English]

Downfall of Indian Rupee

3570. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value of Indian rupee against the US dollar is sliding down continuously;

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

(c) whether the Government has assessed adverse impact on Indian Economy due to fall in value of Indian rupee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the preventive measures likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The exchange rate vis-a-vis the US Dollar has exhibited two way movements in the recent period. After depreciating to 46.97 per US Dollar on July 19, 2006 from an average of 44.48 per US Dollar in March 2006, the rupee has appreciated and stood at 46.48 per US Dollar on August 18, 2006.

(c) to (e) The macroeconomic impact of the rupee movement is monitored closely and the policy stance in this regard is to allow the exchange rate to be determined freely by the market forces as it reflects the economic fundamentals and check disorderly movements and misalignment with the real sector through monetary policy and other measures.

Implementation of NREGA

3571. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) insists that Panchayati Raj institutions must be involved in every step of its implementation;

(b) if so, the reasons for keeping these institutions out of the scheme in certain States;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken to get the scheme implemented in letter and spirit all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Section 13(1) of the NREG Act provides that the Panchayats at district, intermediate and village levels shall be the principal authorities for planning and implementation of the schemes made under the Act.

(b) and (c) The Act is being implemented through the Panchayats at various levels. Detailed operational guidelines have been prepared by this Ministry specifying the role of each agency. Atleast 50% of works in terms of cost are to be executed by Gram Panchayats. However, in States where Panchayats do not exist, the operational guidelines provide that local Councils/authorities as mandated by the State concerned will be invested with corresponding responsibilities.

(d) The State Governments have been instructed from time to time by the Ministry of Rural Development for making available adequate staff with the implementing agencies for effective implementation of the Act. Area Officers and National Level Monitors have been appointed by the Central Government for making field visits of the various States to watch the progress of the Act and submit their reports to the Central Government. These reports are shared with States to apprise them about the position. Funds have been released to the States for organising training programme. States have been asked to take up training of functionaries, members of Panchayati Raj Institutions and members of local Vigilance and Monitoring Committees.

FII Ceiling in PSBs

3572. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of ceiling for Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) at present in the Public Sector Banks, bank-wise;

(b) whether the Government plans to revise the ceiling of FII in the Public Sector Banks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) In terms of Section 3 (2D) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/80, no individual or company resident outside India or any company incorporated under any law not in force in India or any branch of such company, whether resident outside India or not, shall at all times hold or acquire by transfer or otherwise shares of any nationalised bank so that such investment in aggregate exceeds the percentage, not being more than 20% of the paid up capital of the concerned bank, as may be specified by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette. This ceiling is applicable to the shares held by non-residents including FIIs, individuals and other corporates. Though there is no restrictive statutory provision in the State Bank of India Act, 1955 for foreign equity holding of the bank, a ceiling of 20% has also been stipulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for foreign equity holding in the State Bank of India.

(b) Presently, no amendment is proposed in the statutory provisions to revise the foreign equity holding in the public sector banks.

(c) Does not arise.

Computerization in Courts

3573. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether an ambitious target to computerize all subordinate courts including fast track courts has been set up in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) whether there has been a very slow progress registered in this regard so far;

(d) if so, the number of courts so far computerized, State-wise;

(e) the estimated expenditure so far incurred and likely to be incurred in achieving the target fixed, during the current plan period; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to obtain the targets in the remaining period of current plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (f) A scheme for computerisation of city courts in the four metropolitan cities of Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Kolkata was started in the year 2001-02 and an amount of Rs. 17.80 crores was released till 2003-04 for the purpose. About 700 courts have been covered under this Scheme. In addition, computerisation of city courts in the State capitals or in cities where the High Courts are located was taken up for implementation in 2003-04 through the National Informatics Centre (NIC) at an estimated cost of Rs. 24.81 crore. An amount of Rs. 15.44 crore has so far been incurred under this project for computerisation of

681 courts, State-wise details of which are given in statement enclosed. An amount of Rs. 9.37 crore is likely to be incurred for the computerisation of the remaining 188 city courts (Details indicated in statement enclosed).

In addition, a Scheme for computerisation of District and Subordinate courts at a total cost of Rs. 384.53 crore (entirely with central assistance) had been approved in March, 2005 and an amount of Rs. 103.05 crore was released to the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in 2004-05. Subsequently, on the basis of the **National Policy and Action Plan recommended by the E-Committee** set up by the Government, the cost estimates of implementing the scheme was revised to Rs. 854 crores for being implemented in three phases over a period of 5 years. The implementation of the scheme is yet to commence.

Statement

No. of Courts Computerized-State-wise

Sl. No.	State	Name of court Complex	No. of courts taken	Yet to be taken	No. of courts
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Port Blair	7	Ahmedabad-Gujarat	88
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	111	Patna-Bihar	100
3.	Assam	Guwahati	33		
4.	Chandigarh UT	Chandigarh	19		
5.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	27		
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2		
7.	Daman and Diu	Daman and Diu	1		
8.	Goa	Goa	7		
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	11		
10.	Jammu	Jammu	27		
11.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	39		
12.	Karnataka	Bangalore	121		

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Kerala	Trivendrum	33		
14.	Lakshadweep	Lakshadweep	1		
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	36		
16.	Manipur	Imphal	20		
17.	Meghalaya	Shillong	7		
18.	Mizoram	Aizwal	5		
19.	Nagaland	Dimapur and Wokha	9		
20.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar	21		
21.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	14		
22.	Rajasthan	Jodhpur	33		
23.	Sikkim	Gangtok	5		
24.	Tripura	Agartala	17		
25.	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad	59		
26.	Uttaranchal	Nainital	16		
Total			681	Total	188

Report of Rural Credit and Micro Finance

3574. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Group headed by H.R. Khan, has submitted its Report on Rural Credit and Micro Finance;

(b) if so, its main recommendations thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement its recommendations *in toto*?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Internal Group set up by the Reserve Bank of India under Chairmanship of Shri H.R. Khan has submitted its report in July 2005. The major recommendations contained in the report are as under:—

— Linkages between banks and external entities

may be established under two broad models; (i) Business Facilitator Model wherein banks may use civil society organisations (CSOs) and others for undertaking non-financial service and (ii) Business Correspondent Model wherein institutional agents/other external entities could support the banks for extending financial services.

- A National Microfinance Information Bureau (NMIB) under the aegis of NABARD to gather information on Business Correspondents may be established.
- Institutions like NABARD and Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI) may provide bulk lending support to start-up Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) and funds of State/Central Development/Finance Corporations, if feasible

may be channelised through NABARD to identified MFIs.

- Rating of MFIs may be done. NABARD, SIDBI and major banks may consider promoting independent rating agencies by way of equity contributions.

(c) Based on the Groups recommendations, and with the objective of ensuring greater financial inclusion and increasing the outreach of the banking sector, banks have been permitted, to use the services of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)/Self Help Groups (SHGs), MFIs and other civil society organisations as intermediaries in providing financial and banking services through the use of Business Facilitator and Correspondent models.

Water Subsidy

3575. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the policy paper submitted by the Ministry at the operation and maintenance of Water Supplied System meeting in Bangalore in September, 2005, envisages water subsidies would be provided only to urban poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to meet the operations and maintenance in the light of the low revenue that it is getting from water charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) This Ministry has not furnished any policy paper in the Manual on Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply Systems meeting at Bangalore in September, 2005. A two day workshop was organized by this Ministry at Bangalore in September, 2005 for sensitizing Chief Engineers, Municipal Commissioners and other officials in regard to various aspects of Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply Systems brought out in the said Manual.

(c) The two programmes, namely, Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) envisage a set of mandatory reforms in which one of the reforms is as under:—

"Levy of reasonable user charges by ULBs/Parastatals with the objective that full cost of operation and maintenance or recurring cost is collected within next seven years. However, cities/towns in North East and other special category States may recover at least 50% of operation and maintenance charges initially. These cities/towns should graduate to full O and M cost recovery in a phased manner."

By fulfilling the aforesaid reforms, the ULBs would be able to access the Central funds provided under the Programme.

National Rehabilitation Policy

3576. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has announced the National Rehabilitation Policy for the Projects Affected People (PAP) in the country;

(b) if so, the main objective of the policy;

(c) whether Maharashtra Government has given green signal to setting up of Rehabilitation Authority so that the timely decisions for the rehabilitation of the Project Affected People (PAP) should be taken; and

(d) whether State Government has made suitable amendments in the Maharashtra State Rehabilitation (Policy) Act, 1999 and has decided to set up Maharashtra Rehabilitation Authority (MRA) which will be working on time-bound rehabilitation programme for various projects affected in Maharashtra?

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

Foreign Companies in Andhra Pradesh

3577. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign companies having business establishment in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total amount of Foreign Direct Investment

flowing through the establishment of these companies in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise and company-wise;

(c) the details of areas/sectors in which the above companies are established; and

(d) the details of foreign multinational companies in the pipeline which are eager to establish or start their ventures in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Rural Tap Water Schemes

3578. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is serious about effective implementation of the rural tap water schemes;

(b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to provide separate funds for the incomplete rural tap water schemes and high cost schemes based on surface water sources; and

(c) 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) to (c) Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State Subject. Central Government, supplements efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance under a Centrally Sponsored scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). As per ARWSP norms, a habitation having potable drinking water facilities of 40 Litre Per Capita per Day (lpcd) is considered to be covered with drinking water supply. To achieve this, the type of appropriate technology and nature of intervention is left to the State Governments. Funds are not provided project-wise, but are allocated to the States based on laid down criteria which takes into account rural population, number of uncovered habitations, geographical conditions and water quality status. States are empowered

to plan, sanction, implement and execute rural water supply projects from the funds provided under ARWSP.

Lack of Basic Amenities in Villages of Maharashtra

3579. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the complaints made to the Maharashtra Human Rights Commission for not providing basic amenities in the villages as reported in the daily *Dainik Bhaskar*, Nagpur dated July 19, 2006;

(b) if so, the agency responsible for not providing basic amenities in the villages;

(c) whether any guidelines or special assistance through funds are likely to be issued by the Government for providing basic amenities in these villages; and

(d) 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) The newspaper report of *Dainik Bhaskar*, Nagpur dated July 19, 2006 refers to lack of basic amenities (including rural drinking water) in more than 70 tribal villages of Chandrapur district of Maharashtra.

(b) to (d) Rural drinking water being State subject, State Government is responsible for providing drinking water facilities in villages. Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of the States in providing drinking water facilities in rural areas by providing financial assistance through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). For making inter-state allocation of funds under ARWSP, there is a laid down criteria, which takes into account different parameters viz. rural population, geographical conditions, number of uncovered habitations and water quality status. Based on this criteria, an amount of Rs. 446.03 crore has been allocated to Government of Maharashtra during 2006-07. State Government is competent to plan, sanction, implement and execute rural water supply projects from the said fund. There is no provision under ARWSP guidelines for any special assistance.

[English]

Shortage of Engineering Staff

3580. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total work force of NTPC as on date, category-wise;

(b) whether there is huge shortage of engineering staff in NTPC;

(c) if so, whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government to recruit more engineering staff to meet the shortfall;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) The details of total work force of NTPC Limited as on 24-08-2006, are as under:—

Sl. No.	Category	Total Strength
1.	Executives	10,293
2.	Non-Executives	13,751
Total		24,044

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) NTPC recruits 400 to 500 Engineering Graduates every year as Trainees to fulfill its technical manpower requirement for the new plants/developmental activities.

Power Projects in Karnataka

3581. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka to extend financial assistance for strengthening of transmission system and construction of power sub-stations in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Government of Karnataka made a reference for taking up transmission schemes for evacuation of power from the proposed generation schemes of 4000 MW ultra mega project at Tadri, 1015 MW to be located between Udupi and Mangalore and 2000 MW at Mangalore. The transmission system for evacuation of power from these projects would be firmed up based on the allocation of power from the project to the beneficiary States after a final view on the generation project is taken. If the beneficiaries happen to be two or more States then the inter-State transmission system would be finalized and firmed up for execution by the Central Transmission Utility. If, on the other hand, the beneficiary happens to be a single State the transmission system would be finalized and firmed up for execution by the State transmission utility concerned. Government of Karnataka has proposed certain schemes under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP). The details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Schemes under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP)

As per existing guidelines of APDRP the Government of India is only sanctioning schemes of Sub-transmission and Distribution projects (66 KW and below) of urban towns and cities submitted by distribution companies under APDRP. The subject mentioned proposal of strengthening of transmission system and construction of power sub-station does not qualify under APDRP. However, under APDRP for improvement of sub-transmission and distribution network, an amount of Rs. 575.9 crores have been sanctioned for augmentation and creation of new sub-stations and associated distribution network from a total scheme cost of Rs. 1186.31 crores.

Sale of CEL

3582. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production, sales, exports and foreign

exchange earned by Central Electronics Limited (CEL) during the last three years;

(b) whether the profit earned by CEL has been reduced drastically during the last three years and incurring losses;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of CEL?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The total production, sales, exports and foreign exchange earned by CEL during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Production	65.24	85.42	102.17
Sales	63.78	93.32	107.19
Export	6.41	31.64	24.16
Foreign Exchange Earned	1.96	25.49	20.40

(b) No, Sir.

(c) CEL incurred an operating loss of Rs. 0.99 crore during the 2003-04. However, it earned an operating profit of Rs. 1.74 crore during 2004-05 which increased to Rs. 4.27 crore (provisional) during 2005-06.

(d) The Government has taken the following steps to improve the performance of CEL: (i) it has approved a proposal for capacity enhancement of solar photovoltaic operations in the company from the present level of 2 MW (megawatt) to 10 MW (megawatt) at a cost of Rs. 25 crore; and (ii) it has approved the capital restructuring proposal of the Company, which will go a long way in improving the financial position of the Company and enable it to raise capital for further capacity expansion in line with market trends and tap the emerging markets in India and abroad.

Non-Performing Assets

3583. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon. Supreme Court has given direction to the Government to treat Rs. 1,10,000 crore NPA with public financial institutions as priority area;

(b) if so, the detailed instructions issued by Court in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has chalked out a plan to reduce NPA load on the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) During the course of hearing on 03-08-2006 in the matter of Common Cause Vs Union of India and Another in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 291 of 1998, the Hon'ble Supreme Court observed that the purpose of the petitioner seems to be to strengthen the hands of the Public Sector Financial Institutions to tackle the problem of increasing non-performing assets.

(c) to (e) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have stipulated certain steps for expeditious recovery of NPAs by public sector banks, which, inter-alia, include evolving and implementing a recovery policy by the banks, filing of suits in civil courts/DRTs, issue of notices under 'The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets

and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002,' compromise settlement, monitoring and follow up of NPAs at Various levels, etc. The Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005 has been enacted to provide for regulation of credit information companies and to facilitate efficient distribution of credit thereby arresting fresh accretion of NPAs. Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd. has also been set up to disseminate information on borrowers to the banks. Due to concerted efforts, the gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the public sector banks (PSBs) have reduced from Rs. 47,696 crore as on 31st March, 2005 to Rs. 41,378 crore as on 31st March, 2006.

Completion of Power Projects

3584. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether acceptance of unreasonable terms imposed by international funding agencies is hampering the completion of the power projects in the country in time;

(b) if so, whether the Government has constituted a High Powered Committee of Experts to look into the matter;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to formulate an Integrated Energy Policy;

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

(e) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Progress of projects is not being hampered. However, a Committee headed by Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority was set up by Ministry of Power to inter alia analyze the terms and conditions of the loans taken by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) from the World Bank. The Committee has submitted its report.

(c) to (e) An Expert Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Member (Energy), Planning Commission on 12-8-2004 to prepare an integrated energy policy linked with sustainable development that covers all sources of energy and addresses all aspects including

energy security, access and availability, affordability and pricing, efficiency and environment. The Expert Committee has not submitted its report as yet.

Role of Private Developers for Commonwealth Games

3585. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority is considering to hand over the residential zone at the games village to a private developer with a promise to allow sale of flats after the games are over as reported in Hindustan Times dated June 14, 2006;

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

(c) the details of private developers to whom the work is going to be given;

(d) whether the proposal will cause a big loss to Delhi University students; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that the residential zone of the Commonwealth Games Village has been proposed to be developed as hotels and residential apartments through Private Public Participation mode. The development of hotels on a joint venture mode has been approved.

DDA has further informed that the development of residential zone on private public participation mode has been envisaged to lessen the requirement of Government funding for the Commonwealth Games.

[Translation]

Irregularities in HUDCO

3586. SHRI BAJESH PATHAK:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given any order to the Central Vigilance Commission for taking action against some of its officials for committing irregularities in the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO);

(b) if so, the details of the orders issued;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for compliance of these orders;

(d) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has held any talks with the Ministry in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Courts directed Central Vigilance Commission vide order dated 29-8-2005 to carry out a detailed enquiry into the alleged irregularities in HUDCO. This was done. The next date of hearing is fixed for 28th August, 2006.

(d) No, Sir.

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

[English]

SBI Branches Abroad

3587. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of State Bank of India (SBI) at Tehran in Iran;

(b) whether SBI is playing a vital role in trade relations with Iran;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any country trying to block the business of SBI in Tehran; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The State

Bank of India (SBI) does not have any branch at Tehran. However, it has one Representative Office at Tehran.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. SBI is facilitating India-Iran trade through its representative office at Tehran and its branches in India.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Dividend Earned by Dabhol Power Project

3588. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether electricity is being supplied to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) by Dabhol Project of Ratnagiri Gas and Power Ltd. @ Rs. 5 per unit;

(b) if not, the actual sale price thereof;

(c) whether the electricity generating company is also earning dividend by supplying electricity at the selling price referred to above; and

(d) if so, the rate of dividend?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per a one time arrangement between Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited (RGPPL) and Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL), 349 MU of infirm power was supplied @ Rs. 4.25/KWH during the period from May-June 2006 for about 55 days to meet the peak summer requirements of MSEDCL. This pooled tariff was arrived at by blending old stock of liquid fuel(s) received alongwith assets transferred by erstwhile owners (discounted at zero cost) with some fresh quantities procured by RGPPL.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Review of NDPS Act

3589. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) in the present form do not adequately deter culprit to commit the crime;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up committee to review the provisions of the Act to make them more transparent and more stringent;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir,

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Review of Work of DDA

3590. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to review the work done by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA);

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to wind up the Delhi Development Authority (DDA); and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Government had set up a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Shri Tejendra Khanna, former Lt. Governor, Delhi to look into various aspects of unauthorized construction and misuse of premises in

Delhi. The Committee has already submitted its report, wherein it has made certain suggestions relating to the Planning, Housing, Monitoring and Enforcement functions of DDA.

(d) and (e) The Government does not contemplate to wind up DDA.

Acquiring Land

3591. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has directed all the States whose parts constitute the NCR to acquire land for easing the habitation problem in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether some of the States have issued notifications to this effect;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government has made any effort to ensure that farmers are paid compensation for their lands at the market value or at the rate at which the compensation is being given in Delhi;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (f) The NCR Planning Board has informed that no direction has been issued to the participating States in the NCR for acquisition of land for easing the habitation problem in Delhi. Land is a State subject and matters relating to land, including compensation, is to be decided by the State Government concerned. As per Section 40 of the NCR Planning Board Act, 1985 also, acquisition of land and determination of rights in relation to land comes under the purview of the participating State Government in the NCR.

Transfer of Banking Operations

3592. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has given

approval to Civil Aviation Ministry to transfer all its banking operations from State Bank of India and Reserve Bank of India to ICICI Bank;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there has been resistance from certain quarters; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the request of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had granted approval for the change of its accredited bank from RBI and State Bank of India (SBI) to ICICI Bank Ltd. in August 2004.

(c) RBI has received representations from All India Reserve Bank Employees Association and National Confederation of Bank Employees respectively against the shifting of government business of Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism from Reserve Bank of India and State Bank of India to the ICICI Bank Ltd.

(d) The government departments are at liberty to choose their accredited bank depending on their specific banking needs.

IT Exemption

3593. **SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Maritime Board has sought exemption from Income Tax under IT Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether other autonomous bodies like Coffee, Tea and Tobacco boards have been given exemption under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not giving exemption to Maritime Board from Income Tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b)

Representations were received requesting for grant of exemption from income-tax to the Maharashtra Maritime Board. The same were considered by the Government and were not found to be acceptable.

(c) Section 10(29A) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, inter alia, provides income-tax exemption on any income accruing or arising to the Coffee Board, the Tea Board, and the Tobacco Board, as specified therein.

(d) The nature of activities of Maritime Boards is different from that of the entities enjoying exemption under section 10(29A). Till Assessment year 2002-2003, Maharashtra Maritime Board was enjoying exemption from income-tax as a local authority under section 10(20) of the Income-tax Act, 1961. A policy decision was taken through the Finance Act, 2002 to define the term 'Local authority' under section 10(20), so as to restrict the exemption to Panchayats, Municipalities, Municipal Committees, District Boards and Cantonment Boards. The restrictive definition was adopted considering the need to phase out exemptions inconsistent with a moderate tax regime.

Corruption In DDA

3594. **SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:**

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has failed in the task of removing corruption prevailing in Delhi Development Authority;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the corruption in the DDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is a statutory body set up under the Delhi Development Act, 1957. It has a Vigilance Wing which is headed by a Chief Vigilance Officer appointed by the Government with the concurrence

of Chief Vigilance Commissioner. Action is taken by the Vigilance Wing of DDA as per prevailing rules, in cases of complaints or allegation of corruption against any employee of DDA.

(c) Several steps have been initiated for system improvement in Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to bring in transparency in its functioning and to remove corruption. Information is disseminated to the public through guidebooks, counsellors and website. Measures have also been taken by DDA to train its workforce, introduce computerization and e-governance as well as to exercise strict vigilance at all levels. In order to streamline its functioning, DDA has taken preventive measures such as monitoring/implementation of time limits prescribed for various transactions, as per Citizens Charter. Right to Information (RTI) mechanism has also been put in place for ensuring transparency.

Harassment by DDA

3595. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that DDA officials often cause gross harassment to applicants and allottees of DDA Flats; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to stop harassment and evolve a transparent mode of allotment of a flat to successful applicants?

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

CBI Raids against MCD Officials

3596. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI carried out raids on July 28, 2006 against Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Engineers and builders and unearthed cases of fake demolition by MCD;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Uppal Orchid a "five-star" hotel was shown as completely pulled down by MCD and the hotel owner even paid the demolition fee but the said hotel not only stands but is carrying out its business as usual; and

(d) if so, the action Government proposes to take to demolish all such properties which have been shown as demolished in MCD records but in actual fact not been demolished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) CBI has reported that it had carried out raids against MCD Engineers/builders on 28-7-2006 at their residential/office premises in Delhi and NCR Area. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) CBI has reported that the Preliminary Enquiry revealed that unauthorised construction was made in the hotel beyond sanctioned building plan, and that MCD showed partial demolition of the said unauthorized construction in the hotel and realised the demolition charges from the owner of the hotel.

MCD has reported that it had sanctioned a Building Plan for construction of a motel on 3-5-1999 to M/s Uppal Properties (P) Ltd. and a completion certificate was issued on 5-12-2001. However, certain unauthorized construction/deviation came to the notice of the department on 12-1-2005. MCD initiated action under the relevant provision of DMC Act and demolition orders of unauthorized construction/deviations were passed. On 7-6-2005, demolition action was undertaken during which only a room, toilet/bath at Ground Floor adjacent to the main building of motel could be partially demolished and subsequently demolition charges amounting to Rs. 15,750 were recovered from the owner.

(d) Action in respect of unauthorized construction falls within the purview of the local bodies and is governed by the relevant laws.

Statement

1. A.C. Garg, E.E.
2. S.A. Khan, A.E.

3. Nazur Islam, E.E.
4. Rajeev Narang, J.E.
5. N.K. Goyal, J.E.
6. B.P. Rathore, J.E.
7. Rohtash Chauhan, Mate
8. Narender Kausik (Builder/owner)
9. Pramod Kumar (Builder/owner)
10. Uday Sharma (Builder/owner)
11. Rakesh Dhingra (Builder/owner)
12. P.K. Gupta (Builder/owner)
13. Shyam Sunder (Builder/owner)
14. Kumar Singh (Builder/owner)
15. Office Premises of M/s Uppal Properties Pvt. Ltd., S-39A, Panchhseel Park, New Delhi
16. Office and Residence of Birender Singh Yadav, A.E.
17. Navin Bahri (Pvt. Person)
18. Jagveer Singh, J.E. (C)
19. M/s Uppal Orchid Hotel, Samalka, New Delhi-1
20. Sanjeev Kumar Mahal, Pvt. Person.
21. Office Premises of M/s S.M. Properties Pvt. Ltd., D-51, Dilshad Garden, Delhi
22. Residence of Piar Singh, E.E.
23. Residence of Shiv Dutt, the then Asstt. Engineer, MCD
24. Residence of M.M. Kausik, the then Jr. Engineer
25. Residence of Anil Gupta, Director of M/s M.N. Properties Pvt. Ltd.
26. Residence of Jaikishan Gupta, Director, M/s M.N. Properties Pvt. Ltd.

27. Subhas Sarkar, Director, M/s M.N. Properties Pvt. Ltd.
28. Residence of Vijay Kadyan (dismissed) E.E.
29. Residence of Vijay Kumar Jain, A.E. (Dismissed)
30. Residence of Mohd. Ahmed. J.E.
31. Residence of Moti Lal Sharma, Hd. Clerk
32. Residence of Mukhwant Singh, LDC
33. A.P. Sharma, A.E., MCD

Investment in Neighbouring Countries

3597. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken up the issue of the Tata's investments in steel and other projects in Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government plan to boost Indian FDI in neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has been regularly taking up the issue of Tata investment in Steel and other projects in Bangladesh with the Government of that country. But the proposal has so far not been accepted due to political reasons and upcoming election in that country.

(c) The policy for Indian direct investment abroad has been substantially liberalized and procedures streamlined over the past years to promote Indian investments abroad.

Tax Exemption to NEDFC

3598. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for granting Income Tax Exemption to North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details and the time by which it is likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. had been granted exemption from income tax till Assessment Year 2005-2006 vide Finance (No. 2) Act, 1996. Further, vide the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act, 2006 enacted in July, 2006, a new clause (23 BBF) has been inserted in section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, whereby the income of the said Corporation has been granted income-tax exemption for a further period, to the extent of:

- (i) 80% of the total income for assessment year beginning on the 1st day of April, 2006;
- (ii) 60% of the total income for assessment year beginning on the 1st day of April, 2007;
- (iii) 40% of the total income for assessment year beginning on the 1st day of April, 2008;
- (iv) 20% of the total income for assessment year beginning on the 1st day of April, 2009.

Exemption will not be granted in respect of income for the assessment year beginning on the 1st day of April, 2010 and any subsequent assessment years.

[Translation]

Duties in India on Petrol/Diesel

3599. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the taxes and cesses imposed by the Union Government on petrol and diesel are more as compared to other countries of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of taxes and cesses collected from petrol and diesel by neighbouring countries and also by advanced countries; and

(d) the reasons for comparatively higher taxes and cesses on these products in India as compared to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Central excise duties and other cesses levied by Central Government on petrol and diesel as percentage of retail sale price at Delhi are as follows:

Sl. No.	Product	Central excise duties and cess as % of Retail sale price
1.	Petrol	32%
2.	Diesel	16%

Such details and revenue collection from petrol and diesel of other countries are not maintained.

[English]

Assistance for Infrastructure Rehabilitation

3600. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has extended assistance for infrastructure rehabilitation to some States during the last two years;

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

(c) whether the international banks have played any role in it; and

(d) if so, the role of each bank in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Funds have been released to States for infrastructure development including rehabilitation under the Scheme of Initiative of Strengthening Urban Infrastructure (ISUI) in 2004-05 and under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in

2005-06. Details of the releases made under the two Schemes in given in two statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) World Bank and Asian Development Bank also extended loan assistance for Infrastructure Rehabilitation. World Bank has extended loan assistance for Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. Asian Development Bank has extended loan assistance for Infrastructure Rehabilitation in Jammu and Kashmir and Tsunami Emergency assistance in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	ISUI (2004-05) Released	JNNURM (2005-06) Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.69	156.81
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	1.52	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.46	0.00
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	2.90	42.88
8.	Haryana	0.54	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.98	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	2.63	0.00
12.	Karnataka	9.42	0.00
13.	Kerala	0.36	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8.46	13.99
15.	Maharashtra	0.00	22.20

1	2	3	4
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	0.72	0.00
21.	Punjab	3.61	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	8.10	13.84
23.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	16.71	0.00
25.	Tripura	0.14	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3.02	0.00
27.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00
28.	West Bengal	6.90	0.00
Total		70.16	249.72

Opening of New Bank Branches

3601. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI SITARAM SINGH:

SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for opening of new bank branches in the country;

(b) the number of proposals received by the Government/RBI from various Public Sector Banks/Private Banks for opening/expansion of their branches in urban/rural areas in the country during the last three years, State-wise and bank-wise;

(c) the approval accorded by the Government/RBI for opening/expansion of bank branches during the said period;

(d) the number of bank branches likely to be opened during 2006-07; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government/RBI for speedy clearance of the pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (e) As per the extant Branch Authorisation Policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks are required to submit an Annual Branch Expansion Plan to the RBI for their approval. Banks are free to open branches at the location of their choice, keeping in view the viability, availability of infrastructure, law and order situation and potential for business of the center. However, banks are encouraged to open branches in under banked districts and rural centers.

Once the RBI receives the Annual Branch Expansion Plan of the bank, it is discussed with the Management of the respective bank in a meeting, which is normally held within a month of the receipt of the Plan. Authorisations are issued thereafter keeping in view the criteria laid down in the Branch Authorisation Policy.

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

Coal based Power Projects

3602. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for development of Power Projects based on indigenous coal and imported coal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to set up indigenous coal based thermal power projects totalling 44435 MW and imported coal based thermal power projects totalling 2765 MW for benefits during XI Plan in Central, State and Private Sector. Further, initiative has

been taken for development of seven Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW each at various coastal/pithead locations in different states of the country.

Opening of New Accounts for Agricultural Loan

3603. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new accounts opened for Agricultural loan by public sector banks during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government has set any target for opening new accounts during the current financial year; and

(c) if so, the achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Public Sector Commercial Banks have financed 45.50 lakhs, 42.01 lakhs and 7.06 lakhs new agricultural accounts during 2004-05, 2005-06 and first quarter of 2006-07 respectively;

The Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have been asked to add 50 lakh new farmers to their portfolio during 2006-07. The achievements during the first quarter of 2006-07 is as under:—

Agency	No. of Accounts financed (Lakh)	Loans disbursed (Rs. Crore)
Commercial Banks*	7.84*	5,366.65
Regional Rural Banks	2.62	1,156.88
	10.46	6,523.53

*Includes Private Sector Banks.

In addition to this, the Cooperative Banks have financed 1.77 lakhs new farmers during the year, thus, taking the total number of new farmers financed by the banking system to 12.23 lakhs so far.

[Translation]

Development of Maru Gochar

3604. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme for developing 'Maru Gochar' and the funds provided to Rajasthan thereunder since inception of the scheme; and

(b) the time by which the balance amount is likely to be provided, if any?

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) Maru Gochar Yojana (MGY) was launched in 2003-04 to develop traditional pasture lands in ten districts of Western Rajasthan with a total outlay of Rs. 100 crore with the State Government contributing 25%. Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance released an amount of Rs. 458.94 lakh to the concerned Zilla Parishads during 2003-04. Subsequently, during 2004-05, Ministry of Finance requested Ministry of Rural Development to consider absorption of MGY in Desert Development Programme (DDP). Accordingly, the sites selected under the erstwhile MGY have been included in DDP special projects areas by the State Government and funds for MGY are being released as part of the Desert Development Programme.

[English]

Hydro Power Potential

3605. SHRI B. MAHTAB:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government has assessed the tapped and untapped hydro power potential in the country;

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

(c) whether any efforts have been made by the Government for harnessing the untapped hydro power potential; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per re-assessment studies conducted by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in 1987, the hydro power potential of the country has been assessed at 84,044 MW at 60% load factor which when fully developed would result in an installed capacity of about 1,48,700 MW. Presently, 16506.85 MW at 60% load factor which is 19.64% of the total potential, has been developed and another 4333.73 MW which is 5.16% of the total potential, is under development. Thus about 75.20% of the potential is yet to be developed. Status of State wise Hydro Electric Potential development in the country in terms of potential at 50% load factor is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The Government has accorded high priority for hydro power development. Various measures taken by the Government to harness the untapped hydro potential are:

- (i) Creation of Central Power Corporations for development of hydro power projects.
- (ii) A Ranking study by CEA of the hydro schemes.
- (iii) A 50,000 MW Hydroelectric Initiative for preparing pre-feasibility reports of 162 hydro electric schemes.
- (iv) A streamlined three stage clearance procedure for development of hydro projects by CPSUs.
- (v) Announced a National water policy which lays more emphasis on hydro generation.
- (vi) Announced a National Policy of Resettlement and Rehabilitation for project affected families to streamline R and R issues related to hydro projects also.
- (vii) Enactment of Electricity Act, 2003 to liberalize the power development.
- (viii) Policy Liberalization to attract private investments in hydro power development.
- (ix) An advance action in identifying hydro projects for capacity addition in the 11th Plan and beyond.

Statement**Status of Hydro Electric Potential Development at 60% LF (State-wise)**

As on 31-07-2006										
Region/State	Potential assessed at 60% Load factor (MW)	Potential developed at 60% LF (MW)	% developed	Potential Under development at 60% LF (MW)	% under-development	% of potential developed + under dev't	CEA cleared schemes potential at 60% LF (MW)	% CEA cleared schemes	% of total potential developed+ Un.dev't +CEA cleared	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Notthorn										
Jammu and Kashmir	7487.00	515.00	6.88	533.27	7.12	14.00	631.95	8.14	22.44	
Himachal Pradesh	11647.00	2545.57	21.86	1153.78	9.91	31.76	230.17	1.98	33.74	
Punjab	922.00	679.50	73.70	0.00	0.00	73.70	174.33	18.91	92.61	
Haryana	64.00	51.67	80.73	0.00	0.00	80.73	0.00	0.00	80.73	
Rajasthan	291.00	188.67	64.83	0.00	0.00	64.83	0.00	0.00	64.83	
Uttaranchal	9341.00	1374.52	14.71	783.33	8.39	23.10	505.13	5.41	28.51	
Uttar Pradesh	403.00	337.90	83.85	0.00	0.00	83.85	0.00	0.00	83.85	
Sub Total (NR)	30155.00	5692.82	18.88	2470.38	8.19	25.69	1541.58	5.11	30.80	
Western										
Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	2774.00	1393.10	50.22	472.50	17.03	67.25	184.12	6.64	73.89	

Gujarat	409.00	253.82	62.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	62.06	0.00	0.00	62.06
Maharashtra	2460.00	1314.61	53.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	53.44	0.00	0.00	53.44
Goa	36.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub total (WR)	5679.00	2961.52	52.15	472.50	8.32	60.47	184.12	3.24		63.71
Southern										
Andhra Pradesh	2909.00	1405.45	48.31	30.23	1.04	49.35	7.58	0.26		49.61
Karnataka	4347.00	2429.28	55.88	0.00	0.00	55.88	204.33	4.70		60.58
Kerala	2301.00	1144.17	49.72	82.03	3.57	53.29	201.13	8.74		62.03
Tamil Nadu	1206.00	992.33	92.28	65.45	5.43	87.71	31.33	2.60		90.31
Sub Total (SR)	10763.00	5971.23	55.48	177.72	1.65	57.13	444.38	4.13		61.26
Eastern										
Jharkhand	478.00	75.17	15.73	0.00	0.00	15.73	190.50	39.85		55.58
Bihar	60.00	44.78	74.64	0.00	0.00	74.64	0.00	0.00		74.64
Orissa	1983.00	1100.50	55.50	31.17	1.57	57.07	0.00	0.00		57.07
West Bengal	1786.00	91.33	5.11	102.98	5.77	10.88	111.50	6.24		17.12
Sikkim	1283.00	52.50	4.09	164.40	12.81	16.91	380.00	29.62		46.52
Sub Total (ER)	5580.00	1364.28	24.41	298.55	5.34	29.75	682.00	12.20		41.95
North Eastern										
Meghalaya	1070.00	121.67	11.37	23.58	2.20	13.57	0.00	0.00		13.57

Medicines	10.00	15.00	11.00	5.28	5.50	7.25	0.00	0.00	11.00
North Eastern Hippur	9.00	7.50	83.33	0.00	0.00	83.33	0.00	0.00	83.33
Manipur (EU)	1178.00	1271.67	5.00	42.50	3.61	9.71	0.00	0.00	9.71
Assam	351.00	111.67	31.81	74.17	21.13	52.94	0.00	0.00	52.94
Nagaland	1040.00	81.83	7.87	0.00	0.00	7.87	0.00	0.00	7.87
Arunachal Pradesh	26756.00	122.67	0.46	743.50	2.78	3.24	0.00	0.00	3.24
Mizoram	1455.00	0.00	0.00	30.83	2.12	2.12	142.50	9.79	11.91
Sub Total (NER)	31857.00	517.00	1.62	914.58	2.87	4.49	142.50	0.45	4.94
All India	84044.00	16506.85	19.84	4333.73	5.16	24.80	2994.58	3.56	28.36

**Financial Assistance to the North East for
Computerization**

3606. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State from the North East has requested the Union Government for financial assistance for computerization of bank office operations of some key departments in their respective States;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government on such request?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Jammu and Kashmir Bank
Branch in Pakistan**

3607. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jammu and Kashmir Bank has sought the permission of the Reserve Bank of India to reopen its branches in Mirpur and Muzaffarabad of Pak Occupied Kashmir (POK) which have been lying closed since 1947;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has given its permission to the Jammu and Kashmir Bank;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. Reserve Bank of India has not received any such request from the Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Amendment in FEMA

3608. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government/Reserve Bank of India proposes to amend FEMA rules that have blocked FDI in various areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether FEMA violation cases have been increasing in nexus with the officials of his Ministry and exporters/importers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action plan Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce, Deptt. of Industrial Policy and Promotion have recently liberalized Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy vide Press Note 4 (2006 Series). Reserve Bank of India is in the process of amending the relevant FEMA Regulation.

(c) and (d) There is no information about any nexus of officials of the Ministry and exporters/importers resulting in increase in FEMA violation cases.

Foreign Debt

3609. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the foreign debts/loans till the end of June, 2006;

(b) the load of foreign debts on the financial structure of the country;

(c) the total debts taken by the Government during the current financial year;

(d) the present per capita external loan;

(e) the amount of interest and debt services charges being paid for these loans annually; and

(f) the steps taken to reduce the debt burden of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) According to the latest available information, India's total external debt amounted to US\$ 125.2 billion as at the end of March, 2006.

(b) The liability of foreign loans on financial structure of the country as measured by the ratio of external debt-to-GDP and proportion of debt service payments to external current receipts (debt service ratio) was 15.8 per cent and 10.2 per cent, respectively in 2005-06.

(c) The total disbursement of loans raised by the Government amounted to US\$ 749 million (Rs. 3,491 crore) during the current year so far (April-July 2006).

(d) The per capita external debt at end-March 2006 worked out to US\$ 113 (Rs. 5,045).

(e) During 2005-06, the debt service payments amounted to US\$ 18.97 billion, of which interest payments were of the order of US\$ 5.08 billion.

(f) To reduce the debt burden of the country, the recent initiatives undertaken by the Government include,

inter alia, prepayment of high-cost loans, streamlining of interest rates as well as structure of NRI deposits and restricting the end-use of commercial borrowings. Besides, Government is focusing on concessional loans, longer maturity profiles, close monitoring of short-term debt and laying emphasis on non-debt creating capital flows in order to maintain external debt within manageable limits.

Power Projects with Foreign Assistance

3610. SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up any power project with the assistance of foreign countries/ companies for securing the overall energy mix;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of projects planned along with the commissioning date; and

(d) the financial offers and repayment terms in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Following Power Projects are being setup with external assistance.

Sl. No.	Name of Project/ Capacity	Executing Agency	Funding Agency	Loan Amount (Million)	Repayment Terms		Commissioning Date
					Rate of Interest	Repayment Period	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	North Karanpura TPP (3x660 MW)	NTPC	JBIC	JY 15916	0.75%	30 years including of a grace period of 10 years.	2010 (I Unit)
2.	Bakreshwar TPP (2x210 MW)	WBPDC	JBIC	JY 36771	1.8%	—do—	March, 2007 (I Unit)
3.	Purulia Pumped storage Project (6x150 MW)	WBSEB	JBIC	JY 62051 —Tranche-I JY 20506	2.6%	—do—	March, 2007 (I Unit)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				—Tranche-II JY 23578	1.3%		
				—Tranche-III JY 17967	0.75%		

WBPDCCL—West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited.

WBSEB—West Bengal State Electricity Board

JBIC—Japan Bank for International Cooperation

JY—Japanese Yen

[Translation]

High Court Benches

3611. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the benches of High Courts, State-wise;

(b) the authority under which these were set up;

(c) whether the Union Government is considering to set up more benches of High Courts in the country;

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

(e) whether there is any opposition to the proposal; and

(f) if so, the main points on which the proposal is being opposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) There are 21 High Courts in the country. Out of these, 6 High Courts have 14 Permanent Benches amongst themselves. The details are in given the statement enclosed.

(b) The Benches of the High Courts have been set up under the provisions of Section 51(2) of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, sub-section 2 of Section 31 of the North Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971, the High Court at Bombay (Extension of Jurisdiction) Act, 1981 etc.

(c) to (f) Setting up of a Bench of a High Court is considered on receipt of a complete proposal from the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. As a complete proposal has been received from the Government of West Bengal, it is proposed to set up a Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri. However, no such complete proposal has been received from any other State Government.

Statement

Name of High Courts, their Principal Seats, Benches and their Jurisdiction

Sl. No.	High Court	Principal Seat	Jurisdiction	Bench and date from which the Bench began functioning
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow (19-07-1948)

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	—
3.	Bombay	Mumbai	Maharashtra;	Nagpur (01-05-1960)
			Daman and Diu,	Aurangabad (27-08-1984)
			Dadra and Nagar Haveli; Goa	Panaji (30-10-1982)
4.	Calcutta	Kolkatta	West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	—
6.	Delhi	Delhi	N.C.T. of Delhi	—
7.	Gauhati	Guwahati	Assam	
			Nagaland	Kohima (10-02-1990)
			Mizoram	Aizawl (05-07-1990)
			Manipur	Imphal (21-01-1992)
			Tripura	Agartala (16-05-1992)
			Meghalaya	Shillong (04-02-1998)
			Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar (12-08-2000)
8.	Gujarat	Sola (Ahmedabad)	Gujarat	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	—
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir	—
11.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Jharkhand	—
12.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Karnataka	—
13.	Kerala	Kochi	Kerala and Lakshadweep Islands	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior (01-11-1956)
				Indore (01-11-1956)
15.	Madras	Chennai	Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry	Madurai (24-07-2004)
16.	Orissa	Cuttack	Orissa	—
17.	Patna	Patna	Bihar	—

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Punjab and Haryana	Chandigarh	Punjab, Haryana U.T. of Chandigarh	—
19.	Rajasthan	Jodhpur	Rajasthan	Jaipur (31-01-1977)
20.	Sikkim	Gangtok	Sikkim	—
21.	Uttaranchal	Nainital	Uttaranchal	—

— There are 21 High Courts in the country.

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

[English]

Tribal Courts

3612. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to establish separate tribal courts for the trial of cases of tribal land alienation/Government acquisition of tribal land/rehabilitation of displaced tribals and for atrocities on tribals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time schedule for the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) As per available information in the Department of Justice there is no proposal to establish separate Tribal Courts for trial of cases of tribal land, alienation/Government acquisition of tribal land/rehabilitation of displaced tribals and for atrocities on tribals.

However, as per existing provisions of law for speedy disposal of cases registered under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 and Protection of Civil Rights Act 1985 exclusive Special Courts are functioning at various district Headquarters in the States.

Rural Electrification by NTPC

3613. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC and other CPUs have been entrusted with rural electrification work in an estimated 40,000 villages spread over 132 districts across the country;

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

(c) the present status thereof and funds earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) the services of the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) have been offered to the States for assisting them in the execution of Rural Electrification projects as per their willingness and requirement. With a view to augment the implementation capacities for the programme, Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) has entered into Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) to make available CPSUs management expertise and capabilities to states wishing to use the services. Tripartite/Quadrupartite Agreements have been signed by states with CPSUs and REC. The state-wise details regarding the allocation of work to various Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSUs) are at statement-I enclosed.

(c) So far 58 projects have been sanctioned for CPSUs covering 56 districts and 30,237 villages at the cost of Rs. 3737.76 crore. The details of the un-electrified villages covered are at statement-II enclosed.

So far 15572 villages have been wired, of which 4498 villages have been electrified by CPSUs under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana.

The funds under RGGVY are released progressively to the State Government/Implementing Agencies commensurating with the progress reported by them in terms of RGGVY guidelines.

Statement-I
CPSU Districts

State	Total districts	PGCIL	NTPC	NHPC	DVC	Total
Jammu and Kashmir	14			7		7
Rajasthan	32	7				7
Uttar Pradesh	70	8				8
Chhattisgarh	16	4	5	7		16
Gujarat	25	2				2
Madhya Pradesh	48		4			4
Bihar	37	24		6		30
Jharkhand	22		8		8	16
Orissa	30	12	12	6		30
West Bengal	18	2	1*	1	1	4
Assam	23	7				7
Tripura	4	2				2
Lakshadweep	1		1			
Total	295	68	30	27	9	134

*2 blocks

Statement-II

CPSU-wise and State-wise Details of Projects under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana

Sl. No.	Name of CPSU	Name of State	Sanction				Cumulative Achievement
			No. of projects	No. of districts covered	No. of unelectrified villages covered	Sanctioned Project Cost (Rs. Crores)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Powergrid	Bihar	19	20	13131	1162.04	2582

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Uttar Pradesh	10	8	6434	952.83	1265
		West Bengal	2	2	2327	199.59	225
		Gujarat	2	2		32.16	
		Rajasthan	2	2	281	79.24	
		Assam	1	1	230	66.27	
		Total	36	35	22403	2492.13	4072
2.	NHPC	Bihar	6	6	2803	233.50	
		West Bengal	1	1	467	47.10	149
		Chhattisgarh	2	2	117	101.46	
		Total	9	9	3387	382.06	149
3.	NTPC	West Bengal	1	2 blocks	225	20.30	61
		Chhattisgarh	3	3	63	47.49	
		Madhya Pradesh	2	2	72	213.92	
		Jharkhand	1	1	1295	96.99	
		Orissa	2	2	1253	227.28	
		Total	9	8	2908	605.98	61
4.	DVC	West Bengal	1	1	807	77.71	216
		Jharkhand	3	3	732	179.88	
		Total	4	4	1539	257.59	216
Total (CPSUs)			58	56	30237	3737.76	4498

Raising Minimum Value of Insurance

3614. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) has restrained Government insurance companies from raising the minimum value of insurance from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 50,000 per head without its approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether public sector insurance companies had raised the minimum value without the approval of IRDA; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the IRDA against such public sector insurance companies?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) IRDA has reported that some complaints were received by it that some insurers were unilaterally raising the minimum sum assured on renewal of the existing policies and thereby indirectly compelling the insured to pay higher premium particularly in respect of 'mediclaim' policies. Since such unilateral changes were not in keeping with IRDA's "file and use" norms for insurance products, IRDA issued a circular on 17-01-2006 reiterating that any significant changes in existing policies must be filed. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that it has increased the minimum sum assured under some old plans which were introduced before the IRDA came into existence and where approval of IRDA was not required.

Rural Haat Projects

3615. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any Rural Haat Projects from certain States particularly Gujarat for approval;

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

(c) whether these have been approved;

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

(e) the time by which approval is likely to be accorded?

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 (e) 14 proposals for provision of rural marketing infrastructure were received by the Government from different State Governments including Gujarat for approval. 1 project each was received from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Goa, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh and 2 projects each from Rajasthan and Uttaranchal. Out of 14 proposals, 11 proposals for States have been approved, 2 projects (one project each from Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan) have been returned to the

concerned State Governments for revision etc. as these projects were found to be deficient as per guidelines for Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana. The concerned State Governments are yet to submit the revised proposals. 1 project from Kerala is under consideration of the Ministry and has been approved by one of the two inter-ministerial committees.

Setting Up of CAPART

3616. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) was set up indicating the main purpose and norms for setting it;

(b) whether any assistance or benefit of schemes pertaining to CAPART is given to groups or individuals and others;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the minimum and maximum ceiling of grant for rural development under CAPART norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) was set up on 1st September 1986 by merging People's Action for Development, India (PADI) and Council for Advancement of Rural Technology (CART). It is a registered society under the aegis of Ministry of Rural Development. The main purpose of setting up of CAPART was to supplement Governmental efforts for rural development by way of encouraging, promoting and assisting voluntary action for implementation of projects for the enhancement of rural prosperity.

(b) and (c) The Assistance or benefit of schemes pertaining to CAPART is not given to the groups or individuals. Assistance is given by CAPART to the Voluntary Organisations Registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or a State Amendment thereof, The Indian Trusts Act, 1882 or the Religious and Charitable Institutions Registration Act, 1920. The Voluntary organization should have completed three years from the date of registration

on the date of application filed with CAPART. The assistance is provided by CAPART in project mode under its different schemes such as Public Cooperation (PC), Organisation of Beneficiaries (OB), Advancement of Rural Technology Scheme (ARTS) and Disability.

(d) There is no minimum and maximum ceiling of grant under different schemes and for different categories of NGOs. The first timer NGO is supposed to submit project proposal to the concerned Regional Centre of CAPART under PC, OB and ARTS and to the Headquarters under Disability scheme. After successful completion of the first project, a NGO can be sanctioned upto three projects for implementation simultaneously.

Excise Duty on Motor Vehicle

3617. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government reduced the rate of excise duty on motor vehicles in the budgets of 2001-02 to 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether major motor vehicle manufacturers did not pass on the benefit of excise duty reduction to the consumers and retained for itself the deduced excise amount to the tune of about Rs. 927.312 crore;

(d) whether these vehicle manufacturers during 2001-04 increased the cost of their vehicles despite reduction in the prices of major raw materials used by the vehicle manufacturers; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government against these vehicle manufacturers for cheating the public?

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

(b) In budget 2001-02, excise duty on passenger cars was reduced from 40% to 32%. In budget 2003-04, excise duty on passenger cars was further reduced from 32% to 24%.

(c) While generally the prices came down consequent to reduction in prices in some cases, in the long run, were not in proportion to the duty reduction.

(d) The Audit Report of the C and AG for India (Indirect Taxes) for the year 2003-04 on 'Excise duty on Motor Vehicles for transport of persons and goods' has pointed out that there was increase in prices of certain models of cars by their manufacturers during the period of study.

(e) The price of a product is a function of several factors, including cost of raw materials, labour costs, power, interest costs and other commercial considerations arising out of competition and prevailing demand-supply conditions. Excise duty is only one of the elements in the cost of a vehicle. There is no mandatory or legal requirement to pass on every excise duty cut in the same proportion to consumers. Duty cuts can be given for various reasons, including improving the health of the industry, reduction consumer prices, compensation for rising costs in some areas, improving competitiveness and so on. In view of above question of taking action against the manufacturers because the benefit of the duty reduction was not fully passed on to the consumers, does not arise.

Lower Subansiri Hydro Power Project

3618. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the original outlay, installed capacity and commissioning schedule of the Lower Subansiri Hydro Project by NHPC along with the revised status at the present price level;

(b) whether any apprehension created in the minds of the people by several NGOs about the possible breach of the dam and resultant disaster in the downstream areas in the event of earthquake or climate change;

(c) if so, reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the reason for delay and target set for commissioning of Middle and Upper Subansiri Project;

(e) the total percentage of the project cost utilized in each of the last three years on community development/welfare programme in the adjacent and downstream areas of LSV including erosion control as well as antipollution measures; and

(f) the details of plan, to enhance this amount indicating various field of activities envisaged?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Approval of the Government of India was conveyed on 9-9-2003 for implementation of the Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (2000 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh in the Central Sector by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) at an estimated cost of Rs. 6285.33 crores including IDC of Rs. 670.92 crores at December 2002 price level. The project, which is scheduled for commissioning in September 2010, is not yet due for review for cost revision.

(b) and (c) NHPC informed that certain articles have been published in a few local and national newspapers by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) about possible breach of the dam and resultant disaster in the downstream areas in the event of earthquake or climate change. These articles might have given rise to certain apprehensions in the minds of the people. To allay the apprehensions of the NGOs and to restore the confidence of the local people, on the suggestions of the Government, NHPC is in the process of awarding a study, by involving the local people, for a fresh and transparent scientific assessment of the downstream impact of the project.

(d) The Survey and Investigation Works for preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) the Subansiri Middle (1600 MW) and the Subansiri Upper (2000 MW) in the Central Sector Hydroelectric Projects by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) in Arunachal Pradesh has been suspended as the proposal for Site Clearance Stage-II has been rejected by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the basis of recommendations of the Indian Board for Wildlife (IBWL) in the case of the Subansiri Lower HEP that "there will be no construction of dam upstream of Subansiri river in future". The matter is now *sub-judice* before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

(e) and (f) Expenditure incurred on community/welfare programme is 0.54% of total expenditure incurred on works excluding advances in the last three years. NHPC has already constructed a number of Spurs/Gabions in the down stream of the dam amounting to Rs. 250 lakhs. Regular tests on water quality and impact of construction on water quality are being conducted and monitored regularly. These tests are being conducted through Pollution Control Board, Government of Assam and no adverse impact on water quality has been observed. NHPC has

taken up studies regarding impact on the down stream of the dam through the reputed Government organizations. Necessary works shall be taken up based on the outcome of these studies.

[Translation]

Public Interest Litigation

3619. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been unprecedented rise in the number of PILs filed in the Courts during the past few years;

(b) if so, the number of PILs filed in various Courts in the country, at present;

(c) whether misuse of PILs has also increased in the recent years; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to rectify this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) The information has been called for and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Whether the litigant(s) is misusing the facility of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is for the judiciary to decide, as such matters fall exclusively within the jurisdiction of the higher judiciary. The Jurisdiction as to PILs has been exercised by the Courts within their writ jurisdiction which has been conferred by the Constitution. The Courts have been exercising their jurisdiction and discretion in selecting causes which should be heard by them in detail. The Courts have also laid certain parameters to sieve worthy PILs from publicity/Private/Pise/Political Interest Litigations. In Dr. Subbarao Vs. K. Parasaran 1996 (7) JT 265 the Court cautioned "No litigant has a right to unlimited drought on the Court time and public money in order to get his affairs settled in the manner as he wishes. Easy access to justice should not be misused as a licence to file misconceived and frivolous petitions". There is no proposal before the Government to curb the PIL jurisdiction forming part of the writ jurisdiction of the Courts which is one of the basic features of the constitution.

*[English]***Gram Urja Pariyojana**

3620. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce Gram Urja Pariyojana in the country to provide power to the villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be introduced and the number of villages to be covered in the 1st phase under this scheme; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and the quantum of funds earmarked for the scheme in the current plan period?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Government of India has introduced a scheme Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) in April, 2005 with an aim to electrify all villages and provide access to electricity to all rural households by 2009.

Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided for projects for:—

- (i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11 kV (or 66/11 kV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.
- (ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all unelectrified villages/habitations and provision of distribution transformer(s) of appropriate capacity in every village/habitation.
- (iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System from conventional sources for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).

In addition to village and household electrification

the infrastructure envisages to cater to the requirement of agriculture and other activities including

- irrigation pumpsets
- small and medium industries
- khadi and village industries
- cold chains
- healthcare
- education and IT.

This would facilitate overall rural development, employment generation and poverty alleviation. 10% of the project cost will be provided as loan at 5% rate of interest.

For projects to be eligible for capital subsidy under the scheme, prior commitment of the States would also be obtained before sanction of projects under the scheme for:—

- deployment of franchisees for the management of rural distribution in projects financed under the scheme; and
- the provision of requisite revenue subsidies to the State Utilities as required under the Electricity Act, 2003.

(c) In the first phase i.e. in last two years of X-Plan, around 50,000 villages are targeted for electrification.

(d) Rs. 5000 crore have been approved by the Cabinet for the X-Plan for this scheme. Rs. 3000 crore have been allocated for the year 2006-07.

*[Translation]***Vanished Companies**

3621. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether plantation and dairying companies have vanished after selling their shares to the public during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details of such companies;

(c) the nature of the action taken by the Government against these companies;

(d) the success achieved by the Government as a result of the said action;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) SEBI has informed that no company carrying on collective investment scheme (CIS) is registered with it as on date. Hence no CIS company has issued shares to the public during last 5 years.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Illegal Transaction of Foreign Exchange

3622. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have detected any cases of illegal transaction of foreign exchange in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last one year and current year, month-wise;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange recovered during the above period, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the illegal transaction of foreign exchange?

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

[Translation]

Bogus Share Application Forms

3623. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any legislation against sale of bogus share application forms in the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith cases that have come up during each of the last three years and the prosecution thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The related legislations namely, the Companies Act and SEBI Act do not have any provision against sale of bogus share application forms in the market.

(b) SEBI has informed that no instance of sale of bogus share application forms has come to its knowledge.

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

[English]

National Power Training Institute

3624. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering corporatising National Power Training Institute in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) No proposal for corporatization has been received from National Power Training Institute so far.

Power Sharing Agreement

3625. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

SHRI NIHAL CHNAD:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the agreement signed between the State Government of Punjab, Haryana and

Rajasthan on sharing of power generated in hydel power projects of Punjab;

(b) whether the share of Rajasthan has been finalized;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether steps are being taken by the Union Government to give Rajasthan its due share; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) An agreement was reached between the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and Government of India on 10-5-1984 wherein it was agreed that in view of the claims raised by Haryana and Rajasthan to sharing of power in Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project, Mukerian Hydel Project, Thein Dam project, UBDC Stage-II and Shahpur Kandi Hydel Scheme, the Government of India shall refer the matter to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for its opinion. A reference was to be made the Hon'ble Supreme Court seeking its opinion whether the States of Rajasthan and Haryana are entitled to a share in the power generated from these Hydel schemes and in case they are, what would be the share of each State. It was agreed that the Supreme Court's opinion obtained by Government of India shall be remitted to the signatory states and shall be binding on them.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) In order to resolve the issue amicably, a number of formal and informal discussions have taken place since 1984. So far, no consensus has emerged due to divergent views. Further, consequent upon the enactment of the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 by the Government of Punjab terminating all its agreements on sharing of water with the other States, Union Government has referred the matter to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for seeking its advice.

Shortage of Funds for Water Supply

3626. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States are facing shortage of funds for drinking water supply to all villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds demanded by each State and provided to it by the Government during the last three years and current year, year-wise;

(d) whether the poor rainfall in many States has badly affected the supply of drinking water during the current year; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate funds to these States to ensure drinking water supply to all villages?

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) Rural Drinking Water is a State subject. The Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of the States in providing drinking water facilities in the rural areas by rendering financial assistance through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The inter-state allocation of funds is done on the basis of a laid down criteria, which takes into account different parameters viz. rural population, geographical conditions, number of uncovered habitations and water quality status. Therefore for allocation and release of funds, the question of considering the demand from the states does not arise. However, during the last quarter of the financial year, in case funds are available, additional funds over and above the allocation are released to the States. The amount of additional release is based on the amount of savings available, demand received from states, the need assessment and the performance of the State. The State-wise details of the releases (including additional releases) made under various components of ARWSP during the last three years and the allocation and releases (as on 23-8-2006) during the current year are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) Upto 5% of ARWSP funds are kept aside for rendering financial assistance to States for restoration of rural water supply affected due to Natural Calamity

including drought due to poor rainfall. This year Rs. 5.50 crores has been released to Government of Uttaranchal

on account of drought based on the findings of the Central team deputed for the purpose. No reports have been received from other states in this regard.

Statement

Total Releases made under all components of ARWSP

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of State	2003-04 Releases	2004-05 Releases	2005-06 Releases	2006-07	
					Allocation	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31639.81	37387.51	27461.58	26376.08	11975.86
2.	Bihar	3604.87	9671.86	17481.42	26932.00	8278.50
3.	Chhattisgarh	2339.61	2690.41	5020.44	8024.00	2919.50
4.	Goa	12.83	60.61	182.45	259.00	113.00
5.	Gujarat	14567.52	11405.69	13724.45	20837.56	7923.42
6.	Haryana	3482.74	2963.81	4125.44	6446.63	2026.50
7.	Himachal Pradesh	6485.52	6602.60	13303.37	11126.86	4839.10
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	15058.58	15021.51	26199.55	26944.79	11896.22
9.	Jharkhand	2500.95	3166.21	7396.61	9526.00	4750.50
10.	Karnataka	18350.44	19894.13	22369.11	34605.40	8733.50
11.	Kerala	7014.04	6324.82	7484.13	7441.00	3808.10
12.	Madhya Pradesh	11365.17	12027.38	17757.49	25245.00	8431.47
13.	Maharashtra	23002.46	29367.45	40121.43	44603.00	16553.08
14.	Orissa	8552.66	10437.58	16524.58	19082.00	4611.16
15.	Punjab	2672.50	3532.63	4775.11	6227.00	1891.97
16.	Rajasthan	29818.39	37078.97	42225.18	66036.68	14269.61
17.	Tamil Nadu	13591.98	16158.57	14695.13	14892.00	6182.15
18.	Uttaranchal	2763.29	4070.57	7806.30	7893.00	4554.46
19.	Uttar Pradesh	13510.15	16992.37	31861.55	37117.00	14668.86

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	West Bengal	10945.71	10304.76	17424.50	30363.00	7046.00
21.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	10.72	2037.00	1747.51	65.73	0.00
22.	Chandigarh	0.14	0.00	0.00	5.46	0.00
23.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	34.57	52.06	0.00	22.92	0.00
24.	Daman and Diu	0.14	0.00	0.00	13.53	0.00
25.	Delhi	0.81	0.00	0.00	13.00	0.00
26.	Lakshadweep	0.81	0.00	0.00	3.64	0.00
27.	Pondicherry	11.69	100.00	0.00	104.72	0.00
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	4592.27	7078.97	10674.54	10509.00	3540.75
29.	Assam	10632.91	14075.88	16440.43	22027.00	11890.89
30.	Manipur	1702.36	2103.00	3041.92	3588.00	1689.50
31.	Meghalaya	2214.45	3085.58	3520.19	4142.00	1946.50
32.	Mizoram	1474.65	2076.96	2923.47	2962.00	1395.50
33.	Nagaland	1981.26	2084.83	3082.25	3054.00	1432.50
34.	Sikkim	791.13	902.59	1366.38	1256.00	587.50
35.	Tripura	2863.64	2443.31	3530.19	4121.00	1726.50
Total		248390.77	291199.62	384266.70	481666.00	169682.60

Sonia Vihar Water Plant

3627. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether supply of drinking water from Sonia Vihar plant has been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the localities benefited by the said plant;

(c) whether the quantity of drinking water supply has increased by the operation of the said plant;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which allocation of drinking water in Delhi will be streamlined?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has informed that supply of drinking water from Sonai Vihar Plant has commenced with 67.5 million gallons per day (mgd) of water having been released against the total design treatment capacity

of 140 mgd. The following localities under North-East, East and South Delhi Districts would benefit from this water supply:—

- (i) East Delhi areas connected to the distribution network.
- (ii) Parts of NDMC/Central District area.
- (iii) In South Delhi the areas/colonies of Okhla, Maharani Bagh, Friends Colony, Taimoor Nagar, Ashram, Jangpura, Bhogal, Siddharth Extension, Siddharth Enclave, Kilkoari Village and adjoining areas, Srinivasपुरi, Sarita Vihar, Greater Kailash-I/II, Alaknanda group of colonies, East of Kailash, Garhi, Kailash Hills, Defence Colony, CGO Complex, Pragati Vihar Hostel, NDSE-I/II, Kotla Mubarakpur, Lajpat Nagar, Nehru Nagar, Sunlight Colony, Kalkaji, C.R. Park, Govindपुरi, giri Nagar, Masjid Moth, Chirag Delhi, Savitri Nagar, Sheikh Sarai, Dakshin Puri, Madangir, Lado Sarai, Sadiq Nagar, Mehrauli, Saket, Malviya Nagar, Shivalik, Geetanjali, Navjeevan Vihar, Sarvodaya Enclave, Adchini, Vijay Mandal Enclave, Panchsheel Park, Panchsheel Encl., Soami Nagar, MMTC and STC Colony, Gulmohar Park, Udai Park, Neeti Bagh, Anand Lok, Andrews Ganj, May Fair Garden, Asiad Village, Shahpur Jat Village, Munirka, Munirka Vihar, Green Park, Safdarjang Development Area, Neb Sarai, Ber Sarai, Katwaria Sarai, Mehrauli, Vasant Kunj, Kishangarh and Masoodpur Village.

(c) and (d) It has been indicated by DJB that quantity of water has increased in Trans-Yamuna area, South and Central Delhi as per details below:—

Area	Net Increase in mgd
Trans-Yamuna Area	25.60
South and Central	36.65
South West	2.75
NDMC area	2.50

(e) The DJB has stated that with a gradual loading, depending on the acceptability of the network, the commissioning of the Sonia Vihar Plant to full capacity is scheduled for June, 2007.

Indian Science Foundation

3628. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an Indian Science Foundation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the aim and objectives of said foundation; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) A recommendation has been made by the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM) for setting up an autonomous National Science and Engineering Research Foundation on the lines of the National Science Foundation of USA. The proposal is being discussed in the Government at various levels.

[Translation]

Banks in Flood Affected Areas

3629. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has restricted the recovery of loans by the banks for one year in the flood affected States as reported in *Dainik Jagran*, dated the August 13, 2006;

(b) if so, facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the business of the banks is being hampered in such areas;

(d) if so, whether the alternative arrangements have been made for it;

(e) the number of banks closed down their operations in flood affected areas so far, State-wise; and

(f) the losses suffered by banks as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) In the wake of heavy floods affecting the states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently vide its circular No. RPCD.CO. PLFS.No.BC 16/05-04-02/2006-07 dated August 9, 2006 issued guidelines on relief measures to be extended by banks in areas affected by natural calamities.

The measures contained in the circular aimed at ensuring that banks' customers are able to access their accounts and avail banking services with minimal difficulties. Banks have been advised to put in place necessary arrangements and contingency plans, particularly with respect to business continuity, ATM access, currency management, clearing facilities opening of new account in a hassle free manner, issuance of fresh loans, restructuring of existing loans, moratorium of at least one year in all cases of restricting etc.

(e) and (f) As per reports of convener banks of State Level Banker's Committee of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat, the business of some branches of the banks was affected. However, it is early to assess the losses suffered by the banks. State-wise details of branches affected are as under:—

State	No. of branches affected
1. Andhra Pradesh	8
2. Maharashtra	7
3. Gujarat	127

[English]

Displacement of Shopkeepers

3630. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shopkeepers at Santa Cruz have been displaced because of the crucial Mumbai Urban Transport Project;

(b) if so, whether the displaced shopkeepers have been/are being provided alternate site for their rehabilitation;

(c) whether the World Bank has suspended the fresh disbursement of \$229 million for the MUTP in March 2006;

(d) if so, the reasons for suspending the disbursement;

(e) whether the World Bank is set to resume lending for the crucial Mumbai Urban Transport Project; and

(f) if so, the time by which the Project is likely to be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has reported that as per the Base Line Socio-Economic Survey 540 commercial encroachments are affected by the Santacruz-Chembur Link road project, out of which 185 have been rehabilitated. The shopkeepers have been/are being provided shops as per rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy and the approved Resettlement Implementation Plan.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The World Bank had reservations regarding the implementation of Resettlement and Rehabilitation activities.

(e) Yes, Sir. The World Bank has lifted the suspension w.e.f. 30th June, 2006.

(f) The project is expected to be completed by June, 2008.

Revision of Pay Scales of Central Bank

3631. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bank employees are demanding for revision of their pay scales which have not been revised over the last ten years and also demanding for filling up of vacant posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of vacancies in various branches of the Central Bank in the country, statewise;

(d) the reasons for not filling up of the vacancies which otherwise hamper the work and put burden on the existing staff; and

(e) the steps taken by the government in regard to revision of pay scales and filling up vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) There is no demand from the employees of the Central Bank of India for revision of pay scales. Being a member of the Indian Banks' Association, the pay and allowances of its officers and award staff are governed by the Industry level settlement.

(c) to (e) The Central Bank of India has reported that the manpower assessment in various scales/cadres among the branches/offices is a continuous exercise based on the business needs and volume of work. The vacancies are filled up periodically through internal promotions and/or through direct recruitment.

Achievements under SGSY

3632. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) the details of various projects implemented there-under and the amount allocated for the purpose during the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(c) the progress made by each State in this regard so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make awareness among the public on SGSY and to make it a success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The main features of the Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) are

given in statement-I enclosed.

(b) SGSY is a holistic programme covering all aspects of self-employment such as organization of the poor into Self-Help Groups (SHGs), training, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing. The objective of SGSY is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarojgaris) above the poverty line by ensuring appreciable increase in incomes over a period of time. This objective is to be achieved by inter-alia organizing the rural poor into SHGs through a process of social mobilization, their training and capacity building and provision of income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy. The details indicating state-wise central allocation during the last three years and the current year are given in statement-II.

(c) The total number of SHGs formed and total swarozgaris assisted (SHGs+individuals), State-wise, since inception, is indicated statement-III enclosed.

(d) Wide publicity to the Scheme is given through print and electronic media to universalize the SHG movement. NGOs/Voluntary Agencies/Community based organizations are co-opted as facilitators for motivation, formation of the groups, training and capacity building etc.

Statement-I

Salient features of the Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

- The SGSY is a holistic programme covering all aspects of self employment i.e. organisation of the rural poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs), training and capacity building, planning of activity clusters, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing.
- It aims at establishing a large number of micro enterprises in the rural areas and building upon the potential of the rural poor.
- The assisted families (swarozgaris) may be individuals or groups (Self Help Groups). However, the emphasis will be on the group approach.
- In establishing micro enterprises, the emphasis is on the cluster approach. The number of key

- activities selected in a block should not ordinarily exceed 10. However, focus should be on 4-5 key activities which are identified based on the resources, occupational skills of the people and availability of markets.
- SGSY is a credit-cum-subsidy programme, in which credit is the critical component, subsidy being only a minor and enabling element.
 - It envisages greater involvement of banks in planning and preparation of projects, identification of activity cluster, infrastructure planning, capacity building of SHGs, selection of Swarozgaris and post credit monitoring including loan recovery.
 - It promotes multiple credit rather than one time credit injection.

Statement-II

State-wise Central Allocation under SGSY during the last three years and the current financial year

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	States/U.T.	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4238.88	5305.97	5305.97	5885.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	221.53	276.91	276.91	282.45
3.	Assam	5756.15	7195.18	7195.18	7339.07
4.	Bihar	10084.97	12623.79	12623.79	13998.30
5.	Chhattisgarh	2238.84	2802.45	2802.45	3109.61
6.	Goa	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
7.	Gujarat	1595.58	1997.27	1997.27	2216.70
8.	Haryana	938.70	1175.03	1175.03	1304.92
9.	Himachal Pradesh	395.33	494.85	494.85	548.73
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	489.27	612.44	612.44	679.13
11.	Jharkhand	3801.08	4757.98	4757.98	5278.02
12.	Karnataka	3200.94	4006.76	4006.76	445.01
13.	Kerala	1436.25	1797.82	1797.82	1995.54
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4799.65	6007.91	6007.91	6664.05
15.	Maharashtra	6327.49	7920.39	7920.39	8784.83
16.	Manipur	385.88	482.36	482.36	492.01

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Meghalaya	432.33	540.42	540.42	551.23
18.	Mizoram	100.04	125.06	125.06	127.56
19.	Nagaland	296.58	370.70	370.70	378.12
20.	Orissa	4848.38	6068.94	6068.94	6729.73
21.	Punjab	456.20	571.05	571.05	635.23
22.	Rajasthan	2430.60	3042.47	3042.47	3375.71
23.	Sikkim	110.76	138.45	138.45	141.22
24.	Tamil Nadu	3748.10	4691.65	4691.65	5204.41
25.	Tripura	696.73	870.71	870.92	888.34
26.	Uttar Pradesh	14518.73	18173.71	18173.71	20152.62
27.	Uttaranchal	763.00	955.10	955.10	1061.01
28.	West Bengal	5388.01	6744.42	6744.42	7480.75
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	50.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
30.	Daman and Diu	50.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	50.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
32.	Lakshwadeep	50.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
33.	Pondicherry	50.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Total		80000.00	100000.00	100000.00	110000.00

Statement-III

No. of SHGs formed and Total Swarojgaris Assisted under SGSY since inception (01-04-99) to 2006-07 (upto June, 06)

Sl. No.	States/U.T.	No. of SHGs Formed	Total Swarojgaris (Individual+ SHGs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	461181	707784

1	2	3	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	361	12060
3.	Assam	126019	274355
4.	Bihar	97316	877225
5.	Chhattisgarh	50124	162232
6.	Goa	664	3728
7.	Gujarat	89846	173063
8.	Haryana	10729	111818

1	2	3	4
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5476	61403
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7111	63278
11.	Jharkhand	31161	390703
12.	Karnataka	38804	272232
13.	Kerala	56963	176672
14.	Madhya Pradesh	247056	253179
15.	Maharashtra	126288	511356
16.	Manipur	705	2324
17.	Meghalaya	4727	20440
18.	Mizoram	1406	10560
19.	Nagaland	2436	19429
20.	Orissa	153765	459665
21.	Punjab	4158	46696
22.	Rajasthan	26413	241917
23.	Sikkim	1149	11626
24.	Tamil Nadu	246907	439170
25.	Tripura	17933	72570
26.	Uttar Pradesh	331606	1080445
27.	Uttaranchal	19400	67486
28.	West Bengal	153936	230339
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	348	2828
30.	Daman and Diu	0	113
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	16	250
32.	Lakshdweep	4	75
33.	Pondicherry	1230	4706
Total		2315238	6960727

Wind Energy Projects

3633. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether MMTC proposes to set up Wind Energy Projects in some parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project envisages installation of wind power project of 15 MW capacity at an estimated cost of Rs. 70 crores.

(c) The project is expected to be completed by 31st March, 2007.

Non-Disposal of Unclaimed Goods

3634. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non disposal of unclaimed/confiscated import/export goods resulted in blockage of customs revenue;

(b) if so, the extent of loss including notional loss incurred by this;

(c) the causes of non-disposal of these items; and

(d) steps taken by the Union Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Disposal of goods is an on-going process and the unclaimed/confiscated import/export goods are taken up for disposal as and when they become 'ripe for disposal'. As the goods are finally disposed off following the 'due process', the temporary blockage of customs revenue, if any, is unavoidable.

(c) The goods imported/attempted for export in violation of prohibitions under the Customs Act, 1962 are liable to confiscation under the Act *ibid*. The process and procedure of confiscation involves various stages like investigation, issue of a show cause notice and passing of the order of confiscation by the adjudicating authority. This process takes a considerable period of time. Even after the issue of the adjudication order, the importer/exporter as well as the Department have the legal remedy of filing an appeal before different appellate fora and the goods stand finally confiscated to government after appellate stages are over. These stages of appeal may also take considerable time before goods could be taken up for disposal.

(d) Government have issued specific instructions for expeditious disposal of confiscated as well as unclaimed/un-cleared goods. Further, facility of 'E-auction' has also been introduced in a number of Customs Zones for expeditious disposal of such goods.

No Work No Pay

3635. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "No work no pay, court tells striking Government staff" appearing in Hindustan Times dated the August 14, 2006;

(b) if so, whether Delhi High Court as held there would be no wage for the period of workmen went on strike;

(c) whether the Government is going to bring a legislation in this regard; and

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

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

Industrial Growth

3636. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industry Champions have asked the Government to remove bottlenecks that are preventing higher industrial growth and to take initiatives to spur up the manufacturing sector;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held with the industry representatives and demands made by them for higher growth;

(c) whether Industry has asked Government to deregulate energy, mining and food products; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by Government on the suggestions made by the industry representatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) During the post-budget interactive session on 5th July 2006 with the Finance Minister, on measures to increase the industrial growth rate, representatives of ASSOCHAM, CII, FICCI and PHDCCI raised various issues relating to availability and cost of funds for small and medium enterprises, de-blocking of coal mines, raising public investment in infrastructure, deepening and broadening of the debt market and so on.

(c) The Industry Associations, inter-alia, recommended implementation of power sector reforms, de-regulation of mining and a supportive policy, including rationalization of taxes, for the food sector (including packaged/branded food).

(d) Consequent to this meeting, Government has identified various issues for further examination on a time-bound basis.

Schemes for Small Cities

3637. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received requests from various State Governments with regard to converting the loan component under the scheme for the integrated development of the small and medium sized cities into 100 per cent grants during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and

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

[Translation]

Compound Interest on Agricultural Loan

3638. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India have given any verdict that compound interest can not be charged on the agricultural loan;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that the banks are charging compound interest on the agricultural loan despite the said verdict;

(c) whether the Government has taken any action against the banks for charging compound interest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Supreme Court in its judgement delivered on 20 June 1994 held inter-alia, that allowing the banks to charge interest on quarterly or half yearly rests from farmers would tantamount to virtually compelling them to pay compound interest since they would not be able to pay the interest except once in a year i.e. when they receive the income from sale proceeds of their crops and that so far as loans for agricultural purposes are concerned, at best interest may be charged with yearly rests and may be compounded, if the loan/installment becomes overdue.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) advised the banks that they should charge interest on agricultural advances at annual rests instead of quarterly or longer rests, and can compound the interest, if the loan/installment becomes overdue. It was clarified that these instructions would apply to long duration crops only. As regards other agricultural advances in respect of short duration crops and allied activities, banks are required to take into consideration due dates fixed on the basis of cash flows of borrowers and harvesting/marketing season while charging interest and compound the same if the loan/installment becomes overdue.

RBI in March 2006, has further, advised, Indian

Banks' Association (IBA) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to reiterate the instructions issued in the matter to their member banks and Co-operative banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) respectively conveying them to reverse the interest charged, if any, in contravention of the instructions. RBI has advised NABARD and IBA to advise the banks that any lapse in this regard noticed during audit/inspection of the banks, would be viewed seriously and penalty may be imposed for such lapses.

[English]

Government Accommodation to Muster Roll/Hand-Receipt Employees

3639. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether muster roll/hand-receipt employees are not eligible for Government accommodations vide Order No. D.No. 7/2005-Policy-II dated February 1, 2006;

(b) if so, the criteria followed for allotment of Government accommodation;

(c) whether such employees have been allotted Government accommodations by Estate Office in violation of the above Order; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Muster Roll/Hand Receipt employees are not eligible for Government accommodations. Only the employees appointed on regular basis are eligible for allotment of Government accommodation.

(c) and (d) No Government accommodation has been allotted to such Muster Roll/Hand Receipt employees by the Office of Directorate of Estates in violation of the order mentioned in part (a) of the Question.

[Translation]

Ratnagiri Gas and Power Ltd.

3640. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether two blocks of Ratnagiri Gas and Power Limited needs further repair;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cost of repair of these blocks have been worked out;

(d) if so, the estimated cost thereof; and

(e) the total investment made so far in the said project for restarting power generation in the said project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Out of three power blocks at Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited (RGPPL) project, only Power Block-II (740 MW) has been commissioned so far. The other two, Power Block-I (670 MW) and Power Block-III (740 MW) are yet to be revived and commissioned.

(c) and (d) As per the preliminary estimates submitted by M/s. Tractabel, technical consultants to the Indian lenders, the revival cost of these two Power Blocks i.e. Power Blocks I and III had been estimated at Rs. 146 Crore in August 2003. However, this estimation was made on limited access to the plant as the assets were then under the custody of the Court receiver. The final cost shall be known only after the contract for revival work for these two power blocks is awarded.

(e) RGPPL have informed that Rs. 8485 Crores have been paid towards consideration for transfer of assets to RGPPL from the erstwhile owners, as per the directions of Hon'ble Mumbai High Court. Further, expenditure of about Rs. 230 Crores have been incurred upto July, 2006 towards revival of project.

[English]

Pending Tax Cases

3641. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of tax cases pending in various High Courts during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has initiated any steps to speed up the disposal of tax cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) The matter of expeditious disposal of tax cases by the High Courts is one which is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary.

Loans at Concessional Rates

3642. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial institutions hesitate to lend enough money at concessional rates for setting up of projects in backward areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Financial Institutions have reported that they extend assistance to viable projects at competitive rates irrespective of the location of the project.

Service Tax in the North-East

3643. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of service tax fixed for 2005-06 and 2006-07 for each State in the North-East;

(b) the actual collection till date from such States;

(c) the steps taken to ensure that all service providers are covered under the service tax net in such States; and

(d) the share of service tax so collected provided to such States during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Target for collection of Service Tax is not fixed State-wise;

(b) Amount of Service Tax collection is not maintained state-wise;

(c) Number of measures have been taken to improve Service Tax compliance including media-publicity, operating help centres etc.

(d) Devolution of Service Tax collection to states in the North-East, during 2005-06, is given below:

(Rs. in crore)	
Name of State	Amount of Service tax devolved in 2005-06
Arunachal Pradesh	20.08
Assam	225.37
Manipur	25.24
Meghalaya	25.86
Mizoram	16.64
Nagaland	18.29
Tripura	29.78

[Translation]

Study for Tsunami

3644. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study with a view to protect the life and property of the people living in the coastal areas in the event of arising of situation similar to that arose after tsunami hit Indian Ocean on 26th December, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds provided to the Indian scientists for conducting survey for the purpose;

(d) whether these scientists have taken help of other scientists/experts across the globe; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) A study "Preliminary Assessment of

Impact of tsunami in selected coastal areas of India" was conducted immediately after the tsunami of 26th December 2004 to assess the damage and identify vulnerable locations in specific areas. To protect the life and property of the people living in the coastal areas by issuing early warning, the Government is setting up an Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in Indian Ocean at the total cost of Rs. 125 crores which includes bathymetric and coastal geomorphological surveys and other related science such as in the field of Earthquake, Modelling etc.

A centre would be set up at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh on a 24x7 basis. The system is scheduled to be operational by September, 2007. The Tsunami Warning System is for the whole country. This is an indigenous system. An interim early warning mechanism is presently operational at INCOIS, Hyderabad on 24x7 basis.

A National Core Group on Cyclone was constituted in the Ministry of Home Affairs. As one of the measures suggested by the Core Group a National Cyclone Risk Mitigation project has been drawn for implementation in 13 coastal states/Union Territories, with the World Bank assistance.

[English]

Micro Hydel Project

3645. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government encourages promotion of Micro Hydel Project in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such proposals submitted by Maharashtra for clearance;

(c) the present status thereof alongwith the total funds allocated for the purpose during the last two years; and

(d) the time by which these projects become functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-

conventional Energy Sources is providing Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for the preparation of detailed project reports and setting up of Small Hydro Power (SHP) projects in the country.

(b) The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources received three proposals for providing CFA for SHP projects from the Irrigation Department, Government of Maharashtra.

(c) CFA for the three projects amounting to Rs. 12.25 crore has been sanctioned, of which a sum of Rs. 3.25 crore has been released.

(d) 2 projects, namely Dolwahal (2 MW station capacity) and Wan (1.5 MW station capacity) are expected to be commissioned by December 2006. Work order for the third project, namely Konal (10 MW) is under finalization by the Irrigation Department, Government of Maharashtra.

Expenditure by DDA

3646. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in the land developmental activities including construction of master plan roads, development of green belts, levelling and dressing of land, construction of water supply facilities etc. during the period 2000-01 to 2004-05 in anticipation of administrative approval;

(b) the time by which the administrative approval of the expenditure received together with the dates of undertaking the works in anticipation;

(c) the action taken against the authorities for incurring expenditure in anticipation of administrative approval;

(d) the steps taken to ensure that no expenditure is incurred without first getting the administrative approval; and

(e) the details of the works that are in progress in which administrative approval of expenditure has not been received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has given the details of works carried out from 2000-01 to 2004-05 in anticipation of Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction, as given in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) It has been indicated by DDA that whenever development works are required to be undertaken urgently and there is paucity of time for Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction, 'in anticipation' approval is accorded by the competent authority and subsequently the same is regularised by according Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction by the Expenditure Approval Committee (EAC). As such, no action is contemplated by DDA against the authorities for incurring expenditure in anticipation of administrative approval.

(e) The DDA has given the details of the works, as at given in the statement-II, which are in progress and for which Administrative Approval of Expenditure has not been received.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Expenditure incurred in anticipation of A/A and E/S (Rs. in Lacs)		Date of approval of A/A and E/S	Date of under-taking the works in anticipation of A/A and E/S	Status of works
		Elect.	Civil			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	SWZ					
(a)	Development of plots for resettlement of squatters at Hostal	574.00 (Civil + Elec.)		Yet to be accorded	27-6-2000	In progress

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	(b) Development of Sultangarhi Heritage Complex at Sultangarh, Vasant Kunj	4.85	35.00	Yet to be accorded	26-4-2002	In progress
	(c) Development of Bio-diversity Part at North of Vasant Kunj	9.80	122.27	Accorded on 24-1-05	21-10-2003	In progress
2.	NZ					
	(a) Development of B-4 Narela	Nil	13.89	Accorded on 28-7-06	7-11-2004	In progress
	(b) Development of Yamuna Pushta at Vijay Ghat behind Samadhis	7.61	150.00	Accorded in 2006	2003	Completed
3.	EZ					
	Development of 60 Ha. of land at Bakkarwala	150.87	580.00	Yet to be accorded	August, 2001	In progress
4.	Rohini					
	(a) C/o Master Plan Roads in Rohini, Ph. IV	Nil	97.00	Accorded on 4-1-02	11-7-2000	Civil Works completed. Elect. works in progress.
	(b) D/o land for resettlement of squatters in Sec-26 and 27, Rohini Pg-IV.	50.83	114.00	Yet to be accorded	22-7-2002	Work Completed
5.	Dwarka					
	Development of Master Plan Road 45M to 60M wide road at Dwarka Ph. I and II	Nil	1935.00	Accorded on 5-11-01	31-7-2000	Completed
6.	SEZ					
	(a) D/o land for Aastha Kunj in District Green at Kalkaji	24.76	267.04	Accorded on 22-5-06	25-1-02 and 4-11-03	In progress
	(b) D/o Madanpur Khadar, Phase-I	569.54	1116.05	Accorded on 28-7-06	30-3-01	Completed
	(c) D/o Madanpur Khadar, Phase-II	45.79	776.16	Accorded on 8-11-02	30-3-01	Completed
	(d) D/o Tughlakabad Recreational Complex	Nil	140.45	Approved by EAC on 28-7-06	4-10-99 and 24-8-01	In progress

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(e)	Upgradation of District Centre at Bhikaji Cama Place	53.95	713.00	Accorded on 25-10-04	30-4-02	Completed
(f)	Link Road 60M R/W from NH-8 to Dwarka through Southern boundary of I.G.I. Airport Authority	270.74	1480.00	Accorded on 25-10-04	27-6-02	Completed
(g)	D/o Bus Terminal at Lado Sarai	3.00	159.49	Accorded on 2-7-04	25-11-02	Completed
(h)	Upgradation of Industrial sheds in Okhla Phase-I and II		222.32	Yet to be accorded	5-6-03	Completed
(i)	Link road along barapullah nallah connecting Mathura Road to Nizamuddin Railway Station	6.57	194.76	Yet to be accorded	3-3-03	Completed
(j)	Upgradation of Community Centre at Zamrudpur	31.23	265.20	Yet to be accorded	24-6-02	Completed

Statement-II

List of Works in Progress and taken up in Anticipation of A/A and E/S during the Period 2000-01 to 2004-05

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Expenditure incurred in anticipation of A/A and E/S (Rs. in Lacs)		Date of approval of A/A and E/S	Date of under-taking the works in anticipation of A/A and E/S	Status of works
		Elect.	Civil			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	SWZ					
(a)	Development of plots for resettlement squatters at Hastal	574.00 (Civil + Elec.)		Yet to be accorded	27-6-2000	In progress
(b)	Development of Sultangarhi Heritage Complex at Sultangarh, Vasant Kunj	4.85	35.00	Yet to be Accorded	26-4-2002	In progress
(c)	Development of Bio-diversity Part at North of Vasant Kunj	9.80	122.27	Accorded on 24-1-05	21.10.2003	In progress

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. NZ						
(a) Development of B-4 Narela	Nil	13.89	Yet to be accorded	7-11-2004	In progress	
3. EZ						
Development of 60 Ha. of land at Bakkarwala	150.87	580.00	Yest to be accorded	August, 2001	In progress	
4. SEZ						
(a) D/o land for Aastha Kunj in District Green at Kalkaji	24.76	267.04	Accorded on 22-5-06	25-1-02 and 4-11-03	In progress	
(b) D/o Tughlakabad Recreational Complex	Nil	140.45	Approved by EAC on 28-7-06	4-10-99 and 24-8-01	In progress	

Housing Projects

3647. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received Housing Projects from various State Governments especially Gujarat Government;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;
and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Various State Governments, including Gujarat, have submitted project proposals under the Sub-Mission Basic Services to the Urban Poor and under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme.

(b) to (d) State-wise position of projects received is given in statement-I and II. The project proposals which are complete in all respects, are sanctioned and funds released without any delay.

Statement-I**The State-wise Position of DPRs of BSUP**

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Name of States/ UTs	DPRs Received		DPRs returned	Projects under Appraisal	Sanctioned		Funds Released (25% of GOI share)
	No.	Total Cost			No.	Amount	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh	8	764.12	—	3	5	728.22	77.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chhattisgarh	1	20.00	1	—	—		
Gujarat	6	189.57	4	2	—	—	
Haryana	3	91.90	3	—			
Karnataka	7	142.79	7	—	—		
Madhya Pradesh	11	102.75	6	1	4	74.97	9.34
Maharashtra	2	579.00	2	—	—		—
Uttar Pradesh	1	26.13	1	—	—		—
West Bengal	1	30.69	—	1	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	805.08	1	—	—		
Total	41	2752.03	25	7	9	803.19	87.33

Statement-II**The State-wise Posisiton of DPRs of IHSDP**

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Name of States/ UTs	DPRs Received		DPRs returned	Projects under Appraisal	Sanctioned		Funds Released (25% of GOI share)
	No.	Total Cost			No.	Amount	
Andhra Pradesh	4	91.39	1	3			
Chhattisgarh	17	149.21	15	2			
Haryana	52	367.26	50	2			
Karnataka	22	341.08	22	—			
Maharashtra	1	6.98	—	1			
Madhya Pradesh	17	30.37	14	3			
Rajasthan	29	61.49	26	—	3	9.47	
Uttar Pradesh	51	41.42	51		—		
West bengal	14	287.76	14	—	—		
Total	207	1376.96	193	11	3	9.47	

R & D for Household Industries

3648. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan for Research and Development under Science and Technology Programmes for Household industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) There is no exclusive plan for research and development for household industries. It is, however, pertinent to mention that R and D projects for providing solution to household industries are also considered by the Government.

World Bank Assistance

3649. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments forwarded their drinking water supply projects for Assistance/Loan from World Bank;

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

(c) the present position of each projects, State-wise;

(d) the action taken by the Government on each project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Rural Drinking Water Supply proposals had been received from the States of Uttaranchal, Punjab and Tamil Nadu which were posed to the World Bank. While the project for Uttaranchal has been finalized for World Bank assistance of US\$ 120 million, that of Punjab and Tamil Nadu is at appraisal stage. World Bank-assisted projects of rural water supply are on-going in Maharashtra and

Karnataka and in these cases, request for scaling up of World Bank assistance is being considered.

In addition, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have recently sent fresh proposals. These will follow the usual cycle of project preparation, appraisal and finalisation.

As far as drinking water supply in the urban sector is concerned, the project for Andhra Pradesh has been finalized with the World bank. The project for Gujarat is under preparation and a fresh request has been received from the Government of Maharashtra.

Implicit Pension Debt (IPD)

3650. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Implicit Debt (IPD) with respect to the Central Government Employees and pensioners as on April 1, 2004, 2005 and that on April 1, 2006; and

(b) the steps taken to mitigate this burden and to manage the Pension Funds more prudently and diligently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Under a technical assistance agreement with the Asia Development Bank, a national sample survey was conducted in 2004 to study the income, expenditure and savings behaviour of the Indian labour force. The database generated by this survey is in the public domain and can be accessed at www.finmin.nic.in.

It is understood that consultants of Invest India Economic Foundation (IIEF) and the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) analysed this data in July 2005 and estimated that the Implicit Pension Debt (IPD) or the current pension liabilities on account of Central and State Government employees is Rs. 17,35,527 crores approximately which is about 55.58% of India's GDP.

The said paper is available on the website of IIEF at www.iief.com.

(b) Government has implemented a new restructured defined contribution pension scheme, namely, the New Pension System (NPS) for all Central Government employees (excluding Armed Forces, in the first stage)

joining from January 1, 2004. The NPS is based on defined contributions, which is 10 per cent of the salary and DA with matching contributions from the Government in respect of Central Government employees. The NPS is a funded pension system which defines the liability of Government upfront in case of Government employees.

[Translation]

Market Share of Public Sector Insurance Companies

3651. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ratio of market share held by the public sector insurance companies in the field of life insurance is declining as compared to private sector insurance companies; and

(b) if not, the ratio of market share held by public sector and the private insurance companies during the first quarter of the current financial year and financial year 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As reported by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) the ratio of market share held by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) (public sector) has declined since the opening of the Insurance Sector to private insurers. However, LIC has maintained a healthy growth trend during this period as the size of its operations has grown by 19.05% in 2004-05 and 24.17% in 2005-06*. The market share of LIC and the private insurers in terms of first year premium during the last three years was as under:—

(in percentage)

Insurer	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*
Private	12.33	21.22	25.86
LIC	87.67	78.78	71.44

*Provisional Data

[English]

Utilisation of Funds by DRDAs

3652. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount released by the Government to District Rural Development Agencies is not being utilised properly on development works and most of the villages remains unattended in the States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of agencies working in this field and getting funds from the Government;

(d) whether the Government proposes to link these agencies through computer network for the proper monitoring of the development works;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the manner in which the Government monitors such developmental works?

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) According to the financial and physical progress reports received from the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) and State Governments, the utilisation of funds was found to be satisfactory during 2005-06.

(c) The schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development are implemented through the State Governments, District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/Zilla Parishads (ZPs) and various departments of the State government.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Rural Development has provided computer network facilities at State Headquarters and District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/Zilla Parishads (ZPs) levels for effective monitoring of the schemes/development works on regular basis. The National Informatics Centres provides technical support for developing necessary software as per the output requirements of the rural development programmes.

(f) The Ministry has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring, review and impact assessment of

the programmes including utilization of funds through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance of Review Committee, Area Officer's Scheme, Vigilance and Monitoring Committee at the State/District Level with greater involvement of Members of Parliament, National Level Monitors and District Level Monitoring to monitor quality of work, adherence to implementation of schemes as per programme guidelines. Besides, the State have been advised to adopt a five-pronged strategy consisting of (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) transparency, (iii) people's participation, (iv) accountability-social audit through Gram Sabha and (v) strict monitoring and vigilance.

Losses to PSUs of Power Sector

3653. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of the public sector undertakings under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the name of public sector undertakings in the power sector which has earned profit during the last three years;

(c) the details of the loss making PSUs in the power sector; and

(d) the steps taken to improve their performance?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following Public Sector Undertakings functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power have earned profit during the last three years:—

- (i) NTPC Limited
- (ii) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
- (iii) Power Finance Corporation Limited
- (iv) Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
- (v) National Hydro-electric Power Corporation Limited
- (vi) North-Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited

Satuj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN Limited) had earned profit during 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Since only one unit of 250 MW of Tehri Hydro Development Corporation has been commissioned recently on 30-7-2006, and commercial generation is yet to start, therefore the question of profit or loss does not arise.

(c) Satuj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited incurred a loss of Rs. 93.09 crores during 2003-04 only, because commercial generation was only for a partial year whereas the booking of depreciation in the financial accounts was for full year.

(d) Does not arise.

Reservation Policy in RRBs

3654. SHRI ADHALAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI RAVIPRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Rural Banks has not implemented the reservation policy in promotion for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in spite of several instructions issued by the Government and NABARD;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the officials who denied the implementation of the Government policy regarding the promotion of SC/ST on the basis of seniority subject to fitness; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the backlogs in Regional Rural Banks on the basis of non-selection method without further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are to adhere to the Rules strictly while effecting promotion. However, as per Government of India's instructions, promotion within the officers' cadre (Group A), is to be considered on selection method and there shall be no reservation in promotion within officers cadre. Reservation in promotion in other cadre are as per proviso of Rule 12

of RRB (Appointment and promotion of officers and employees) Rules, 1998.

(c) NABARD has reported that since there were no complaints against the Chairman of any RRB, the question of taking action against the officials did not arise.

(d) Instructions on special recruitment drive to clear the backlog in RRBs were issued by NABARD. All RRBs have been directed to fill up the backlog in accordance with the existing instructions of NABARD.

[Translation]

**Irregularities in General
Insurance Companies**

3655. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of irregularities committed by the general insurance companies towards customers;

(b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating the determine the functioning of the insurance companies afresh;

(c) if so, whether the draft paper has been prepared in this regards;

(d) whether the insurance companies are misleading the customers; and

(e) if so, the details of such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that general insurance companies offer various non-life insurance covers such as fire insurance, marine insurance, motor insurance, health insurance etc. It is possible that some policy holders may have complaints regarding servicing of their policy by companies. One cannot generalize that general insurance companies are committing irregularities towards customers. Every complaint made by a customer is looked into and addressed on its merits. A 'grievances cell' at IRDA looks into specific complaints received from policy holders. These

complaints are taken up with insurance companies for examination/re-examination. Besides this, there exists an independent mechanism of 'Ombudsman' 'Consumer Redressal Fora' and 'judicial courts' to redress the grievances at the district, state and national level. However, the Government has taken effective steps to monitor the functioning of the companies on the basis of a set of qualitative and quantitative parameters which inter-alia include settlement of claims, completion of targets and emphasis on customer relations management (CRM).

[English]

Domestic Savings

3656. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the domestic savings in the country during the last three years; year wise and State wise;

(b) the steps the Government is taking or propose to take to increase the domestic savings from the current level of 24% to 26%.

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to prepare a comprehensive policy with regard to domestic savings; and

(d) if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per the latest available information released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO, Gross Domestic Saving (GDS) in the country for 2002-03 to 2004-05 is given in the following table:

Year	(Rs. Crore)	As percent of GDP (at current market prices)
2002-03	648,994	26.5
2003-04	797,512	28.9
2004-05	907,416	29.1

The CSO has also informed that they do not prepare State-wise estimates.

(b) The Gross Domestic Savings as a proportion of GDP has already crossed 29 per cent. It is expected that this healthy trend in savings is likely to continue due to the better growth performance of the economy coupled with favourable demographic dynamics.

(c) and (d) There is no specific proposal at present to come out with a separate policy with regard to domestic savings. Nevertheless, changes in the rate of savings in the economy is subject to constant review by the Government.

[Translation]

Issue of Bonds by NTPC

3657. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC has raised a large amount through global bonds offerings in the international market;

(b) if so, the response in the international market;

(c) whether this is the 1st 10 year-benchmark bond offered by an Indian firm since the Asian financial crisis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Till date NTPC has raised US Dollar 500 million through two Eurobond issues placed in the international market. The first Eurobond issue was made in March 2004 for US Dollar 200 million followed by second Eurobond issue of US Dollar 300 million in March 2006.

The first issue of Eurobonds had 79 investors and was oversubscribed by around 2 times. The second issue attracted 87 investors and was oversubscribed by over 5 times. Both the Eurobond issues were subscribed by diversified investors including Banks, Insurance companies, Hedge Funds, Investment Managers etc. from various European and Asian countries and also by US offshore accounts.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Eurobond issue placed in March 2006 was first 10 years benchmark bond offered by an Indian Corporate since Asian financial crisis.

The Eurobonds (Fixed Rate Notes) issued in March 2006 have a maturity of 10 years and are due for redemption in March 2016. The bonds have a fixed coupon of 5.875% p.a. payable semi-annually and are listed at Singapore Stock Exchange.

[English]

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

3658. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission had unilaterally decided to transfer Integrated Rural Energy Programme, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, to the States without consulting the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some States have represented to the Planning Commission to continue the scheme with the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry proposes to pursue the matter with the Planning Commission to continue the Scheme in the same form with the Ministry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Planning Commission had decided to transfer the Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) to the States without consulting the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

(c) to (e) Some States, including Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh had represented to the Planning Commission for continuation of the scheme with the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. Based on the representations of the States and the review of the scheme by the Prime Minister's Office, the Planning Commission have agreed to continue IREP in the same form with the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Duty Free Import of Raw Materials

3659. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector steel industries are importing duty free raw materials for meeting export requirements for steel pipes;

(b) if so, the whether most of the private sector steel firms after getting duty exemptions could not meet the export requirements;

(c) if so, the number of companies who are liable to pay customs duty to the Government due to not meeting export requirements of the steel pipes;

(d) the total amount outstanding against them; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by Government to recover the amount?

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

[Translation]

T & D Losses

3660. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

PROF. MAHADEO RAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transmission and distribution losses in the country is much more than estimated earlier;

(b) if so, the exact T & D losses during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the T and D losses in neighbouring countries at present and how it compare with our country; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to reduce the T and D losses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As reported by Central Electricity

Authority (CEA), the details of Transmission and Distribution (T and D) losses of various States during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) T & D losses of some of neighboring countries are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the countries	T and D loss (%)
1.	China	7
2.	Myanmar	20
3.	Bangladesh	18
4.	Sri Lanka	18
5.	Nepal	21
6.	Pakistan	26

(d) Government has already started taking measures to reduce the T and D losses. These are:—

(a) Technical Measures

- Installation of Efficient meters
- Upgradation and strengthening of the weak distribution system
- Increase in HT:LT Ratio
- Relocation of distribution sub-stations and/or provision of additional distribution sub-sations
- Installation of lower capacity distribution transformers to serve a smaller number/cluster of consumers and substitution of distribution transformers with those having lower no-load losses
- Installation of shunt capacitors
- Adoption of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS)
- Regular maintenance of distribution network
- GIS mapping of sub transmission and

distribution network including compilation of data

- IT Intervention

(b) Commercial Measures

- Improvement in metering and billing
- Improvement in revenue collection
- Energy accounting and auditing

(c) Management Measures

- Adoption of energy accounting and auditing
- Proper network planning for future expansion
- Preparation of long-term plans on regular basis

for phased strengthening and improvement of the distribution systems along with associated transmission system

- Training of employees.

(d) Policy Measures

- Setting up of vigilance and legal measures in accordance with Electricity Act 2003, setting up of special courts, police stations, etc.
- Implementation of the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for upgradation and strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution system and providing incentive for reducing csh losses by SEBs/Utilities.

Statement

*Percentage Transformation, Transmission and Distribution Losses
(Including energy unaccounted for) in States/UTs*

(Source: DMLF Division, Central Electricity Authority)

State/UT	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05*
1	2	3	4
Haryana	37.65	32.07	32.00
Himachal Pradesh	21.16	22.76	15.35
Jammu and Kashmir	45.55	45.54	40.36
Punjab	24.42	25.96	25.12
Rajasthan	42.61	43.74	44.77
Uttar Pradesh	34.16	35.17	34.93
Uttaranchal	25.17	49.23	37.21
Chandigarh	24.06	39.06	30.37
Delhi	45.82	43.66	45.14
Gujarat	28.52	24.20	30.29
Madhya Pradesh	43.31	41.44	41.27
Chhattisgarh	37.86	42.55	26.68

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	34.01	34.12	32.39
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	40.26	15.10	16.00
Goa	40.26	45.05	35.15
Daman and Diu	14.95	16.88	15.56
Andhra Pradesh	30.11	27.73	23.76
Karnataka	24.57	23.29	22.12
Kerala	27.45	21.63	22.16
Tamil Nadu	17.31	17.16	19.18
Lakshadweep	11.29	11.85	10.20
Pondicherry	21.10	11.60	18.15
Bihar	37.98	36.66	35.87
Jharkhand	21.19	25.35	21.02
Orissa	45.36	57.09	33.24
Sikkim	54.85	54.99	43.75
West Bengal	25.93	31.01	24.70
Andaman and Nicobar Island	19.78	25.95	12.63
Assam	38.30	39.21	51.07
Manipur	63.66	65.18	70.61
Meghalaya	21.92	16.73	26.23
Nagaland	56.71	55.00	48.26
Tripura	40.64	46.44	49.53
Arunachal Pradesh	38.95	47.54	30.86
Mizoram	46.91	55.54	63.67
All India	32.54	32.53	31.05

*Losses are provisional.

**Co-Operation of Japanese Companies in
Power Sector**

3661. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of
POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has offered invitation
to the Japanese companies for making investment in the
power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the power sectors where the investment is proposed to be made by the these Japanese companies;

(d) whether the Government has entered into any agreement with the Japanese companies for investment in the power sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is permitted in generation, transmission, distribution and trading of Electricity. The National Electricity Policy states that a sizeable part of investments will also need to be brought in from private sector considering the magnitude of the expansion of the power sector required.

Several Road-Show meetings have been held by the Ministry of Power to invite the participation of foreign Investors in India's Power Sector. A meeting with representative of Japanese Industries was organized at Tokyo by Japan-India Business Corporation Committee (JIBCC) in June, 2006.

Mitsui and Co., Tokyo and Sumitomo Corporation have expressed interest in Ultra Mega Power Projects.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Doesn't arise.

NTPC Power Plants

3662. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of NTPC power functioning in the country as on date;

(b) the details of breakdowns during the last three years till date, year-wise/plant-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent repeated breakdowns in these plants;

(d) whether the NTPC has formulated any scheme to set up such power plants in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) The details of NTPC's power plants operating as on date, state-wise are given in statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) The breakdown of power plant units is measured in terms of forced outages. The details of forced outages for the last three years till date, year-wise and plant-wise is given at statement-II. There are no repetitive breakdowns in these plants. The Plant Load Factor (PLF) on NTPC stations (coal based) for last three years is 87.54% (during 2005-06), 87.51% (during 2004-05) and 84.41% (during 2003-04), which is much higher than All India PLF.

(d) and (e) NTPC has presently 12 projects under construction as per the details of given at statement-III and all these projects are progressing satisfactorily.

Further, NTPC has finalized Feasibility Reports/ Detailed Project Reports for eleven new schemes, proposals for which are under various stages of clearances/ approvals. Details of these schemes are given at statement-IV enclosed.

Statement-I

List of NTPC Power Plants

I. Coal Based Projects

Sl. No.	Project	State	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
1.	Simhadri STPP	Andhra Pradesh	1000
2.	Ramagundam STPS-I and II	Andhra Pradesh	2100

1	2	3	4
	Ramagundam STPS-III	Andhra Pradesh	500
3.	Kahalgaon STPP-I	Bihar	840
4.	Korba STPS-I, II	Chhattisgarh	2100
5.	Badarpur TPS	Delhi	705
6.	Vindhyachal STPS-I	Madhya Pradesh	1260
	Vindhyachal STPS-II	Madhya Pradesh	1000
	Vindhyachal STPS-III	Madhya Pradesh	500
7.	Talcher STPP-I	Orissa	1000
	Talcher STPP-II	Orissa	2000
8.	Talcher TPS	Orissa	480
9.	Singrauli STPS-I and II	Uttar Pradesh	2000
10.	Rihand STPP-I	Uttar Pradesh	420
	Rihand STPP-II	Uttar Pradesh	420
11.	NCTPP-I	Uttar Pradesh	840
12.	Unchahar-I	Uttar Pradesh	420
	Unchahar-II	Uttar Pradesh	420
13.	Tanda TPS	Uttar Pradesh	440
14.	Farakka STPS-I	West Bengal	600
	Farakka STPS-II	West Bengal	1000
Total (Coal Based Capacity)			21185

II. Combined Cycle Gas/Liquid Fuel Based Projects

1.	Auraiya-I	Uttar Pradesh	652
2.	Anta-I	Rajasthan	413
3.	Kawas-I	Gujarat	645
4.	Dadri	Uttar Pradesh	817
5.	Jhanor-Gandhar-I	Gujarat	648

1	2	3	4
6.	RGCCPP Kayamkulam-I	Kerala	350
7.	Faridabad	Haryana	430
Total (Gas/liquid fuel based capacity)			3955

STPS—Super Thermal Power Station

TPS—Thermal Power Station

CCPP—Combined Cycle Power Plant

Statement-II*Details of Forced Outages/Breakdowns (%)*

Station	Forced Outages/Breakdowns (%)			
Coal Stations	2006-07 (April-July)	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
Farakka STPS	2.66	2.52	5.98	5.34
Kahalgau STPS	2.59	1.82	0.99	2.45
Talcher STPS, Kaniha	1.48	2.94	3.35	7.30
Talcher Thermal PS	4.45	2.96	3.17	4.05
NCTPP, Dadri	0.52	0.51	0.62	1.97
Badarpur TPS	1.07	1.70	2.53	0.24
Singrauli STPS	2.65	3.54	1.98	2.39
Rihand STPS	8.80	10.20	1.51	0.78
Unchahar	1.10	1.28	1.47	3.99
Tanda TPS	4.80	3.10	1.43	3.01
Korba STPS	0.24	7.35	1.31	0.91
Vindhyachal STPS	0.92	2.97	1.12	12.18
Ramagundam STPS	5.54	1.33	1.61	2.11
Simhadri STPP	2.59	1.75	1.50	6.07

1	2	3	4	5
Gas/Liquid Fuel Stations				
Anta GPP	0.02	0.00	0.83	0.07
Auraiya GPP	0.21	0.73	8.27	0.08
Dadri GPP	0.02	1.17	0.29	0.44
Faridabad GPP	0.18	1.48	0.23	0.31
Kawas GPP	0.07	0.17	0.20	1.13
Jhanor Gandhar GPP	0.02	0.04	0.40	0.93
RGCCP, Kayamkulam	0.21	0.00	0.24	1.34

STPS—Super Thermal Power Station

TPS—Thermal Power Station

GPP—Gas Power Project

CCPP—Combined Cycle Power Plant

Statement-III*Details of NTPC's Ongoing Schemes*

Sl. No.	Project	Location	Fuel	Capacity (MW)	Capacity addition in	
					X Plan (MW)	XI Plan (MW)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Vindhyachal STPP Stage-III	Madhya Pradesh	Coal	1000	1000*	—
2.	Unchahar TPS Stage-III	Uttar Pradesh	Coal	210	210	—
3.	Kahalgau STPP St-II Phase-I	Bihar	Coal	1000	1000*	—
4.	Kahalgau STPP St-II Phase-I	Bihar	Coal	500	500	—
5.	Sipat STPP Stage-II	Chhattisgarh	Coal	1000	1000*	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Sipat STPP Stage-II	Chhattisgarh	Coal	1980	—	1980
7.	Barh STPP Stage-I	Bihar	Coal	1980		1980
8.	Bhilai Expansion Power Project— Joint Venture with SAIL	Chhattisgarh	Coal	500		500
9.	Korba-III	Chhattisgarh	Coal	500		500
10.	Koldam HEPP	Himachal Pradesh	Hydel	800		800
11.	Loharinag Pala HEPP	Uttaranchal	Hydel	600		600
12.	NCTPP, Dadri-II, Unit-I	Uttar Pradesh	Coal	490		490

© Unit-I (500 MW)s synchronized on 27-07-2006 and commissioned on 9-8-06.

*Best efforts are being put to bring these units in 10th plan.

Statement-IV

New Projects for which FR/DPR have already been prepared and are in various stages of clearances/approvals

Sl. No.	Project	Location	Fuel	Capacity (MW)	Status of clearances/ approvals
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	NCTPP-II, Dadri Unit-II	Uttar Pradesh	Coal	490	— Investment approval received. — State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) clearances to be obtained. — Coal Linkage by Ministry of Coal (MOC) awaited.
2.	Farakka-III	West Bengal	Coal	500	— Investment approval received. — SPCB and MOEF to be obtained.
3.	Tapovan Vishnugad HEPP	Uttaranchal	Hydel	520	All key clearances obtained. Land acquisition and infrastructure development in progress.

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	North Karanpura STPP	Jharkhand	Coal	1980	— Key clearances for power project available. — Forest clearance for Dam/reservoir to be constructed by State Government is awaited.
5.	Nabinagar TPS— Joint Venture with Railways	Bihar	Coal	1000	— All key clearances obtained. — CCEA approval has to be sought by Railways.
6.	Lata Tapovan @ HEPP	Uttaranchal	Hydel	171	SPCB and MOEF clearances to be obtained.
7.	Rammam-III @ HEPP	West Bengal	Hydel	120	TEC from CEA and SPCB and MOEF clearances to be obtained.
8.	Rajiv Gandhi CCPP St-II at Kayamkulam	Kerala	Gas	1950	— Gas/RLNG tie up to be done. — MOEF clearance to be obtained.
9.	Kawas CCPP-II	Gujarat	Gas	1300	All key clearances obtained. Gas supply Agreement to be signed with RIL. Matter is sub-judice
10.	Jhanor Gandhar CCPP-II	Gujarat	Gas	1300	
11.	Ennore TPP-JV with TNEB	Tamil Nadu	Coal	1000	In-principle confirmation of land awaited. SPCB and MOEF clearances to be obtained. Coal linkage/coal mine allotment by Ministry of coal awaited.

⑥ to be implemented by NTPC—Hydro Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Ltd.)

Legal Assistance to Poor

3663. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people benefited from the Legal Aid Scheme since its inception, State-wise;

(b) the income limit prescribed to get assistance from Legal Aid Scheme;

(c) whether there is any move to raise the income

limit for providing legal aid to the poor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as and when received.

(b) Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, persons belonging to weaker sections such as, a member

of scheduled caste or scheduled tribe, a victim of trafficking in human beings or beggar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution, a woman, child, a mentally ill or otherwise disabled person, and industrial workman, etc. are entitled to free legal aid and assistance. As regards other categories of persons, initially every person whose annual income was not exceeding Rs. 9,000 had been eligible for free legal aid in cases coming before High Courts and Courts subordinate thereto. In cases before the Supreme Court, the limit was fixed at Rs. 12,000 earlier and now the income ceiling has been raised by the Central Government to Rs. 50,000. In regard to cases before the High Court and Courts subordinate thereto, a decision has been taken at the fourth Annual Meet of the State Legal Services Authority held under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) on 29-02-2004 and 01-03-2004 at Kolkata to raise the income ceiling in terms of Section 12(h) of the Legal Services Act, 1987 (as amended) to Rs 50,000.

(c) and (d) No such proposal as of now.

License for Power Generation Companies

3664. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many private sector companies have applied for license for power generation in the country during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) if so, the number out of them to which the Government issued license during the above period along with their names, State-wise;

(c) whether these private companies are violating the norms prescribed by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) As per the Electricity Act, 2003, licence for power generation in the country is not required and therefore question do not arise.

[Translation]

Customs Duty on Pulses

3665. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to lift 10% customs duty on Pulses imported through major ports;

(b) if so, the objective behind such a decision; and

(c) the countries from where the Pulses are likely to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Government has fully exempted the 10% customs duty on pulses. This exemption is valid upto 31st March, 2007.

(b) The objective behind customs duty exemption is to keep domestic prices of pulses under check.

(c) There is no restriction in the exemption notification regarding the country from which the pulses can be imported. Thus, it is not possible to state from which country the imports will actually take place.

[English]

Census of Handloom Sector

3666. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Textile Ministry has put forward a proposal for conducting the Census of handloom sector in the country two years ago to have correct statistics of handloom sector in order to implement the policies and programmes relating to handloom sector effectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has taken any action thereon;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Sir, no such proposal has been received in Ministry of Finance.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Privatisation of PSBs

3667. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received suggestion for privatisation of Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the time by which 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 (d) The Government equity in the nationalised banks has been increasingly diluted and offered to public by way of public issues with a view to have more and more public participation in the affairs of the Nationalised Banks. Out of 19 nationalised banks, 15 have already accessed the capital market. Presently, Government's share in equity of 7 nationalised banks is less than 60%. The existence of private shareholders in the PSBs also imposes a responsibility on the Government, as a majority shareholder, to enhance the shareholder value and protect minority shareholders' rights. The Government intends to create an environment conducive for the PSBs to raise additional funds from the market for meeting Basel II requirements and to respond effectively to emerging competitive pressures. However, in terms of Section 3 (2b) (c) of Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980, the Government shall at all times hold not less than 51% of the paid up capital of a nationalized bank. Presently there is no proposal under consideration to reduce Government shareholding in nationalised banks below the statutory requirement.

[Translation]

Fake Currency

3668. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether C.B.I. has asked intelligence agencies to take action in regard to printing of counterfeit currency notes of India by ISI of Pakistan to destabilise the economy of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) CBI has informed that they have no inputs in the matter.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Raids on Liquor Manufacturers

3669. SHRI PONNUSWAMY: -

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Income-tax/Excise had conducted raids in Uttar Pradesh Distilleries Association Offices in Delhi and Lucknow;

(b) if so, whether documents containing names of certain high profile persons alleging receipt of huge payments from the Association were recovered;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) In February, 2006, the Income Tax Department had carried out a search and seizure operation in respect of certain persons engaged in liquor distillery business. As a part of this operation, a survey was carried out at the office premise of Uttar Pradesh Distilleries Association (UPDA) in Delhi.

(b) and (c) The documents seized/impounded during the course of search and seizure operation indicate that certain payments had been made by members of the UPDA. These payments amount to Rs. 246 crore (approximately) from April 2002 till the date of search.

However, the names of persons to whom these payments have been made are in a coded form.

(d) An investigation report on the search and seizure operation has been prepared and sent to the jurisdictional Income-tax authorities for finalization of the assessment proceedings. The report has also been forwarded to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for appropriate action at their end.

Fake Currency

3670. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the widespread circulation of Fake Currency notes in the country has come to the notice of the Union Government;

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

(c) whether the State Governments have been asked to take stringent steps to check the circulation of fake currency notes; and

(d) if so, the details of cases booked during each of the last three years in each State/Union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per the information furnished by the National Crime Records Bureau on recoveries/seizures made by banks and law enforcement agencies, circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) of various denominations have been noticed.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to curb circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes in the country include stepping up of vigilance by the Border Security Force and Custom authorities to prevent smuggling of fake notes; dissemination of information on security features through print and electronic media and formation of Forged Note Vigilance Cells in all the Head Offices of the banks. Further, based on the recommendations of an Expert Committee additional security features have been incorporated in the Indian Bank notes which will make counterfeiting very difficult. In addition, Government of India have nominated the Central Bureau of Investigation as the Nodal agency to monitor investigation of fake currency note cases.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Details of cases booked during the last three years in each State/Union Territory are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

No. of cases booked during last three years

Sl. No.	State/UT	2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	244	163	231
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7	3	4
3.	Assam	67	48	94
4.	Bihar	44	10	28
5.	Chhattisgarh	12	8	56
6.	Goa	3	0	6
7.	Gujarat	247	120	419

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Haryana	29	35	37
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2	6	5
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	24	31	29
11.	Jharkhand	14	12	14
12.	Karnataka	108	48	118
13.	Kerala	59	58	69
14.	Madhya Pradesh	20	26	42
15.	Maharashtra	183	119	225
16.	Manipur	7	4	11
17.	Meghalaya	6	2	3
18.	Mizoram	12	7	5
19.	Nagaland	5	0	6
20.	Orissa	9	5	17
21.	Punjab	38	63	73
22.	Rajasthan	22	72	85
23.	Sikkim	4	1	2
24.	Tamil Nadu	47	49	49
25.	Tripura	10	12	16
26.	Uttar Pradesh	158	119	204
27.	Uttaranchal	7	16	23
28.	West Bengal	57	100	92
	Total (States)	1445	1137	1963
	Union Territories			
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	1	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	2	4	0
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1	0	4

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Daman and Diu	3	0	5
33.	Delhi	11	31	18
34.	Lakshwadeep	0	1	0
35.	Pondicherry	1	2	0
	Total (UTs)	19	38	27
Grand Total		1464	1175	1990

Flexibility in Small Savings Loans

3671. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat represented to the Union Government that flexibility should be available to the State Government not to accept the small saving loans and an option may also be given to State Government to swap the high cost small saving loans taken earlier with the present loan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a committee has been constituted to look into this aspect;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the committee has submitted its report in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some State Governments including Government of Gujarat have expressed reservations in accepting 100 per cent transfer of net Small Savings Collections mobilized by them mainly on the ground of high cost of these funds and have also requested to swap such high coupon loans from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) with current lower coupon borrowings. Government of India has already implemented a State Debt Swap Scheme from 2002-03 to 2004-05 under which

the States were enabled to pre-pay their high coupon loans, including small savings loans, owned to the Government of India with lower coupon loans from NSSF and additional open market borrowings. States swapped high coupon loans amounting to Rs. 1,03,652 crore under the scheme.

(c) to (f) Pursuant to the meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) held in June 2005, a Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Finance Minister to examine issues relating to the debt burden of States and debt relief with reference to their debt outstandings against NSSF. The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

Reservation of Flats

3672. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some time ago Delhi Development Authority use to reserve some flats for Members of Parliament and retired or retiring Government Employees;

(b) if so, whether the scheme has since been discontinued;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to restart the scheme as there is demand for the same; and

(e) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that the quota earlier reserved for Members of Parliament, etc. in the allotment of flats was discontinued in 1979 on the basis of recommendations of the Baweja Committee. However, there was/is no quota for retired/retiring Government employees. DDA provides reservation for members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, war widows, physically handicapped persons and ex-servicemen in the allotment of flats. There is no decision to extend such reservation to any other category.

Capital Investment Proposals

3673. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of capital investment proposals received and value of each such proposals, sector-wise, State-wise during each of the last three years;

(b) whether investment takes place in time uniformly in all States;

(c) if so, the details thereof year-wise, State-wise for the last three years;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore;

(e) whether Naxalite movement in certain States has hampered such investments;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) State-wise numbers of Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEMs) filed during the period August 1991 to March 2006 and the proposed investments, as available, are given in the statement-I enclosed. Sector-wise Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during the last three years is given in the statement-II. State-wise inflows of FDI during the period August 1991 to March 2006, as available is given in the statement-III enclosed.

(e) to (g) Inflows of investments in a Region/State are based on the commercial interest of the investors.

Governments have also progressively liberalized the FDI policy in order to attract additional investments.

Statement-I

State-wise Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (August 1991—March 2006)

Name of the State/ UTs	Numbers Filed	Proposed Investment (Rs. Cr.)
1	2	3
Gujarat	7899	313494
Maharashtra	11968	272714
Andhra Pradesh	4362	164974
Chhattisgarh	1530	142376
Tamil Nadu	5334	127615
Uttar Pradesh	5674	123669
Orissa	960	126517
Karnataka	2536	87105
West Bengal	3676	74331
Jharkhand	698	77255
Madhya Pradesh	2351	71069
Punjab	2574	61138
Haryana	3493	46048
Rajasthan	2884	47700
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1910	28846
Nagaland	13	16244
Himachal Pradesh	715	15748
Uttaranchal	1029	15694
Kerala	556	9122
Assam	423	6925

1	2	3	1	2	3
Pondicherry	644	7540	Chandigarh	39	459
Bihar	193	7263	Andaman and Nicobar	10	362
Goa	571	7724	Arunachal Pradesh	30	316
Jammu and Kashmir	462	7074	Manipur	3	10
Delhi	492	6543	Lakshadweep	1	4
Daman and Diu	900	5817	Mizoram	0	0
Meghalaya	221	2590	Location in more than One State	0	0
Tripura	31	2134			
Sikkim	25	837	Total	64207	1877257

Statement-II**Sector-wise Year-wise Break-up for FDI Inflows during the Last Three Years**

(Amount in million)

Sl. No.	Sector	2004 (Jan.-Dec.)	2005 (Jan.-Dec.)	2006 (Jan.-Dec.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Electricals Equipment (Incl. S/W and Elec.)	39666.61	45938.44	27030.64
2.	Telecommunications	6087.84	9639.13	21374.32
3.	Transportation Industry	8063.68	9659.22	1530.99
4.	Service Sector	11455.83	31445.14	5298.97
5.	Fuels (Power and Oil Refinery)	7159.79	2765.05	2656.75
6.	Chemicals (other than Fertilizers)	8677.14	9044.68	11234.01
7.	Food Processing Industries	3690.18	1782.91	244.79
8.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	15711.08	5107.25	2608.94
9.	Cement and Gypsum Products	7.3	19698.17	0
10.	Metallurgical Industries	8583.79	6321.99	1211.69

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Consultancy Services	11843.5	1627.16	679.15
12.	Miscellaneous Mechanical and Engineering	717.26	2224.73	42.43
13.	Textiles (included Printed)	1784.77	3462.16	884.65
14.	Trading	682.16	1257.67	213.98
15.	Paper and Pulp including Paper Product	175.55	1229.04	0
16.	Hotel and Tourism	1527.23	2799.59	642.74
17.	Glass	384.74	32.72	2.7
18.	Rubber Goods	2012.55	1516.41	13.35
19.	Industrial Machinery	430.76	1474.73	430.43
20.	Commercial Office and Household Equipment	108.16	1556.95	73.92
21.	Agricultural Machinery	0	2777.52	1382.28
22.	Machine Tools	2652.7	1001.11	11.41
23.	Timber Products	0.67	4658.77	0.1
24.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	229.27	72.62	10.69
25.	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	40.95	3829.82	55.05
26.	Ceramics	1208.24	276.42	0
27.	Earth-Moving Machinery	5.22	2313	0
28.	Fertilizers	620	193.13	0
29.	Fermentation Industries	339.37	362.8	0
30.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	20.36	42.79	6.09
31.	Vegetable Oils and Variaspati	271.38	601.66	99.66
32.	Glue and Gelatin	0	0	0
33.	Prime Movers other than Electrical	2.49	0	0
34.	Industrial Instruments	49.45	1.17	15.77
35.	Sugar	135.09	131.04	0
36.	Scientific Instruments	1.37	4.5	0

1	2	3	4	5
37.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	12.75	264.33	0
38.	Dye-Stuffs	54.2	0	0
39.	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	0	23.4	0
40.	Defence Industries	0	2.37	0
41.	Mathematical, Surveying and Drawing	0	0	0
42.	Miscellaneous Industries	13400.28	17567.6	4435.56
43.	Acquisition of Shares	0	0	0
44.	Advance of Inflow	24851.48	0	0
45.	Stock Swapped	0	283.71	0
46.	NI-RBI Schemes	0	0	0
Grand Total		172665.2	192990.9	82191.07

Note: 1. Amount includes the Inflows Received through SIA/FIPB route, acquisition of existing shares and RBI's automatic route only.

Statement-III

State-wise and Financial Year-wise Break-up of FDI Inflow

Sl. No.	State	2002-03 Apr.-March	2003-04 Apr.-March	2004-05 Apr.-March
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	242.65	353.49	747.85
2.	Assam	2.59	19.48	13.39
3.	Bihar	0.00	1.13	0.00
4.	Gujarat	550.71	917.12	610.53
5.	Karnataka	975.24	926.53	1131.34
6.	Kerala	67.45	44.53	33.77
7.	Madhya Pradesh	5.83	34.85	69.25
8.	Maharashtra	2366.40	1355.31	3183.13

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Rajasthan	1.22	1.89	4.58
11.	Tamil Nadu	990.17	603.80	358.47
12.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.03
13.	West Bengal	177.96	84.50	467.37
14.	Chandigarh	843.89	76.71	13.49
15.	Delhi	3062.22	2123.46	3717.53
16.	Goa	139.09	160.59	100.66
17.	Other States not indicated	3445.25	3360.72	4201.34
Grand Total		12870.67	10064.10	14652.73

Norms for Bio-Tech Sector

3674. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the empowered Group of Ministers on biotechnology has cleared a proposal to relax norms for the biotechnology sector in agriculture and health in order to encourage entrepreneurship, innovation and greater participation from small investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the turnover of biotechnology during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) There is no separate empowered Group of Ministers on biotechnology, however an empowered Group of Ministers (eGOM) while considering the provisions of setting up of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and the SEZ Act and Rules considered the proposal for relaxations in biotechnology sector and have relaxed provisions in terms of both the land area and built-up area requirement for biotechnology sector to the tune of 10 hectares and

40,000 square metres. This would encourage entrepreneurship, innovation and greater participation of small investors in the areas of biotechnology in general and health and agriculture in particular.

(c) The Government has taken special measures to promote the Biotechnology industry and to facilitate increase in turnover of biotech sector. Initiatives have been taken to provide an enabling environment for industrial growth such as exemption of biotech sector from compulsory licensing; permitting 100% FDI in the sector; reducing the area of SEZ to bring it at par with IT sector; providing fiscal incentives to in-house R and D recognized industries in terms of exemption of custom duty on capital goods, reduction in import duty and 150% weighted deduction against expenditure incurred on in-house R and D.

Auction of Plot at Narela

3675. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DDA is planning auction Narela Society plots to builders as reported in Hindustan Times dated August 3, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the elected members and engineers of DDA oppose this move;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the final decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that it proposes to develop and dispose of the pocket earmarked for Group Housing in four sectors of Narela Sub-city, as per its approved layout plan, by Public-Private participation, as per guidelines laid down by the Government vide Notification dated 3-6-1999. The DDA vide agenda item placed before the Authority, in its meeting dated 3rd August, 2006, proposed modification of the guidelines, dated 3-6-1999, in view of the renewed thrust on Economically Weaker Section (EWS) tenements, in respect of development of Group Housing plots in Narela. After discussion at the meeting, the Authority has deferred a final decision on this issue.

Review of Pension System

3676. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed any "High Level Expert Group" to review and examine the then existing Pension System;

(b) if so, composition, terms and reference of expert group; and

(c) the time by which the expert group propose to give their recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) A High Level Expert Group was constituted by Government in June, 2001 to review the then existing pension scheme and to provide a roadmap for introducing a new pension system based on defined contribution.

(b) The terms of reference of the 5-member Expert Group, constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri B.K. Bhattacharya, were to examine and recommend the modalities of the change from the then existing non-

contributory defined benefit scheme to a defined contribution pension system; to examine and recommend the appropriate tax treatment for the defined contribution system; to assess the overall budgetary impact of the above; to examine and recommend the modalities (including investment criteria and organizational structure) of establishing a Pension Fund for Central Government services; to explore the option of moving existing employees to a contributory System; and to examine measures that promote consistency with other pension arrangements in order to promote portability.

(c) The Group submitted their report to Government in February 2002.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): Sir, on behalf of Shri A.R. Antulay, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4877/2006]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A Copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4878/2006]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4879/2006]

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): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited for the years 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective accounting years.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4880/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Red Cross Society, Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore and Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Mohan for the year 2004-2005, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4881/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highway Act, 1956:—

- (1) S.O. 1241 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2006 making certain

amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 513 (E) dated the 7th April, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4882/2006]

- (2) S.O. 1242 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 514 (E) dated the 7th April, 2006.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): Sir, on behalf of Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968.
 - (i) The Central Industrial Security Force, Fire Wing, Subordinate Ranks, Group 'C' Posts Recruitment Rules, 2005. published in Notification No. G.S.R. 315 in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 2005.
 - (ii) The Central Industrial Security Force, Security Wing, Subordinate Ranks, Group 'C' Posts Recruitment Rules, 2005, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 316 in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 2005.
 - (iii) The Central Industrial Security Force, Para Medical Staff (Combatised) Recruitment Rules, 2005. published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1 in Gazette of India dated the 7th January, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4883/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4884/2006]

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4885/2006]

- (3) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the year 2001-2002 and Annual Reports and Audited Accounts for the years 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4886/2006]

- (4) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4887/2006]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology, Calicut, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology, Calicut, for the year 2004-2005.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4888/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 732 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 2006, under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4889/2006]

- (2) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151 (1) of the Constitution:—

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (Civil) (No. 16 of 2006)—(Performance Audit)—Performance Audit on Management of Foodgrains, for the year ended March, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4890/2006]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (Civil) (No. 17 of 2006)—(Performance Audit)—Performance Audit of Disinvestments of Government Shareholding in Selected Public Sector Undertaking during 1999-2003, for the year ended March, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4891/2006]

- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (Civil) (No. 18 of 2006)—(Performance Audit)—Performance Audit of Conservation and Protection of Tigers and Tiger Reserves, for the year ended March, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4892/2006]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Small Industries Development Bank of India, Lucknow, for

[Shri S.S.Palanimanickam]

the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Small Industries Development Bank of India, Lucknow, for the year 2005-2006.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4893/2006]

- (5) A copy of the Dena Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. IR/AMEND/01/2004 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2004, under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the paper mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4894/2006]

- (7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976:—

- (i) The Vidharba Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulation, 2005, published in Notification No. 77 in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2006.

- (ii) The Punjab Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2005, published in Notification No. 11 in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 2006.

- (iii) The Karnataka Vikas Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2005, published in Notification No. 89 in Gazette of India dated the 27th May, 2006.

- (iv) The Haryana Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2006, published in Notification No. 73 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 2006.

- (v) The Kashi Gomti Samyut Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations, 2005, published in Notification No. 22 in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4895/2006]

- (8) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 455 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum exempting Indian Ordinance Factories from filing of Annual Financial Information Statement in from of ER-4, under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4896/2006]

- (9) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003:—

- (i) Statement on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the budget at the end of the financial year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4897/2006]

- (ii) Statement on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the budget at the end of the First quarter of the financial year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4897'A/2006]

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th August, 2006, agreed without any amendment to the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) and Financial Institutional Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2006 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd August, 2006."

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th August, 2006 agreed without any amendment to the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2006 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd August, 2006."

12.03½ hrs.

ASSENT TO BILL

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I beg to lay on the Table the Spirituous Preparations (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control (Repeal) Bill, 2006, passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current Session and assented to by the President since a Report was last made to the House on the 18th August, 2006.

12.03¾ hrs.

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY PARTICIPATION AT THE 114TH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)

Report

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I beg to lay on the Table the Report (Hindi and English versions) on Indian

Parliamentary participation at the 114th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union held at Nairobi (Kenya) from 7 to 12 May, 2006.

12.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

First and Second Reports

[English]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): I beg to lay on the Table the First and Second reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Ethics.

12.04¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

One Hundred Seventy-Seventh Report

[English]

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inter Manipur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the One Hundred Seventy-Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development (Hindi and English versions) on "The Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages University Bill, 2006".

12.04½ hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Gopal Krishna, Indian Platform on Ship-breaking, A-1/125, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi requesting to enquire about the role of authorities in permitting the entry of SS Blue Lady Ship carrying hazardous waste in Indian territorial waters by violating the Supreme Court orders.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4898/2006]

12.04% hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **The finding of enquiry into veracity of Zee News telecast dated 13-08-2006 on Shri Manikrao Hodiya Gavit, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, on 13-8-2006 Zee T.V. Channel, by using an audio tape, alleged that Shri Gavit, the Minister of State, Home Affairs, had conversation with a criminal in Bulandshahar jail. The allegation was repeated for hours in the days.

Shri Gavit, made a statement in the Lok Sabha and also in the Rajya Sabha, asserting in essence that, he had not at any time, spoken to any criminal in Bulandshahar jail, and that, the voice on the tape played by the Zee T.V. Channel, was not that of his, and that, what was shown or heard, on the said T.V. Channel, was baseless, false and fabricated, and that he did not know the person to whom it was alleged that he had spoken.

He stated that he was willing to subject himself in any manner to any inquiry by anybody or by a committee of the Parliament to ascertain the truth in the matter, and that he would refrain from discharging his executive or legislative functions, until, report of the inquiry was given to the House, and he would not join his duties unless he was acquitted. He also had stated that, he was willing to accept any punishment, if any iota of evidence was found to fix the guilt on him, and was willing to renounce his political life, if he was found guilty. He had requested that the inquiry should be conducted in an expeditious manner avoiding unnecessary delays.

It appears that in a meeting of representatives of Parliamentary Parties, it was decided that the matter should be inquired into by the Government, and the report could be given by it to the House. A letter indicating this in essence was sent to the hon. Prime Minister by the hon. Speaker. The letter requested that the report should be given expeditiously and possibly by 25th of August, 2006.

In pursuance of the said letter, the CBI was asked to inquire into the matter and give the report expeditiously, and before the Parliament was adjourned *sine die* on 25th August, 2006.

The CBI collected the tapes from the Zee T.V. and recorded the statements of the relevant persons and collected the voice of Shri Gavit on the tape in the presence of independent witnesses and experts of CFSL.

The relevant tapes were sent to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) at New Delhi to compare the voices on the tapes to find out if they tallied and to give a report, if they were of one and the same persons or different persons. The voices of the tapes were examined on audio spectrography by the experts who have opined that they do not tally and are not of the same person. The report is authenticated and laid on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)* I am laying it on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: On this matter, I am thankful to the hon. Leaders of this House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Sir, this is a very serious matter. In fact, many of us who first saw the report on the television and then heard the hon. Minister in the House felt extremely sad that a person, who does not seem to have anything to do with the matter, should have been maligned in this manner....*(Interruptions)* This was the feeling of many of us like me....*(Interruptions)*

Yes, it is of the whole House. Even despite that, if an inquiry was suggested and agreed upon, it was because it had been said on that television channel that this is not a private sting operation. This is a part of an official surveillance carried out and which has been given to us.

The hon. Minister of Home Affairs statement today does not deal with that part at all, simply that the voice of the hon. Minister does not tally with it. Therefore, he is innocent. This was evident almost on that very day and many of us have said it in this House and in that House. But even despite that if an inquiry was ordered, the inquiry's objective was to pinpoint how did this happen. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, that is what I am going to direct the Government to do. That was really what we decided in the Leaders' Meeting that first this aspect be determined and then the other thing is inquiry.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: How was it said that it was an official surveillance? It was not a private sting operation. This was said officially. It was not denied by anyone.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, may I respond to that?

MR. SPEAKER: I will just make one sentence. I believe the entire House agrees that we should invite Shri Gavitt back to the House. He is an hon. Member and Minister who has been exonerated. He should participate in the proceedings. We deeply appreciate the stand taken by him that he would not participate in the proceedings unless he has been acquitted. He has been honourably acquitted. I am sure, you will be benefited by his appearance. My intension is to say that the other aspect which is equally important should be investigated.

Mr. Minister, do you wish to respond?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Yes.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, in fact, on that very day, when I spoke, I said that in this case, *prima facie* what appeared is that something has happened which should not have happened. Who has done it? We do not know that. Therefore, I said that just as in many other democracies of the world where there are laws dealing with sting operation, why cannot we in India also think of something like that. Otherwise, this kind of a thing would not be tackled.

MR. SPEAKER: You said that on that occasion.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I said that on that day.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you did say that.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The most important point for us to decide was to see whether that voice tallied with the voice which was shown to be that of Shri Gavitt on the television. Shri Gavitt had said very specifically that he would not come to the House nor would he go to the Ministry to discharge his duties unless he is given the

report of the Committee acquitting him. That was most important. We have completed this. Fortunately, for us, it was possible with the modern technology which is available with the Forensic Laboratory. It was possible. There are other steps which have to be taken.

The second step is who has actually spoken or whether the person in the jail is spoken to or not. That has to be established. We are on that.

The third thing which has to be established is: how could a person in the jail have a telephone? How could he be contacted on a telephone in the jail? If he was having a telephone and he was contacted, how could he have it? That is also to be looked into.

The fourth thing, which is rightly suggested by the hon. Leader of the Opposition here, is that such matters have to be inquired into. We shall have to take some corrective steps by having appropriate laws for this purpose which we are going to do. This matter is continuing. But, at this stage, we do not want to wait until everything has been done and the report is given. We do not want Shri Gavitt outside.

We are looking into all these things, these details. It will take a little more time. We will definitely come before the House with the report.

12.13 hrs.

(II) Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 10th, 12th and 14th Reports of the Standing Committee on Energy

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): Sir, I am making this statement on the present status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Tenth, Twelfth and Fourteenth Reports of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy in pursuance of Direction 73A of hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated 1st September 2004.

*Placed in Library. See No. LT 4900/2006.

[Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde]

The Tenth Report has 8 recommendations, all of which have been accepted by the Government.

As regards the 12th Report, which is based on the Demand for Grants of Ministry of Power for 2006-07, I am to state that the Report has been received in the Ministry on 22nd May 2006 and the ATN is to be sent to Standing Committee on Energy by 21-8-2006. The ATN is being prepared and it will be sent to the Standing Committee on Energy.

The Fourteenth Report has 8 recommendations, all of which is under consideration of the Government.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee in the said reports is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.14 hrs.

(iii) Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 12th Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel

[Translation]

*THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): I am making this statement on the implementation of the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel relating to the Ministry of Mines contained in their 12th Report as per the directions of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The 12th Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel has been presented to Lok Sabha on 22-12-2005, which was for the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Mines for the year 2005-06. Action taken on the recommendations of the Committee has been sent to the Committee Office on 28-7-2006. There were 5 recommendations in the 12th Report of the Committee on which action was called for on the part of the Government.

The status of the implementation is indicated in the Annexure-I to my statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read the Annexure and request that these may be considered as read.

12.15 hrs.

(iv) Status of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was launched on 2nd February, 2006. I had earlier apprised this august House about the progress in the implementation of the Act on 3rd March and 23rd May, 2006. Within a short period of six months, progress made in the implementation has been very encouraging in spite of the initial constraints of the States in implementing this new legislation. I would like to again apprise the House about the latest position in the implementation of the Act.

Rules for the Central Employment Guarantee Council have been notified on 25th May, 2006 and a copy has already been placed on the Table of the House on 28th July, 2006.

The States are also taking action to constitute State Employment Guarantee Councils and 8 States (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh) have already constituted State Employment Guarantee Councils.

The Central Government has made a budget provision of Rs. 11300 crores in the current financial year for implementation of the Act.

The Central Government had released a sum of Rs. 2367.56 crores in 2005-06 to States for implementation of NREGA. In the current year, Rs. 4401.57 crores have been released. Every district is entitled to apply for further instalments of funds after reporting demand for work and utilizing resources released. Funds are being released by the Ministry as and when such requests are received. Statewise funds released in 2006-07 and details of performance on key indicators are given in Annexure.

*Laid on the table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 4901/2006.

2,54,73,820 job cards are reported to have been issued as per reports available up to 22nd August, 2006. Job card holding households are entitled to demand employment as per their need and choice. Employment is to be provided within 15 days of the demand for employment. Out of the above job card holders, 89,43,703 have demanded employment and 83,05,930 have been provided employment. Of these, about 21% are SCs, 46% STs and 41% women.

260332 works have been taken up out of which 1,41,085 relate to water conservation, 16,727 are for plantation and drought proofing, 3391 for flood control, 43,859 for rural connectivity and the remaining are for other works. The focus of the programme on water conservation is thus being maintained.

The Central government has advised States to ensure constant monitoring and strict vigilance in implementation of the Act. States have been advised to prescribe time-schedules of inspections by State, District and Block-level officers. State, District and Block-level officers should conduct inspection of at least 2%, 10% and 100% of works respectively. The Ministry also deposes its own officers to advise States about action to be taken to improve the quality and pace of implementation. Area Officers have undertaken 35 visits to States. In addition, 90 NLMs were deputed by the Ministry to visit 90 NREGA districts to monitor the status of implementation. Reports of Area Officers and NLMs are shared with State governments for improvement in implementation.

States have been advised to arrange for training of officials at the State, District, Block and GP levels and also of members of Panchayati Raj Institutions at various levels. A sum of Rs. 83 lakhs has been released to the States for arranging training through State Institutes of Rural Development and other institutions identified by them. States have been asked to submit further requirement of funds for training. Two "Training of Trainers" programmes have been organised by NIRD, Hyderabad.

States have been advised to take up social audit of the NREGA through the respective Gram Sabhas and to prescribe a time-frame for conduct of such social audit.

12.16 hrs.

- (v) **Statement correcting reply to Unstarred Question No. 2525 dated 18-8-2006 regarding forecasting of earthquake**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I beg to lay the statement correcting the reply given on 18-8-2006 to Unstarred Question No. 2525 by Shri E.G. Sugavanam, Member of Parliament regarding forecasting of earthquake.

12.16½ hrs.

- (vi) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 127th, 141st and 157th Reports of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants, pertaining to the Department of Biotechnology**

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I beg to lay the Statement in pursuance of Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha under Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Eleventh Edition), to inform the esteemed House about the status of implementation of the recommendations made by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests in its 127th, 141st and 157th Reports.

The 127th Report relates to the consideration of the Demands for Grants of the Department of Biotechnology for the financial year 2004-05. I have made Statements on 5th May, 2005 and 23rd December, 2005 and informed the House regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee in its 127th report. The present statement gives the latest status pertaining to recommendation made in Para 20 of the Report. The details are at Annexure-I.

*Placed in Library. See No. LT 4903/2006

**Laid on the table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 4904/2006

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

The 141st Report relates to the consideration of the Demands for Grants of the Department of Biotechnology for the financial year 2005-06. I have made Statements on 5th May, 2005 and 23rd December, 2005 and informed the House regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee in its 141st report. The present statement gives the latest status pertaining to recommendations made in Paras 34, 43 & 52. The details are at Annexure-II.

The 157th Report relates to the consideration of the Demands for Grants of the Department of Biotechnology for the financial year 2006-07. The Committee reviewed the progress with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements of DBT in its meeting held on 3rd April, 2006 and presented its report to the House on 18-5-2006.

The report contains 14 recommendations, some of which are advisory in nature. Other recommendations relate to different sectors of Biotechnology: R&D at National Centre for Cell Science, Pune; National Brain Research Centre, Gurgaon; National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi; National Centre for Plant Genome Research, New Delhi, setting up of more Centres of excellence; adequate focus on developing Human Resources; streamlining guidelines and procedures to ensure safety in use of GMOs, creating pool of Scientists, carrying out extensive Research in the field of Stem Cell Research, etc.

All 14 recommendations of the Committee have been considered by Department of Biotechnology. A detailed Action Taken Report on the recommendations has been prepared and has been sent to Rajya Sabha Secretariat for placing before the Committee. The Action Taken Report is detailed at Annexure-III.

The current states on the Action taken is detailed in the Annexures.

12.16½ hrs.

- (vii) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and**

Fertilizers, pertaining to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

[English]

*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): Sir, I beg to lay the Statement on the status of the implementation of the recommendation/observations contained in the Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers in pursuance of the directions by the hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

The Standing Committee on Chemicals & Fertilizers examined the 'Availability and Price Management of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals' for the year 2005-06 and presented their Seventh Report to Lok Sabha on 25th January, 2006. The report contained 22 recommendations/observations. The gist of the recommendations/observations of the Committee is as follows:

- (i) The Pharmaceutical Policy 2002 announced by the Government in February 2002 could not be enforced due to a stay Order passed by the High Court of Karnataka in Public Interest Litigation.
- (ii) The recommendations of the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Principal Advisor, Planning Commission will be kept in view while formulating new pharma policy.
- (iii) Recommendations of the Committee about availability of essential and life saving drugs of good quality at reasonable prices, to increase budget for healthcare, revival of PSUs, enhancing R&D expenditure and to encourage Indian systems of medicines etc, may be considered in the formulation of the new pharma policy.
- (iv) Government should consider bringing more NLEM drugs under price control and to take due note of essential drugs meant for diseases like Cancer, T.B., HIV/AIDS etc.

*Laid on the table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 4906/2006.

- (v) Strengthening of the NPPA.
- (vi) DPCO should be amended to incorporate provisions for compounding of offences.
- (vii) Establishment of DPCO Cells in all the States.
- (viii) Strengthening of Drug Regulatory Mechanism in the States.
- (ix) Price negotiation mechanism for the new patented drugs prior to the grant of marketing approval.
- (x) For the category of drugs for the same therapeutic use, the Government should determine a reasonable ceiling beyond which increase in prices may not be allowed.
- (xi) Use of generic drugs in a massive way.
- (xii) Reduction in the trade margins.
- (xiii) Discourage promotion of unscientific and irrational drugs.
- (xiv) Modernization of existing laboratories to check cases of spurious drugs.
- (xv) Mashelkar report on spurious/fake drugs.
- (xvi) Revival of PSVs.
- (xvii) Upgradation of Public Healthcare System.
- (xviii) System of Pool and procurement of medicines.
- (xix) Promotion of traditional system of medicines.
- (xx) Creation of National Drug Authority.
- (xxi) Fiscal incentives on a long term basis for R&D in pharma.
- (xxii) Government's action on the Report of the Task Force within a period of six months from the presentation of their Report.

All the recommendation of the Committee have been considered in the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and action has already been initiated.

The Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (PI) was constituted to examine the issue of

span of price control (including trade margin) in the light of National Common Minimum Programme and the observations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP No. 3668/2003 to formulate such criteria so that essential drugs do not fall out of price control. Subsequently a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen was also constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. Based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of JS (PI), report of the Task Force and suggestions/comments from other stakeholders, the Government has proposed a National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006, which inter alia, covers almost all the recommendations/observations of the Committee. The salient features of the proposed draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006, are:

- Strengthening of Drug Regulatory System.
- Strengthening of patent office infrastructure.
- Focus on Research and Development— Process Development, Drug Discovery, Drug Development and Clinical Trails.
- Human Resources Development in Pharmaceutical Sciences through more institutes like National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER).
- Strategies to increase access for anti-cancer and anti-HIV/AIDS Drugs.
- Rationalisation of Excise duty on Pharmaceuticals.
- Streamlining System of Bulk Procurement of Drugs by Governments (like the system of Tamil Nadu, Delhi Government).
- Promotion of Generic Drugs (in purchase by Government hospitals).
- Strengthening of Pharma CPSEs.
- Consumer Awareness Campaigns.
- Schemes for providing accessibility of drugs to the poor especially BPL families.

[Shri B.K.Handique]

- Encouraging Production of Critical Bulk Drugs in India.
- Schemes of interest subsidy for implementation of Schedule M (of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945) for Good Manufacturing Practices.
- Settlement Scheme for settling old dues under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.
- Setting up of Drug Price Monitoring Awareness & Accessibility Fund (DPMAA Fund) out of recovery of overcharged amount.
- Scheme for setting up Pharma Parks.
- Greater thrust on Pharma Exports.
- Improving the retail system for efficient pharmaceutical distribution.
- Pharmaceutical Advisory Forum at the National Level.
- Advisory Committees in NFPA—one at Head Office level and five in different regions. These would be headed by Chairman, NPPA.
- Pricing mechanism—Span of price control—In addition to the existing 74 drugs and their formulations, the 354 drugs with specified strengths mentioned in the NLEM 2003 have also been included. Apart from cost plus method, other systems of price control like negotiated prices, differential prices, reference prices, bulk purchase prices etc. have also been proposed.
- Raw material cost would be obtained from the manufacturers, pharma CPSEs, import data and market sources.

Maximum allowable Post Manufacturing Expenses (MAPE) which is presently 100% over the cost of manufacture to be revised as follows:—

- (a) 150% in general.
- (b) 50% additional MAPE for R&D intensive companies which fulfill the laid down gold standards.

- (c) 50% additional MAPE to such manufacturers who adopt health care programme for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in the rural areas as per the laid down guidelines.
 - (d) For existing 74 drugs under price control MAPE would continue to remain at 100% for one year in order to avoid a sudden increase in prices. It would be increased thereafter on the above pattern.
- Based on the percentage of MAPE, prices would be fixed for all drugs in the cost plus price control system. Wherever possible ceiling prices would be fixed.
 - Maximum Retail Price (MRP) would be inclusive of all taxes as in the case of all other packaged commodities.
 - New drugs developed in India through product patent or process patent or new drug delivery system would be exempted from price control for 5 years. This will boost R&D. Simultaneously, vaccines and biological drugs, drugs for sale to Hospitals only, drugs with per unit cost at Rs. 3 per capsules/tablets and generic formulations fulfilling the prescribed norms would be exempted.
 - A new Drugs (Prices Control) Order would be issued under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 to replace the existing DPCO, 1995.
 - Re-structuring and strengthening of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).
 - Price Monitoring Cells in the State Drug Controller Offices with funding from Government of India.
 - Drug (Price Management and Distribution) Act to be enacted for effective regulation of drug prices and for handling health emergencies.
 - Trade Margins of generic-generic drugs, would be fixed.
 - Change in the name of Department of

Chemicals & Petrochemicals to reflect Pharmaceuticals also (Name proposed is— Department of Chemicals, Petrochemicals and Pharmaceuticals).

On the issue of those relating to spurious drugs, promotion of traditional system of medicines, creation of National Drug Authority etc. which fall under the administrative control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, that Ministry has informed that Government is committed to increasing the allocation for health sector and as per the National Common Minimum Programme, the Government will raise public spending on health to at least 2-3% of GDP over the next five years with focus on primary health care. Strengthening of Drug Regulatory Authority including creation of a National Drug Authority is under active consideration of that Ministry. Detailed guidelines for effective monitoring of possible movement of spurious drugs and to nab the criminal elements involved in such activities have been given to State Drug Control Organization. Draft bill proposing amendment in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 in order to enhance penalties and to empower police to file prosecution etc. has already been introduced in the Parliament. Action on the recommendations of Mashelker Committee to check the prevalence of spurious and fake drugs in the country and the requirement of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) has already been taken by that Ministry. Further, the Department of Ayurdic Yunani Sidha and Homeopathy (AYUSH) have scheme like RCH programme, IEC etc. to create awareness among the general masses about the efficacy of AYUSH systems/medicines.

Various steps are being undertaken to revive sick pharma PSUs. A draft rehabilitation Scheme has been submitted by Indian Drugs & Pharmaceutical Limited (IDPL), which is under examination in the Department. A revised rehabilitation plan for Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceutical Limited (BCPL) has been sent to Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) on 7-8-2006 for its recommendations. On 9-3-2006 Government approved the rehabilitation scheme for Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL). The scheme, inter-alia, involves cash infusion to the extent of Rs.137.59 crores. Government has approved on 27-7-2006 a Preferential Purchase Policy for 102 medicines from Pharma CPSEs and their subsidiaries by Deptts,

Ministries, PSUs, Autonomous Organisations of the Central Government at the rate fixed/certified by NPPA minus discount upto 35%.

Comments of various Ministries/Departments have been received on the proposed National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006 and Note for the Cabinet is to be finalized.

A meeting was held at the Minister's level with the representatives of the Drug Industry Associations viz, OPPI, IDMA, IPA, CIPI, CII, FICCI etc, on 17-8-2006 to discuss their comments on the proposed National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006. During the discussion it was decided, inter-alia, to constitute a Joint Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (C&PC) to examine the issues of Public private partnership to help Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, Concessional price for Government procurement, Competition & monitoring for price control, Price monitoring or cost based pricing, Interpretation of Order dated 10-3-2003 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP 3668/2003 that the essential drugs do not fall out of price control. The Joint Committee has been asked to submit its report by 30th September, 2006. After receipt of report from the Joint Committee, draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 would be finalized.

12.16% hrs.

(viii) Status of implementation recommendations contained in the Tenth Report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers, pertaining to the Department of Fertilizers

[English]

*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): Sir, I beg to make the lay the statement on the status of the implementation of the recommendations/observations contained in the Tenth Report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers in pursuance of the direction 73-A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, issue vide Bulletin Part-II dated September 01, 2004.

*Laid on the table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 4906/2006.

[Shri B.K.Handique]

The Standing Committee on Chemicals & Fertilizers examined the issue of 'Pricing and Feedstock Policies relating to Fertilizers' for the year 2005-06 and presented their Tenth Report to Lok Sabha on 22-12-2005. The report contained 14 recommendations/observations. A gist of the recommendations/observations made by the Committee is as follows:-

- (1) Fertilizers play an important role in increasing the agricultural production. In the wake of the green revolutions in 1970s, there has been a quantum increase in fertilizer consumption.
- (2) Considering the need for making available fertilizer to the farmers at reasonable prices, from the very beginning the Government has been taking various steps in this direction, such as fixation of selling prices of fertilizers and issuing of ECA allocation for movement and distribution of fertilizers in different parts of the country.
- (3) A group based New Pricing Scheme for urea units in place of the Retention Price Scheme was introduced w.e.f. 1-4-2003.
- (4) Report of the Working Group constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh to review the performance of Stage-I and II of NPS for urea units and formulation of policy for urea units for Stage-III commencing from 1-4-2006 be expedited and the suggestions given by the Committee be taken into consideration in finalising the urea policy.
- (5) Government should examine the issue of payment of subsidy to the farmers directly at the time of finalisation of policy for Stage-III of NPS commencing from 1-4-2006.
- (6) The Government should take adequate steps to allocate requisite gas supply to fertilizers plants on priority basis.
- (7) Government should ensure that the natural gas is supplied in requisite quantity at reasonable

price to the fertilizer industry and Government should initiate necessary action to set up the Petroleum Regulatory Authority at the earliest.

- (8) Considering the nutrient value and essentiality of P&K fertilizers for continuous food grains production and maintaining fertility of the soil, there is a compelling need to continue with the system of concession on sale of P&K fertilizers so that costly fertilizers remain within the reach of small and marginal farmers. The government should also help the fertilizer industry for securing long-term agreement for imports of raw materials for P&K fertilizers/complexes.
- (9) The long pending dues of the industry on account of concession on P&K fertilizers should be released by the Government at the earliest.
- (10) The Department of Fertilizers should review the procedure for certification, disbursement of due amount etc. with a view to exploring an efficient system which should be uniformly applicable to all the States.
- (11) The Committee be apprised about the recommendations of the Expert Group set up to look into the matter of announcement of concession on sale of P&K fertilizers as also on the follow up action taken on the recommendations.
- (12) The Committee has lauded the action of the Government in asking the State Governments to maintain the MRP of SSP at the present level resulting in direct additional concession to the farmers.
- (13) The Committee has desired that the Department of Fertilizers should sort out the vital issue of availability of additional gas in consultation with Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas so that proposals for modernisation are approved soon.
- (14) The Government should take an active role in taking up joint venture projects abroad for producing phosphatic and potassic fertilizers.

All the recommendations of the Committee have been considered in the Department of Fertilizers and the action taken replies have also been sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

The recommendations/observations at Sl. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 have been accepted by the Government.

The report of the Working Group, constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh to review the effectiveness of Stage I & II of NPS and to formulate a policy for Stage-III of NPS, has been examined in the Department with a view to formulate a policy for Stage-III of NPS commencing from 1-4-2006. The Department of Fertilizers' Note on 'Formulation of policy for urea units for Stage-III of New Pricing Scheme commencing w.e.f. 1-4-2006' was considered by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 27-07-2006, wherein it directed that matter, in the first instance, be examined by a Committee of Secretaries (COS). The matter is presently under examination of COS.

Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), constituted under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister to examine issues relating to supplies of natural gas and LNG to fertilizers sector and to examine and work out a framework which ensures preferential allocation of domestic natural gas to the fertilizer sector industry and making available LNG to fertilizer units, its pricing and the related taxation issues, has finalized its recommendations in its meeting held on 18-5-2006. Committee of Secretaries (COS) also deliberated on the issue of pricing and availability of natural gas/LNG for the fertilizer sector in its meeting held on 16-5-2006. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has issued instruction to oil and gas PSUs to take further necessary action on the recommendations of IMG. Further action on the recommendations of COS is also been taken.

The Concession Scheme on sale of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers of 2005-06 has been extended for one more year upto 31st March 2007 with the approval of CCEA on 27th April 2006. The extended scheme for 2006-07 has been approved with slight modifications over the Concession Scheme of 2005-06 after incorporating the interim recommendations made by the Expert Group. The other recommendations of the Expert Group have been referred to an Inter-Ministerial Group for further examination and finalization of a WTO compatible policy.

12.17 hrs.

- (ix) **Statement correcting reply to Unstarred Question No. 3050 dated 23rd August, 2006 regarding Funds to NGOs for AIDS Control Programme**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay the statement correcting the reply to parts (c) and (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3050, answered on 23rd August, 2006, inadvertently the figure of Rs. 126.18 crore has occurred instead of Rs. 10.32 crore. The correct version of the reply to part (c) and (d) is reproduced below:-

MR. SPEAKER: You can lay it on the table of the House.

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: With your permission, I am laying it.

- (C) whether these NGOs, are provided funds by the foreign agencies;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) & (d) Under the National AIDS Control Programme, financial support of Rs. 103.99 crore was provided to the NGOs during the financial year 2005-06. These funds are mobilized from World Bank, DFID and USAID as detailed below:

[Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi]

Donour Agency	Amount (Rs. in crore)
NACO (World Bank support)	33.63
DFID	41.36
USAID	29.00
Total	103.99

In addition, as per information available with NACO, the following amounts were released directly to NGOs by donor agencies:

Donour Agency	Amount (Rs. in crore)
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	180.01
DFID	10.32
USAID	(approx.) 13.95
CDC Atlanta	(approx.) 12.59

An amount of Rs. 111.55 lakh was released to NGOs in Himachal Pradesh during the Financial Year 2005-2006.

The inconvenience cause is regretted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please wait.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I am on a point or order.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no Business now. Point of order is on what matter? In-between, two items, there is no point of order.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am referring to Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure. You will see that as per the provisions of the Rules, two-and-a-half hours are given for the Private Member's Business day preferably on the Friday. So, it is not just and proper to have it deferred to the next Session. Government

business can be in arrears. They have the constitutional provision of resorting to an emergency situation and they meet it. But we, the poor Members of this House, can exercise the power only when the House is in Session. If the House is not in Session, we lose our power. We can exercise it only during the two-and-a-half hours. It can be said that the business of the Government can be in arrears. Do not put the Private Member's Business in arrears. I am sorry that we will be creating a very bad precedent.

MR. SPEAKER: At a very inappropriate moment you have raised it. But you have forgotten your days as the Speaker. I have the power. I have done it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No question can be put on the Speaker's decision. Do not raise one word.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, before I come to the Calling Attention today, I am extremely thankful to all of you for your cooperation. I would like to complete all the important notices also. I have got 66 notices as well as the Calling Attention matter. But with your kind cooperation, there is one Bill to be introduced. Let us have it introduced.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): I am speaking at the introduction stage of the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, please go ahead.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Please have a look at rule 72(1) ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please let him speak, what is all this. *[English]* Before you raise anything, let him start. Please allow him to seek leave of the House first.

12.20 hrs.

CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (RESERVATION IN ADMISSION) BILL, 2006*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Shri Jawaharlal Nehru Ji, the first Prime Minister of India introduced the first amendment to the Constitution of India, which incorporated article 15(4) in the Constitution with a view to giving relief to the weaker sections of the society. This amendment was added as article 15(5) of the Constitution by the 93rd Amendment of the Constitution passed by this Parliament.

This has been possible only because of the abiding commitment of the hon. Congress President and the

hon. Prime Minister to the cause of advancement of the educationally and socially backward sections of the society. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You ask for leave.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has to first seek leave of the House to introduce the Bill. How can he make a speech now? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are right. The hon. Minister wants to make a preface. It is not forbidden under the rules.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he can seek leave of the House first. Then, some hon. Members who have objection to the introduction can speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. Just wait. Everybody knows the importance of this Bill. It will go to the Standing Committee. It will be thoroughly discussed there.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, I would like to put on record also the fact that all parties represented in this House, in an unanimous vote, 389-NIL, enabled this amendment to be made and thereby paving the way for this piece of legislation. To the best of my knowledge, this piece of legislation is the first to be brought before Parliament under this provision of the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you ask for leave to introduce the Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, he is making a speech before introducing the Bill....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is the problem. Let me try to regulate it. There is nothing forbidden in the rules.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the convention is that he should first seek leave of the House to introduce the Bill....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, but I cannot say that this is never done.

*Not recorded.

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SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, millions of backward classes all over the country have been looking forward to get an opportunity for equitable access to the institutions of higher learning maintained by the State. To this end, a small but irrevocable step is being taken today. It is now for the wisdom of this Parliament to provide shape and substance to their dreams, which they have nurtured for decades.

With these words, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the reservation in admission of the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes of citizens, to certain central educational institutions established, maintained or aided by the Central Government, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the reservation in admission of the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the other Backward Classes of citizens, to certain central educational institutions established, maintained or aided by the Central Government, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

I have got three notices. Under our specific rule, at this stage, the reason has to be given for opposing the introduction of any Bill. Now, so far as Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav's notice is concerned, he has only said that the Bill is against the Constitution. That is no reason. Therefore, how can I allow?

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal):- If it is against the spirit of the Constitution, then it is the biggest reason.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only Mr. Radhakrishnan has given a reason, but a wrong reason. Yodi Aditya Nath has not given any reason.

[Translation]

SHRI YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. speaker, Sir, I have given notice for opposing the introduction of bill.

MR. SPEAKER: It requires time too. [English] But even then, because of your feelings, I will allow all of you to speak for a minute each.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody else will be allowed except these three Members who have given notices.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given notice now.

[Translation]

SHRI A. NARENDRA (Medak): First let me speak.

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to speak about.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is a time for that. I have requested you. Mr. Yadav, I will not allow you. You can take only one minute. You have not given any reason for objection.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, if you will not allow me, I would not be able to speak. Please give me one minute to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It says:

"Notice to oppose introduction of a Bill shall be addressed to the Secretary-General, specifying clearly and precisely the objections to be raised, and given by 1000 hours on the day on which the motion for leave to introduce the Bills is included in the list of business."

This was specifically incorporated in the rules.

because all general notices used to be sent without indicating the ground for objection.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: This is under rule 72(1).

MR. SPEAKER: We are reading rule 72(2) here.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I correct myself on your order. Article 15(4) and 15(5) have been passed by the Houses during the last session. I want to make a request but before that I want to congratulate the honourable Minister. I want some corrections to be made. I want to raise a basic point regarding the Bill moved just now. Please see the Hindi version, I want to mention clause 2. In clause 2 'a' section is definition section. The Act will be enacted according to the definition section clause. What will be its interpretation? The word Creamy layer is mentioned there, whereas it is not there in the English Version.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It will go to the Standing Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: What is this confusion? There is a mention of creamy layer in Hindi Version. I have got its copies but it is not there in the English Version. What is all this? It would get confusing in a Court of law. Which version will be accepted for its interpretation, English or Hindi?....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can take whichever you like.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If that is so, the Hon'ble Minister should take note of it, the Hon'ble Member of the Standing Committee will take a note of it. We are not that powerless.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, should we remove this word—creamy layer or not....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not the right time for this, it will be decided by the Standing Committee.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): If there is a shortcoming in the Hindi translation, I talked to the hon. Minister, it will be corrected. The English version is absolutely correct.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Yes, it is there. I want to speak about two things in a clause which is in the second Article...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow on clauses.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I fully support the Bill. I am a strong supporter of the Bill, but at the same time, I would like to bring out a very important matter....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Then, why are you objecting now?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, my humble submission is that after the passing of the Ninety-Third Constitutional Amendment, a new situation has arisen in the country with regard to the minority institutions and on that we have to decide. Without which the Act will be in difficulty. The admissions of the backward communities as well as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be in difficulty. Until and unless, we make a specific point about the definition of minority institutions, which are exempted from the operation of the Ninety-Third Constitution Amendment as per article 3 of the Thirtieth Constitution Amendment, there will be a crisis.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to take a firm stand with regard to defining the minority institutions. Simply exempting them is not enough. You will have to make it clear. Sir, in our State 90 per cent of the institutions are controlled by the so-called minority institutions.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, he will very much oblige you for your suggestions.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: So, I strongly support him. He may go ahead and bring about a clear-cut legislation.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Yogi Aditya Nath, It is your turn. You have also not given any reason, you have only talked about the spirit of the Constitution. What is this.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why is this provision made? It is regarding merely legislative competence.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: I oppose the introduction of the Bill by the honourable Minister because I doubt his intention. There is contradiction in the statement of the honourable Prime Minister and the honourable Minister. In the present scenario in our country, this Bill violates the spirit of the Constitution. Why have the minorities and educational institutions not been covered under this Bill. The institutions which are provided aid and assistance by the Government of India and State Governments are run by the money of the common people of the country.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are talking about merits of the Bill. Sorry....(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Why students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes will not be given reservation in these institutions. Please make arrangement for it and if the Government does not do so then it would be assumed that the Government is violating the section 14, 15 and 16 of Constitution and is sowing seeds of separatism and leading to class conflict in the country....(Interruptions)

Therefore, we oppose the introduction of the Bill by the honourable Minister....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have not spoken on the constitutionality.

Now, Mr. Minister, do you wish to say something?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first I would like to address the concern of my colleague here about the Hindi translation. Naturally, translation is not done by our Ministry, and it is done by the Legislative Department. In case there is any typographical error or something which should not be there, it will be clarified in the Standing Committee, and ultimately, the Bill will have to go in that shape.

On the issue of Yogi Aditya Nath, I would like to inform him that this issue of including minorities was moved in this House through a motion when the main Constitution (Amendment) Bill was being considered, and that motion was negated in this House by 287 to 214 votes.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the reservation in admission of the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the other Backward Classes of citizens, to certain central educational institutions established, maintained or aided by the Central Government, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister may now introduce the Bill.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.32 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

- (i) **Situation arising out of the use of derogatory and insulting language about Hindu Deities in the text books of M.A. course of IGNOU and steps taken by the Government in this regard**

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Human Resource

Development to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The use of derogatory and insulting language about Hindu Deities in the text books of M.A. course of IGNOU and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

[Translation]

*THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I associate myself with the feelings of the hon'ble Member whereby he has mentioned about being shocked over the disputed extracts. I too feel so much shocked. I would like to put-forth only factual point before you. The English version of the disputed book was published in the year 2003 and translated into Hindi in the year 2004....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please. How can I carry on the Business? Silence please. Please go out quietly.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: At first, attention was drawn to the objectionable extract by a student in April, 2006. Subsequently, this material was rejected for the university course. It's not evident from the documents made available to me if there is any prescribed method in the university for getting the books written and according sanction for passing them and also the method under which this book was accorded sanction. In this situation, keeping in view the autonomy of the university, I think it appropriate that we request the visitor of the university, H.E. President of India to give permission to investigate into the matter in this regard. It would reveal the fact as to how such objectionable extracts were given place in the book and who is responsible for this. In the light of the facts being available by this investigation, such a method may also be prescribed that doesn't let such a blunder occur in future.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister, in his written statement and the statement which he has read out just now has mentioned

that he agrees with the feelings. 15 thousands copies of this book have been circulated within the country and across the world and therefore they should be recalled immediately. I'd like to read out some of the extracts of this book before you. What action has been taken against the persons who wrote this book? Whether they have been prosecuted or given any punishment? You go through the words mentioned in this book. Firstly, there is a mention about Lord Shiva in the book that he was a carefree ascetic. He used to apply ash on his body. He was a male sadhu who lived bare-clothed and used to outrage the modesty of the wives of other ascetics and gods....(Interruptions) Somnath ji, your name is after the name of Lord Shiva. You wouldn't like such a name of yours...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You worship Lord Shiva but I don't.(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You would not like such a name of your....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That has been admitted by the hon. Minister to be wrong. That has been admitted. Nobody can support.

[Translation]

You please take your seat....(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Goddess Durga has been presented as fighting with Mahishasur. She has been presented as taking wine during the struggle. She is fond wine. She bursts into laughter and her eyes become red in a state of intoxication. And that too is the picture of non-Sanatani goddess.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all worship the goddess Durga. People go to Vaishno Devi for darshan. But Durga takes wine, bursts into laughter, her eyes grow red.(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Who is the author of this book?

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Hon'ble Minister has said that he would investigate. Those who wrote this book have been promoted. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, these promotions would have been effected from your Minister. The book contains the name of Ms. Naina Dayal. She was a research scholar. Prof. S. Basu, who was composing and editing the book, has been promoted and accommodated in the Ministry....(Interruptions) It's written in the book that this is the picture of a non-sanatani goddess. She is not a non-sanatani goddess. Besides, Durga has some negative merits and powers too such as she is also the goddess of sleep and illusion.

The male enemies of Durga remained fascinated by her...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It has been said that it is wrong. It has already been admitted by the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I said to you. Similarly, there is mention about Lord Krishna.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, you have rightly pointed it out; and the Government has admitted that it is wrong.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I want to say the same thing. It has been said about Lord Krishna.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Goyal, it is beyond patience. You are absolutely testing my patience.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is being

repeatedly mentioned as to when this book was published first. First time this book....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Government has already said it. The hon. Minister has already said it. I think, you had not listened to him. Nobody can support this, the Government has also accepted this position.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This book was first time brought out in July 2004-05. It was translated into English in the year 2005-06...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I don't know what's happening to you people?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No cross-talk, please.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It's newly brought out...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to control the House. You need not help me now. When I need your help, I would ask for it. Kindly be seated.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting all the hon. Members to please co-operate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have rightly raised it. I had permitted it.

Today also, there are so many matters. You have raised it.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I will take only two or three minutes more.

MR. SPEAKER: Please co-operate. I would request everyone to co-operate. Today is the last day of this Session. I want to complete the business.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, very obscene things have been mentioned about Lord Shri Krishna in it*. The name of our Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh ji is also based on Lord Krishna's name. All such things in it have been written about Shaivas and Vaishnavas. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, you said that you would get the matter investigated by withdrawing the book. But why the writers of this book have been promoted? Why did you accommodate all of them in you Ministry and give full fledged charge of the Ministry in their hands? They should be prosecuted.

Sir, I would also like to tell that the books not withdrawn by you and those still being taught in the 12th standard also contain such things. Likewise, there is a mention about the Jats:

[English]

"The Jat revolt, led by *zamindars*, soon became predatory. They plundered....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not stopping him.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is being taught. It has not been withdrawn....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. He is speaking.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This book is being taught even today. It has not been withdrawn. "They plundered all and sundry, the rich and the poor, the jagirdars and the peasants, the Hindus and the Muslims. They took active part..." This is what is being taught even today in all the States throughout the country."

[Translation]

The books which are being taught....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us apply our discretion. All of us should apply our discretion.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What about this?
[Translation] Other members have spoken for 15 minutes

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

on this subject....(Interruptions) [English] These are the books being taught....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not approving any of these things. Do not say that. I am not approving these things.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It has not been withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well he will answer to that.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Further, it has been written in it. [English] "Are they all terrorist leaders?" [Translation] It has been said about those people that they were terrorists.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening? You please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: "It is being taught still today. [English] This is in the book I have this book with me... Was he a terrorist? What are you teaching?(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry. The objective with which I allowed this Motion is not being utilised. It is to clarify the matter that the Government has made a categorical statement.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, it is not that book. It is a different book.

MR. SPEAKER: How are you bringing that book? Why are you bringing that book? Please do not do that.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is being taught even today. It has not been withdrawn. [Translation] This is not the book that is stated to be withdrawn. This book is being taught even today....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)**

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. [Translation]
You please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, it seems that you are not serious about the House being run. Then, let me adjourn the House. I cannot stand it any longer.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What is happening in this House?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing, what is going to happen now by shouting?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is written here that* [Translation] And the hon'ble Minister has not withdrawn those books....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotraji, please leave it.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Such type of books are being taught even today and the same haven't been withdrawn so far.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not compare. Do not do that. Do not impute anything please.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am not imputing, [Translation] Sir, those books are being taught even in the third, fourth and fifth standard....(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I wanted to clarify one point which Prof. Malhotra had referred....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: If you don't allow me to speak, then how would I allow you to do so? About the Ramayana and Mahabharata, it is written in his book that....(Interruptions) [English] Why that text book has not been withdrawn?....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not please complicate the matter any longer.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I allowed it because you felt it. I wanted to know the Government's views. The Government has clarified. It has been removed. It has been stopped. Even then all these things are going on.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. I will not allow it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: These books haven't been withdrawn and are still being taught. Arjun Singhji hasn't withdrawn these books. In that book it has also been said that the Mahabharata is imaginary.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. This opportunity is being misused. Shri Santosh Gangwar, will you speak?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is being misused.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: No, Sir. It is not being misused. It is such an important matter.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Leader of the House wants to say something.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called him.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Prof. Malhotra, would you just allow me for one second? I would like to just seek one clarification. It is our belief and it is written in Saptasati in chapter 3 that Goddess Durga was saying, before killing Mahishasur:

Garza garza Kshanan Moodh Madhu
yavatapibamyaham!

Mya tvayi hateatraiv garzishyantyashu devta:!!

It means that 'You go on shouting; I will kill you after I finish my drinks'....(Interruptions) A lot of interpretation is there, all the *tikas* and verses are there...(Interruptions) This is what Goddess Durga said. You cannot distort the scriptures, you cannot distort the Saptasati. It is an authentic document....(Interruptions) It is an authentic document....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Every Hindu reads this. It is in the religion....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, this is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you trying to do? I do not know.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not one word will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What would you do? You are not completing. You have taken more than ten minutes. I will not allow any further.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are misusing the opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everything will be deleted. You bring it to me. I will delete everything.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, I would like to say something....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down once. Please sit down. Shri Harin Pathak, what is happening here?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. It's not fair. You have again come.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 1 p.m.

12.48 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirteen of the Clock.

13.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying to you that the Hon'ble Minister had told that the book prescribed in IGNOU has been withdrawn. But I would like that other books in which similar things have been mentioned, should also be withdrawn. The new books which have been prescribed.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You give the names of those books.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: In the books prescribed in IGNOU caste-related words have been used which is a crime. If anybody uses such words outside, he may be awarded punishment ranging from 6 months to 6 years. I do not want to mention those caste related words here. This is a crime to use such caste related words for the persons belonging to scheduled castes, then why are we teaching such things in our text books? These text books have been prescribed quite recently. These portions

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

should be removed from the text books. Many objectionable things have been mentioned in those books. When this matter was raised in the other House, Members of all political parties had opposed it. Their opposition is not out of context. Therefore such portions should be withdrawn. Such books should be prescribed as are worth teaching to the children. Books should not be linked with caste related words or with other things which may have bad effect on the children.

Secondly, there are some of the Historians who have pervert mind, who have said that Ramayana and Mahabharata have never happened—all these things have been said. That should also be modified or that should be deleted from the books. Whatever wrong things have been said about Jats, Sikhs and Arya Samaj should be deleted.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, they have called Khudiram Bose a terrorist....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is not a subject matter. Is there anyone more respected than him? We heartily worship him. If anyone calls like this, then would it mean that Khudiram Bose will be ruined. Don't downgrade such persons. They are every great people. We are here only because of them.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, bad lessons should not go to the students....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I fully agree with you.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is not only about the book of IGNOU. My request is that if we carry on teaching such books in the society which have adverse impact on our society, then this is the responsibility of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to review such books and take action against the persons who are held responsible. I want to mention here two-three points.

As hon. Malhotra Ji saying that some people have written.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not refer to anything. I will not allow it to be recorded.

[Translation]

You give the name of the book and its page No.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:.....*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Any and every book under the sun cannot be discussed here.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Such matters create a lot of problems for us. Such matters hurt our sentiments. You have said about the IGNOU books. I request you that be it NCERT book or any other book, a Committee should be constituted to review all the books which are taught to the students. There are people of such mindset, who are presenting the facts in quite a wrong manner.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Unfortunately, you are not named. Therefore, not one word of yours is being recorded. Why are you speaking?

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: You must take action against such people as are responsible for such books.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow your motion also.(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Sir, action should be taken against those who are held responsible.

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today you should not stop the Members from speaking. This is an attack on the faith. This is an insult

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

to the Hindu religion, an insult of the Hindu deities, which the whole country condemn. Sentiments and faith of the people have been hurt. Aurangzeb had broken the idols only*.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, but it should not be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER: It is unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, this cannot be allowed. All this should not go on record. All this is without sense....*...(Interruptions)* Is this a proper sentence to be made in the House? This is not allowed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am opposing it. It will be expunged.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It will not only be expunged, but I am expressing my great disapproval of this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to do it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are a responsible Member of Parliament. No, this is not the way to do it. It is much beyond the scope of the Calling Attention before us. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this should not be allowed.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already made my observation regarding this issue.

...(Interruptions)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: It is absolutely shameful. I have expunged it, and I have also condemned it. What more can I do?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: We have told them. We are opposing this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You all please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, UPA government is insulting the Hindu Religion. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Neeta Pateriya, do you want to calling or not?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Goyal, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, there are some people in India, who are against the Hindu Gods and Goddesses and are against the Hindu civilization and culture and are presenting the history in a wrong manner. They are distorting the fine history of India. *...(Interruptions)*

This is an attack on the faith of the people *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Next to speak is Yogi Aditya Nath.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are only entitled to put one question under the rules.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Munshiji, you please control them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Munshiji, you please control them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record anything. Only Yogi Aditya Nath's submissions should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I will name you. Just now I will name you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are misusing the opportunity given to you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I strongly condemn such kind of utterances in the House irresponsibly by a lady Member of this House....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: It is against the tradition and culture....(Interruptions) I strongly condemn it....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, I will adjourn this Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: She cannot do this. She is only entitled to ask a question.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, but I would not allow it. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would like to ask this from the Leader of the BJP. Was this a proper point, which was made by her, namely that these people are not Hindu?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Neeta Pateriya, will you please take your seat? Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, there is a limit to this thing.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned 2 o'clock.

13.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

- (i) Situation arising out of the use of derogatory and insulting language about Hindu Deities, in the text books of M.A. course of IGNOU and steps taken by the Government in this regard...(contd.)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I would request you

*Not recorded.

again to please follow the rules. I am trying to allow everybody. As you are aware, only one clarificatory question can be asked.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please keep silence.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is the best day of the session. Please put only one question as per the rules.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Yogi ji you please ask only one question.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Minister has given a statement regarding what is taught in the syllabus to the students of M.A., History in the IGNOU. Hon. Minister has admitted that these things were published in July, 2004 and after that they were included in the M.A. History syllabus and introduced for teaching.

Sir, whatever is being taught in NCERT or IGNOU, that is totally against the Indian tradition and culture.

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to ask?

YOGI ADITYA NATH: It has been said in the Bhagwad Gita that: Shradhawan Labhyate Gyanam" what kind of respect and reverence they want to express towards the Indian tradition and culture. The views expressed by the leader of the House Hon. Shri Pranab Mukherjee today in the House are highly objectionable.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not the matter now. You leave it.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Those are objectionable because whatever he has cited; if we say that
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, I have called the name of Shri Ganesh Singh.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask the question.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: I am coming to the question.

MR. SPEAKER: You come to the question only.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: The manner in which objectionable things have been said, that should be expunged. If we say that our Army is thirsty of blood of the enemy Army, then would it mean that....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Your words are not being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There has been no calling attention in this regard. Shri Ganesh Singh, you ask your question.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have a great honour and respect for you. [English] It seems it is being misused.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: What efforts have been made

*Not recorded.

[Yogi Aditya Nath]

to delete those lines? Whether the Government will file criminal cases against the culprits, who have tried to malign Indian religion and culture and also take action against them.

MR. SPEAKER: Ganesh Singh ji, kindly ask only one question.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that for the last few days there have been constant incidents of making derogatory comments in the syllabus books against the glorious history of the country and the symbols of devotion of various religions and the legends who have been associated with the struggle for independence. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is not in IGNOU. Your calling attention is regarding deities.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: I am saying a general thing and the question is related to that. Objectionable quotations are being included in the syllabus, certainly it is a conspiracy to mislead the young generation of the country. I wish to ask, should there not have been immediate action on such a serious subject? I would like to inform that a statement of the hon. Minister had been published in a newspaper on 19th July stating that these texts will be deleted. The Chancellor of the University constituted a committee of seven members and said that we will review all these things. I would like to quote certain examples here.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No more. [Translation] We also give you a chance to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: I am just telling you the page numbers and nothing else. I want that the matter should be investigated. The page numbers are 3, 14, 22, 23, 30, 35, 38 and 45 in the Book in Part I and page numbers 23, 25, in Part II and page numbers 3, 6, 16, 17, 28, 29, 32, 34 and 38 in Part III.

MR. SPEAKER: It seems you have read that very keenly.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: In Part IV page numbers are 8 to 11 and 15 to 17.

MR. SPEAKER: You send it in writing. Mr. Minister has said that he will look into it.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: In Part V there are 3, 5 to 12, 14 and 19.

I wish to submit to the hon. Minister that in all these pages so many objectionable words have been used that it would be hard for the followers of any religion to accept it in anyway.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: I want to cite one more example...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry. Do not misuse the opportunity. I have complete faith in you. Please keep my faith. [Translation] I request you to sit down. You know everything.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it, you people are misleading us and you should not mislead the House also.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, I have already said what I wanted to say about calling attention notice. I do not want to say anything else about it. With your kind permission I want to lay a submission on the Table of the House. I have given all the details in it. I do not consider it necessary to take the time of the House....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You tell the gist.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You just listen, what you are talking about. You are just wasting the time of the House and do not even listen.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I am not wasting the time of

the House. I have known Mr. Malhotra for quite a long time. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I agree ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, as far as it has been said about other books, this topic was discussed in Rajya Sabha yesterday and there I have said that we will review all of them. The same thing we are saying here. He has started repeatedly reading the topic of that House here in an irrelevant manner so what I can say about it.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: All these books will be reviewed. All the books....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that action will be taken and already the action has also been taken and he will do more.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, these texts in the books should be removed....(*Interruptions*)

14.08 hrs.

(ii) Situation arising out of non-implementation of Subarnarekha Project in West Bengal and steps taken by the Government in this regard

[*English*]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampur, West Bengal): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Water Resources to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of non-implementation of Subarnarekha Project in West Bengal and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, Subarnarekha is an interstate river flowing through the States of Jharkhand West Bengal and Orissa. A tripartite agreement was concluded between the Chief Ministers of undivided Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal in August, 1978

in New Delhi. Under this Agreement, the 75 per cent dependable annual yield of 5.55 BCM of Subarnarekha assessed at Kokpara will be shared by the three Co-basin States of Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal in the ratio of 71 per cent, 27 per cent and 2 per cent respectively.

*Consequent to the tripartite agreement, each of the three Co-Basin States have drawn up their own programme to harness the water resources of the Subarnarekha river basin.

Subarnarekha Barrage Project (West Bengal) envisages construction of a barrage across Subarnarekha river downstream of Chandil dam and Galudih barrage near Bhosraghat to irrigate, 1,14,198 ha annually in the Midnapur District of West Bengal through a left bank canal and its distribution system covering a culturable command area of 96,860 ha as approved by the Planning Commission in 1995. The project was taken for construction in the year 1995-96 at an estimated cost of Rs. 215.61 crore (1987 price level).

The latest estimated cost of this project is Rs. 595.34 crore (1996 price level). The cost of the project, if updated to the present day price level, would work out to around Rs. 1350 crore. The actual expenditure incurred up to the end of March, 2006 is Rs. 41.44 crore. Tenth Plan outlay and proposed outlay for 2006-07 are Rs. 30.198 crore and Rs. 2.358 crore respectively. As regards the physical status, the actual project works have not yet been started and only infrastructural works are in progress. No potential has been created so far.

The project was included under AIBP during 2001-02 and provided Central Loan Assistance (CLA) of Rs. 13.288 crore (Rs. 2.050 crore during 2001-02 and Rs. 11.238 crore during 2002-03) upto March, 2003. No CLA was released during 2003-04. As the desired progress in respect of the project works could not be achieved, the State Government has proposed during August, 2004 for exclusion of the project from AIBP and for transfer of the unspent balance amounting to Rs. 10.25 crore to the Teesta Barrage Project. This proposal was accepted by MOWR during November, 2004.

Government of West Bengal has included the

*This part of the speech was laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No.LT 2902/2006.

[Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi]

Subarnarekha Project under their programme of Bharat Nirman. Government of India may consider to provide assistance to the project under AIBP after getting the necessary proposal from the State Government along with indication for matching budget provision made by the State for the purpose.*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once depicted the irrigation projects in our country as temples of modern India. As we know, irrigation always plays a pivotal role in the development of agriculture. India is a country where 67 per cent of population still ekeing out its livelihood from agriculture.

It is really well appreciated that the production in agriculture in the irrigated areas always exceeds the production of agriculture in the rain-fed areas. However, only 40 per cent of the net-sown area is being irrigated now.

It is in this context, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. Subarnarekha project was a multi-purpose inter-State irrigation project where three States—erstwhile Bihar now Jharkhand and West Bengal—concluded a tripartite agreement to harness the water resources available in the Subarnarekha Basin. Insofar as Subarnarekha Basin is concerned, replenishable groundwater resources is estimated as 1.82 Billion Cubic Meter per year; available groundwater for irrigation is estimated in this Basin as 1.55 BCM; and groundwater potential for exploitation is estimated in Subarnarekha Basin is 1.40 BCM. The profile clearly justifies the construction of Subarnarekha Barrage project because that particular region is starving for water over the years.

We have already expressed our concern from West Bengal also that Subarnarekha project should be completed as expeditiously as possible. You would be surprised to note that in the Fifth Plan period, Chandil Dam project was proposed to be set up in Jharkhand. In the Seventh Plan period, Guladi and Kokpara Barrage projects were proposed to be set up in Orissa to cover Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts. In Jharkhand, it was proposed to cover Singum district. For West Bengal, it was proposed to cover East and West Midnapur districts.

But the fact is that the statement made by the hon.

Minister clearly reveals the dazzling incompetence of the State Government, which has not been able to even initiate any construction so far so Subarnarekha Barrage project is concerned in West Bengal. From the Statement, we come to know that as regards the physical status, the actual project works have not yet been started and only infrastructural work are in progress. No potential has been created so far.

In 1995, an hon. Minister of NDA Government has written a letter that the Government had a proposal to construct a canal on the Left Bank of the River in Midnapur district of West Bengal under Subarnarekha Barrage project. The proposal envisages construction of 19 to 20 km canal which is scheduled to be taken up in 2001 and is likely to be completed in seven years. However, the project has not seen the light of the day. For the entire Subarnarekha Basin, only 9.32,000 hectare potential have only been created by Subarnarekha Barrage project.

As far agreement, the cost of the construction of Chandil Dam was to be apportioned among the three States. West Bengal Government has already paid its share for the Dam but no progress has so far been made and no potential has so far been created in West Bengal. In that particular region, poverty and penury are ubiquitous. Already naxalites have been rearing their ugly head in the entire area. Farming community is clamouring over the years for water and irrigation facilities from the Subarnarekha Irrigation project.

Sir, this is the first time that I came to know about this; and this is given in the statement also.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: As the desired progress in respect of the project works could not be achieved, the State Government has proposed during August 2004 for exclusion of the project from AIBP and for transfer of the unspent balance amounting to Rs. 10.25 crore to the Teesta Barrage Project. The State Government of West Bengal has proposed to the Union Government to transfer the sanction amount of this project to the Teesta Barrage Project, which is some other project.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: I do not know whether the Union Government has approved the proposal. I would request the hon. Minister and the Union Government that in view of the emerging grim situation in the agricultural scenario, only irrigation can save us from further devastation....(*Interruptions*) We shall be happy to know that the present UPA Government—under the National Common Minimum Programme and with the special interest shown by our leader. Madam Sonia Gandhi Ji—has brought all the outstanding irrigation projects under AIBP, that is, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. I would request the hon. Minister to include Subernarekha Barrage Project as a fast track programme under the AIBP.

Secondly, if it is not possible, then this programme must be included in the 11th Five Year Plan or under any bilateral assistance programme, like the scheme for Jharkhand and the scheme for Orissa, which were sanctioned under the World Bank scheme. So, I would request the hon. Minister—I would also like to draw the attention of Madam Sonia Ji—to expedite the Subernarekha Barrage Project.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not ignore the Speaker; you will be in trouble then!

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: It is the demand of the local farming communities in West Bengal.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): This is a very important project.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask only one clarification.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is for the benefit of three States of Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal. This project was cleared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Planning Commission in the year 1995. The State Government has already spent an amount of Rs. 40 crore; but the Central Government has not taken any concrete measures to implement this project. This project was included under AIBP; only a small amount was sanctioned by the Central Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a question. We have got a list of 65 hon. Members wishing to make submissions under 'Matters of Urgent Public Importance'.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Land acquisition has

been completed....(*Interruptions*) Infrastructure has been completed....(*Interruptions*) In the year 2002-03, this project was stopped....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let both the State Government and the Central Government agree to complete the project as soon as possible. That is the best thing. All should work together and complete this programme.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Now, the State Government has sent a proposal to include this important project; the estimate is now more than Rs. 1,300 crore. It is not possible for the State Government to bear such a huge amount to complete this project because this project is necessary for irrigation as well as for flood control.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a question and get a clarification. Please cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Since the work of barrage is not completed, the two districts of Midnapore East and West are facing flood situation. May I know this from the hon. Minister? The State Government has sent a proposal to include it under Bharat Nirman.

MR. SPEAKER: It has already been done; you can read the statement.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: May I know whether the Government will consider including this under Bharat Nirman so that the project is completed?

MR. SPEAKER: It has already been included. You were not here and you did not read it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: May I know whether the Government of India will sanction adequate amount so that the construction work can be started and completed within a stipulated time limit?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabodh Panda—Not present.

Shri B.K. Tripathy. Please ask only one clarification.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): I would just put a question.

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is not there in the list but I am allowing you to seek a clarification only because you have made a request.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Subarnarekha is an interstate river having the water sharing pattern of 2 per cent with West Bengal, 27 per cent with Orissa and 71 per cent with Jharkhand. This river is considered as the sorrow of North Orissa. We are at the receiving end. It originates from Chota Nagpur of Jharkhand and outflows at Bay of Bengal in Orissa. Today, the entire North Orissa is flooded due to this river. The multi-river project will help to control flood and to irrigate the entire land of 3 states. Considering the importance of the project, will the Government declare it as hundred per cent Centrally-sponsored project and also include it in the Eleventh Plan? Three States have three different projects. Will the Government consider Orissa Subarnarekha Irrigation Project as the Centrally aided project so that it is completed. We are at the receiving end and are suffering but are not getting anything. My question is, will the Government consider to aid this entire project as a Central project.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Braja Kishore Tripathji, you have expressed your views, please sit down.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO (Jamshedpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, give me some time to express my views.

MR. SPEAKER: Chance to speak cannot be given. If you do not want to ask a question, then please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are not entitled to put any question, but I am allowing you.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the displaced people there are living the life of gypsies. Nearly 25000 people have been displaced. The condition is that today people are terrified on the news of setting up on an industry or construction of a dam there. So, I want to submit that such a mega project has been started in Jharkhand for the benefit of the people of Bengal and Orissa. Some declarations had been made by the Government in regard to the civic amenities, but none of

them has been implemented so far. Neither houses nor the funds to construct houses were given for the rehabilitation of the displaced. Displaced people there are drowning and losing their lives. They are not being provided with civic amenities ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, kindly help us. You have asked a good question and Mr. Minister has also noted it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I will be very brief in responding to the questions being asked by the Members. First of all, I would like to say that this Calling Attention is limited to the project in West Bengal and not in Jharkhand or Orissa. So far as this project is concerned, we have received no complaint from either Jharkhand or Orissa.

MR. SPEAKER: You are right.

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Therefore, I am sorry I cannot respond to the issues relating to Orissa and Jharkhand. The UPA Government, soon after it took Office, in its Common Minimum Programme laid greater emphasis on irrigation. I may inform the House that for the time I was in the Water Resources Ministry, to my utter dismay no State Government, irrespective of the Party which was ruling there, for the last three Plans gave any emphasis to irrigation, which has resulted in this crisis....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. You may leave it. Do not respond him.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: The most important thing is, irrigation is left to the States. Since Independence no irrigation project is considered as a Central Government project. It is always a State Plan project with the matching grant from the State and the Centre.

*Not recorded.

I do not want to embarrass any of my colleagues from West Bengal, but I think Shri Basu Deb Acharia will agree with me that on the desire of the West Bengal Government, Subarnarekha Project was sponsored as an AIBP project. It was the West Bengal Government who chose in August 2004 to shift the money from AIBP fund, meant for this project, to Teesta. They had responded accordingly. Now, if the West Bengal Government wants to put it in proper track by again shifting to AIBP, we are prepared to release the fund even tomorrow. Therefore, it is for the State Government to decide. If they want to backtrack and continue with AIBP, let them ask for the fund.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They have already submitted the proposal...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. You have already said this.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: I officially say that we have not yet received it....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Mr. Minister, you make your statement.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: I would like to inform the hon. Leader, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, that if a delegation submits something, it is not an official communication of the desire of a State. I would like to inform that if the Government of West Bengal desires to bring it back to AIBP, we shall respond to it at the earliest. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: I would like to conclude by saying that the Prime Minister has declared Bharat Nirman....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sunilji, please do not disturb the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Under Bharat Nirman, we have to irrigate one million hectare and the AIBP is being given the highest emphasis in that programme which would also take care of Subarnarekha Project....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you speaking while sitting.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You did not even bother to give notice about West Bengal.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: I have given a notice....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You gave notice at 10.30 *[English]* I am sorry. Now Shri Narendra to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please do not answer.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Calling Attention is over. I have called Shri A. Narendra. He wants to make a statement. I will allow you later but after his statement, according to the rules.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is my misfortune that I invited you to speak. While you are lucky enough since you have been called by me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We will give you chance next time, for now you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tripathy, you were not entitled to be allowed. I had gone out of my way to allow you. But it seems until are satisfied, you will go on speaking. What can I do?

14.26 hrs.

STATEMENT UNDER RULE 199

Explanation by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development about his Resignation

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record except the statement of Shri Narendra.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have to read it. You cannot go beyond this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI A. NARENDRA (Medak): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say thanks....(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, only the statement is to be read.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, That is what I am saying. You have to read only the statement.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Don't bother to give thanks, you read what you have submitted.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI A. NARENDRA: I will read what I have submitted. But first I wish to say thanks.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowed. Otherwise, according to the rules, I will have to delete it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: We have accepted it.

SHRI A. NARENDRA: I wish to say thanks to those who have supported us....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your much-valued friends are sitting here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. NARENDRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am submitting my statement to you and also thank all the hon. Members. While thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak, I am going to read my statement...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am happy that he has ended his fast.

[English]

SHRI A. NARENDRA: Sir, Sri K. Chandra Sekhar Rao, the Union Minister of Labour and Employment and myself representing the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) have resigned from the Union Council of Ministers. This unfortunate decision reflects the frustration and agony of the people of Telangana who once again feel let down and betrayed *vis-a-vis* the formation of Telangana State.

As you are kindly aware, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) agreed to join the UPA Government with a categorical assurance that the Telangana State would be formed after arriving at a consensus on the proposal.

It was incorporated in the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA, spelt out in the President's Address to the first Joint Session of Parliament and reiterated by hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh

at his first official and public Press Conference as the Prime Minister of India.

Subsequently, a sub-Committee was constituted by the UPA to consult all political parties in the country in order to ascertain their views on the proposal. There has never been any such precedent of arriving at consensus, when more than a dozen States were formed after 1956, yet we agreed to it with the assurance that it was only a formality and the entire process would be completed in just two weeks time. This timeframe was subsequently extended to four weeks and finally stretched to eight weeks. It is now more than 80 weeks since this promise was made.

Meanwhile, the exercise undertaken by the UPA sub-Committee to elicit the opinion of various political parties is practically over and the support extended by them for the formation of Telengana State is overwhelming. We have already waited for more than two years and the inordinate delay in taking a decision to form the State of Telengana is not understandable and is also intriguing.

At this stage an impression is sought to be created that consensus on the formation of Telengana State among different political parties, having representation in the Parliament, is yet to be arrived at. The fact is that a clear consensus on this score has already been achieved.

The other day, when a meeting of the leaders of the UPA constituents was convened all of them barring the Congress Party had vociferously supported the proposal. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except the speech of Shri Narendra, will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI A. NARENDRA: Further, six of the eleven parties supporting the Government from outside have also extended their categorical support in the matter.

An impression is also being created that the Left Front is totally opposed to the formation of Telengana State, which is a distortion of facts. The Forward Block is supporting the proposal unambiguously. The CPI(M) made it clear that it will not stand in the way if the Congress and the BJP support this move....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not travel beyond the note.

SHRI A. NARENDRA: In addition, the BJP and a large number of NDA components also expressed their categorical support for the formation of the Telengana State. It may not be out of place to mention that all former Prime Ministers of India, either individually or on behalf of their parties to which they belonged, have supported the move without any reservations....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not according to the rule. I cannot permit violation of any rule.

SHRI A. NARENDRA: Sir, what is the rule?

MR. SPEAKER: The rule is that you should read the approved text. Are you reading the approved text?

SHRI A. NARENDRA: I am not violating the rule.

MR. SPEAKER: You have been violating the rule so long as you have been proceeding beyond the approved text. Do not go beyond the approved text.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair. You ignore that. Shri Owaisi, this is very unfair. You are such a co-operative member. What has happened to you?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not raise slogans.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Omit everything which is not there in the approved text.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI A. NARENDRA: With this background, the situation is ripe and conducive for the formation of Telangana State. There is no reason whatsoever to further delay it. Yet, some hints are being thrown at for deferring the creation of a separate State if not shelving the proposal altogether. An impression is being created that an all round and rapid development of Telangana is taking place under the present State Government, and that the demand for separate State is receding very fast. It is an utter falsehood to say the least.

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Again you are reading something which is not approved. No. I am not allowing it. Everything will be deleted.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI A. NARENDRA: As we have been maintaining, there cannot be any solution to the problems faced by the people of Telangana within the Integrated State of Andhra Pradesh. We forged an alliance with the Congress Party and joined the UPA Government with the hope, confidence and a categorical assurance that the Telangana State would be formed as a part of the Common Minimum Programme.

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is violating rules. It has become a joke. It has become a fundamental right to violate rules.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. NARENDRA: But to our dismay and to the surprise of the people of Telangana, it is not happening and is not likely to happen in the near future. Consequently, the people of Telangana have lost faith in the present set-up. Various sections of the people—teachers, Government employees, students, farmers, workers, journalists, lawyers doctors, artists and artisans—are mobilizing themselves for going back to the agitation mode on this score.

In this scenario, the TRS cannot remain a passive spectator leaving three and a half crore people of Telangana in a state of continued exploitation and consequent frustration mounting day by day. We have, therefore, decided to go back to the people of Telangana to be with them in their heroic struggle for achieving statehood for Telangana. We shall continue the fight till we reach our long cherished goal of getting the Telangana State whatever sacrifices needed to be made in the process. *Jai Telangana...**(Interruptions)* We will take assurance from here and keep on fighting...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded.

(Interruptions)...

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Now we will take up Special Mentions. Shri A. Rajagopal.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA (Siddipet): Sir, I have also given notice....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not a word will be recorded. I have called Shri Rajagopal now.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Rules do not permit. No. Sorry.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijaywada): Sir, I would like to recollect the words of Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi said "Shun casteism, communalism and racism and adopt humanism."

"Humanism" is much beyond any "ism", whether it is "nationalism" or "globalism" or "socialism". "Humanism" is much more beyond all that. The Congress Party is following the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi and is following the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. The Congress Party is a national party, which is reasonable and responsible. That is the reason why whenever an emotional demand comes up, we go by the "reason". *...(Interruptions)* There were some emotional demands. We are not denying that. People of India are definitely emotional in nature. But the leaders of political parties cannot guide their judgements or act based on emotions or sentiments.

That is the reason, as a responsible national Party, the Congress, appointed a Committee to look into all these aspects in the overall national perspective. Shri Pranab Mukherjee has been appointed as the head of that Committee. The Committee has gone through all these things and worked out how this sentiment should be addressed all over India, in the 29 States. Accordingly the Committee has come forward with the Second SRC.

*Not recorded.

Let us look at the Second SRC and let us address once and for all how this issue should be tackled.

We have not changed colours. We have been consistent. The Congress Party has been consistent. The Congress Party has not betrayed anybody and has not changed its stand. It has been consistent continuously and repeatedly and at all times.

We are not like the BJP. During the 1998 elections, they said: "One vote, two States" in Kakinada. But then they went back on their words. But the Congress Party did not change its words....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is over.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, nobody will be allowed to speak.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sarvey Satyanarayana will associate with what Shri L. Rajagopal has mentioned.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I will come to your matter. Once you come here, then your matter will be deleted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you after this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, I offer to resign if they prove that they have been consistent....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Okay.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: We have been consistent, but they are not consistent....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is over. Shri L. Rajagopal, you spoke well.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is over.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sarvey Satyanarayana will associate with what Shri L. Rajagopal has mentioned.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I call Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Basu Deb Acharia's speech will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody understands the agony of the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is over.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: But this is not your constituency.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please be very brief.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sarvey Satyanarayana, your name has been very much recorded. Shri Satyanarayana has associated and strongly supported Shri L. Rajagopal.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, in Chamba area of Himachal Pradesh, construction of a hydel power project is going on....(Interruptions) The Minister of Power should remain present here....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why should he be present?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is because he knows the problem....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has to go to Rajya Sabha.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, please be brief and be pointed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Workers of that particular project demanded minimum wages from the contractor engaged by the NHPC, that is the Hindustan Construction Company. There was an agitation. Three workers were murdered. Though the murderer was arrested, but later on he was bailed out....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I take it that the court has given him bail.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is happening today? The workers, as they are demanding minimum wages and allowance for construction of tunnel, are not being allowed to work. This construction company under NHPC is now engaging new workers. The State Secretary of the CITU was arrested on false charges....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. I have to deal with 55 matters.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He was tortured in police custody.

Sir, I demand that the CBI should inquire into the murder of three workers. The rein of terror, which was not prevalent in that area, should be ended and the workers should be allowed to work. The situation should be restored in that area....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal and Shri Amitava Nandy will be associated with this matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, in Himachal

Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab, the minimum wages law and such other labour laws are being grossly violated.(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Recently a delegation met the hon. Minister and he had assured that he would do the needful. But nothing has been done.(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, we have been assured.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate. Mr. Minister, you may go out.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow him to respond.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you are not cooperating with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I will cooperate with you, but please tell him to respond....(Interruptions) [Translation] Please let him speak....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has stated that he would consider it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you write to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you please say that you will consider the matter.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): Sir, I have already discussed with Shrimati Brinda Karat, hon. MP and other people. They are all satisfied. I had called all the officers also on the day before yesterday....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we are not satisfied.(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: How can we satisfy? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you are not keeping your words.

I am sorry Shri Ananth Kumar that you have been interrupted.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no submission. The only submission is please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, this matter is related to the poor people....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All matters are related to the poor and members from both sides raise such issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, I rise to reflect the apprehensions in the minds of five and a half crore people of Karnataka. Recently a delegation from Maharashtra led by the hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra met the hon. Prime Minister and raked up the old border issue....*(Interruptions)*

Now, with great dismay I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government that hon. Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj Patil also went along with the delegation to propound the case of Maharashtra. I feel that the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Minister of Water Resources, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs or all the Union Minister *per se* should be impartial. When the States. Reorganisation matters are before the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, he should not be a part and parcel of any delegation of any State. We all know that in 1967 only Justice Meherchand Mahajan in his Mahajan Commission's Report very clearly said that Belgaum is part and parcel of Karnataka and it is an indivisible part of Karnataka. Unnecessarily, the State of Maharashtra is

raising the issue again. I want to say only one thing that when the Commission was being formed, the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri V.P. Naik stated categorically that the recommendations of the Commission would be binding not only on both the States but also on the Union Government. It is in this background that the Union Government appointed the Justice Meherchand Mahajan Commission.

I also want to quote one thing. The late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, when he was the Prime Minister—as it was reported in the Hindi on 28-5-1986—he ruled out any reopening of the Mahajan Commission's Report on the boundary issue between Maharashtra and Karnataka and said this. I quote:

"How can we go on reopening the issue. If we do so, there would be no sanctity of the institutions we set up."

We take the statement as a commitment of the Union Government and hold that the Union Government is bound to respect the sentiments and the commitment of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I want to conclude. I want to say only one thing. On the 21st of this month, it was expected that the Union Government would file its response to the Interlocutory Application of the Maharashtra State Government before the hon. Supreme Court.

MR. SPEAKER: You should not be on this now.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: But till today, there has been no response filed before the hon. Supreme Court. Therefore, I would urge upon the Union Government that it should respect the recommendations of Justice Meherchand Mahajan Commission's Report and it should implement the Mahajan Commission's recommendations in letter and spirit....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pralhad Joshi is associating with it.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I want your kind support

[SHRI ANANTH KUMAR]

and intervention. The hon. Leader of the House is here. He should assure the Government of Karnataka that justice would be done and the Mahajan Commission's Report would be implemented....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may associate with it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only you associate with it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You send the name.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: My dear colleague Shri Pralhad Joshi has also given a notice. I would request you to give him an opportunity to speak. He is a young and upcoming Member of Parliament. The Leader of the House is here. It is a burning issue in Karnataka. There is an apprehension in the minds of the people of Karnataka.

MR. SPEAKER: Karnataka is very much a part of our country. It is a very important State. A very important representation is there.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Therefore, there is an Interlocutory Application pending before the Supreme Court. Shri Shivraj V. Patil, being the hon. Union Minister, should not become a part of the Maharashtra Delegation. I want to say only one thing.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is recorded anymore.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Do not record anything more.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You know that this does not happen.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Shri Pralhad Joshi's name is recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a place for making fun.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Unless he responds on his own, I cannot force him.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I would request him to respond....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your request is recorded. Please cooperate. I have got 65 matters to deal with today. It is not fair. Your name was quite well below the list. I have called you. Please sit down.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: The Leader of the House is here.

MR. SPEAKER: You know it very well. Why do you force me to speak? Do not write one more word.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: So what?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: He has given notice.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: He has given notice. I have allowed his name to be recorded. Shall I tell the House what he has told me?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no use. Your name is recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given notice. Everybody is doing whatever he likes.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY(Sabarkantha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Don't read any newspaper.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: No, Sir, I am not reading the newspaper.

[Translation]

I would like to draw the attention of the House and the whole world towards the incident of the hijacking of flight IC-184 and the terrorist who was released. Today some new facts have come to light. Opposition party had always been blaming us of adopting soft attitude towards terrorists and terrorist activities or adopt such policies which encourage them. Not only that many terrorists accompanied the 'Iron Man' and 'Vikas Purush' who were in opposition to them and how they wanted to curb them is reflected here. And with these very reflections, we have also been pictured. According to the new facts which have come to light, when they were in power their partner in the NDA alliance Dr. Farooq Abdullah has given an interview which has been published in a newspaper. In that interview Dr. Farooq Abdullah has said that the then Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Advaniji, both of them had decided to release Maulana Masood Azhar. Not only that, Dr. Farooq Abdullah was against such a decision and he had refused to release

him. The matter came to such a pass that he was told that if he would not release him, they would expel him from the NDA. In that interview he further stated that if those hard core terrorists were not released at that time, terrorism may not have spread to Heathrow in London and other parts of the world as it is today. Whole responsibility lies on the then Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing can be shown. Don't show anything.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

14.57 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Ashok Pradhan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

MR. SPEAKER: If anything has been said which is not proper, I will expunge it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please bring it to me. I will see the record.

...(Interruptions)

14.58 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The matters under Rule 377 are treated as laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

**Treated as laid on the Table.

(i) Need to accord approval to the proposal of Gujarat Government for setting up an Export Zone in Saurashtra, Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD (Junagarh): Sir, Saurashtra is the largest groundnut-producing region of Gujarat. As per the data of last three years, the production in Gujarat State has been as below:-

Year	Production
2002-2003	1094500 tonne
2003-2004	4477600 tonne
2004-2005	1812000 tonne

Groundnut is also exported from the Saurashtra region on a large scale. But due to private agencies and the absence of export zone the farmers do not get the right prices for their crops and the private agencies also exploit the farmers.

The income of both the government and the farmer may be increased if the export of groundnut is carried out through export zone. In October, 2003 a proposal was forwarded to the Government of India by the State Government regarding setting up of Export Zone for groundnut in Saurashtra region.

The proposal for setting up of Export Zone in Saurashtra region is important in the interest of farmers as well as that of the Government.

I request the Government to take appropriate action on my proposal.

(ii) Need to provide financial assistance for solving the drinking water problem in district Mathura, Uttar Pradesh

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Sir, the problem of drinking water in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh could not be resolved even after 59 years of Independence. Even today in rural areas women fetch drinking water from 3-4 kms. In the Year 1984, Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had introduced the 'Drinking Water Scheme' to resolve this problem but the condition of Jal Nigam

responsible to supply drinking water is so miserable that they are not in a position to provide salary to their employees. The Department had built water tanks to provide drinking water in 3 or 4 villages but today 90 per cent of the tanks maintained by the department are either damaged or are useless and as such drinking water is not being provided. The situation is going to worsen during the summer. In my district, crores of pilgrims/tourists visit every year and they have to face great inconvenience due to this problem. His Excellency, the President and the hon'ble Prime Minister have also expressed their concern over this issue. The Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development has informed that Rs. 100 crores have been provided to the state government to resolve the problem of drinking water in Uttar Pradesh. I have written to the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Director, Jal Nigam for resolving the problem of drinking water in my district but no action has been taken in this regard.

Therefore, I request that the State Government of Uttar Pradesh may be given appropriate direction to fulfill this basic need of my district and I also demand additional assistance from the Union Government for the immediate solution of such a serious problem.

(iii) Need to set up a Food Park in Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is setting up Food Parks at various places in the country.

Dindigul district in Tamil Nadu is one of the backward districts.

I request the Government to set up a Food Park in Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu, for the benefit of the people.

(iv) Need to provide infrastructural facilities in the Anand Parbat area of Karol Bagh Parliamentary Constituency

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the Anand Parbat area of Karol Bagh district, which is commercial area and most part of which is authorized

industrial belt adjoining the densely populated residential areas, like Nehru Nagar, Baljeet Nagar, Anand Parbat, Rohtak Road etc. The land acquired by DDA is lying vacant in this area. More or less two-three bighas of land is lying vacant and at some places big plots of 5000 yards or more that this one are lying vacant which the land mafias take in possession. As a result thereof the people living in nearby colonies have to face a lot of difficulties.

I urge the hon'ble Minister that the DDA should protect the vacant land by constructing wall around it and the Government should make a big hospital of 500 beds. Two senior secondary schools, a big park and the parking sites, community hall, Child Development Centre etc. should be constructed for the residents and the businessmen of the area.

One more important thing towards which I would like to draw your attention is that the poor residents should be given brick built houses at low price by the DDA at the same places where their Kachch-pukka houses exist and some houses should also be allotted to the local industrialists so that the industrialists coming from far away places could not have to face traffic jam and expenses on fuel could be reduced. Not only the requirement of residential houses could be met but with these measures jhuggi-jhopadi dwellers will also get pucca houses to dwell in.

- (v) **Need to address the problem of malnutrition in children in Chhattisgarh and other parts of the country**

[English]

MS. INGRID MCLEOD (Nominated): The statistics, from various National and International agencies about undernourished children in India, indicates a hopeless future for 47% of India's children. The latest statistics of UNICEF shows that 47% of kids under 5 year suffer malnutrition in India.

The causes indicated are poor quality breast feeding, high population density, high rate of infectious diseases high rate of illiteracy among women, early marriage, low rate of immunization and high birth rate of underweight babies.

In Chhattisgarh alone the death rate due to malnutrition is about 300 per year.

Most children who suffer from malnutrition reside in the interior regions where there are inadequate healthcare facilities.

Such a high percentage of malnourished children will definitely create a debilitating effect on India's future economic prospectus.

Malnourished children if left untreated cannot hope to achieve sound health in adulthood and thus cannot contribute to the country's work force.

I request the honorable Minister to take appropriate steps in this regard and also address the issue of malnutrition in children.

- (vi) **Need to open a Central School in Jalaun Garautha Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): A large number of people from my parliamentary constituency Jalaun Garautha, UP are working in military and para military services. They are posted at borders in remote areas due to which they are not in a position to provide good education to their children and a large number of officials whose services are transferable are also not in a position to get their children educated as there is no Kendriya Vidyalaya in the backward areas like Urai and Jalaun.

I, therefore, request the Central Government that a Kendriya Vidyalaya may please be set up in my parliamentary constituency Jalaun Garautha.

- (vii) **Need to provide education, employment and infrastructural facilities in Tumkur Parliamentary Constituency, Karnataka**

[English]

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): There is growing unemployment in my Parliamentary Constituency Tumkur. There are Medical, Engineering Colleges and other Educational Institutions. Thousands of Students are passing out every year. But due to lack of proper avenues, they are not getting any job. As such unemployment is on the higher side.

[Shri S. Mallikarjuniah]

Keeping in view the alarming situation, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to provide employment to the educated students.

Also the roads are in a very dilapidated condition and there are frequent accident and loss of lives. As such it is very essential to have proper maintenance of the Roads by way of widening and maintenance.

Since Tumkur is very close to Bangalore i.e. about 70 KM distance, Technological Park has to be established in Tumkur. I urge upon the government to come forward in this task.

The HMT factory which is having all sophisticated equipments and infrastructure, it is not functional. Due to poor management, the said factory has been closed and even after several attempts to revive the said factory, no concrete solution has been evolved so far. With the result thousands of people are rendered jobless.

It is long standing demands of the people of Tumkur that an overall improvement in the field of education, employment and basic amenities like proper roads for the smooth passage of vehicles etc.

I once again urge upon the Government of India to take immediate step to redress the grievances of the people of Tumkur at an early date.

(viii) Need to provide facilities to the tourists at Pushkar in Rajasthan

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Pushkar is the most ancient, important and historical religious place in Ajmer district of Rajasthan. It is also said to be a 'Teerth Guru'. It is the only place in the world where the temple of Bhahmma is situated. According to mythology the centre of creation exists in Pushkar. It is the place where Jagatpita-Brahmma has organized a yogna for the creation of the world. Teerthraj Pushkar is the city of temples as well as the center of veneration and devotion for all religions. Tourists from across the country and the world visit here all over the year and particularly during the festival season. But it is regretted that the Pushkar Sarovar, which contributes in making pushkar famous and

in which lakhs of devotees attain sanctity by taking holy dips has gone highly polluted for the last few years effluents from the hotels built at its bank and sand and soil erosion from the mountains, have polluted the water of the sarovar on one hand, while on another hand silt and sludge being brought into it has reduced its water holding capacity to a great extent. Due to encroachment and obstructions on the catchment area flow of water is very low and as such pilgrims face a lot of problems for the whole year.

Therefore, the department of Tourism and culture, Government of India is requested that in view of maintaining the dignity of Teerath Guru Pushkar and for the convenience of lakhs of devotees adequate water storage should be ensured in the sarovar for which the encroachment on the catchment areas should be removed, feeder should be constructed and it should be made pollution free by cleansing the silt, sludge and sand.

(ix) Need to check the spread of Encephalitis in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Thousands of deaths take place due to encephalitis in various parts of the country every year. Encephalitis is a fatal disease which generally spreads out from July to October. A quarter of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh are affected with this disease every year. In the last 28 years, the death—toll due to this disease has reached more than 50,000 in Uttar Pradesh. Last year, more than 3000 patients suffering from this disease had been admitted in the BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur, UP alone out of which more than 1000 patients succumbed to death. Children below the age group of 18 often fall prey to this disease. If proper treatment is not provided in time the patient dies. Once a patient falls a prey to this disease then even if he is cured, he becomes mentally or physically challenged. In view of the fatality of this disease, the Union Minister for Health had visited Gorakhpur last year and he gave an assurance for vaccination and spraying of insecticide, but due to lack of timely arrangement of all these things, more than 500 patients of encephalities are admitted in the B.R.D.

Medical College out of which about 100 ones have succumbed to death.

I request the Minister for Health and Family Welfare that for the prevention of this disease sufficient arrangement of vaccination and spraying of insecticide may please be made in the Eastern UP as well as in the identified areas of the country and also a center be set up in Gorakhpur to check the spread of this disease.

(x) Need to release adequate foodgrains to Uttranchal under Public Distribution System

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, the Public Distribution System has proved to be a failure in distributing foodgrains to the consumers in the country, particularly in Uttranchal. This year Uttranchal has been hit by drought and the marginal farmers of this state have a little foodgrains to eat. On the other hand wheat is not being made available at the public distribution centers. Due to shortage of foodgrains and pricehike, people living below poverty line are struggling for life.

Godowns in hilly remote areas are lying vacant and the essential food commodities are not available even in the open market. People living above the poverty line have been debarred from getting foodgrains under the public distribution system.

In these adverse circumstances my request is that the Central Government may provide immediate relief by releasing adequate foodgrains to the people living in remote areas on the lines of the measures taken earlier by way of making allotment of additional foodgrains to Uttranchal.

(xi) Need to formulate mechanism to prevent the child labour in organized and unorganized sectors

[English]

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): Our country has stepped into its 60 years of Independence, but the question of employment of child labour in different sectors both organised and unorganised is a matter of grave concern. It is also very much alarming that out of 21 crores child labours in the world, India accounts for 9 crores. In spite of the introduction of Sarva Shiksha

Abhiyan, increase in the number of child labour calls for a serious introspection. All existing laws regulating employment of child labour are flouted with impunity. This problem needs to be taken up in the background of socio-economic scenario of our country. Let the Government come forward and we also take a pledge of protect our future generation and sincerely work for a bright future for our children.

(xii) Need to open a Hospital with all facilities in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): Sir, I want to draw your attention towards my Parliamentary constituency, Moradabad. This parliamentary constituency is adjacent to Rampur, Amroha and Sambhal parliamentary constituencies which have a total population of about 50 lakhs. Moradabad city is its headquarters. Many offices of central government are located here and it is a major export centre of brass industry. Despite having all other facilities in this city it has no big hospital run by the Union Government. Therefore, patients of this district and other adjoining districts have to rush to Delhi. The Hospital located in this district is not adequate to cater to the needs of the patients. The people of my parliamentary constituency have been putting a demand for setting up of a Central Hospital in Moradabad district for years.

Therefore, I urge upon you to set up a Central Hospital equipped with all facilities in my parliamentary constituency of Moradabad district immediately.

(xiii) Need to permit Members of Parliament to use beacon lights on vehicles for their identification

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Sir, many State assemblies of the country have given permission to their Members to use green and other type of beacon lights on their personal vehicles for their identification. Zila Panchayat President have been accorded status of State Minister and allowed to use red beacon light. Hon'ble members who represent many tehsils and more than one district are not given facility to use any kind of light, hooter, board, name plate and sirens in front and back of the vehicles which causes trouble for

[Shri Rajnarayan Budholia]

the Hon'ble Members while visiting their constituencies for inspection of development works, during their visits to rural areas, participation in public and party meetings, meeting administrative officials and officials of district committees and taking part in Janta darbars held at tehsil and district levels. Hon'ble Members have to show their identity cards at barriers placed at bridges and roads for toll taxes which is very degrading.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government, through this House, that Hon'ble members should be allowed to use any colour of beacon light, siren, hooter and name plate and board on their private vehicles for their identification keeping in mind their above mentioned problems.

(xiv) Need to open an Agriculture Products Retail Centre under 'National Horticulture Mission' in Patna, Bihar

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, the Government has talked of setting up a 'National Horticulture Mission' in this year's budget. Besides, Prime Minister has also mentioned several times about this mission. This mission will ensure facilitation of integrated research, production, post harvest management, processing and access at every end for proper marketing. Horticulture sector constitutes 20 per cent of the Agriculture sector in the Gross Domestic Product and makes for 54 per cent of exports whereas its area under cultivation is only 8.5 per cent. Therefore, there is a vast potential for increase in the horticulture sector. Agriculture Products Retail Centres are proposed to be set up in many parts of the country out of which one such centre is to be set up in Patna under this mission.

I want to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, through this House and urge upon him to take steps immediately in order to set up this centre in Patna so that farmers of the States could be benefited.

(xv) Need to set up a domestic airport in Ramanathapuram Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram): Ramanathapuram constituency is very

vast in physical dimensions spanning a length of 250 kms, passing through three districts. More than twelve lakhs people are living in my constituency. There is one naval air station functioning at Uchipuli town near Rameshwaram in my constituency. I would like to urge upon the Government of India to provide one domestic airport in my constituency near Uchipali for the following reasons. The dream project of India, Sethu Samuthiram project has been launched in Rameswaram which stands as a symbol of national integration. Secondly Rameswaram, internationally known as a place of sanctified worship and heritage, has got a limitless scope for cultural tourism. People from all over India are daily visiting the holy, tourist centres like Rameswaram, Thirupulani, Thiruttarkosamangai, Devipattinam, Kalaiyarkoil, Eravdi etc. which we can see around Ramanathapuram town. The another different trade and business all over the world are from my constituency who are in dire need of this domestic airport. I am sure that the Government of India could see a benefitable and profitable domestic airport by constructing one such airport in my Ramanathapuram constituency.

(xvi) Need to Implement Sixth bi-partite Settlement between All India IDBI Employees Association Mumbai and Board of Directors, IDBI

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana): IDBI was set up in 1964 under IDBI Act, 1964 to function as a wholly owned subsidiary of RBI in 1977, IDBI was delinked from RBI and was made an autonomous body. Since 1977, the employees are being automatically extended the RBI wage and other terms and conditions through Bi-partite settlement on the lines of the one subsisting in RBI. The current settlement which is the Sixth Bi-partite Settlement signed on March 17, 2006 between All India Industrial Development Bank Employees Association, Mumbai and Board of Directors, IDBI to be given effect from November 1, 2002.

Even after passage of IDBI Repeal Act and amalgamation of IDBI Bank Ltd. by acquisition of latter, the Management of IDBI Ltd. had extended Special Compensatory Allowance in line with RBI through Bi-partite settlement signed on August 16, 2005.

The said Amalgamation scheme approved by RBI

also ensures protection of terms and conditions of the employees employed in pre-merged IDBI Bank Ltd. till March 2003.

The Ministry of Finance, Government of India has not given clearance for implementation of the bi-partite settlement signed on March 17, 2006.

Sir, through you, I would request the Hon'ble Minister of Finance to implement the Sixth Bi-partite Settlement signed on March 17, 2006 between All India Industrial Development Bank Employees Association, Mumbai and Board of Directors, IDBI and to do justice with the employees of IDBI.

(xvii) Need to check smuggling of coal in Jharkhand and West Bengal

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Sir, illegal mining of Coal from Jharkhand, West Bengal and other States and smuggling of Coal worth crores of rupees is taking place. Coal extracted thus through illegal mining are purchased by sponge iron factories and fake depots. Every year hundreds of labourers die in illegal mining. No one takes care of them. In Jharkhand alone smuggling of Coal worth crores of rupees takes place in a month. Hon'ble Minister of Coal, Union Government, the Chief Minister, The Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Jharkhand Government have been informed in writing dozens of times but the State Government and officials particularly police officials are not paying any heed and labourers are given only Rs. 80 instead of Rs. 400 as wages.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to check smuggling of coal in national interest.

(xviii) Need to take rehabilitation measures in flood affected areas of Beed Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL (Beed): Sir, my constituency Beed, Maharashtra had been hit by flood of river Godavari. Many villages along the coast of Godavari in Gevrai and Majalgaon Parli tehsil have lost links. Farmers of many villages have been evacuated to safety by Army. There is all round havoc due to washing

away of all jhuggies, mud clusters and fodder of cattle in the villages. Even cows, bullocks and sheep-goats have been washed away. All the farmers of villages situated along the banks of the river have become shelter-less.

They are being given only two square meals by States Government. But farmers are worried about their future. The crop of Kharif has otherwise been hit severely due to lack of rain in the Beed district. On the other hand, due to flood in the Godavari and because of heavy rain in the upper region and release of water from the Jayakwadi project two pronged problem is created for the farmers of villages located on the banks of Godavari. These farmers need help and immediate assistance.

Therefore, through you I urge upon the hon'ble Minister of Home to pay personal attention in this regard. The evaluation of situation prevailing in the said area of Beed district should be done and Panchnama of all kinds of damaged suffered by flood hit farmers should be done immediately, fodder should be arranged for cattle, camps for farmer should be extended for another three months, first instalment of assistance to them should be released immediately and rehabilitation work should start without delay in all these villages so that recurrence of such a situation may be avoided and the future of the farmers of my parliamentary constituency Beed, Maharashtra be made fearless and prosperous.

(xix) Need to expedite the work relating to various Projects at Chhapra, Kaptanganj and Maharajganj in Bihar

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, various Railway Projects have been sanctioned in the country in which conversion of narrow guage from Chhapra to Kaptanganj via Siwan Thave into broad guage and laying a new railway line between Maharajganj to Mashrak are prominent. The work regarding conversion of narrow guage into broad guage from Chhapra to Kaptanganj is going on a tardy pace. The project regarding a railway line from Duronda to Mashrak was sanctioned by the previous Government under which the line between Duronda to Maharajganj had become operational but the work regarding acquisition of land for laying railway line between Maharajganj to Mashrak was still going on at a very tardy pace.

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

With the completion of the above mentioned both projects, common people of the surrounding thousands of villages will be benefited on the one hand and there will be a considerable increase in the commercial activities in commercial centre falling under the area on the other, thereby giving the benefit of revenue to the Government, common people and traders.

I urge upon the Government, through you, to expedite the work relating to railway projects from Chhpra to Kaptanganj via Siwan Thave and Maharajganj to Mashrak.

- (xx) **Need to regularise the services of temporary workers in Bangalore and other parts of the country**

[English]

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): More than a Lakh temporary workers all over India are on agitation for the last three months. In Bangalore itself more than 15,000 workers went on a procession to Vidhana Sabha to submit their memorandum to the Government. Many of them have worked for about 10 to 15 years and even then today they are temporary workers. The life of workers who are involved in the cleaning and repair of drainage is pathetic as they get very less salary and many of their children can not go to schools. Their health also deteriorates very rapidly. The central Government has received at least one dozen representation in this regard. Unfortunately no action has been taken in this serious matter till today child labour and bond labour is continuing even today after 59 years of Independence.

Those who are working in beedi factories match factories, Agarbathi industries cracker manufacturing factories and such other industries are also not getting their salaries on time. They have to work for a meagre salary. They cannot spend a single penny for taking care of their health.

I therefore, request the centre to take immediate steps to protect these workers by making all these temporary workers as permanent employees so that they can also lead a peaceful life like other employees.

- (xxi) **Need to look into the procedure adopted by the Uttaranchal Government for issuing the caste certificates to SC category**

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Sir, why is discrimination being made by the Uttaranchal Government in issuing caste certificates to the people of scheduled castes living in Uttaranchal? Though, they do not belong to the original caste of Uttaranchal but are treated as scheduled caste of Uttar Pradesh. Before the formation of Uttaranchal, it was a part of former Uttar Pradesh and after the formation of Uttaranchal, all rules and regulations of Uttar Pradesh were also implemented in the State.

I, therefore, demand that Uttaranchal Government should be ordered in connection with issuance of scheduled caste certificates to the Khatik, Balmiki and Dhanger castes without any loss of time because these people have been scheduled caste from that time when Uttaranchal used to be a part of U.P. I also demand that Uttaranchal Government should be asked to explain under which rule this sort of feelings are being incited.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House adjourned to meet again at 16.00 hours.

14.59 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till sixteen of the clock.

16.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at sixteen of the clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We would take up Special Mentions.

Yogi Aditya Nath to speak.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House, through

you, to the deaths due to starvation in different parts of the country. In the year 2000, the NDA Government had implemented some schemes keeping in view that starvation should not be the cause of death in any part of the country. Schemes like Food for Work, Antodaya, Annapoorna and BPL etc. were implemented but I am constraint to say with a heavy heart that all these schemes have been misused in different areas and such schemes have become a means for those who want to swindle and cheat. More than 35 people have died due to starvation during the last 20 months in Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh. I had moved a calling attention in the House in April, for which an answer was given by the concerned Ministry in the house....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, it is not right, what is the source of information of the hon'ble member?...(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, I am giving evidence and saying this on the basis of facts....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Don't raise state matter in the House. It creates trouble.

...(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, I am having facts.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the proper place for this. You can't raise a state matter in the Parliament. No State matter will be raised in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, this is not a matter of a state but it is a matter which relates to the deaths due to starvation. I would like to draw the attention of the house the loopholes in our Public Distribution System.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am trying to do it. Why do you not hear?

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, listen to me please. The Uttar Pradesh Government itself ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yogi Aditya Nath, please take your seat. I would not allow any more. You are misusing your opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav to raise his matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yogi Aditya Nath, I would not allow it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record it.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Listen to the problem of rural people of Rajasthan.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record, then why are you speaking?

...(Interruptions)

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, due to floods in Rajasthan there is a heavy loses of human life in some districts of Rajasthan. Whenever any clamity or natural disaster take place some deaths always occurs. We will to save their lives....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yogiji, you should be more disciplined than others.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: I would like to draw the attention of the house towards the fact that people

*Not recorded.

[Dr. Karan Singh Yadav]

get stranded upto 10 hours in a river and people saw all this helplessly, even a minister of Rajasthan Government was also there and...(Interruptions) he could not save them. ...(Interruptions)

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: The minister could not save those people...(Interruptions) neither do I say that the Government of Rajasthan has not made any arrangements nor am I trying to politicise the matter....(Interruptions) but I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that people drawn in front of your eyes.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please call the Prime Minister.

I do not think you are in a mood to run the House.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: People of several villages went to another place due to floods in Barmer.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you please conclude.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: I submit that the Union Government together with state Government should start work for providing relief to the flood affected people immediately...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Nikhil Kumar.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody co-operates. I think some drastic action has to be taken one day.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, I thank you for the opportunity....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You keep on speaking yourself and do not allow to listen to anybody.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please call the Prime Minister.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I would like to inform you that today we are continuing the business as per the Order Paper. The only last important legislation that is pending is the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill which has been passed with amendments from Rajya Sabha with the commitment of Prime Minister for the Tiger Project to the nation. It is vitally linked to the forests and to the Tiger Project. That Bill is pending. I would request you that after taking one or two 'Zero Hour' matters, you allow us to pass this Bill....(Interruptions) Allow me to complete [Translation] Please rise to speak when I have concluded. Such interruption in between speech is not proper. Please let me speak....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Devendra Prasad Ji, you too do not understand and rise to speak in between the speech.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): Our issue is a very serious one. A ban is being imposed on rickshaw pulling in Delhi.

MR. SPEAKER: I will give an opportunity to you as well. Everybody's issue is a serious one.

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Please take up the wild life protection Bill after special mention. No member from our UPA will speak on it. This is an Amendment Bill; let the Minister move it and then it will be passed. After that, you give your valedictory speech meanwhile Prime Minister will also be present.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to that Bill.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After a few matters, I will take that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to this.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The amendments have not been circulated.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, do you not want the Bill to be passed?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I want the Bill to be passed.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, please co-operate.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, thank you for giving me this chance. I rise to invite the attention of the Central Government, the Union Power Minister and the Chairperson of the UPA to an important power project that will gravely affect the power situation in Bihar. The 2200 MW project is to be located at Nabinagar in my constituency Aurangabad in Bihar. I thank you sir for giving me a chance to speak on the subject of this project which has been pending for seventeen years. It is a project that was conceptualised way back in 1989...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are becoming as absolute pain in the neck.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: But there was no progress of that project till 1999. It was only in 1999 that efforts to get it moving began. Its feasibility studies were completed, including consultation with the Planning Commission. That was the time when Power Purchase Agreements should have been finalised. Since normally, these power projects are constructed by the National Thermal Power Corporation it should have negotiated and finalised the Agreements. But in an unprecedented move, the Railway Ministry offered to construct it by setting up a Railway Power Construction Corporation with 51 per cent equity in it. This was unheard of and it created a wrangle between the Power and the Railway Ministries. However, the matter was somehow sorted out and it was hoped that when this project came into being, it would solve the power problems of Bihar because it was to be a 2200 MW power project. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should very briefly mention it. Long speeches are being made. How dare you carry it? We have to chance the entire functioning. Please conclude.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: The Thirteenth Lok Sabha got dissolved. After the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, a foundation stone was laid a fortnight later.

This foundation stone was laid without the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: All State matters are being raised here.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, it is a mandatory requirement. The CCEA approval is mandatory. This was not taken. Till date this approval is pending with the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs even though the Ministry of Finance has given its okay to this project. This is a very important project not only for Bihar but for the entire Eastern India and, perhaps, for the whole country. It is going to be a 2,200 megawatt project. My appeal and a very earnest appeal, to the Union Government, to the hon. Minister of Power and to the Chairperson of the UPA is to kindly see that the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs is taken without further delay and the project is taken up for construction.

MR. SPEAKER: This is the time for matters of urgent importance. Urgency has no meaning in our dictionary.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar has increased the support price of paddy by Rs. 40 to Rs. 640 per quintal. In fact, if management cost of paddy is excluded even then it costs Rs. 1000 per quintal. Farmers in paddy growing districts of Vidharbha are committing suicide due to non-receipt of costs. Input cost is not being recovered from harvest. Farmers are tormented with the prices of chemical fertilizers, pesticide spray, cost of power, water, loan, interest and continuous damage to crops for last few years. Therefore, if support price is not increased all over the country, it should be done in zones and Government should provide the support price of paddy at the rate of Rs. 1000 per quintal. Besides, increase in subsidy is a must on chemical fertilizers, pesticides, power, water, tractors and other tools used for farming. There is a need to waive off the whole loan amount of farmers of Vidharbha to check suicide by them. They should get a price of Rs. 1000 per quintal for their crop, this is my request.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention to a sensitive matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: These are all State matters. You are bringing State matters here. I do not know as to how they came here.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: This is not a State matter. This is about MCD of Delhi. About 10 lakh people look after their families by pulling rickshaws. I do not want to read out complete news item but I want to quote few lines. [English] "all the arterial roads of Delhi in MCD should be strictly prohibited into plying of cycle-rickshaws on the patterns of NDMC and a strict legal action should be taken by MCD under Municipal bylaws against the violators."

[Translation]

What will be its repercussion? Thus I want to say that it will result in unemployment of 10 lakh rickshaw pullers. MCD is snatching away the means of livelihood of the poor in the name of beautification of Delhi. Most of the rickshaw puller families are from Purvanchal. Most of the rickshaw pullers are from Bihar, Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Assam or Uttaranchal. Today, it is a question of their livelihood. On one hand employment is being provided under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme by the Government of India, efforts are being made to snatch away livelihood of lakhs of people in Delhi on the other. This ban on Rickshaw pullers is against the objectives of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Today there are about 70 lakh rickshaw pullers in 20 States and if such a tradition is initiated, it will endanger the bread and butter of 70 lakh rickshaw pullers. These rickshaw pullers earn Rs. 100 per day and feed their families. These 70 lakh rickshaw pullers earn Rs. 70 crore. The Government has not to invest a penny for that instead they pay some charges to the Government for rickshaw licence and increase the revenue of Government. Therefore, I demand the Government to intervene and review the proposed ban on poor rickshaw pullers and bring a legislation under the Article 41 of the Constitution to ensure that the means of livelihood of poor rickshaw

pullers, who belong to the lowest strata of society, is not snatched away.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to associate myself with this matter.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with this subject.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with this matter.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with this matter.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a big question concerning Delhi.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not your matter to be raised.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: There is Congress Government in Delhi....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have said it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra strongly supports. Shri Brajesh Pathak strongly supports. Shri Basu Deb Acharia supports. They are doing a different thing in Kolkata. Shri Sudhangshu Seal supports. Shri Ramdas Athawale supports. Shri Ramji Lal Suman supports. Shri Ashok Pradhan supports.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Send your names.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a matter of urgent public importance. Ferro chrome industry is facing severe problem for want of their main raw material, chrome ore. Sixteen ferro alloy industries situated in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa are not getting raw material

and therefore, they are on the verge of closure. Thousands of employees will be rendered jobless.

They are providing ferro chrome to entire alloy and stainless steel industry having about 500 units. Now, whatever raw material is available, they are exporting it but not providing it to meet the local demand of our industry. Chromite ore reserves in India are only four per cent of the total world reserves, but today India is the largest exporter. Other countries also have reserves. South Africa has 70 per cent of world reserves of chromite ore, but they are not exporting it. Even with four per cent of world reserves, India is exporting more than other countries do.

Our own industries are on the verge of closure. These industries are there in Vishnupur parliamentary constituency, which you represented. I have two industries in my constituency, which are on the verge of closure. If the Government of India does not take any decision within two to three days, the whole industry will be closed. So, I urge upon the Central Government to immediately stop its export and raw material should be made available to our own domestic industry.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to the serial bomb blasts in local trains of Mumbai on 11 July, 2006. About 200 people lost their lives and 1077 persons were seriously injured in this incident. Minister of Railways, Prime Minister and several other Ministers have visited Mumbai and made announcement for providing financial assistance to the kith and kin of persons who died and got injured. Financial assistance to the dependents of deceased has been given but out of 1077 injured persons 424 persons are critically injured, many of them have lost their power to hear, many of them have lost their sight, these people have been treated upon in various hospitals of Mumbai, hospitals have saved their lives by treating them; but they have not got the assistance announced by the Minister of Railways so far. The family members of these injured persons are facing difficulties owing to it. Since payment of hospital bills have not been made, hospitals are pressuring for the same. I demand, through you, that the persons injured critically should be given immediate

financial assistance as announced by the Minister of Railways so that they can be treated upon.

MR. SPEAKER: Speech should be precise and to the point like this. I compliment you for this.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the movement of medical and engineering college students. Those students, agitation is going on. The Government may or may not accept their demand, but they are committing atrocities on them. The students are being lathi-charged and tear-gased. They have even got non-bailable warrants against them.

I would request the Government that if they have to say something or if they have some grievance, then the Government must talk to them and negotiate with them, so that they should not feel that they are isolated from the stream.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, other matters of urgent public importance to be raised in the House can be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

*SHRI RABINDER KUMAR RANA (Khagria): Sir, my name be associated with Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav for raising the problem of Rickshaw pullers.

*SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, please associate my name also with Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav on this subject.

*SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Sir, I also associate myself with the subject raised by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav which is about the problem of rickshaw pullers of MCD of Delhi.

*SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Sir, today the farmers of the country are feeling helpless. In every session we discuss miserable condition of the farmers. We had been discussing this subject yesterday itself till late night. But the reality is something different.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Ashok Pradhan]

Sir, today farmer is committing suicide not only because he is burdened with loan but there are some other problems like not getting remunerative prices for their produce, unavailability of electricity and water as per his requirement, not getting loan on lower rates, acquisition of his land on very low price, damaging of crop in the flood and drought and not getting appropriate help from the Government.

Sir, my parliamentary constituency Khurja encompasses Noida, Greater Noida and in Dadri falls Greater Noida phase-2 Authority and the UPSIDC is in Secunderabad. These are all government agencies. These agencies acquire land of farmers at very cheaper rates per square yard and sell it at higher rates say lakhs of rupees to the industrialists, educational institutions, big traders, big colonizers, for townships and commercial centers (malls) and other purpose. For example, I would like to tell that the compensation of land in Noida and Greater Noida is given at the rate of Rs. 300-400 per square yard to the farmers and the land is forcibly acquired from them and then it is sold on unexpectedly high rates of thousands and lakhs of rupees per square yard. Likewise, the land for Greater Noida Phase-2 has been acquired from Dadri which would be sold to the big industrialists/traders.

Sir, in my parliamentary constituency there is a state Legislative Assembly constituency Secunderabad. Land of 10 to 15 villages of this constituency which include Hamidpur, Sarai Jagannath, Sarai Dulha, Asha deyi Prangarh, Shahbazpur, Bodha, Talibpur alias Kanakpur, Luhakar Asafpur, Jolly, Mallpur, Mahtab Nagar, Nangla Chini, Nizampur etc. is being acquired by the UPSIDC at the rate of Rs. 13, 15, and 18 per square yard. While the market rate of the land of this area is more than Rs. One thousand per square yard and the people are buying the land at this rate and are ready to buy. What is it if it is not the exploitation of farmers by the UPSIDC?

Likewise, land of some villages falling under the Legislative Assembly constituency of Khurja has been acquired in the past years by UPSIDC at throw away prices. Today the farmers are feeling helpless. It should be stopped immediately and the farmers there should get the price of their land as per the market rates.

Sir, I would like to urge the Parliament of the country for which the respected people from my area have elected me that this House should prepare such a concrete scheme so as to stop exploitation of the farmers at the hands of the State Governments and the State agencies. These agencies should have a meeting with the farmers and fix the price of land as per the agreement and the children of these farmers should, through these agencies, get employment in the industries installed there. They should also be consulted while preparing schemes for this area. They should have participation in the business. The villages of farmers should be developed and educational opportunities should be provided to the children of the farmers. Besides, ten per cent of the land out of the land acquired from the farmers should be given to the farmers so that the farmers too can be associated with the mainstream trade of the country and feel themselves economically and socially competent and lead a respectful life and extend their contribution to the 21st Century.

I once again appeal to the Hon'ble Members of this august House that they should rise above party politics and check exploitation of the farmers and resolve to provide all facilities to them.

[English]

*SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Through youo Sir, I would like to speak on very important topic. Sir, the NCERT books which are teaching are young youth in schools with wrong facts. They are creating disturbance in social harmony. Sir, the NCERT have mentioned that "Jat are Muraders" Sir, the Union Government have heard the sentiments of the Jat Community. The Jat Community has toiled hard on farmers to produce good agricultural goods. They have fought in different wars such as 1965, 1971 and the Kargil war. Sir, the community have sacrificed their blood for the country. This is what they get from the UPA Government after fighting four our country.

Sir, though I request you to urge to the Union Government to reconsider the NCERT Syllabi and we need honour the Jat community.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

Sir our first Prime Minister Panditji has considered Jats as a progressive hard working community. Sir, I would like to say that prestigious Birla Mandir in delhi's foundation stone is been put by late Maharaja of Dholpur Maharaja Udaibhan Singhji.

Sir, we need to restore the sentiments of the jat community.

Sir, heroes in our communities which fought for our freedom, they should be respected.

[Translation]

*SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Sir, I would like to lay my demands on the table of the House regarding the approval of the panchayati and Gramin Vikas Yojana, Swarnajayanti Yojana and other pending schemes.

The Government of Chhattisgarh had proposed for the scheme in the year 2005-06 which is being run by the Government of India with an amount of about Rs. 3000 crores. This proposal is still under consideration due to which the common men are in anger and are indifferent to governance and due to this development works are being hampered. The following schemes are pending in Chhattisgarh.

1. Horticulture Project Distt. Mahasamund 1500.00 lakh.
2. Horticulture Animal Husbandary and fisheries Project Distt Baster 1431.89 lakh.
3. Minor irrigation and Milk Development Distt Sarguja, Chhattisgarh.
4. Swarna jayanti Gram Swarozgar Pariyojana Chhattisgarh Kosa Palan 1424.30 lakh.
5. Swarnajayanti Vishesh Yojana Distt Korba 479.20 lakh.
6. Special livelihood and enhancement 487.03 lakh.
7. Pisciculture, Dhamtari 1000.00 lakh.
8. Hatbazaar S.G.Y. Pariyojana 4500.00 lakh.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

9. All lumpsum project of rural Pariyojana 3000 crore.

*SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, I would like to put my point under special mention. It is question related to the security of the country. The whole of the country and Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata etc. which are the main metropolitan cities are on the target of Chinese missiles. These missiles have been installed near kokoner lake situated in the east of Lhasa (Laaasa) which is the capital of China occupy Tibet. China's nuclear weapon research Academy is engaged in manufacturing these lethal weapons. The exiled Tibetan Community has been agitating against this academy. Satellite pictures and other sources have confirmed it. The exiled Government of Tibet at Dharamshala have presented the satellite pictures of these missiles before the media. We have received information of the creation of non natural danger in Tibet by China. Hon'ble Home Minister, Defence Minister and the Government of India should seek information about it and it should be clarified as to what measures have been taken by the Government because it is a question related to the security of the India.

[English]

*SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the House regarding some problems of Kendriya Vidiyalayas in our Country. In my Constituency, Mukundapuram in Kerala have no K.V. and also Trichur near Constituency which is the cultural centre of Kerala.

For want of K.V. the people, especially Central Government employees are suffering. There is vacant land belonged to Central Government there, adjacent to Highways. We can have Vidiyalaya in such lands. Government may consider, that establish K.V. in all Parliament Constituencies. Now we have the quota, only two seats in K.V. for each MPs every year, that may be increased.

I request that the Government may kindly be pleased to take steps to start Kendriya Vidiyalayas in all Constituencies and also to increase the quota of 2 seats to all MPs every year.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

*DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri): Sir, please permit me to raise the following matter of urgent public importance during Zero Hour on the 26-8-2006.

The Parliament has brought a bill for providing 27% reservation for OBCs in Central Government Institutions. Few students and resident doctors of some of the hospitals in Delhi have demonstrated against the bill even before this bill was tabled in the House. Some resident doctors of AIIMS have gone for mass casual leave. This raises some very serious questions.

Sir, it is the prerogative of the Parliament to make policies and laws for the development of the various sections of the society. When a people's Government in total accordance with the Constitution is forming laws any demonstration outside the Parliament against the very functioning of the Parliament is obviously unlawful.

The resident doctors going on mass casual leave is a form of protest by staying away from work. The resident doctors in AIIMS have again taken law in their hands. A representative of the doctors said over the Television that they are going on leave but will ensure that patients would be seen in the OPD. This is surprising. If they are on leave is it not illegal to enter the premises of the AIIMS and see patients? How can a doctor on leave see patients? The representative went on to say this time the protest won't be in the Gandhian way and it will be violent. How can this be tolerated?

The Supreme Court had already said any form of demonstration for and against reservation is illegal. They why no serious action is being taken against the striking doctors and students who are wilfully violating the SC directive?

Sir, I request the Government to immediately announce that any form of demonstration against the reservation as illegal and take severe action against those doctors who went on mass casual leave yesterday, the 25th August 2006. I request that serious action should be taken against the representative of the AIIMS resident doctors who talked on television that the protest won't be in the Gandhian way and it will be more violent.

*SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I may kindly be

allowed to raise the following important issue during Zero Hour:

Extension in the time limit for Excise benefits for setting up industries in Kutch.

In order to revive the economy of Kutch, devastated by a massive earthquake in 2001, GOI declared a Package for Excise benefits and GOG also declared a Package for Sales Tax benefits. Earlier, time-limit for setting up units was for 2 years which was subsequently, extended upto December 2004 and lastly upto December 2005. Kutch is a remote dry area with limited infrastructure and scanty rain. The region is frequently affected by natural calamities. Particularly, because of poor infrastructure, setting up a large industry in a limited time is too difficult. The State Government is therefore, representing to the GOI for extending the time limit upto December 2007 as also asking to make applicable, the liberal provisions as have been declared for Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Sikkim. With vigorous efforts of the State Government, 180 projects with investment of Rs. 7900 crore, have been commissioned, while 409 projects with total investment of about Rs. 32000 crore were yet under implantation on 31-12-2005. Though the GOI has extended the time limit till December 2005, the extension in such a piecemeal way, actually, does not help. Extension of time limit till December 2007 and applicability of liberal provision will give further boost to the economy of this remote dry region. If the time limit is not extended, some units might drop the projects and the state will suffer loss of the investment and employment opportunities. Therefore, State Government has also represented to extend it upto December 2007 only for pipeline cases. Hon'ble Chief Minister has written a letter to Hon'ble Finance Minister, Government of India on 3rd March, 2006.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to kindly extend the time limit of excise benefits for setting up of industries in Kutch upto December 2007.

*SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources about a serious issue of my Constituency.

Gahaga Pata is an area of 13,000 hectares of cultivable land situated in this area. Moreover, any breach in the embankments of the above two rivers also release the flood water into this area. This has become an annual feature during the Monsoon Season for the last 30 years. As a result, the fertile land has become almost uncultivable and has turned into a wasteland. Though the Beghuni drainage cut leading to the sluice gate at Naranpur is meant to drain out the accumulated water from the area, it is not effective because the water level of the rivers is higher than the water level of the flooded land. Every year the people of six Gram Panchayats in this river island lose their crops due to such flooding. As the main profession of this area is farming. The farmers are facing great distress due to the water logging.

I, therefore, urge upon the Minister of Water Resources to consider a special financial grant for this water logging area of my constituency to solve this problem.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, a large number of cow progeny are being smuggled to Bangladesh from India. Now with the Rail Minister's permission for extending railway service upto Dhaka, the smuggling of cow progeny has been made easier. The Supreme Court of India in Para 63 its decision, in the case of Akhil Bharat Krishi Go Sewa Sangh versus Andhra Pradesh and others, on March 2006 has directed the Union Government to review its meat export policy in view of the reducing number of cattle and its adverse impact on Indian Citizens. I want to know what action has been taken in this regard by the Government of India, till date?

We have come to know through media that the procedure to enact law to stop the smuggling of cow progeny has been started. Then what steps are being taken by the Government to stop this smuggling? What is the time bound programme regarding fencing of border?

[English]

*SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Sir, as you are well aware that after recognition of erstwhile Punjab State in 1966, Himachal Pradesh was never considered

Partner State in Bhakra Beas Management Board. In 1985-86, the state of H.P. was declared as a Partner State of BBMB. Since 1985-86, the post of special Secretary was continuously with the H.P. But on 11th of July, 2006 the said post of Special Secretary was removed without assigning any reason and lower post of the rank of "Director Security & CVO, which is not one among the four management posts, was given to H.P. The distribution of the four management posts allotted to different partner states are Member (Power), Punjab, Member (Irrigation) Haryana Secretary, Rajasthan, Special Secretary, Himachal Pradesh.

I perceive it as a conspiracy hatched by the members of other States. Sir, this decision by the Chairman/BBMB is totally irrational, and without any merit. The present Chairman is holding the charge of Chairman/BBMB in additional capacity. Any person holding any charge in addition to the capacity should not have any right to reserve the policy decision of the board taken some 20 years back. By taking such a decision Chairman/BBMB has unnecessarily created a wedge between different functionaries representing their respective partner states. The Chairman being a neutral authority should be non-partition and should not look like favouring any state.

Sir, through you, I request the Hon'ble Power Minister that post of Special Secretary to HPSEB officer should be restored. So those as an important partner state, the interest of Himachal Pradesh are looked properly in BBMP Management.

[Translation]

*DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak on this important subject.

It has been a constant demand, to include Rajbhar of UP in scheduled tribes, keeping in view their social and economic status, since independence of India. After independence 19 castes were placed under the category of denotified castes (vimukta jati) and out of this 18 castes were included in the category of scheduled caste. Only Rajbhar caste was excluded from it.

In the preceding session of Lok Sabha, I had raised this subject in this esteemed House. The former

*The speech was laid on the Table.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Rajesh Mishra]

Government of Uttar Pradesh have send their recommendation, in this regard, to the Union Government. But, till date, Rajbhar caste has not been included in scheduled castes. After this subject was raised in Lok Sabha, a central Government survey team was sent by the UPA Government to assess the social and economic conditions of the Rajbhar caste in the state. This survey team had submitted its report to the Government of Uttar Pradesh within time. 30th July 2006 was the last date for submitting the report by the Committee.

I demand the Union government to persuade the Government of Uttar Pradesh for sending this report to the Central Government immediately with its approval so that enactment of legislation for including Rajbhar caste in scheduled tribe may be done immediately.

[English]

*SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, Kind attention of Hon'ble Prime Minister is drawn towards the removal of a long pending anomaly in the pay scale of Assistants and Personal Assistants of Central Government Ministries. The class of these employees is the backbone of the Ministries and there is a great resentment among the employees of this class. It is understood that the case is pending this class. It is understood that the case is pending with the Prime Minister's Office and the Finance Ministry on a reference, has given the financial implication on a very high side. Where as the financial implication in this particular case is very small. Sir, it is demanded that the anomaly be removed at the earliest to boost the morale of this class of employees of Central Government Ministries.

[Translation]

*CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh): Sir, I express my thanks that you provided me opportunity to speak on an important subject like development.

Sir, it is a legal provision that development work in the country is done by Government of India and state governments through public welfare development projects, I would like to congratulate the UPA Government, hon'ble

Sonia ji and hon'ble Prime Minister that they have approved Panchayati Raj and schemes for road connectivity to each villages, Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Scheme for giving electricity to each villages and APDRP Scheme for strengthening the supply of electricity in the cities in order to fulfill the dream of Rajiv Gandhi and to bring all round development in the country.

Sir, an allotment of Rs. 3200 crore has been approved for Uttar Pradesh under the head of these schemes under the Rajiv Gandhi Electricity Scheme and out of this an amount of Rs. 2161 crores has been allocated. This amount is basically of public and for the public. But I have to say with great regret that the work cleared under the scheme has been entrusted to various private companies by the Central Working Committee by arbitrarily increasing the rate by around 60 per cent over the approved tender amount of REC. For example Rs. 39 crore amount approved for Etah has been increased to 64 crore and 26 lakhs and the tender of which has been given to Messers Accurate Transformer Delhi. And the amount of 49 crore 14 lakhs for Agra, Aligarh, Hathras and Mathura has been increased to 84 crore 85 lakh and after clearance the tender has been given to Messers Reliance Energy Limited, Noida. And the amount approved for Firozabad, Mainpuri, Farukhabad, Kannoji, Etawah, Auraiya, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Banda, Chitrakoot, Kanpur Nagar and Kanpurdehat has been increased upto thousands of crores. Not only this, various private companies are using material of unapproved companies having to quality and this will benefit electrification in no way.

Sir, an amount of Rs. 1091 crore has been allocated to the Government of Uttar Pradesh, by the Government of India, under A.P.D.R.P. Scheme for streamlining and strengthening the electricity system in various big cities of Uttar Pradesh. Out of this Rs. 30 crore has been cleared for Aligarh but this amount is being looted by the officers. False payment has been made by the officers to the local contractor who has used substandard material in construction. This is being done in the entire state. Hardly a year has passed after completion of work and all the transformers, installed, have been out of order and the wires have started to crack. It shows that the Government

of Uttar Pradesh is not interested in development activities. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards the deplorable condition of P.M.G.S.Y. scheme under this scheme. Under this scheme an amount of Rs. Two thousand, nine hundred crores has been sanctioned to the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Out of this an amount of Rs. 2222 crores has been allocated but an amount of Rs. 1366 crore has been spent by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and even today an amount of Rs. 856 crore of the Government of India is balanced on the Government of Uttar Pradesh. And from this sanctioned amount a road of 19700 km was to be constructed but only 1300 km road could be constructed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Even today the remaining 6700 km of road is to be constructed. This is a certificate of efficiency of the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Sir, an amount of Rs. 48 crore, out of the sanctioned amount of Rs. 80 crore, was allocated for dam construction to contain the flood of Yamuna in Aligarh but the same was given to their own contractor by the corrupt officers of the irrigation department of U.P. and the amount was looted. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh blames the Union Government in respect of development works and he level charges of discrimination against Hon'ble Soniaji and Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India. But, during last year, this state was given Rs. 13 crore against a demand of Rs. 11 crore for the scheme of the State.

Sir, in various developmental work projects 75 per cent is contributed by the Government of India. And among these in Panchayati Raj, Zila Panchayat, Block level Panchayat, Gram Panchayat, S.J.R.Y., Indira Awas Ration System, Mid Day Meal, continuous education, Rozgar Guarantee Scheme are the schemes sponsored by the Government of India.

Sir, at last, through you, I demand the Government of India that misuse of public money in various schemes should be stopped and directions for investigation; after appointing special teams from Power Department and Rural Development Department, should be issued so that people could be benefited as per target fixed by the Government of India.

[English]

*SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI (Rajahmundry): Sir, Kind attention of Hon'ble Prime Minister is drawn towards the removal of a long pending anomaly in the pay scale of Assistants and Personal Assistants of Central Government Ministries. The class of these employees is the back-bone of the Ministries and there is a great resentment among the employees of this class. It is understood that the case is pending with the Prime Minister's Office and the Finance Ministry on a reference, has given the financial implication on a very high side. Whereas the financial implication in this particular case is very small. Sir, it is demanded that the anomaly be removed at the earliest to boost the morale of this class of employees of Central Government Ministries.

*SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, kind attention of Hon'ble Prime Minister is drawn towards the removal of a long pending anomaly in the pay scale of Assistants and Personal Assistants of Central Government Ministries. The class of these employees is the backbone of the Ministries and there is a great resentment among the employees of this class. It is understood that the case is pending with the Prime Minister's Office and the Finance Ministry on a reference, has given the financial implication on a very high side. Whereas the financial implication in this particular case is very small. Sir, it is therefore demanded that the anomaly be removed at the earliest to boost the morale of this class of employees of Central Government Ministries.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Sir, around 8 crore students get through the 10+2 examination all over India but the number of students getting admission for higher education is merely 6 per cent thereof. It is a matter of concern. In the countries like Korea approximately 80 per cent students get admission for higher education. That's why I urge the Government to establish a large number of institutions of higher education to make higher education accessible to students. In India, the percentage of vocational training is merely 2 per cent

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

and training is imparted only in 141 trades. All over the world approximately 95 per cent students are being imparted training in about 3000 trades. So, I would like to suggest to the Government to formulate a policy for creating world class expertise in India to send them abroad. Besides, sufficient arrangements should also be made for higher education.

[English]

*SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, these nurses working at Appolo Hospital, New Delhi had been terminated from service for speaking Malayalam, their mother tongue, between themselves.

The director of Appolo Hospital has banned Malayalam in the Hospital where 90% of the staff are Keralites, where there is no such bar for other regional languages. The stand of the Appolo Management is highly objectionable as Malayam is a language included in the 8th Schedule of our Constitution.

Government of India should take suitable action against the Appolo Management and given instructions to all employees in the country to respect all the languages in the country.

*SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): Sir, through you, I urge the Government to include the 'Bester' and 'Gangamatha' communities from Mandhya District into the Scheduled Tribe list.

The 'Bester' and 'Gangamatha' communities in the neighbouring districts are called as 'Naika's and already included in the Scheduled Tribe list.

But nearly about three and half lak 'Bester' and Gangamatha' population lives in the Madhya district in Karnataka, which is part of my 'Kanakapura' parliamentary constituency, Malavalli in my Assembly segment.

The mentioned 'Bestar' and 'Gangamatha' population really lives with backwardness and deserved the status of 'Scheduled Tribe' which will help them towards development.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

*SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (Nizamabad): Sir, thank you for allowing me to raise the urgent matter of Public importance. Sir, I would like to bring it to the attention of the Hon'ble Health Minister, through you regarding the deadly viral fever namely 'Chicken Guenia' widely prevalent in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat etc. Sir, lakhs of people got affected by the deadly viral fever. 7 out of 10 people in the State of AP suffering with this fever including Hon'ble Minister of State of Health Mrs. Pandhaka Lakshmi is also suffering with viral fever. The symptoms are high fever, joint pains, swelling of the feet etc. As the Hon'ble Health Minister has reportedly said no one reportedly died because of this fever and the treatment is to take Amedagi and peraticumel. Sir, this is very misleading and shying away from responsibility. The elderly people with diabetes, heart problem & BP, when they contacted with these fever if they don't get admitted and not kept under medical supervision and given IV fluid items it can be controlled. But lack of awareness of the patients and doctors who are prescribing strong pain killers. Several analogical feb recently Amadigir related removal removal failing resulting in diseases. Sir my own uncle died of this deadly fever because of the reasons mentioned above. I am specially with practical knowledge. Sir I urge the Health Minister through you an awareness camp for doctors must be conducted to advice us non-removal toxic Audgeni tab, mobile clinic was to set up, separate casualty wards to be created in the Government hospitals on a war foot level. Sir diseases are not uprooting chicken related death does not mean people are not dying. Please look with open eyes and with human feeling and provide a relief to the lakhs people who are suffering with the deadly viral fever.

[Translation]

*SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY (Katihar): Sir, I give notice to raise the following question of public importance during the Zero Hour and I seek your permission for the same.

Balua Ghatti station has been constructed following the erosion of the said station in Katihar-Tejnarayanpur railway section under the North-Eastern Frontier Railway

*The speech was laid on the Table.

and is ready for operation for the last three months but the trains services are yet to be started in this section. As a result of it hundreds of passengers have to face difficulties everyday.

So, in order to bail out the common people from the difficulties the train services may please be started from Katihar Balua Ghatti station.

*SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the gifts worth lakhs of rupees which were purchased by the commercial officer with the approval of General Manager, Air India and presented to the distinguished personalities accompanied to the Prime Minister during his recent foreign tour by the Air India. The Prime Minister's Office has refuted the fact that the Air India has purchased the gifts.

I request you to conduct an enquiry into this matter by an independent committee or agency which is not under the control of CMD, Air India so that the enquiry may not be influenced. We have all the evidence to substantiate the fact that the CMD, Air India has authorised the commercial officer for the aforesaid purchase. PMO has not granted any permission to purchase the said gifts. It has been asserted that an enquiry will be conducted but the officers conducting enquiry are under the CMD and hence a fair enquiry is not possible. So you are requested to get the matter enquired into by an independent agency and the officers found guilty thereof should be punished.

*SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Sir, the provision of calculating taxes of public charitable institutions and granting tax exemption to them have been enumerated in the sections 11, 12, and 13 of the Income Tax Act. To get tax exemptions under these sections the institutions are inevitably required to be registered under the section 12A of the said Act. Without being registered no exemptions is provided to them.

I am surprised to know that approximately over 10,000 institutions with the names of Lions Club and Rotary Club have been operating in almost all the cities and major towns across the country for the last 50 years. None of these institutions has registered themselves

under the sections 12A of the Income Tax Act. These institutions are registered neither under the Company Act and the Registration Act nor as a trust. Thus these institutions stand to be mere a group of people. They do not held any separate statutory identity.

On account of being not registered under the section 12A, all the receipts of these institutions should be treated as taxable income but the Department of Income Tax has not started the process of tax realization from these institutions so far. Even a writ petition in the Rajasthan High Court has been filed to get the Government to issue directive to check the tax evasion on such a large scale. This petition has also been pending for about two years. In this respect a memorandum has been sent even to the Central Board of Direct Taxes. But the Government has made no efforts to realise tax from these institutions.

The number of such institutions operating across the country is about 10000. An institutions collects on an average Rs. 5 lakh every year from its members and the common people. The total tax on this income comes to Rs. 1,20,000 even after deducting tax exempted ceiling of Rs. 1,00,000. Thus about Rs. 120 crore of tax is being evaded every year. Even interest and penalty altogether amounts to Rs. 120 crore. If we go down to the fifty years back the tax evasions would be Rs. 12,000 crore.

The South-East Asia Head quarter of Lions Club is situated in Mumbai. An amount approximately Rs. 1000 crore is received by this Headquarter. This is also not registered under the section 12A. Its tax liability is also Rs. 300 crores each year. These institutions are also guilty of not deducting tax at source.

Sir, these institutions also receive grants from abroad. Prior registration under the Foreign Grants Regulation Act, 1976 is compulsory to receive grants from the overseas countries. These institutions are not registered even under this Act. Despite being intimated again and again the Ministry of Home Affairs is not taking any action under the said Act.

The retrence of the Government on such a large scale tax evasion evokes a number of doubts among the common people. Would you like to intimate the House what concrete steps are being taken by the Government in this regard.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

*SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO (Jamshedpur): Sir, the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme was launched by the Union Government for electrification of the rural areas. Under this scheme electrification of seven thousand villages was done during the year 2005-2006 and during the year 2006-2007 40 thousand villages were electrified. But in East Singhbhoom, Saraykela-Kharseva and West Singhbhoom districts of Jharkhand, despite having more than 70 per cent villages un-electrified, even the tender process for Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification has not yet been completed due to the apathy of the State Government which has led to the delay in the commencement of the work. Thus the target fixed by the Union Government could be achieved during the prescribed period due to the inability of the State Government.

So, through this House, I request the Government to intervene in this matter and do the needful for the early commencement of the work in the aforesaid three districts under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme.

*PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, a central team may be sent to Rajasthan to conduct a survey on the huge loss of lives and property caused by flood there. The huge loss of property has been caused by heavy rain and flood in the Southern and Western districts of Rajasthan particularly in Barmer, Pali Sirohi, Jalore, Chittor, Bhilwara, Dungarpur, Banswada, Udaypur, Koa, Jhalawad, Rajsamand districts etc.

The desert districts have been particularly affected by flood due to the torrential rains after the Independence Day. Roads, buildings and bridges have been damaged on large scale with the inundation of many colonies of the Southern districts. Due to floods hundreds of people have lost their lives in the Western districts of Badmer, Jaisalmer etc. in Rajasthan. Even according to the official data to death toll has crossed 70. Although the Government of Rajasthan have saved hundreds of people from the jaws of death through its own efforts and through rescue measures taken by the Army with the help of helicopters as well as their jawans. Crops worth crores of rupees have been devastated in Badmer, Jalore, Jaisalmer, Sirohi, Pali districts in Western Rajasthan and Southern Rajasthan and the remaining crops are facing

the onslaught of crop destroying pests. Earlier, the drought and now floods have broken the backbone of the farmers in Rajasthan. Many villages have been washed away by rains, crops of many villages have been submerged and the entire 'Kharif' crop has been destroyed. In Badmer area alone crops sown in 4 lakh hectares of land have been destroyed by flood. Due to incessant rains, damage to the tune of Rs. 42 crores has already been done in Badmer, Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan.

Therefore, in view of the harrowing circumstances of Rajasthan, I request the Government of India to send a Central Survey team immediately to Rajasthan to assess the extent of damage caused in Rajasthan, the old prescribed norms of the Central Calamity Fund and the Central Calamity Contingency Fund should be revised without further delay, a special Relief Package should be announced for Rajasthan on the lines of the packages for other States keeping in view the heavy loss of lives and property as well as the massive devastation of public and private property and crops without any further delay, the earlier outstanding amount of Rs. 123 crores to be provided to Rajasthan by the Centre should be released at the earliest, adequate quantity of wheat should be provided to Rajasthan and separate funds should be provided for the repair works of roads damaged due to floods.

[English]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajnagar): Sir, "Work for the nation, talk for the nation, live for the nation" with this slogan Mr. Devaraj, Manager, State Bank of Mysore started his padyatra from Kanyakumari on 12-01-2006 and reached Delhi. At Bangalore he was joined by Mr. G.N. Shetty on 14-08-2006 and his Guru, Dr. Kalyana Raman's Seven Volumes give all microscopic details of 60 rivers with 30 links. This unique study is entirely different from V.K.R.V. Rao's suggestion and Dastur Committee's report. The Government need not spend a single penny and it can be done on the lines of "Konkan Railway Construction" and "Road Construction by NICE" in Karnataka State. The Government sources put the expenditure for linking these rivers at Rs. 5,60,000 crores whereas Dr. Kalyana Raman enunciates that it can be done with less than 1.5 lakh crores of rupees.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

*English Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Kannada and also laid on the Table.

The entire work should be taken as Northern Grid and Southern Grid. The river water should be stored in tanks and then it should flow gradually. This avoids soil erosion and enables the ground water level to come up.

Hundreds of deaths during floods and huge loss of property can be solved permanently.

The "TEN COMMANDEMENTS" contained in these books are revolutionary and deserve the kind and immediate consideration of the high level Cabinet Committee as they can pave way for the progress and prosperity of this largest democracy on earth.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR (Haridwar): Sir, the people of Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar have been agitating ever since the two districts have been included in Uttaranchal. Owing to this agitation, the Police lathi-charged and fired at the people agitating at Manglore, Gurmandi. Consequently, one farmer named Raghuvir lost his life. Thousands of people were stuffed into jails and dozens of children in the age group of 8-10 years sustained injuries in the police firing.

The Government of Uttaranchal are providing employment to our brothers from hilly areas in the name of providing employment opportunities to the local people. A condition is imposed on the people from plains in the name of domicile certificate that they should have a 15 year old receipt of the House Tax or a copy of 'Khasra-Khatoni'. People have been living at Haridwar for more than fifty years but they do not have any certificate like this. Their wards will be deprived of employment opportunities in absence of the domicile certificate.

Out of the total population of Uttaranchal 20 per cent reside at Haridwar alone. The farmers are being exploited through enactment of different new laws for them. The reservation for the OBC has been reduced to 14 per cent from 27 per cent and for dalits it has been reduced to 19 per cent from 21 per cent.

The police of the hill State have mercilessly beaten up the people, the police officers and the journalists of this area at the time of conclusion of the Kumbh-2004

*The speech was laid on the Table.

wherein a person named Kali died and dozens of children and women sustained injuries. The commercial establishments here were set on fire. This incident characterized by excesses and oppression ashamed Uttaranchal and for the first time in the history a curfew was imposed on Haridwar. No action has been taken so far against those police officials.

Massive dharnas and demonstrations with thousands of people, led by Shri Ambrish Kumar, State President of Uttaranchal Samajwadi Party, were staged at the Ramlila Maidan and the Jantar Mantar on August 1, 2006 demanding the annexation of two districts of Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar to Uttar Pradesh.

The Government, therefore, are requested, through you, that the people of Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar are not willing to go with Uttaranchal. These districts should be excluded from Uttaranchal and brought back to Uttar Pradesh so that development of Haridwar can take place and the unemployed youth can get employment opportunities etc.

If no positive action is taken in this regard by the Union Government and aspirations of 15 lakh people of Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar districts continue to be ignored, all of us belonging to the Samajwadi Party will be compelled to oppose it, under the Constitutional limitations, to fight for the rights of the unemployed youths and the farmers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I come to the Legislative Business, namely, item No. 28.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Wild Life Amendment Bill should not be brought right now ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Sir, if we are to discuss and pass this bill, then we all will take five minutes each to speak on the same....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Only two or three Members will speak on it. It will not take much time....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I strongly plead to take up this Bill because every day the Government Business was being curtailed. This is the last legislation for today, and we have to pass it. We are here for this only ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, you had made a commitment...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, you had only made a request, and I have not made any commitment.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: We have allowed it to be discussed. Therefore, I request you, and the House that the Bill should be taken up....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this Bill should be taken up just now. It is a very important Bill....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, the Members from your side have also requested to speak on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: But this Bill cannot be passed in 10 minutes or 15 minutes. Everybody should be given an opportunity to speak on this issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, let us see as to how much time it takes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 28, Shri Raja.

16.20 hrs.

WILD LIFE (PROTECTION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2006

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Project Tiger has been under implementation since 1973 as a scheme of the Government of India....(Interruptions) Since then the project coverage has also increased over the years from the initial nine tiger reserves to 28 reserves at present. As many as 17 States are involved in the field implementation of this project.

Several constraints affect field implementation of the project, viz., delayed release of Central Assistance given to the States for Field Units, staff vacancies, ageing of field staff, lack of capacity building initiatives, weak enforcement and monitoring of protection work, etc. The events in the recent past have highlighted the fact that there is a need in the States for greater commitment and vigilance. The field administration managing the tiger reserve requires capacity building and supervision.

Considering the urgency of the situation and the exigencies involved, the above concerns can only be addressed by providing statutory authority to the Project Tiger apart from creating the Wild Life Crime Control Bureau, as recommended by the Tiger Task Force appointed by the hon. Prime Minister. The Departmentally Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests, examined the proposed amendments, and in its Report had accepted the same, apart from making several recommendations. It also strongly emphasised creation of the Wild Life Crime Control Bureau as a statutory body under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

The proposed amendments would address the ecological as well as administrative concerns of conserving tigers, by providing a statutory basis for protection of tiger reserves and providing strengthened institutional mechanisms for the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and endangered species. The proposed Authority would ensure enforcing the guidelines for tiger conservation and monitoring compliance of the same, apart from placement of motivated and trained officers having good track record as Field Directors of the tiger reserves. It would also facilitate capacity building of officers and staff posted in tiger reserves, apart from a

time bound Staff Development Plan. There is a need for providing an enabling provision in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. These amendments will provide a statutory basis for constituting the "Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau" by making enabling provisions.

Subsequent to giving the Amendment Notice relating to the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2005 pending in the Rajya Sabha, the Ministry of Environment and Forests had received some suggestions for making some modifications in the pending Bill to remove the apprehensions to tribal people living in and around the tiger reserves. Though the provisions contained in the Bill adequately protect such interests, a few changes have been made in some of the provisions of the Bill.

The Bill has been deliberated in the Rajya Sabha, and some suggestions have also been incorporated. The provisions in the Bill not only takes care of ecological and administrative concerns for conserving tigers by creating the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Wild Life Crime Control Bureau, but also addresses the livelihood concerns as well as man-wild animal conflicts in the fringe areas of tiger reserves.

Sir, with these words, I request that the Bill to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, introduction of the new Bill to further amend the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2006 and Wild (Protection) Act, 1972 is nothing but an attempt made by the Department of Forest to save its skin and shirk its responsibility. After going through this Bill, I came to know that an authority has been set up. The Tiger Project was implemented across the country since the year 1973. 28 Tiger projects are being implemented in 17 States but the number of tigers is declining day by day. Tiger is the king of forest. Forests are being destroyed and when tigers

started coming on roads near villages hue and cry was made in Sariska and Ramthambhor and other parts of the country. Resultantly, the Government made an effort to save its skin and cheat the people by introducing this Bill. It is necessary to know the real situation in the country in this regard which I would like to tell the House. So many times questions were raised and discussions held in this House also about the names of the places and the number of tigers that have been killed. The Honourable Minister presented a report in the House yesterday or a day before yesterday. The report is very beautiful. I mean its printing is good and there is a very good picture of lion on its cover page. But the number of tigers declined from 1973 till date and the project in which their number has declined do not find any place in the said report. Nothing has been stated in the said report about the nature of improvement likely to be brought about through reform. I think that an effort has been made to mislead the House by dividing this project.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a question was raised in this House on 25th July, 2005 in which it was asked whether the Government has received any information regarding the names of places where the number of tigers is declining alongwith the names of places where they have been killed. At that time the Government had admitted that the information regarding Sariska has been received. While giving reply to a question on 25th July, 2005, the state-wise declined number of tigers along with the number of tiger killed in National Parks and Tiger Projects was mentioned. I would like to draw your attention towards some figures that one tiger in Andhra Pradesh, one in Assam, three in Gujarat, three in Jharkhand, twenty six in Karnataka, three in Kerala, four in Madhya Pradesh, twenty in Maharashtra and one in Rajasthan have been killed during the period 2002-2005. Therefore, these are figures relating to the killing of tigers.

Sir, I would like to say as to why discussion is not held in the House about elephants and leopards in addition to tigers. Why discussion is not held in the House about rhinoceros being killed to smuggle their bones and skin to China. I would like to present some figures about rhinoceros also in the House that twenty two rhinoceros were killed in Assam during 2001-2004. The number of elephants also is similar to it. The condition of elephants in the country is very bad. If we see the figures in regard

[Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar]

to elephants then it is one in Assam, three in Jharkhand, twenty-six in Karnataka, fifteen in Kerala....*(Interruptions)* Lions not elephants live in Maharashtra. Ramdasji, why do you act like a vulture? I was talking that three elephants in Mizoram and twenty-two elephants in Orissa have been killed. It is a matter of concern regarding wild life. Once honourable Prime Minister had said regarding Indian Wild Life Board, constituted under his chairmanship in 2002, that National Wild Life Action Plan has been formulated for 2002 to 2016. I would like to state that in continuation of reply to a question on 29th July, 2005, the honourable Prime Minister of this country had recommended for constitution of a Task Force but despite the constitution of that task force, the killing of tigers and lions have not come down. So I express my utter dissatisfaction over this bill.

I would like to say that it is not so that only lions are killed in forest projects. A large number of lions are killed in our national parks also. The Government had admitted that lions were killed in Sariska, Ranthambore and Panna also. The number of musk deers is also declining day by day in this country. The number of musk deers was 513 in the year of 2003 which has now decreased to 279. I come from Maharashtra where there are national parks at Nawegaon bandh, Nagjhora, Nadoba and Taloba. Tigers were openly killed in Nawegaonbandh, Gondia Bhandara, Nagjhora, Gondia Bhandara, Taloba and Chandrapur but no action was taken.

MR. SPEAKER: Now you conclude please.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one more thing about vulture. Diclofenic medicine administered to animals used to kill cultures also. It was banned and another medicine i.e. Mallowasikam was prescribed as its substitute about which experts are of the view that it also causes malaria to vultures. I come from Gadchirauli district....*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I conclude within two minutes with regard to vulture, only the report of the Bombay Nature History Society which receives aid from the USA was accepted. Ignoring the suggestions made by the NGO's, Government Veterinary doctors and ornithologists, the mallowasikam medicine was approved. So I would like the Government to reconsider it. The Board has set up new authority only

and nothing was done, therefore it is my submission that it should be expanded. I would like to make a request to the honourable Minister that he may withdraw this bill and simultaneously reconsider the projects and national parks. With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: There is time constraint. You speak very well. You are teacher and we respect you very much.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Any hon. Member who wishes to submit his or her written speech can do so.

Shri Prasanta Pradhan—Not present.

Shri Shailendra Kumar, you can submit your written speech.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): I will do that, Sir.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You submit.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav has sent it.

Shrimati Bhavani Rajenthiran

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram): I will lay my speech on the Table, Sir.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You may lay on the Table.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2006 is a shame on the intelligence of Indians as a race. I am unable to support this Bill because it seems this House is adept at bringing everything down to politics. Everybody is impatient to run through this Bill and get it over with this

like, how would I put it, another Money Bill or something like that.

We are forgetting that man alone cannot exist on this planet. We have to learn to co-exist with nature and wildlife is something that is part and parcel of the existence of ecological balance and that alone will help mankind survive.

In India, today, we see how we have damaged the ecological balance and because of that States like Orissa, from where I hail, we see every year immense damage that we have to face due to nature's fury. Mankind has been blessed by the Creator with two things that no other life on earth has. The first is, intelligence; and the second is, rationality. But are we using these faculties in this House? We have to question ourselves. I am questioning myself. I am not questioning anybody else. It seems like we are not using our basic intelligence because of our impatience to get through, get over the work, and be done with it. So, this kind of an attitude would create a situation where generations that would come after us, would curse us for our shortsightedness and for our ignorance.

It is a well known fact that the Tiger as also the Lion are at the head of the Food Chain of land-based animals. When we destroy the Crown, be very very sure that we are going to destroy the total balance that nature has created on earth. Indirectly, this would also threaten the existence of mankind. We all know that proliferation of herbivorous animals is destroying the green cover. This has been realised in Africa; it has been realised in Australia for which many African countries have gone as far as bringing in their Armed Forces, their armies to protect animal reserves and to protect wildlife.

Plant eating animals release methane gas into the environment thereby damaging the ozone. Man somehow only loves those which are happy with man. We like cattle, dogs, cats and only those that we can domesticate and we can use. They are the animals who have value for us in our life. But the world needs something else, we are not able to comprehend that.

A great philosopher of India, Sri Aurobindo had said that the evolution is a process that will always take place and is consistently taking place. Monkey evolved into man and man will evolve into the superman. But the monkey

did not cooperate with evolution, therefore, it was left behind. If man does not cooperate with evolution, a time may come, man may also be left behind and the superman will go ahead of us. We are at that kind of juncture now. This Bill is not a very simple Bill for protecting only one specie of animal, namely, the Tiger. It is a Bill which will tell the future of this country, the generations that are to come as to what was our vision about this country about the wildlife, about the flora and fauna and as to what kind of a balance we wanted to create for this country.

I am the only speaker of my party.

MR. SPEAKER: Allotted time for your party is five minutes. You have already taken five minutes. I would give another two minutes.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Thank you for being considerate.

I will come to the Bill. I have just one or two pints. This Bill envisages that Gram Sabhas will decide the parameters of the Tiger reserve. Gram Sabha will also decide as to whether the tribals or other forest dwellers should be relocated or not. We all know that Gram Sabhas cannot be demeaned. They are the base of democracy and our whole edifice of this structure depends on that kind of foundation.

But as people's representatives, we also know what kind of people are there in the Gram Sabhas, how—for small and little projects of very little consequence—the debates go on, how—during the debates—people start fighting, there is blood and gore on the floors and people get hospitalized. That is the epitome and that is the peak of our Gram Sabhas. You want to hand that over to that particular kind of people thinking that they will protect our flora and fauna. The House should consider this. Is that a very wise thing? Is that the reaction of an intelligent and a rational human being? It is a fact and let us accept it.

Man and tiger can never ever co-exist. Mankind has to sacrifice its conveniences in the interest of environment. In other words, not only tiger, but also all such animals and birds, that need our care, our love and our understanding so that they can survive and keep a balance on the Earth. We have to create core reserves

[Shri Tathagata Satpathy]

and the Tiger Conservation Authority has to have sweeping powers in those pockets. ...*(Interruptions)* The Authority must not have so many members which is a very important thing. If you see the way it is constituted, it will become a farce and nobody will have any power; and the Tribal Affairs Ministry or the Ministry of Environment and Forests will make a complete joke of this whole project.

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Just two more minutes.

Is it the desire of this House to give birth to more Sansar Chands? We have to think on those lines. It is my earnest request that this wise House under your leadership, Sir, stalls this Bill. It is not an ordinary Bill where the 'ayes' will have it and the 'noes' will keep shut. It is an extraordinary Bill. We have to feel it because we have no representatives of vultures or tigers or lions here. They are mute and they are dumb; and we have to speak. There are many tigers here—brave men; these brave men and women, and especially women, have to stand up and speak.

MR. SPEAKER: An hon. Member of your Party was in the Standing Committee which scrutinized this Bill.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: That is no excuse, if a member of my Party did a mistake.

MR. SPEAKER: You have a right to speak.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I am sorry if my Party member makes a mistake and does not raise his or her voice.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, please conclude. You have taken thrice the time allotted.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I would pray and beseech this House that this Bill should not be passed. It is not man alone who can exist. It is not only a few people who will decide with political interests, what should be and what should not be done to the future of this country. It is my desire to stall the Bill and we teach children in schools and colleges, how to protect the flora and fauna

of this country. Let us not take an action today for which the future generations of India who will live in this land tomorrow will be ashamed of our ignorance and our short-sightedness. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your cooperation.

*SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): I rise to this Bill on behalf of my Congress Party and on behalf on my leader, Smt. Soniaji. Based on the recommendations of Tiger Task Force and Department—Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests, our Government has come forward with this Amendment Bill.

India holds over half the world's tiger population. Though referred to by experts as a "guesstimate", the last all-India census in 1993 estimated a total of 3750 tigers. The figure was a sharp decline from the previous census four years earlier. Of these only 1266 (34%) of the total were found within the boundaries of the then 19 (there are now 25 covering an area of over 33000 sq. km) Project Tiger Reserves. The current estimate of the number of tigers in India is from 3000 to 3500 tigers. Many of tiger populations, particularly those outside protected reserves, are fragmented suffer from intense poaching pressure, a dwindling prey base and over-used habitat.

The strategy for tiger conservation in India revolves around Project Tiger and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Between the mid 1970's and mid 1980's many protected areas (66 national parks and 421 wildlife sanctuaries) were set aside, including large tracts of tiger habitat. This resulted in an increase in tiger densities at many locations. Tragically, these conservation successes were short lived. Rampant poaching for the trade in tiger parts—all destined for markets outside India's border—now threatens the tiger's very existence.

Prevailing conservation efforts and Project Tiger are not geared towards, nor have they adequately addressed the new protection strategies i.e. better law enforcement, training and support. Few of the tiger reserves have an established intelligence network and nearly 80% of our tiger reserves do not have an armed strike force or basic infrastructure and equipment to combat poaching.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

The forest guards are often out-gunned and out-manned by poachers. During December 1998, three forest staff were murdered in Manas Tiger Reserve and in the year 2005 from ten places in various States, tiger skins were recovered from the poachers. For the past one year, nearly in seven places in the same way tiger skins were recovered. The country's highest wildlife conservation policy planning body, the Indian Board for Wildlife which is under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister has met only once in the past ten years. Large number of development projects such as mining and hydroelectric dams are also taking their toll on the tiger's habitat. In the past five years, thousands of square kilometres of forest land have been diverted and destroyed to facilitate such projects. Though mostly outside the protected network, the loss of this vital habitat will have serious repercussions on tiger conservation in India.

I want to bring to the kind notice of this august House Sir, there is a big National Park at Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh called a Madhav Vidyan named after late Leader Madhav Rao Scindiaji. All kinds of wild animals including tigers are available there. But illegal mining in nearby forest areas are affecting the animals. Mining and Extravacations are going on even Gazette Notified Area. In the case of T.N. Godhavarman, Hon'ble Supreme Court directed Union of India to ensure that no forest activities are permitted within the 5 and 7.5 kms of Protected Forest and Reserve Forest.

Sir, there is no specific provision in Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to constitute a Body to prevent the wildlife crimes. For providing an enabling provision, these amendments were put forth by the Ministry of Environment & Forests. The proposed amendments in this Bill pave way to constitute a Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

"Project Tiger" was introduced in this country during 1973. Madam Indiraji has taken steps to preserve the tigers in this country. Now this project has grown to 28 Tiger Projects in 17 States.

In the present Bill, there is an amendment U/s 38L(1) to constitute "National Tiger Conservation Authority" by Union of India. It is a welcomeable step. U/s 38-O(1), the powers and functions of Tiger Conservation Authority is highlighted. U/s 38(U), the State Governments are empowered to constitute Steering Committee of Project

Tiger in Tiger Range States under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister. But in this Bill, nowhere there is mention about the function of Steering Committee in States. Another important amendments in this Bill is about the notification of Tiger Reserve. Based on the recommendations of Tiger Conservation Authority, the State Governments can notify an area as Tiger Reserve.

For preserving the tigers, our Hon'ble Ministers has introduced these valuable amendments. I am congratulating both the Ministers, Shri Raja and Shri Namo Narain Meena for bringing these amendments.

With these words, I am concluding my Speech and supporting this Bill.

*SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram): I am happy and grateful for the opportunity given to me to speak on the Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2006. The Bill is intended to amend the original Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 by inserting a new section IV B for the purpose of constituting a National Tiger Conservation Authority.

The Bill seeks to provide for the organisation structure of NTCA—Chairperson, and Members and terms and conditions of office, powers and functions of the Authority in clause 38 and its sub-clauses. The provisions are elaborate and well-drafted to meet the objectives of the Bill.

India is a vast country with rich flora and fauna. Blessed with bountiful monsoons and a wealth of natural resources in terms of mountains, valleys, rivers and thick forests, our country is spotted with innumerable locations like enchanting habitats for wildlife to thrive. Animals are part of earth's life system. Animals and plants protect the health of ecosystem. If animals and plants are not taken care of, human life itself will face danger. Proper and enlightened interaction between human beings on the one hand and plants and animals on the other hand is essential for mutual survival on this planet. Only then, we can maintain balance of nature. If wild animals have to thrive, rich forests are indispensable. Thick forests are a sine-quo-non for copious rain.

Forests help us to preserve ecological balance.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran]

Forest and wildlife are a major attraction for a tourist both domestic and foreign. We have a number of national parks and tiger reserves which need to be preserved in a sustainable way. Therefore, the proposed Amendment Bill is very timely. For the first time since Independence UPA Government has taken a major initiative in bringing about a statutory measure to preserve and protect wildlife, particularly tigers.

Any attempt on the part of the Government to preserve nature and nature's creations which are facing the prospect of getting endangered is quite welcome. Therefore, the hon. Minister for Forests and Environment deserves to be profusely congratulated for taking a major initiative to table the Bill before the august House. From a perusal of the Bill, we can easily notice his perseverance and deep involvement in drafting the Bill with meticulous care. Minister has taken pains to provide a comprehensive statutory measure for the purpose of creating a strong national conservation authority for protection and promoting tiger population.

The Bill seeks to provide extensive powers to the Authority to manage all aspects for maintaining proper environment in the habitats in the tiger reserve and for providing all necessary inputs for promoting tiger population. The National Authority is entrusted with the duty of offering guidelines to the State Governments for the tiger projects. It is also responsible for conducting detailed studies and research about the living conditions of tigers, disease surveillance, and mortality survey for the tigers. The Bill also provides for Steering Committee to be headed by the concern Chief Minister of the State with elaborate powers for planning, coordinating and implementing all aspects of functioning of tiger reserve areas, both in core segments and the conditions, problems relating to buffer or peripheral areas.

The Bill also provides for the required powers both for the National Authority and the State Steering Committee to resolve conflicts arising between the interest of tiger population in the core areas and the interest of the people living in neighbourhoods outside the core areas.

Another salient point of the Bill indicates that the Ministry has taken considerable pains to protect the interest and livelihood concerns of the Scheduled Tribes

and other forest dwelling groups from getting affected or tampered with. Therefore, this act is a balancing act aiming to harmonise the conflicting interest of tiger populations, Scheduled Tribes living in hill areas and the possible livelihood problems of the citizens living in the vicinity of tiger reserve areas.

Another major contribution of this Bill is that it provides for the constitution of a Wildlife Crime Control Bureau to protect tigers and other endangered species. We are quite aware that in the present context anti-social and anti-national elements in our country have been indulging in undesirable activities putting wildlife to great dangers. It is reported that there is considerable poaching into reserve forests and hunting valuable animals. We also hear reports that there is so much of international smuggling across national borders for dealing in animal and animal products. It is absolutely essential that these criminal activities should be put down and crushed with an iron hand. Therefore, we express deep appreciation to the hon. Minister for bringing about a major initiative in establishing a Crime Control Bureau for preservation of tiger and endangered species.

Sir, this Bill is a unique legislation from a humanistic angle; while human beings can cry and express their grievances, the dumb animals can not speak. Now, this Bill comes to their rescue of the lakhs of wildlife which are dumb creatures of nature. I would hail this Bill as a landmark legislation. The saint Vallalar of Tamil Nadu said: "*Wadiya payirai kanda pothellam wadinen*" which means: "I would shed tears on seeing the crops which are withering for want of water." This is the finest sentiment of humanism which finds echo in the current Bill. I, therefore, wholeheartedly support the Amendment and welcome the Bill on behalf of our DMK Party headed by Dr. M.K. Stalin.

Before, I conclude, I would like to make a request to the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests on behalf of Tamil Nadu. My State is blessed with vast hilly ranges both Western and Eastern Ghats with luxurious forest area which have all the potentials for a well designed habitat for promoting tiger population. For example, we have dense forest with excellent natural environment in Madhumalai, Mundanthurai and a few other places in Tamil Nadu. Therefore, I would like to request the hon.

Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests to sanction a Tiger Reserve Sanctuary, so that Tamil Nadu can make its due contribution to protect and preserve tigers and other endangered species.

[Translation]

*SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, according to the Animal Planet, if the people in the world are made aware of the importance of weather, animals, mountains, rivers, water and trees, these can be saved. Animal skin is being smuggled at a large scale from the country. The market value of the leopard's skin has been estimated to be two fifty thousand rupees. For this, three years sentence and a fine of rupees ten thousand is a meagre punishment. Presently, efforts are being made to preserve the wild life. But seemingly, there is acute shortage of staff. The activities of the police and the forest officials need to be monitored because they may have connivance with the hunters and smugglers. The number of tigers and leopards in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal is 535 & 2168 respectively. The total no. of tigers in the country is 3642. The no. of leopards is 8203. Only one tiger has been poached in Uttar Pradesh. A scheme involving rupees four crore has been formulated for preservation of wild life in Uttaranchal. If the field commanders of the Army are given the rights of Chief forest Conservation Officer, only then the smuggling could be lessened. The army too would play key role in it. Now, the D.N.A. test reveals the whereabouts of any animal. The notorious skin smuggler Sansar Chand gang has poached 654 leopards & 40 tigers that has been disclosed from a diary seized from his son. All this has been disclosed by the C.B.I. Jaipur Taal Chhapar sanctuary is offering a special is offering a special package of rupees 110 lacs. The tigers have become extinct due to illegal poaching in the Sariska Sanctuary. Special attention needs to be paid towards it. 8 out of the 13 species of the fruit-bats are on the verge of extinction. There are 116 species in India. Bats are endangered due to Tsunami in particular. Their places of living had been destroyed. A fruit-bat spreads approx. 14 crore 60 lacs seeds a year that leads to growing of new trees. It's enough to preserve only 10 per cent of trees for fruit-eater birds. A fruit-bat causes plantation of 1 lac 46 thousand saplings directly a year. Elephants are also

smuggled. Their teeth and skin is smuggled. It should also be checked. There are several other birds and animal in the forests besides the above mentioned ones which also need to be preserved.

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): I stand to oppose this Bill only on the ground—not on the Authority because having an Authority is a good idea—that is has been diluted to this extent.

The Directorate of Project Tiger has been functioning from 1972; it was Madam Indira Gandhi, in those days when shooting used to be allowed, of tigers, who stopped it. She started this with nine Project Tigers and they went up to 28. I remember this—Madam Sonia Gandhi is sitting here—she and her husband used to really enjoy going to Ranthambore and see tigers. When it was started, the tiger population was 1972 or 1973 only. It went up to 4000. That was the peak. It has come down. What is the reason that all these years when the tiger population has gone up, now you need an Authority? It is a blame game. They want to blame the States because all the Project Tiger are in the States. They want to blame the States because they do not want to take anything on themselves. I would like to ask them as to why did they not give money for the relocation and resettlement of the villages in Sariska. If they had done that, I am sure that the tigers would not have disappeared, poached in Sariska. In the core area and in the buffer area there are 28 villages. We had been saying that we need money. If they had given us the money, the same would have been relocated, resettled and this problem of Sariska would not have happened.

The other reason is, we had been asking for money for recruitment in the Project Tiger. They have not given us any money for the recruitment. If we do not have recruitment in the frontline of the forest, naturally we will not be able to protect them.

The Subhramaniam Committee Report of 1994, recommended that we must have a Crime Bureau. Has it taken all these years to have a Crime Bureau? If we have had that and if we have supplied guns to counter poaching, all these would not have happened. Let me also say that if there is a market there is going to be a

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh]

demand. The markets are flourishing in Tibet and China. That is the reason why poaching is taking place. It is the *Sansarchands*, the *Walias* and the *Kalias*, all these people, who have been involved in hunting.

I would blame the Directorate of Project Tiger. If they had done something about the hunting tribes, the things might not have been the same. These tribes cannot do anything else. They are the professional hunters. If they had been given education, for which the money had to be provided by the Directorate of Project Tiger, they would not have indulged in poaching. Something could really have been done and we would have been able to save all these tigers. It is really a blame game and they are trying to really shield and save their skin. That is why they have come out with this Authority.

I have put in some amendments, on which I will be speaking when they are taken up. Let me also say here that we have been waiting for the Tribal Bill. We support the Tribal Bill. But this is not a Tribal Bill. It is only concerned with the 28 projects. In a big country that we live in, 28 projects are not even half a per cent of the geographical area of India. Where is the need of saying that the rights of the people living in this project areas will also be looked after and we will only do voluntary resettlement of these people? If that is the attitude, then this Bill is going to be a death warrant for the tigers because it has been diluted.

There is a very-very valid article. I do not want to show it. It has been said in this article that in Rajya Sabha, one Member of Parliament has been able to hijack the whole Bill by putting in 12 of the amendments. This is just to dilute the Bill.

What is the use of having this Bill if we cannot protect the tigers and if we cannot protect the mankind in this area? What are we trying to do? The Supreme Court had passed an order saying that all these Project Tigers will be inviolate which means that there is going to be no human activity in these 28 Project Tigers. Why are we not trying to look into what the directions of the Supreme Court are? I cannot understand that. It is very wrong.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Please give me five-seven minutes more time.

MR. SPEAKER: You'll be given all the time allotted to your Party, even a single minute would not be lessened.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: I'd like to convey it to the hon. Minister that it is the last chance to save tigers. You should not dilute in the way that tigers become extinct from this bill itself. China has done a new thing today. China thought that tigers received by them are smuggled after they are poached [English] They cost about 50,000 dollars per tiger. That is a big market there. Even in Tibet, there is a big market. The Department of Customs have not been told that they should do something to see that the skins are not exported there. [Translation] You said that you'd give time.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: When did I refuse to do so? You will be given all the time allotted to your Party but other Members of your Party are also to speak. If you withdraw their names, I'll give the whole time to you only.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, the biggest thing in this bill is that these areas have remained all the time inviolate. Gram Sabhas have been involved therein and if their opinion would be sought, the tigers could not be saved. This is what I want to say. [English] At the time of moving my amendments, I would speak a little more.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It'll be decided at that time.

*SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Sir, about the Wild Life Protection Amendment Bill, 2006, I'd like to say that the wild life should be preserved. But the wild animals like elephants, Neelgayses and Paha destroy the standing and ready crops of the farmers. And the fencing done by the Government to keep the wild life within their areas fail to prevent them from doing so.

The Wild life destroys the ready and standing crops of the farmers and consequently the poor farmers get

*The speech was laid on the Table.

ruined. Therefore, concrete efforts should be made to keep the wild life within the forest areas and the Government should give compensation to the farmers for the loss being caused by the wild life to them.

[English]

*DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): I support the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2005.

I represent the Alwar Parliamentary Constituency where SARISKA—tiger sanctuary is located. Couple of years ago we used to have more than two dozen tigers in the sanctuary but unfortunately the world mafia cropped in and the end result today is that there is not even a single tiger available in this forest sanctuary. Repeated count by experts have confirmed that Alwar does not have a single tiger. It is sad. The continued poaching was brought to the notice of state government which has primarily responsibility of guarding the forest. It is example of collusion of poachers with the forest officials and higher ups in the Government.

SARISKA which was full of tourist (Eco-tourism) activity but the news now has spread that Alwar no more remains a tiger habitat has turned the tourist of Alwar to other tiger sanctuary. This has deprived the common man, Rickshaw owner, Taxi drivers, Auto drivers, hotel and restaurant owners of their livelihood which was dependent on Tourist.

While supporting the bill, I would request Hon'ble Minister to fulfill the commitment given the Hon'ble Prime Minister is the House that Sariska would again be inhabited by Tiger by introducing a couple of pairs of tigers in this sanctuary. The task force has suggested of shifting a few fillages from the forest to elsewhere and some financial allocation has also been done but State Government is very slow in implementing the decision of Central Government and task force.

I would like to submit that this Bill should not become a tool in the hand of forest officers to harass the tribal communities who are residing in small village situated in the tiger reserve. I am in the knowledge of the fact that tribal of sariska area are not only harassed but their living has become difficult.

Through sariska passes state highway no. 14. which has been the earlier route to Jaipur from Delhi. Forest Department insist on closure of the road which goes from Alwar to Jaipur via Thanagazi. This has resulted into the resentment amongst the villagers of that area.

I sincerely hope that the Bill would ensure the protection of Tigers. As well as the tribals of the forest. Animals and Human being have lived together for centuries and they should continue to do so.

With these few words I support the Bill.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on a very important topic and I guess we are here to protect the well being of the tigers. So, we need to talk about it and you need to give us time. I would begin with that.

I must say that the Project Tiger was started in 1973 by Mr. Sankha and by the then Prime Minister, late Shrimati Indira Gandhiji. But after three decades, from nine reserves, they moved to 20 tiger reserves only. I would just like to give some assessment from 2001-02 onwards. In Corbett Park, Uttaranchal, there were 137 tigers in 2001-02, but at the moment, there are less than 50 tigers. In Manas, Assam, from 65 tigers in 2001-02, there are now less than 10 tigers; in Sundarbans, West Bengal, from 245 tigers, it has come down to less than 100 tigers; in Periyar, Kerala, from 36 tigers in 2001-02, now the number is 15 tigers; in Dudwa, Uttar Pradesh, from 76 tigers now less than 40 tigers; and in Kishanpur, Uttar Pradesh, 25 tigers, about five tigers are left. Going further down, the tiger population have been diminishing. It is a serious problem and we need to take it very seriously. From 1947 to 1973 which Party held power, we all know. Since then, they have not made any law or rule or regulation till 1973 for the diminishing tigers. At this stage, this authority is being diluted. Now, it would be monitored by the hon. Minister for Environment at the Centre under the astute leadership of our hon. Prime Minister. He would be running it with a bunch of senior people in the Ministry, a couple of parliamentarians, eight experts of which two will be from the Department of Tribal Affairs, six will be experts on tiger and a bunch of bureaucrats.

What have we done here? We have diluted it. We

[Shri Dushyant Singh]

have made so many Authorities. This Authority should be a facilitator. This Authority should be away from Government holdings and it should be run as an independent body with the Ministry of Environment being the nodal agency to monitor its activities.

Sir, one of the provisions of the Bill categorically states in page IV, Section 11:

"The Tiger Conservation Authority may in the exercise of its powers and performance of its functions under this chapter issue directions in writing to any person, or officer or authority for the protection of tiger, tiger reserve and such persons, or officers or authorities shall be bound to comply with the direction."

Is the Government the Central Authority? Is the rule of the Government, the rule of the God? Now, the Government has to have a consensual method. As we all way, the beast and human being cannot exist with each other. It has further been said that one should not interfere with the rights of the local people, particularly the persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.

Sir, I represent a parliamentary constituency where there is tribal population. The Congress Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi has visited my parliamentary constituency on various occasions. We have tribal population there. We respect the tribes. This Bill cannot be diluted by one person in the Rajya Sabha to such an extent that the Bill is completely hijacked.

It has been said that the Steering Committee will be in-charge within the State and the State Government would run the Steering Committee. The solemn Report, as has been mentioned by my previous speakers, has not been considered. What has been lacking in the Bill? The Budget allocation for the year 2005-06 was Rs. 32.93 crore, out of which a sum of Rs. 12 crore was earmarked for the North-East. The State of Arunachal Pradesh is a part of the North-Eastern region. I have already mentioned that number of tigers is diminishing. So, where are you going to spend the money on?

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister, in his second meeting, had announced the creation of a Task Force. The Task

Force had given its Report. But experts like Shri Balmiki Thapar questioned that Report. In the year 2002, the number of tigers was 3,642.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Sir, I am a new Member and you would have to give me time.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, I would not call any other hon. Member from your Party. You may please carry on.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Sir, it is an important subject....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He wants time and I have affection for him. I will give him time until the time of his Party is exhausted.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Sir, now only 1300 tigers are left. What are the problem? The Government must re-locate the local dwellers from the forest area to a buffer area. They cannot control the core area? How can one have dwellers dwelling in the core area, controlling the core area? The Government must have a system whereby the dwellers could be shifted to a buffer area. We need to make sure that the hunting tribes are better placed and settled and the community at large is helped.

Sir, we have a better intelligence system. But we also need to have political interest. We have an hon. Member from Alwar here. We need assistance across party lines whereby we can accommodate the political interest of 35 villages in order to help re-locate these villages.

17.00 hrs.

We need to look at the ways and different methods of identification of tigers such as camera traps and the special method called the DMA cat method. I would say that Gram Sabha should not be the authority to redraw the core areas. According to your law, under the Bill, the core areas should be well protected and should be redrawn by the Gram Sabhas. We need to think about that.

I would go further by saying that certain provisions should be given to the local area where you could have schools, teaching or education methods, so that you can

improve education in those areas, and by education, we can improve the population of tigers. But we should also mention here that political hitting has been taking place for a long period of time. As I have mentioned, in the various States run by the UPA and its partners, tigers are diminishing. It is not only in one State but in various other States also. So, we need to come together as a team to increase tiger population. I hope my points will be taken into consideration by the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, it is a good decision to constitute the National Tiger Protection Authority. This authority will be exclusively used to protect tigers. I support this Bill on behalf of the RPI(A). I also support the provision relating to submission of the annual report on tiger project to the Central Government for its presentation to the Parliament. Alongwith the protection of tigers, people inhabiting in those area should also be protected. Panthers should also be protected alongwith the tigers.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI (Pilibhit): Sir, there has been a fierce debate within the NDA as to whether we should allow this Bill to go through or not. The leaders of the NDA were of the firm belief that this should not be allowed to go through and I agree with them. This is the first time that I am standing against something which really goes against my conscience.

This is possibly the worst Bill brought in since 1947. It was a brilliant Bill. The officials and the Minister worked hard to make this an excellent Bill. It was brought in the Rajya Sabha and 13 amendments had been made. I cannot speak out of such anguish but I only say that they have made it such a bad Bill that whatever little is left of the tiger, and other animals, is gone.

Before I elaborate on my points, I would like to ask a few specific questions which I would like the hon. Minister to answer. The Task Force gave a list of recommendations that had to be followed through. Could the Minister please tell us point by point what has been done on the following since it has been almost two years

since the Task Force appointed by the Prime Minister completed its work?

- (1) Setting up of the Wildlife Crime Bureau which is coming today in a very truncated form.
- (2) The amendments to the Wildlife Protection Act to strengthen criminal provisions, as asked by the Task Force.
- (3) The outcome of the tiger census and action to be taken based on its findings.
- (4) Independent audit report also to be presented to Parliament in six months which will rate the performance of different tiger reserves on different criteria.
- (5) The identification and planned relocation of villages from key tiger habitats which was to be finalised within one year with its financial and logistical implications and completed within two or three years.
- (6) The plan for co-existence to be prepared by each tiger reserve within one year so that benefits of conservation can be shared with local communities.

This Bill has been well spoken about by my colleagues, Shri V.P. Singh and Shri Dushyant Singh. With great anguish, I say that the hon. Minister is not going to accept any of our amendments. We do have amendments. Tiger does not belong to Opposition. We are not opposing because we are in the Opposition. We are opposing you because this Bill will kill the tigers faster than any other thing. What has happened? In the Tiger Project, as envisaged by Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the core areas were inviolate. You could not go into them. It is the tigers domain and, as Shri V.P. Singh said, it is less than .01 fraction of India. Now, in this Bill, it has been amended to say that even the core areas can be shifted here and there and they are dependent on what the local communities want.

I know what a "local community" is. In my constituency 200,000 Bangladeshis and Bengalis have come in and they are called the "local communities". They will sit in the middle of the forest and they decide where the "core area" would be from now on. Four tigers have

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shrimati Maneka Gandhi]

been killed in the last three months in my own constituency only because they were harassed by the new residents of the forest. These "local communities" grow and grow. They are supplemented by the people who come from the cities; they are supplemented by poachers; they are supplemented by people who use local communities to cut wood; and they are supplemented by people who set up *aara* machines. All sorts of business takes place.

Are we going to ask these "local communities", under this Act, to decide what is a core area? Then, no relocation can be allowed unless we ask these "local communities", unless we ask "Gram Panchayats" to decide it. We are not going to decide what are "irreversible damages" unless 23 people sit together once a year and finalise what "local damage" is. What does this mean? What is this Bill going to do? All it is going to do is to destroy the Tiger Project, which though till today was just limping along.

The Elephant Project was set up with the same great desire to protect the elephants. The elephants are as endangered as the tigers are. What did it ultimately boil down to? It boiled down to one person sitting in the office doing nothing. The one Elephant Project Director who ever did anything was that he gave a contract to his wife to catch a baby elephant in Chhattisgarh and she went there and she caught it and killed it in the most agonising fashion. She got away because they said that she was a tribal. All this was recorded on a film which was shown to everybody on television. The Tiger Project Director escaped even though he gave the contract to his wife. After that no Elephant Project Director moved in any direction to do anything. Is this what this Bill going to do? It will destroy the Task Force with these amendments.

The term "Tiger Bearing Forest" has not even been defined. Suppose the "local communities" say, "We define this as a Non Tiger Bearing Forest", then they have the right of way. Then, they do not have to protect the tigers because they have the ability to decide what is "Tiger Bearing Forest" because you have not defined it in your Act.

What have you done in this Bill to interact with countries around us? It is well-known and documented that Tibet is the single main reason why the tiger is now severely endangered. Have you taken any action since the two years, when Tibet Study was made and put on a film?

By bringing in an amendment in 38(2), in which the Tiger Conservation Authority had the power to issue directions to any person or authority across India, which you have now amended to say "as long as this direction does not interfere or affect the rights of local people, particularly the Scheduled Tribes", in one stroke you have destroyed the entire Bill. This is what has happened to the Elephant Project which was supposed to remove villages from the elephant corridors. It said: "No, no, we will ask the local people." It has been fifteen years, not one village has been removed because the "local people" are yet to be asked.

It is important that the Tiger Task Force and this Bill be given some teeth. We would be happy to back you. Otherwise, we will lose tigers. Now, it is only a matter of few years, two or three years before the tiger disappears. After that you will say, "But we freed. We worked in Parliament and we made this wonderful Bill."

If one person gave us thirteen amendments, what is the point of the Bill? My Party Leaders, both of whom are present here, said: "Do not let this Bill pass because it is really a bad Bill." It is true. I am so frightened that I even had arguments with people I know to be true and sincere people of the forest. I fought with them only because I was so frightened that if we do not allow this Bill to be passed this time, you will bring an even worse Bill next time. This is not the Tiger Protection Authority or Tiger Conservation Bill. This is the Tribal Bill. This is the ghost of the Tribal Bill.

I am standing up to protest against these thirteen amendments. I hope that you will have the courage and the good sense, because your party has traditionally stood for protecting wild life from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's time, to roll back these amendments. For God's sake save these tigers by making a proper Tiger Conservation Authority. You cannot amend a bad Bill later. You have to do it now.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Bill to ensure protection to the wild life, especially the tigers. Our national animal tiger is to be protected. Our tiger sanctuaries that were there in nine States is now found in 17 States and in 20 places. In the year 1972, the then Prime Minister of India Mrs. Indira Gandhi enacted Wild Life Protection Act. Now, we seek to make certain amendment to that law.

In the olden days, there were lakhs of tigers in this sub-continent. Now, its population has reduced to about 4,000 that is why we are enacting this Wild Life Protection Act. Through this Amendment Bill, the Government intends to establish a Tiger Conservation Authority. I am talking about the tigers that live in the jungles. Tiger are wild and dangerous but still they need to be protected. This Bill has come before this House to ensure that tigers are not subjected cruelty and attacks.

In the traditional life of sub-continent, tigers have also had an important place and hence, they must be protected. They maintain the equilibrium of the echo system as they are at the apex of the food chain in the forest life. As far as wild life is concerned, tigers have the highest important place. That is one reason why this UPA Government is acting fast to make these necessary amendments to the Wild Life Protection Act.

At this point of time, we have to think in terms of the welfare of the tribal people living in the deep forests and core areas of the sanctuaries. The Tribal People Protection Forest Rights Bill is still being evolved and it has been put in a cold storage. I would like to ask of this Government as to why it is being delayed. It would have been appropriate to enact laws for both simultaneously.

In order to protect tigers, we need to protect every other animal and every forest available in this country. Trees must be protected, forest must be conserved and the environment should not be allowed to be polluted beyond measure. The hill tribes and the tribal people living in the remote areas of the forests are really helping to conserve them. They are living and carrying on their livelihood only in a mere two per cent of our forest covered area. It is only poachers and greedy merchants behind

them who hunt down the animals of the forests for their hides and invaluable trees for illegal export. As soon of the soil and as locals living and dwelling there down the ages, tribals alone can effectively conserve forest and save wild life, especially the tigers. It is only the commercial exploiters and the poaching mafia that hunt down jungle animals, especially the tigers.

The Forest Department consider the hill tribes to be their enemies and those poor people are intimidated and harassed. Whenever forest lands are taken up for the construction of dams, open cast mines and industrial units, it is only these poor tribals who have to be forcibly shifted or evacuated from their birth place. What had happened in Orissa recently is still before our eyes. I urge upon the Union Government to ensure that the poor tribal people are not harmed. They are being chased out, hunted down and killed. Since both wild life protection and tribal people protection and inter related and inter connected, we ought to have thought of enacting laws together.

We must ensure that the intention behind this Bill to protect the tigers by way of setting up National Tiger Conservation Authority evolving tiger conservation plan and operating through the project tiger directorates is achieved. Many of them are sought to be implemented by the State Governments. In a way it is welcome. But when it comes to adequate funding and proper maintenance resolving border area problems, greater Central coordination is necessary. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to evolve a viable monitoring mechanism in this regard and I reiterated on behalf of the Communist Party of India.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, I rise to debate on the Bill because, for the first time, it is a tiger-specific Bill. As the Bill is going to be piloted and is being discussed now, I would like to say, firstly, that it should not have any political considerations. The idea is to save the tiger which is on the brink of extinction. Today, it is at the apex of the ecological system and the environment system of our country. But if the tiger exists, with that the forests will exist, the prey animals will exist and the entire environment will be good. I would like to

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri Bikaram Keshari Deo]

say that the idea to co-exist with animals has been there from time immemorial.

Sir, here I would like to say something about King Ashoka. In the 3rd Century B.C., he made laws for preservation of wild life and environment. Twenty-six years after his coronation, he declared that the following animals were not to be killed like parrots, mynas, the ruddy geese, nandi mukha, cranes bats queeneds, terrapins, boneless fish and rhinoceros. So, it is there from a very long time. After that also, in 1887, the first Act was enacted for protection of wild life and wild birds and the environment under the Wild Bird Protection Act No. X of 1887. Then, in 1912 it was amendment and eventually after a long time in 1960, the Government of India awakened and there was an awareness of saving of our wild life which we never did since our Independence. It is because from 1947 till 1975, there was no law to protect the animals. There were only laws which were to be enacted by the Provisional Government to close the shooting season, open the shooting season and to give permission etc.

Sir, here I would like to say that creating a new chapter in the Wild Life Conservation Act in Section 4(b) is a welcome measure. But, at the same time, you have to see that is you do not satisfy human values, then you cannot protect the animals because the human beings are the voters, the electorates who elect your Government.

Sir, today, we are making law for mute animals. You have to protect them because the tiger is at the apex of our ecological cycle or environmental cycle. I was reading the book which we got from the Publications Counter yesterday on Tiger. I would like to say that out of the 28 tiger reserves in 17 States, eight tiger Reserve were categorised as very good, one in good category, seven as satisfactory and two in poor category. The main reason for this is that there were 45 parameters made to determine the tiger population and the management of the tiger reserves. In the meantime, it has been seen that there are a lot of inadequacies in the forest areas. You do not take care of the human population living in the core areas. They are not rehabilitated properly. Here, I would like to say that when you relocate tribal persons from a sanctuary area, because that also is a development activity, give them the same type of

compensation which you give to rehabilitate people when you have dams or when you set up industries for multinationals. Here, I would like to say that when you relocate the forest area to make a particular project, there is a thing known as 'compensatory forest transplantation'. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, while replying. Will he create such a fund for wild life preservation also? When a mega project or a big project comes, will the Government commit that they will give adequate resources to protect the wild life on line like the compensatory forest transplant and which should be wild life specific?

Here, I would like to say that the National Tiger Authority is not going to spend all the money. The matching share has to be made by the States which most of the States do not do on time. So, I would like to stress here that you should kindly give hundred per cent financial aid to those States where the Tiger Project areas are located. For example, I would like to tell you that the Simlipal Tiger Reserve in Orissa is there. It is a Tiger Reserve of 2151.73 sq. kms in area. It is a forest area. It was declared so in 1973. In 1979, about 2220 kilometres were included out of which 65 villages are in the forest. In 1980, about 845.7 sq. kms were declared as core area of the National Park. Mr. Minister, till now, you have not taken any steps to relocate them. You have to allure the people. You should make the tribals happy when they are relocated. You cannot just throw them out. If you throw them out, you will see that they will poach in retaliation.

Today, the saddest part is that in most of the tribal areas the BPL rate is the highest. There is no educational facility. There is no health facility. Once they are relocated, they are not given proper land. So, equivalent land should be given to them as they were using the land when they were in the reserved forest or in the core area. So, keeping all these things in view, the Government has to do some thing. You are hurrying through this Bill. It could have been dealt with in-depth. You should have given more teeth to it. We have given an amendment. You have given the National Tiger Authority full, over-riding powers thereby they can take any action to step it. They can write against any top executive also, any Chief Minister also. So, the over-riding powers should be curtailed to a certain limit so that it can be managed properly and good report to the protect wild life should be there.

I would stress that due consideration should be there for the tribals. They should not just be thrown out. They should be assured....*(Interruptions)* I am giving my views. The Party is opposing it. I am just debating it. Mr. Minister, why are you hurrying through this Bill? There should be a more in-depth discussion. Sir, there is no mandatory time for declaring the House adjourned *sine die*. We can sit up to Seven of the Clock. We have worked whole night to prepare this.

MR. SPEAKER: You have ably presented your case. Please conclude.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Before ending my speech, I would request the Minister one thing. In my constituency, there is an area known as the Sunabeda area in Komna block which is contiguous to the Deobhog area of Chhattisgarh. There is the Udhanti Wildlife Sanctuary. It would be an ideal tiger reserve. The State Government has also sent its proposal to the Centre, to the Ministry of Environment and Forests to declare it as a tiger reserve. This Sanctuary is in Navpara District of Orissa.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that I will not make a general case or about my experience or my knowledge. I will just make some specific comments.

It is a very vital Bill. I come from an area which is almost hundred per cent a jungle area, forest area.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during my childhood, tigers were killed in my village and there was no account of the number of tigers killed. I used to feel very sad when I saw that 20 to 25 people used to drag after killing such a beautiful animal. When we talk of tigers, we not only mean tigers but the whole cat family which includes leopards too. For example, clouded leopards found only in Arunachal Pradesh need to be protected. If all the animals of cat family are given protection it would be better. I do not believe in tiger census. No one comes for census in my state. There is a vast forest area in Arunachal Pradesh and that's why census figures of Arunachal Pradesh are

ridiculous because I know that tigers are in large number and no body keeps account of their number.

You said to give authority to village Panchayats. It's right that villagers should be given authority but the problem arises when commercial greedy or self interested elements enter village Panchayats. This leads to misuse of Village Panchayats or Panchayat Committees. There is no mention in the Bill of any specific measure to check this. If you give unlimited powers to any one, there is always a chance of misuse. Therefore, hon. Minister should note this.

I am always opposed to hunting as I am a Buddhist. I never killed even a bird. But the community of my colleagues from my state practice hunting, I also request them to stop it.

MR. SPEAKER: You influence them to stop.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Officers of my state are also involved in hunting. It should also be banned but the State Government would not do it. I want to tell Smt. Sonia Gandhiji that when our Chief Minister likes the meat of wild animals how would he control it.

MR. SPEAKER: They kill small animals not the big ones.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: He hunts even the birds. Officers are also involved in this act. That's why I oppose it. I request the Union government to enact strict laws. Arunachal Pradesh has been declared as rich biodiversity spot. Arunachal is the best rich bio-diversity spot in the world whereas we have to come to Delhi to find monkeys.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are such a good speaker. I am very sad to interrupt you. Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Alongwith tigers, the whole cat family need to be protected. I also request the Hon. Minister of Environment and Forests to come forward to enact a law for the Protection of a bird—horn Bill. Though it is not an animal. Hon. Minister has never visited Arunachal Pradesh. I request him to visit the state as soon as possible.

[Shri Kiren Rijju]

[English]

I request the hon. Minister to visit Arunachal Pradesh and assess by himself the rich biodiversity of Arunachal Pradesh. I have given some specific suggestions. I request him to include them in this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Raigarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to give only a suggestion not a speech. Shri Dushyant Singh and Vijayendra Pal Singh have already spoken. I admit that our ancestors are most responsible for killing Lions. But it is good that today we are discussing about their protection. I welcome the Bill brought by Shri Rajaji...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): This is also a coincidence.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: It is my suggestion to the hon. Minister that the suggestions given by hon. Members may be included in the Bill so that tigers can be protected. Maximum number of tigers are in Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, it would be better if the concerned Headquarter is located in Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan—Not presented. Now, the hon. Minister. There is a tussle between Chennai and your place.

SHRI A. RAJA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do express my thanks to the hon. Members who have participated in the debate on this important Bill. As I have already said, the "Project Tiger" was started in the year 1973 by Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

In the other House, I heard Dr. Karan Singh who was the instrument behind Mrs. Gandhi to promote this "Project Tiger" in the year 1973.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: She did it because she liked it herself....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. RAJA: May be.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do not get diverted.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I was impressed by the statement given by the hon. Member Mr. Satpathy. The same statement was given to this House when this "Project Tiger" was started by Mrs. Indira Gandhi, in which, she had stated:

"Do not think that this world or this universe or this earth is being inherited from our forefathers; but it is in your hands to repay the debt to the future generation so that the co-existence with the flora and fauna for the mankind is very essential."

Sir, with this concept, this Bill had been brought, I believe. Of course, Mrs. Maneka Gandhi told that since Independence, 'this is the worst Bill'. But I hope after my argument, or after reply and I sincerely believe that Mrs. Maneka Gandhi would accept that this is one of the noblest Bills introduced in this Parliament.

Sir, I would now come to points raised by various hon. Members...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, the argument is going to change here....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. RAJA: Please wait. Madam, I respect you a lot. I heard your speech with rapt attention. Let me cover all the points.

Sir, by bring this Bill, we introduced two important chapters. The first chapter is that this is first that that we are going to create a National Tiger Authority concerning tiger and the second chapter is that this is the first time that we going to have an investigating agency on par with the Narcotic Bureau or something like that, to control the wildlife crime.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Sir, may I make a submission?

SHRI A. RAJA: I am not yielding.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dushyant Singh, he is not yielding.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Sir, I come from a narcotic area. The Narcotic Bureau is making cases, which are not in the correct data. NDPS cases in the narcotic areas are not correct. The Narcotic Bureau is also not working properly....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, why did you mention the Narcotic Board?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, this is the first time that a sincere attempt has been made by the Central Government. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right. You may withdraw the Narcotic Board.

SHRI A. RAJA: It is an investigative agency, that is all.

Of course, before this Amendment Bill was introduced, of course, we were having Section 5 in the Wildlife Protection Act itself, which can delegate powers to any officer. In turn, The Chief Wildlife Warden of the concerned State can also delegate his powers to the District Forest Officer or other who are looking after the wildlife.

I would state as to why is necessary. The National Wildlife Board, which was chaired by the hon. Prime Minister in which the noted experts throughout the country participated, made important suggestions after the incident of Sariska. It said that the tiger population of this country is being dwindled down, or there may be some apprehensions in the minds of the people. Maybe incident of Sariska is unique, but it is also true that the position of Sariska or the facts available with Sariska cannot be equated with other tiger reserves.

Of course, my learned friend Shrimati Maneka Gandhi has disclosed that out of 28 tiger reserves, many tiger reserves are good and satisfactory; it is only the two reserves of Sariska and Indravati, which are being declared as under bad conditions.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, out of 45 parameters...

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I am not yielding.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Deo, he has not yielded. What can I do? You know the rules of the game.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, after Sariska, the National

Wildlife Board recommended to form a Taskforce to know what the action plans are and what measures can be taken by the Centre and the State Government. Accordingly, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Sunita Naryan, a Taskforce was appointed, which gave a report. Of course, Mrs. Gandhi enumerated about what are all the suggestions. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the reply of the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. RAJA: The Tiger Task Force Report contemplates two types of recommendations. The first recommendation is short-term and the second recommendation is long-term recommendation. In the short term recommendation, it has suggested to immediately create a statutory body to control the crime exclusively for the tiger and other endangered species. For the past 50 years, the estimation of tigers, the counting of tigers, has been done by states and exclusively by the Central Government or an agency. The methodology being used by the State Governments and the number that has been disclosed by the State Governments, have been taken into account, and we just sum up arithmetically, and I am telling Parliament or any other forum that this is the figure available with the Government of India. So, this Government, according to the suggestion made by the Tiger Task Force, announced the new whose process has been peer reviewed internationally by the International Agency IUCN, that is, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Sir, much has been stated in this House about the bad condition of the other Tiger Reserves and as such a motive has been attributed on the part of the Central Government that we are not taking stringent action or we are not paying due attention for tiger conservation. The position is otherwise. I can quote from the Report where the IUCN showered encomium upon the Government of India which runs as follows: "For those seeking to save the wild tigers, tiger conservation in India has been a touchstone. Both the Project Tiger and the Government of India should be commended for the encouraging

*Not recorded.

[Shri A. Raja]

independent evaluations and subsequent pre-reviews of the current management of the Tiger Reserves in the country that now holds the key to the future of tigers in the wild." This is the encomium showered upon the Government of India....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not get diverted. Professor, nobody disturbed you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not reply to it.

SHRI A. RAJA: After the assessment, this is the Report....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not answer. I am sorry.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I am not yielding. I am sorry, I am unable to yield....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening? Nobody disturbed you at all.

SHRI A. RAJA: In this background, I tried to meet out the argument that has been advanced by the hon. Members....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody disturbed you.

Mr. Minister, you carry on.

SHRI A. RAJA: Some points were mooted here by respected Member, Mrs. Maneka Gandhi stating that by introducing this Bill, the entire Wild Life Protection Act is being diluted, and much has been stated here also.

Sir, one hon. Member in the other House gave amendmens. By accepting these amendments, is the entire law being diluted? With all my sincerity I can say that you go through the amendments which were given by Mrs. Brinda Karat in the other House. After an extensive consultation with all the political parties, not Mrs. Karat alone, the amendments were received. You go through the amendments....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right.

Mr. Minister, you carry on. Why are you getting diverted?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Singh, this is very unfair. You have it your say.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You carry on. Only the hon. Minister's observations should be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know. I cannot answer.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I can disclose it. I wanted to speak briefly. I had consultation with Sushmaji. I had consultation with Mr. Ahluwalia. Mr. Ahluwalia made some points in the House itself. I discussed informally also. Some of the points were mooted in the Rajya Sabha by the BJP Members. So, I am telling this House with all my sincerity that I had an extensive discussion.

I can put it in a nutshell. All the proposed amendments which were admitted in the Rajya Sabha evolve around only with regard to the tribal people, those who are living in 'Project Tiger' area....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Very good.

SHRI A. RAJA: I have said of two types of arguments. Shrimati Maneka Gandhi is saying that the tiger reserves are going to be diluted because rights or certain definitions that have been contemplated in the Act for the core area or the buffer area wherein the tribal people may spoil the tiger reserves. That is one type of argument. The other type of argument from the same Opposition Beches came here....*(Interruptions)* That is, do not infringe the rights of the tribal people, they should not be relocated.

So, this Ministry is always facing two types of activities. One is development and the other side is regulatory. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. There should be some things which should come to an end.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, however, I can submit that what has been contemplated in the the proposed amendment is this. I can read it. The opening sentence itself says.

"38V. (1) The State Government shall, on the recommendations of the Tiger Conservation Authority, notify an area as a tiger reserve."

Earlier, all the State Governments have been empowered to declare a national part or a sanctuary and send it to the Central Government. By virtue of this Bill, the Central Government can recommend to the State Governments. What the law says as explanation for core and buffer areas is as follows:

"(i) core or critical tiger habitat area of National Parks and Sanctuaries, where it has been established...."

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on here? This is very unfair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. RAJA: Please be patient. I heard you.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you please address the Chair even if you do not like to look at me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, within a short time I would conclude. It says:

"(i) core or critical tiger habitat areas of National Parks and Sanctuaries, where it has been established, on the basis of scientific and objective criteria, that such areas are required to be kept as inviolate for the purpose of tiger conservation, without affecting the rights of the Scheduled Tribes or such other forest dwellers, and notified as such by the State Government in consultation with an Expert Committee constituted for the purpose;"

MR. SPEAKER: It is in the law.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not make such comments. Please behave as a Member of this House. You think you are very intelligent.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, the words core area and buffer area have so far been used as a custom or in the Act; but nowhere it has been defined. What has been proposed in the Act is that—core area and buffer area must be defined with the scientific objectives in consultation with the State Government and with the Expert Committee. What type of Expert Committee should be there can be denoted in the rules themselves. If Shrimati Maneka Gandhi is having her own apprehensions in the mind that this will be diluted, at the time of the Expert Committee the State Government, in consultation with the Central Government, can have some experts, those who can uphold the rights of the tribal people as well as the tigers....(Interruptions) I think that apprehension is not having any bearing....(Interruptions)

Some other hon. Members expressed the apprehension that by providing the 'Project Tiger' those persons who are living there, whether tribal or non-tribal, would be affected. Some people may be non-tribals—those who were transported there during the British period. By birth, they may not be tribals, but to protect the forests, when the Forest Act, 1927 came into existence by British people, some non-tribal families were transported to the forest areas. They will also be protected.

Sir, with these words I request the hon. Members that the Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be passed.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will not take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 Insertion of New Chapter IV B

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh, are you moving the amendment no. 1?

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Sir, I beg to move:

"Page 4, lines 24 and 25,-

[Mr. Speaker]

Question was also taken up. In this Session, the Departmentally Related Standing Committees presented 18 Reports.

About 298 Matters of Urgent Public Importance were raised by the Members after the Question Hour even by sitting late in the night. It has always been my endeavour to provide all opportunities to the hon. Members for raising matters of urgent public concern subject to topicality of the issues, and the available time. Hon. Members also raised 232 Matters under Rule 377.

In this Session, we lost over 36 hours and 33 minutes of time due to interruptions and adjournments. To compensate the loss of time due to cancelling of sittings of the House on 28, 29, and 30 August, 2006, on a proposal made by me at the meeting with the Leaders of Parties and Groups in Lok Sabha held on 28 July, 2006, and agreed to by the Leaders, the House sat late for two hours every day from 1 August to 18 August, 2006, which facilitated disposal of the listed business. Nevertheless, despite all efforts of the Chair and collective commitment of the Members for effectively participating in the debates with due diligence, we could not discuss some important matters due to frequent interruptions and forced adjournments in the House.

At this juncture, it is with great anguish and pain that I make mention of the unfortunate incident that occurred in this august Chamber yesterday, 24 August, 2006. The House was adjourned by me at 1.10 p.m. due to the disturbances and pandemonium which took place in the House when some Members took exception to the remarks made by another hon. Member. It is a matter of greatest sorrow for me and also concern, as was reported to me, that after the House was adjourned, some Members hurled abuses at and attempted to manhandle each other. I have expunged the objectionable remarks from the proceedings forthwith and when the House again met, I have also strongly condemned the unsavoury behaviour of those Members as being derogatory to the dignity of the House.

I once again strongly deplore this conduct and plead with all sections of the House that we should conduct ourselves in a manner befitting our status and, I feel, by doing so we would not only be enhancing our dignity but also the dignity of this great institution.

I take this opportunity to reiterate that for effective functioning of a parliamentary democracy, the participation of the Opposition is imperative. While conceding a Member's right to ventilate his anguish on any particular issue, I would like to emphasise that there is no better alternative or substitute other than a structured debate and discussion on the floor of the House. As people's representative of this great country, the public have high expectations and aspirations from us and it is our solemn duty to articulate the same and redress their grievances through effective and optimum use of parliamentary devices and at the same time adhere to standard norms of good behaviour.

Finally, I would like to thank the hon. Deputy-Speaker and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairman for their cooperation in the completion of the business of the House. I am extremely grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Leaders of various parties and groups as well as the Chief Whips apart from the hon. Members for their cooperation. I would also like to thank, on behalf of all of you, our friends in the Press and the Media. I take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General and the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for their dedicated and prompt service to the House. I also thank the allied agencies for their able assistance in the conduct of the proceedings of the House.

Hon. Members may now stand up as the tunes of *Vande Mataram* would be played.

17.52 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

The National Song was played.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I adjourn the House sine-die.

17.54 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

Annexure-I**Member-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question No.
1	2	3
1.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	440,
2.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	442,
3.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	434,
4.	Shri Bishnoi, Jaswant Singh	438,
5.	Shri Charenamoi, Mani	439,
6.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	441,
7.	Shri Chitthan, N.S.V.	427,
8.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	435,
9.	Shri Khandelwal, Vijay Kumar	438,
10.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	430,
11.	Shri Kumar, B. Vinod	437,
12.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	440,
13.	Shri Mistry, Madhusudan	433,
14.	Shri Moghe, Krishna Murari	431,
15.	Shri Mohan, P.	443,
16.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	431,
17.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	428,
18.	Shri Prabhu, Suresh Prabhakar	436,
19.	Shri Rao, K.S.	444,
20.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	434,
21.	Shri Reddy, Magunta Sreenivasulu	432,
22.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	429,
23.	Shri Singh, Rakesh	426,

1	2	3
24.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	441,
25.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	428,
26.	Smt. Thakkar, Jayaben B.	433,
27.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	445,
28.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	442

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question No.
1	2	3
1.	Shri "Baba", K.C. Singh	3493
2.	Shri "Bachda", Bachi Singh Rawat	3669
3.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	3624
4.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	3479, 3626, 3654
5.	Dr. Agarwal, Dharendra	3513, 3623
6.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	3579, 3611, 3638, 3661
7.	Shri Ajay Kumar, S.	3514, 3612
8.	Dr. Ajnala, Rattan Singh	3486
9.	Shri Ananth Kumar	3515
10.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	3529, 3566, 3601, 3607, 3644
11.	Shri Barad, Jasubhai Dhanabhai	3488, 3557
12.	Shri Barman, Hiten	3494
13.	Shri Barman, Ranen	3497
14.	Shri Bishnoi, Jaswant Singh	3604
15.	Shri Bishnoi, Kuldeep	3477

1	2	3
16.	Shri Bose, Subrata	3594
17.	Shri Chakraborty, Swadesh	3540
18.	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	3570, 3600
19.	Shri Chand, Nihal	3543, 3625
20.	Shri Charenamei, Mani	3606, 3643
21.	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	3568
22.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	3599, 3605
23.	Shri Chitthan, N.S.V.	3600
24.	Shri Choudhary, Nikhil Kumar	3541
25.	Shri Choudhary, Banasgopal	3610
26.	Shri Choudhury Adhir	3546, 3608
27.	Shri Das, Alakesh	3506
28.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	3535
29.	Smt. Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	3511, 3586, 3621
30.	Shri Deora, Milind	3489, 3576, 3630, 3657, 3665
31.	Dr. Dhanaraju, K.	3547, 3672
32.	Shri Dhotre, Sanjay	3519
33.	Shri Fanthome, Francis	3536
34.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.	3512, 3567, 3573, 3593, 3627
35.	Shri Gamang, Giridhar	3487
36.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	3589, 3642
37.	Shrimati Jayaprada	3522, 3592
38.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	3525, 3596, 3646
39.	Shri Joshi, Kailash	3502

1	2	3
40.	Shri Kanodia Mahesh	3551
41.	Dr. Kathiria, Vallabhchai	3545, 3671
42.	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	3482, 3591
43.	Shri Khan, Sunil	3544, 3601
44.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	3574, 3641
45.	Shri Koshal, Raghuveer Singh	3490
46.	Shri Kumar, B. Vinod	3603
47.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	3608
48.	Shri Kumar, Sajjan	3601, 3668
49.	Shri Kumar, Shailendra	3507, 3585, 3635, 3675
50.	Sr. Libra, Sukhdev Singh	3528
51.	Shri Madam, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	3561, 3615, 3647
52.	Smt. Mahajan, Sumitra	3527
53.	Shri Mahato, Sunil Kumar	3569
54.	Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	3549, 3605
55.	Shri Majhi, Sankhalal	3504
56.	Prof. Malhotra, Vijay Kumar	3518
57.	Smt. Mane, Nivedita	3567, 3573, 3627, 3628
58.	Shri Masood, Rasheed	3537
59.	Ms. Mcleod, Ingrid	3523, 3595
60.	Dr. Mishra, Rajesh	3601, 3668
61.	Shri Mistry, Madhusudan	3602
62.	Shri Mohd., Tahir	3524, 3553, 3567
63.	Shri Mohite, Subodh	3565
64.	Shri Mollah, Hannah	3506

1	2	3
65.	Shri Munshi Ram	3524
66.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	3532, 3601
67.	Shri Naik, Shripad Yesso	3521
68.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	3552
69.	Smt. Nayak, Archana	3530
70.	Shri Nizamuddin, G.	3503, 3676
71.	Shri Owaisi, Asududdin	3500, 3554, 3583, 3636, 3659
72.	Shri Pallani Shamy, K.C.	3492, 3582, 3613, 3633
73.	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	3518
74.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	3481, 3623
75.	Shri Patel, Jivabhai Ambalal	3569
76.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	3501, 3559, 3627
77.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	3586, 3601, 3637, 3662
78.	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	3564, 3616, 3648
79.	Shri Patle, Shishupal N.	3524, 3553, 3567, 3629, 3655
80.	Shri Ponnuswamy, E.	3669
81.	Shri Prabhu, Suresh Prabhakar	3597
82.	Shri Pradhan, Prasanta	3506
83.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	3526, 3590
84.	Shri Rajagopal L.	3478, 3575, 3631, 3656, 3666
85.	Prof. Ramadass, M.	3499, 3584, 3634, 3658

1	2	3
86.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	3495, 3577, 3649, 3674
87.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	3538, 3623
88.	Shri Rao, K.S.	3673
89.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	3533, 3609, 3645
90.	Shri Ravichandran, Sippiparai	3484
91.	Shri Rawale, Mohan	3498, 3533
92.	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	3524, 3553, 3567
93.	Shri Rawat, Kamla Prasad	3520
94.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	3560, 3581, 3663, 3667
95.	Shri Reddy, K.J.S.P.	3557, 3613
96.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	3548
97.	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	3535
98.	Shri Renge Patil Tukaram Ganpatrao	3513, 3557, 3594, 3621
99.	Shri Rijiju Kiren	3521, 3531
100.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	3542
101.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	3505, 3598, 3618
102.	Shri Saroj, Tufani	3510, 3619, 3651
103.	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	3534, 3557, 3650, 3660
104.	Smt. Sen, Minati	3506, 3587
105.	Shri Seth, Lakshman	3506
106.	Shri Shaheen, Abdul Rashid	3526, 3568
107.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	3479, 3626, 3654

1	2	3
108.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	3553, 3567, 3629, 3655, 3660
109.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	3560, 3581
110.	Shri Singh, Lakshman	3555
111.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	3558, 3614
112.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	3556, 3625, 3653
113.	Shri Singh, Ganesh	3491
114.	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	3567, 3573, 3627, 3628
115.	Shri Singh, Kunwar Marvendra	3532
116.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	3483, 3617
117.	Smt. Singh, Pratibha	3605
118.	Shri Singh, Rakesh	3578
119.	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	3516
120.	Shri Singh, Sitaram	3562, 3601
121.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	3507, 3559, 3628
122.	Shri Singh, Uday	3546
123.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	3588, 3599
124.	Shri Subbarayan, K.	3557, 3572

1	2	3
125.	Shri Sugavanam, E.G.	3485, 3557, 3580, 3632
126.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	3588, 3599, 3640, 3660
127.	Shri Surendran, Chengara	3571, 3670
128.	Shri Swain, Kharabela	3563
129.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	3517, 3639
130.	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	3480
131.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	3567, 3620, 3652, 3664
132.	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	3550
133.	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	3539, 3622
134.	Shri Verma, Bhanu Pratap Singh	3509
135.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	3479, 3626, 3654
136.	Shri Yadav, Anjan Kumar M.	3508, 3511, 3594
137.	Shri Yadav, Giridhari	3508, 3517, 3590, 3622
138.	Shri Yadav, Kailash Nath Singh	3524, 3553, 3660
139.	Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal	3496

Annexure-II**Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Company Affairs	: 427
Earth Sciences	
Finance	: 429, 430, 432, 433, 435, 436, 439, 440, 444
Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	: 437
Law and Justice	: 438
Non-conventional Energy Sources	: 434
Power	428
Rural Development	: 431, 442, 443, 445
Science and Technology	: 441
Urban Development	426

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Company Affairs	: 3506
Earth Sciences	3488, 3534, 3644
Finance	: 3479, 3481, 3486, 3489, 3490, 3491, 3496, 3499, 3500, 3501, 3502, 3511, 3519, 3520, 3521, 3522, 3525, 3526, 3527, 3528, 3532, 3535, 3541, 3546, 3547, 3548, 3551, 3553, 3554, 3558, 3560, 3561, 3562, 3563, 3565, 3568, 3569, 3570, 3572, 3574, 3577, 3583, 3587, 3589, 3592, 3593, 3597, 3598, 3599, 3600, 3601, 3603, 3606, 3607, 3608, 3609, 3614, 3617, 3621, 3622, 3623, 3629, 3631, 3634, 3636, 3638, 3642, 3643, 3649, 3650, 3651, 3654, 3655, 3656, 3659, 3665, 3666, 3667, 3668, 3669, 3670, 3671, 3673, 3676
Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	3515, 3586, 3647
Law and Justice	3484, 3509, 3536, 3540, 3545, 3564, 3573, 3611, 3612, 3619, 3635, 3641, 3663
Non-conventional Energy Sources	3477, 3492, 3497, 3633, 3645, 3658
Power	3495, 3504, 3505, 3510, 3531, 3538, 3542, 3543, 3544, 3549, 3550, 3552, 3556, 3557, 3559, 3567, 3580, 3581, 3584, 3588, 3602, 3605, 3610, 3613, 3618, 3620, 3624, 3625, 3640, 3653, 3657, 3660, 3661, 3662, 3664

Rural Development : 3498, 3503, 3539, 3555, 3571, 3578, 3579, 3604, 3615,
3616, 3626, 3632, 3652

Science and Technology 3478, 3493, 3582, 3628, 3648, 3674

Urban Development 3480, 3482, 3483, 3485, 3487, 3494, 3507, 3508, 3512,
3513, 3514, 3516, 3517, 3518, 3523, 3524, 3529, 3530,
3533, 3537, 3566, 3575, 3576, 3585, 3590, 3591, 3594,
3595, 3596, 3627, 3630, 3637, 3639, 3646, 3672, 3675

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