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(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 22, 2005/ Pausa 1, 1927 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at one minute past
eleven of the Clock*

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, I am one minute late.

Q.No.422, Shri Arjun Sethi – Not present.

Q.No.423, Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Sir, Question No. 423.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas – *Not present.*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, this is a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: It is serious. I have not exonerated him. Wait for my comments.

Hon. Leader of the House, this matter is taken very seriously by the Chair.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, we request that the matter should be taken very seriously and the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas should be admonished for his laxity.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot admonish him in his absence. I have said that I have taken very serious notice of the matter.

Q.No.424, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal – Not present.

Q.No.425, Shri Jivabhai Ambalal Patel.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the hon. Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas has come now. He has come late.

MR. SPEAKER: May I request you to please give up your habit of dictating to the Chair?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I submit that he has taken the House for granted.

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow him to even open his mouth until he has tendered his apology. You have to wait for that.

[Translation]

Loss Making Airports

+

*425. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the airports in the country run by the Airports Authority of India are loss making;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to start commercial activities at some of the loss making airports so as to compensate the losses;

(d) if, so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make these airports viable?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of 126 airports managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI), 86 airports are operational of which only 10 airports made profits and 76 airports made losses during 2004-05.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The commercial facilities/schemes planned by AAI to mitigate the losses at loss-making airports, inter-alia, include setting up snack bar counters, coffee shops, ATM, Tea/Coffee/Soft Drink Vending Machines, Telecommunication facility, Travellers Requisite Stalls, Car Rental, Hotel Reservation, Advertising display rights, branded outlets etc.

(e) AAI has initiated action to increase the non-traffic revenue, wherever possible, and to reduce the controllable expenditure. Besides, AAI has plans to create a subsidiary company for carrying out ground handling activities of the airlines on commercial terms and to allot the contracts of aviation refueling outlets, branded fast food outlets etc.

[Translation]

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister the reasons for the losses being incurred by certain Airports and the steps taken by the government to get rid of the situation.

[English]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, there are many loss-making airports in the country for the reason that there is concentration of flights primarily in our major metropolitan cities. The other cities have probably one or two or three flights a day. As a result, the establishment expenditure and the capital cost of developing and maintaining those airports does not actually get spread over the number of flights that are required to be operated for optimum utilisation. However, this trend is reversing. The number of airports that are profitable is also now increasing, or the losses of the loss-making airports are on a downward trend. That is because of the increase in the number of flights in the country at even smaller airports which hitherto were unconnected. So, with the growth of traffic we do expect that either the number of loss-making airports will reduce or the losses of the existing loss-making airports will come down.

[Translation]

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister, whether any survey has been conducted in North Gujarat for setting up an airport. If so, the details thereof?

[English]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, looking at the present requirements, the geographical spread of airports in the country, when compared to many other States of our country there are many operational airports in North Gujarat, or in Gujarat as a whole. However, if there is any particular issue or any particular airport or a city which the hon. Member would like to see connected, he can write to me and I will try to respond to him in the best possible manner.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, aeroplane has never been such a common means of travelling as it is today when people of all classes can choose it to be their mode of travel. It is really unconvincing for me to think that why this sector is make losses when a lot of people now use aircrafts as their means of travel. Earlier, when I would go to Ahmedabad I could see only a select brand of people in the plane. But, now-a-day, you can hardly differ between an airport and a railway station in respect of the crowd of travellers. Almost every businessman today prefers to go by air, so how can we say that airlines are constantly making losses? Even if it is so, corrective steps should be taken. Private airlines have cut their rates down upto Rs. 2000. While the normal ticket from Delhi to Ahmedabad costs around 8-10 thousands, that is why I fail to understand the reasons for the losses. Moreover, You can promote private airlines in the civil aviation sector. I would like to ask about the amount of money being received from private operations in lieu of providing them airport services? The Government should set such service charges that their airlines could win over their. My second question is that...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Second Supplementary not allowed.

Why are you allowing private operators? Why do you not impose special taxes on them?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I cannot answer a question which is very hypothetical. However, I can only say that increased air connectivity both by public and private sector, has led to this happy situation which the hon. Member said that the people of the country are getting more choice, more connectivity and better fares. In this endeavour, while it was always a shortage in the past, Supply now has increased and so have the aspirations of our people and the needs of our people. So, it is a welcome step in the right direction. Now the real challenge is to get the infrastructure. As the question pertains to the loss-making airports, if more flights go to smaller airports or airports where the flights were operating less, the losses of the airports will also reduce or more airports would become profitable. So, on the whole it is a larger question which the hon. Member is trying to pose. But I think the aviation in our country is headed in the right direction.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that for tea and coffee stalls and other commercial activities running at the Delhi, Mumbai and Jodhpur airports, the land charges are equal. That makes the commercial activities at Jodhpur airport almost nil as this airport for now is hosting only two flights. So, I request the hon. Minister to reduce the land rentals of the stalls at Jodhpur airport so that more commercial activities could be undertaken there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We have allowed a full discussion on the subject. How can it go on for every city or every town?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I think the hon. Member's question is regarding the rent we charge for tea stalls in Delhi or Mumbai compared to Jodhpur. These are all commercial policies of the Airports Authority. I am sure, these are well-defined over a period of time. However, if there is any specific complaint that the hon. Member has, he may write to me and I will try to address it in the best possible way.

MD. SALIM: Sir, the question of the loss-making airports itself is fallacious. Airport is not a stand-alone installation. It is not like that. When you are commuting journeys from one point to the other point and vice versa, the big airports will have huge business. But unless these feeder airlines and feeder airports are there, the bigger airports cannot procure the business. When you talk about a loss-making airport, you have to think about these intricacies. A bus stand in a village or in a town may have only two per cent traffic that does not mean that the village bus stop is not profitable when the city bus stop is there. There is a huge income from the non-aviation side which we have to exploit. In the smaller towns, these airports can never give you income from the duty free shops or hoardings or income from any non-aviation thing. I would like to know whether the Government is aware of this fact or it is consciously trying to divide that there are less important airports with fewer revenue and important airports with higher revenue. Therefore, we have two types of airports or we can have integrated approach. Unless this cross subsidy is there, this aviation industry will not grow. Unless this small hub and spoke concept is there, you cannot think of a hub. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

MD. SALIM: My question is, whether he is consciously dividing it and making this concept popular that these are the loss-making and these are the profit-making airports or you are thinking about the integration.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I have not posed a question whether the airports are loss making or not. This is a question posed by an hon. Member. I am responding to a question saying which are the profit making airports and which are the loss-making airports. Why is an airport profit or a loss-making? I am not trying to go away from the core philosophy behind the aviation where I agree that smaller or other airports cannot be as profitable as the bigger airports. Aviation has to have a hub and spoke arrangement. Therefore, there is no question of going away from the fact that the Airports Authority will have to plough its profit from a profitable airport into not so profitable airport, if you have to sustain the aviation throughout the country. I told the hon. Members the other day that we subscribe to the NCMP for which we all are together and we will go by that philosophy. We will make sure that the the Airports Authority of India remains the torch bearer of airports in our country.

MR. SPEAKER: In fact, we have to have the Civil Aviation Minister everyday for questions. There seems to be limitless questions. He is such a popular Minister that everybody wants to see him.

Shri Ponnuswamy, please put a question other than the one from your city.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: The hon. Minister in his reply has said that out of 126 airports, only 86 are operational, out of which ten airports are making profit and other 76 airports are incurring losses. There is no use of creating any traffic facilities without bringing any discipline in the crew members because of the inordinate delays, insufficient in-cabin services and other such things. Maintenance is more important. In the Chennai-Delhi sector, not even a single day goes without much delay either in arrival or in departure. The crew members in the 6.40 a.m. flight come only by 7.00 a.m. This inordinate delay causes losses. According to my thinking, it is the insufficient in-cabin facilities and the indiscipline among crew members for this delay. What is the use of procuring more aircraft without properly maintaining the existing aircraft?

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not criticise all members of the crew.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: It is a daily experience. It is not a criticism. I really appreciate the hon. Minister for taking all the steps to improve the airlines.

MR. SPEAKER: There are efficient crew members also.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: I would like to know what are the steps that he is taking not only to maintain this but also to correct the indiscipline among the crew members. The private airlines are providing all the facilities to passengers and the passengers are switching over to those airlines because of difference. There is a deep loss incurred by the Airports Authority.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I think, the hon. Member is talking about the losses to airlines rather than losses to the airports. However, I understand his sentiments; I respect them and I also know that there is a lot of traffic congestion especially in Mumbai and Delhi Airports. The reasons are also to be understood. We are forgetting that congestion happens even in the busiest and the most sophisticated airports anywhere in the world. That fact also has to be looked into.

Secondly, if all the flights are bunched in 2-3 hours in the morning and 2-3 hours in the evening, this is when the congestion takes place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. Take your seat.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I am trying to address his question.

MR. SPEAKER: There should be brevity on both sides.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: The phenomenal of growth will have some initial problems and one should have to go through some initial teething problems.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you agree with his criticism of all the crew?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: No, Sir. It is not.

MR. SPEAKER: You should say so; otherwise, a wrong message will go.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I was going to answer that part.

To make a sweeping statement about the criticism of our own airlines is not good.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: It is not a sweeping statement. It is my daily experience, when we go in the Chennai-Delhi Sector. You can check it up.

MR. SPEAKER: It is enough.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should go and meet the hon. Minister.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I will try to keep his sentiments in mind and I will try to address them.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while the airports are making losses, the private airlines have not paid long time dues to the A.A.I. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what measures are being taken to recover this sum?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Of course, there is a time-frame to regularly recover the dues from the airlines. If they fail to comply with this time frame, action can be taken against them and even their operation of flights could be withheld. So, it is not that we are showing to any of these airlines any sort of leniency. They are made to make this payment in time or face the action.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has said that the losses of the AAI can only be reduced if there is more and more flight operations. There is only one flight for Udaipur from Delhi at present. Is there any proposal to extend this number?

Sir, Udaipur is such a tourist spot where tourists from all over the country and abroad come to visit. But the Indian Airlines operates only one flight for that place compared to a number of private flights. Due to lack of frequency the Indian Airlines is running into losses.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It has nothing to do with the losses to the airports.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: The hon. Minister says that the Udaipur airport is to be expanded so as to accommodate more number of flights. My question is that

whether there is any plan for the expansion of the Udaipur airport and in case of such a plan by when it is going to be implemented?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is the real question. Now, this is on Udaipur Airport.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, about the Udaipur airport development I would like to submit that when the House had a long discussion over a matter the day before yesterday and I was given an opportunity to speak, one of our hon. Members asked a question about the Udaipur airport. I replied to that that the work on a new terminal and overall development of Udaipur airport is going to commence in 2006 and it will be of international standards.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I wish to come back to 423.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute. Please take your seat.

I have received a written apology from the hon. Minister. But I feel that the hon. Minister may have to tender his apology to the House.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Sir, may I begin by tendering, to the House, my unqualified apology for having entered later? Sir, I deeply regret my error.

Subsidies on Petroleum Products

*423. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for sharing of the burden of subsidies on petroleum products between the Government and the Public Sector Oil Companies;

(b) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation in this regard;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) With the declared intention of moving towards market-determined pricing for petroleum products, Government announced the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) effective 1.4.2002. Since PDS kerosene and domestic LPG are fuels of mass consumption and largely consumed by the economically vulnerable sections of the society, it was decided that subsidies on these two products would continue on a specified flat rate basis to be met from the fiscal budget. Accordingly, as per the "PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme, 2002", a flat rate of subsidy per selling unit was approved to be given to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), equal to the difference between the cost price and the issue price per selling unit as on 31.3.2002, and to be phased out in three to five years. The OMCs were to adjust the retail selling prices (RSP) of these products in line with international prices during this period. However, in deference to Government directions, the OMCs did not increase the prices of PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG commensurately, resulting in under-recoveries in respect of these two products. In October 2003, Government decided that the OMCs would make up about 1/3rd of their under-recoveries on these two products from the surpluses in petrol and diesel and balance under-recoveries would be equally shared by the upstream companies and the OMCs.

However, there has been an unprecedented, sharp and spiraling increase in international oil prices, particularly since late 2003, combined with considerable week-to-week and even day-to-day volatility. Notwithstanding the steep rise in international prices of sensitive petroleum products, OMCs were modulating the price increase in petrol & diesel also besides maintaining the prices of subsidized products like domestic LPG & PDS Kerosene, in consultation with the Government. In consequence, they have suffered under-recoveries on sale of petrol and diesel as well. Therefore, Government, in June 2004, elucidated the principles which would govern its policy of containing the burden of increase in international prices on consumers of these sensitive

petroleum products. It was decided that the burden should be equitably shared by consumers, the Government and the oil companies. Accordingly, from 2003-04 onwards, Government introduced the subsidy sharing mechanism in which after taking into account the subsidy provided for from the fiscal budget, the balance is shared by the upstream and the downstream companies equitably.

Even after the subsidy sharing mechanism put in place, the burden of under-recoveries on OMCs continued to rise steeply in spite of discounts given by refineries. The estimated under-recoveries was Rs. 9,274 crore for 2003-04 and Rs. 20,146 crore for 2004-05, which is projected to rise to 38,154 crore during the current year. In order to compensate the public sector OMCs on account of mounting under-recoveries suffered by them over and above the amount allowed as subsidy through the Budget, Government have decided to issue oil bonds. The Ministry of Finance have made provision to issue bonds of the face value of Rs.5,750 crore during the current financial year. This has been included in the second batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants 2005-06.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have represented to the Government seeking a review of the rationale of the equitable subsidy sharing mechanism under which the upstream companies are sharing the burden of under-recoveries along with the Government and the downstream companies, keeping in view the increase in retail selling prices (RSPs) of petrol & diesel, the sharing of under-recoveries by refineries and the softening of international price of crude oil and petroleum products.

(d) Government policy is to equitably share the burden of under-recoveries suffered by the OMCs in the context of anomalous price increases. The share of the upstream companies will be proportionate to the total quantum of under-recoveries

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: It was stated by the hon. Minister that a flat rate of subsidy for LPG and kerosene per selling unit, equal to the difference between the cost price and issue price per selling unit as on 31.3.02, was approved to be given to the public sector oil marketing companies, and it is to be phased out in three to five years.

Why not the burden be shared completely by the major oil companies and not by the consumers? In future any increase should not be a burden on the BPL

consumers. Already BPL consumers are in great difficulty because of the last steep price increase of the petro products. When the international oil prices go up, would be the Government make a way out or find a path to ensure that no further burden is put on the BPL consumers in future and ensure that the whole burden is put on the major oil companies?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Even now when we raised the prices last, in the month of September, only 13 per cent of the overall burden was transferred to the consumer. In our SKO, Superior Kerosene Oil distribution, quantities allocated to the States are delivered to the State Governments and it is for the State Governments to make the decision as to whether it will be reserved only for BPL consumers or whether it will go to others.

As regards LPG for domestic purpose, while we make a distinction between domestic LPG and commercial LPG, I am afraid there is no distinction made as yet between BPL consumers of LPG and those who are above poverty line. The suggestion of the hon. Member is, therefore, a welcome one for us to consider when we undertake a policy review of this matter.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Has any other public sector oil company, other than the ONGC, submitted any proposal or represented to reduce or share the burden? If yes, what are the details thereof?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: In regard to the upstream companies in the public sector, we have only OIL and ONGC. ONGC submitted its proposal on the 18th of November and reminded us on the 17th of December. We wished to take up the facts of the matter on receiving the details of what were the under-recoveries in the third quarter. While, of course the third quarter is not yet quite over, we are nearly at it. We find that although it is true that under-recoveries on account of petrol and diesel have indeed come down, they have gone up enormously with regard to LPG and even with regard to kerosene. The consequence is that the third quarter under-recoveries, in this year, are more or less at the same level as they have been in the second quarter. I am, therefore, constrained to say that the ONGC request will have to be considered in the light of reality rather than in the light of the impressionistic statements made by that Corporation in its representation to us.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: In view of the continuing uncertainties in the international oil market what may be

the difficulties of the Government to set up an Oil Price Stabilisation Fund for which there is a huge accumulated Oil Cess Fund available?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The proposal for a Price Stabilisation Fund had been considered as long as a year-and-a-half ago in connection with the mechanism that we had suggested for allowing fluctuations to take place around a band. But the volatility in the market has been so great in the last 18 months that we have simply been beyond that band for almost all the time.

As regards a Price Stabilisation Fund built out of the oil cess, the problem really lies in the language of the Act. The Act, which set up that fund, provides that the fertiliser industry could also be a beneficiary of the funds that are raised from the oil industry and such a large proportion of the funds that have been raised through the cess on upstream oil production are being earmarked for the fertiliser industry that only at very great cost to the fertiliser industry, will we be able to acquire all these funds for the development only of the oil industry. That is the dilemma which we are attempting to address.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, sir, the prices of petroleum products are constantly increasing and consequently burden is rising particularly on the farmers and BPL families living in the villages. Every State has got different tax-rates on the petroleum products. Whether the Hon. Minister would consider to talk to the State Governments in the matter and fix an equal tax-rate in all the States?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the range of customers of petroleum products varies from farmers and labourers to industrialists. Whether the Government propose to make a clarification of the consumers in order to provide subsidy in this regard to the farmers and labourers?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very thankful to the hon. Member as he has once again raised the same matter towards which I have been drawing the attention of the House most of the times in this session. We need to re-consider these matters, though only recently there has been a slight decrease in the prices of petrol and diesel in the international market. But, anyways, it is not a big problem.

As far as LPG and Kerosene is concerned, their prices are much high in the international market by now,

particularly of LPG, which we import from private petroleum refineries. In these conditions, we have to now consider whether we should reduce the prices of SKO (Soil Kerosene Oil) which we provide to the BPL-families through the PDS, or we should have a certain difference between the BPL and APL families while distributing it. As far as LPG, is concerned, I think we should see as to which section of our people is more dependent on it. To a great extent we all know that it is the middle class, though we cannot say it too technically as we can say in the case of Kerosene. Certain BPL families may also be waiting of it, but we have still to make a study before saying anything finally in this regard. We are taking certain steps in this direction and keeping in view the suggestions of the hon. Members. We would come to a conclusion.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether it is time that some times back we were exporting LPG, while at present we have to import it, and this situation vexes our domestic consumers?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, even today LPG is being exported in small quantity as we are selling it to Bhutan and Nepal. Hon'ble Member will agree with me that it is a proper thing to do and it should be done. As far as import is concerned, as it's demand kept increasing and no kind of check was there on it during the fag end of the tenure of previous Government, we were compelled in June last year to put some check on it because much LPG was being purchased in the name of domestic use which was supplied to Dhabas, Restaurants, Hotels, Autorickshaws and other vehicles. We put a ban on it and we are able to meet the rising actual demand as a result thereof but there is a need to a check the purchases being made for diversion purposes. Yes, it is true that now we are importing it and almost 25 percent of LPG consumed in the country is being imported.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Sir, I want to ask that long queues are seen for LPG. People are facing problems. In such a situation what is the need for its export?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking the same question till you get an answer to your satisfaction.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, our Public Sector oil companies are purchasing petroleum products from M/s

Reliance Industries against mutually agreed market price. My submission is that the portion of subsidy burden should be shared by M/s Reliance Industries as well. This is a very logical thing. What measures are being taken by the Government in this regard?

Sir, second part of my question is that the domestic consumers in the State of Kerala are facing a lot of difficulties. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, he has already asked the first question.

With regard to the first question, may I clarify that the Reliance refinery is a stand-alone refinery. It is not an integrated refinery which does the marketing. In these circumstances, we have to take all the stand-alone refineries — those there are in the private sector and those there are in the public sector — into account. What we have done is to persuade them in the market to negotiate and offer to our marketing companies a discount on the products that are purchased from them. That discount constitutes the contribution of all stand-alone refineries, including Reliance, to the burden sharing exercise.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, it is my turn. Q. 424 is in my name.

MR. SPEAKER: You have lost your chance.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, no.

MR. SPEAKER: I called your name and you were not there. Why are you saying 'no'?

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, at that time, the hon. Minister was not there.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why you kept yourself out of the House.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, no. Please allow me. This is an important Question.

MR. SPEAKER: You should not give such an explanation. You should have tendered your apology. First, you please tender your apology.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, I tender my sincere apology for this.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not take anything for granted, whether you are a Minister or an ordinary Member.

This House is much more important than any individual. This House will not run according to anybody's sweet will.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, thank you for allowing me.

MR. SPEAKER: You are a young Member and you should know how to conduct yourself.

Flaring up of Natural Gas

*424. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state.

(a) whether a large quantity of natural gas is flared up for the last several years in the oil wells in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to stop flaring up of natural gas;

(d) whether the Government has constituted any Monitoring Committee in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Details of production and flaring of natural gas by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Joint Venture/Private (JV/Pvt.) Companies in Assam during the last three years are given below:

In Million Standard Cubic Metre (MMSCM)

ONGC

Year	Production of Gas	Gas Flared	% of Flaring
2002-03	476	51.1	10.7
2003-04	498	65.7	13.2
2004-05	467	65.7	14.1

OIL

Year	Production of Gas	Gas Flared	% of Flaring
2002-03	1570.54	101.89	6.49
2003-04	1705.85	107.46	6.30
2004-05	1780.14	130.56	7.33

Gas production by Private operators in Assam during 2004-05 was about 0.868 MMSCM and flaring was nil. Prior to that, there was no gas production by private operators in Assam.

(c) The following measures have been or are being taken by ONGC and OIL to reduce flaring of gas in Assam:

- i) Installation of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for effective control of gas system.
- ii) Getting new fields connected to the gas network immediately.
- iii) Incorporation of capacity control in gas compressors and installation of gas holders to negate the surging effect.
- iv) Supply of low pressure gas from marginal fields directly to low pressure systems of tea gardens in the vicinity.
- v) Further de-bottlenecking of existing gas transportation lines.
- vi) Boosting of low pressure gas at isolated fields through gas compression.
- vii) Identification of small consumers near isolated fields where gas is being produced at low pressure in low quantities.
- viii) Urging consumers of natural gas to uplift committed quantity of gas as there are no fall back customers.
- ix) Installation of low pressure booster compressors.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, it is a fact that large quantities of natural gas in the oil fields of Assam had been flared up in the last so many decades. As a result of this, both the State of Assam as well as the Government of India are at a loss. We have failed to chalk out a specific plan or a programme to tap the natural gas for the betterment of our future. Money worth thousands of crores of rupees have been flared up in the oil fields of Assam. Whatever loss we have incurred in the last so many decades was not because of our fault. It was because of the fault on the part of the Ministry of Petroleum in particular that we had to incur this loss. They had miserably failed to chalk out a plan for tapping the natural gas for a better future of this country.

Sir, now we have been informed that the Gas Authority of India Limited has discovered a huge reservoir of gas in Myanmar and the Ministry of Petroleum is negotiating with the Government of that country to construct a pipeline through India to get it to Gaya in Bihar. Since the loss we have incurred all these years was not on account of our fault and since because of this loss we have suffered in respect of industrialisation, will the Minister be happy to announce that the natural gas that they will be bringing through the State of Assam to Gaya will be given to the State of Assam on subsidised rate for the next 20 years to compensate that loss?

MR. SPEAKER: This supplementary does not arise out of the main Question.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, with regard to the facts of the matter, over the course of the last five years we find that OIL's flaring rate in Assam has been decreased from 8.3 per cent to 7.3 per cent and that production of gas, which has begun in the private sector in Assam, is with zero flaring of gas.

What is of some concern is that the ONGC's flaring of gas has increased percentage-wise from 8.6 per cent five years ago to 14.3 per cent last year. But we are attempting to reduce that flaring too by two very important specific steps.

One is, an 18 inch 14 kilometre line is being laid from Changmaigaon and Charali to Cielek. Once it is completed, in another three months or so, it will reduce flaring of gas by about 30,000 cubic metres per day leading to a reduction in the percentage of flaring from 14 per cent to 11 per cent. As soon as the Assam Gas Company actually picks up its allocated share of 30,000 cubic metres

per day from Khoraghat, which should have been done in January, 2004 but has not yet been done, it will further reduce the flaring to about 8 per cent. In these circumstances we are paying the highest attention to trying to reduce the gas flare.

There are specific steps that have been taken by OIL — which are of a technical nature, I do not think that I should take the time of the House by mentioning these — as also by ONGC. I will be happy to convey this information in writing to the hon. Member.

Sir, let me to sum up say, I am very deeply concerned that there should be such a high level of flaring by ONGC. I believe that is partly because they are mainly prospecting for oil and not for gas. Gas that is getting flared is the associated gas. This gas gets flared partly for technical reasons during process shut down; partly because from isolated fields it is more economical to flare than to send it into a connection and partly for such other technical reasons.

Sir, I am afraid the perception is true that we do need to reduce flaring in the Assam region. We are trying to take steps in this regard and we will do our very best.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member wants 20 years subsidised gas supply.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, that might be a little difficult for us.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, my second supplementary is that, as per the Assam Accord, an accord that was effected by the late Rajiv Gandhi, it was announced that a Gas Cracker project in the State of Assam would be set up. Our hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh has also made a categorical promise to the people of Assam that the Gas Cracker Project will be set up within a short span of time.

Sir, will there be a guarantee for that particular project, which will be a historic project because it is one of the outcomes of the Assam Accord? There will not be any shortage of natural gas, particularly raw materials for the survival of this particular project at least for the next five decades.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the Assam Gas Cracker project is not meant to increase the supply of gas. Insofar as this project is concerned, it does not arise out of this Question. But I have had the honour of answering

several questions on this in this House itself. I will be happy to extract answers from the website and make it available to the hon. Member.

Sir, however, I can assure him that we are committed to the Assam Gas Cracker Project. Notwithstanding the huge increase in estimated cost that has taken place since the Assam Accord, we are still persisting with this. What we have to work out fully are the commercial and economic parameters. Those are at an advanced stage and I do assure the hon. Member that whatever the Prime Minister has stated will be fulfilled in letter and in spirit.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Laxman Singh. I will allow you if it is related to Assam, otherwise not.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is related to Assam. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister, whether natural gas worth of Rs. 42 lakh rupees has been flaring up daily since decade of 80's in Dibrugarh, Assam. If it is assessed, in value terms, the cost of the flared up gas amounts to lakhs of crores of rupees so far. Whether it is not a violation of Kyoto Protocol, I would like to know about the efforts being made to check this? One more thing.

[English]

If you permit me, Sir,

[Translation]

He said that Gas Cracker Plant. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, it does not arise from this Question.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: No, it arises from this Question.

[Translation]

Gas Cracker Plant is set up to reduce gas emission, therefore this question arises from the original question. Hon'ble Minister has stated that this is not the case. He has given wrong information to the House, please rectify it.

[English]

Cracker Plants are put to reduce gas emission so, it arises from this Question, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, first of all I should make it clear, though I am not a Minister of Environment, but as far as my knowledge goes, we have not signed the Kyoto protocol. Secondly, not only in Dibrugarh but at other places of Assam as well gas flaring is continuing. Gas flaring was taking place at that time when we did not have the technology to extract optimum gas which we achieved in the 90s. Therefore, we are making a huge effort to contain this flaring and I have just submitted some information thereon. Besides I have also said, even I regret that the gas flaring percentage of ONGC has kept increasing but two important steps that can be taken to reduce it, have also been mentioned by me just now.

[English]

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: Sir, natural gas or, for that matter, any natural fuel like petroleum, coal or lignite, cannot be substituted as none of these are renewable. We are living in an era when supply of fuel is not up to our requirement. The cost of fuel has gone up like anything during the last four decades. We have to import a large amount of crude oil and petroleum products including LPG and CNG, spending a very huge amount of precious foreign exchange which is going higher every year affecting our economy to a great extent. Flaring of natural gas cannot be thought of these days and must be avoided.

I would request the hon. Minister to let us know whether the Government is considering to install a plant for the production of LNG or CNG by utilising natural gas production by ONGC and Oil India Limited in Assam in an integrated manner having a common network in order that this precious raw material is not wasted.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: May I offer the clarification that we have associated gas and gas that is produced for its own sake, and also fields from which gas is produced are small, isolated, marginal and at other times of a major nature. What we are attempting to do is to reduce flaring in an accelerated manner to as low a level as possible. In the country as a whole, ONGC, for example, has not only achieved zero flaring in some of the regions but also the average national level has been brought down to just a little over three per cent. Just a minute ago, I mentioned that, last year, ONGC in Assam was flaring upto 14 per cent of the gas that it has. Therefore, there is scope for improvement. We are trying to make these

improvements. But I do not think the answer necessarily lies in setting-up LNG plants because that would depend on whether the total quantity is being flared and even if it was saved, would it have provided an adequate quantity of gas to be able to run such plants. What we can do is to make it available for a variety of uses for which it could be made available. Our first demand is that Assam Gas Company which has promised to take 30,000 cubic metres from us as long back as in January, 2004 starts picking up the gas which we are desperate to sell them and which is needed in Assam. But it is not being picked up by the buyer in terms of the original contract entered into at all. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Q.426 — Shri Thawarchand Gehlot. He is not here.

Shri Krishna Murari Moghe.

I think we should club Q.427 also along with this. It is also about the Greenfield Airports.

Shri Subodh Mohite — Not present.

Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni

I will come to supplementaries.

[Translation]

Acquisition of Land for Development of Airports

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* 426. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where demand for land allocation was made to the concerned State Government by the Union Government for the expansion and development of airports since 2000 till date;

(b) the details of the States which have provided land as per the demand;

(c) the dates on which the land was provided alongwith the details thereof;

(d) the locations where the expansion and development of airports have been carried out by the

Union Government during the said period and the amount spent thereon, location-wise; and

(e) the details of the places in the country where the Government proposes to construct airports alongwith the types of new airports proposed to be constructed there, State-wise?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) Since the year 2000, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has requested State Governments of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Rajasthan to provide land for development works at airports in their respective States.

(b) and (c) The details of State Governments which have provided land as per the demand and the year of handing over of land, are as under: Assam - Silchar (2000), Dibrugarh (2002), Lilabari (2000, 2003, 2004), West Bengal - Bagdogra (2005), Berhampur (2000, 2003), Bihar - Patna (2002, 2004), Chhattisgarh - Raipur (2005), Goa (2005), Madhya Pradesh - Jabalpur (2002), Khajuraho (2003), Andhra Pradesh - Tirupathi (2003, 2005), Vishakhapatnam (2002), Kerala-Calicut (2002, 2004, 2005), Punjab - Pathankot (2001), Amritsar (2001), Himachal Pradesh - Gaggal (2002), Bhuntar (2002), Uttaranchal - Dehradun (2003, 2004), Rajasthan - Udaipur (2005), Jaipur (2002), Jaisalmer (2003).

(d) The details of location where development works have been carried out by AAI since 2000 and amount spent thereon (in crores of Rs.), location-wise, are as under:

Bangalore (41.11), Hyderabad (93.02), Bagdogra (25.70), Silchar (33.40), Imphal (2.53), Jabalpur (22.81), Calicut (302.31), Lilabari (34.50), Guwahati (56.96), Tezpur (22.00), Jorhat (1.10), Ahmedabad (70.87), Porbandar (7.72), Vadodara (2.07), Kargil (37.00), Jammu (26.05), Gaya (61.01), Chennai (23.04), Bhubaneswar (28.90), Kangra (5.20), Varanasi (2.72), Bhavnagar (11.95), Agartala (33.99), Shimla (2.28), Madurai (36.78), Colimbatore (21.00), Pathankot (17.11), Nagpur (9.97), Jaipur (4.92), Indore (1.93), Dimapur (10.27), Rajamundry (8.86), Lucknow (17.25), Trichy (25.93), Amritsar (35.00),

Vishakhapatnam (159.00), Surat (35.34), Khajuraho (21.78), Mangalore (55.26), Hubli (15.00), Belgaum (15.00), Srinagar (77.50), Agatti (5.50).

(e) Government has accorded approval to the proposals of respective State Governments to set up Greenfield airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad. In principle approval has also been granted for construction of Greenfield airport at MOPA in Goa. In addition, various State Governments have proposed to construct Greenfield airports which, inter-alia, include Greenfield airports at Kannur in Kerala, Chakan in Pune, Ladawal in Punjab and Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra. These proposals are at preliminary stage at present.

Construction of Greenfield Airports

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*427. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a separate fund to develop greenfield airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the proposals which are under the consideration of the Government for construction of greenfield airports in the country;

(d) the estimated cost of each airport;

(e) the funds allocated/proposed to be allocated for the purpose; and

(f) the time by which the construction work on these airports is likely to start?

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

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) Government has accorded approval to the proposals of respective State Governments to set up Greenfield airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad. In

principle approval has also been granted for construction of Greenfield airport at MOPA in Goa. Construction works have already been started at Bangalore and Hyderabad. In addition, several State Governments have proposed to construct Greenfield airports which inter-alia include Greenfield airports at Kannur in Kerala, Chakan in Pune, Ladowal in Punjab and Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra. These proposals are at preliminary stage at present.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon'ble Minister the number of State Governments from whom land had been sought for development and expansion of airports since the year 2000 till date and the date on which this land was acquired alongwith the nature of expansion work to be done thereon. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You put your question.

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Sir, the written reply which has been given, says that this demand was made for almost 20-22 places and maximum proposals were forwarded during the year 2000-01 and 2003. As the hon'ble Minister himself has accepted. Just now that there is an urgent need for their development at expansion in this age of competition. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether the Ministry can ensure the completion of this work within the given time frame?

[English]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Hon. Speaker, Sir, as far as land acquisition is concerned, the question pertains to the State Government. We are asking for more land for expansion or development of our various airports. In fact, virtually all issues are relating to State Governments. I would also like to state that some State Governments have been giving us the lands as required from time to time. But again I would also like to inform the Members that we are aware — as we are in public life — that land acquisition is sometimes a slow and a tardy process. If there is any specific request of the hon. Member, he may let me know of it. I will take up the matter personally with the State Government concerned for an early disposal of the problem.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is that various State Governments

have submitted proposals for construction of green field airports. This answer refers to only 3 places. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he has received proposals other than these, if so, the names of these proposals?

[English]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: The construction of Greenfield Airports is a new phenomenon. The first Greenfield Airport - the other day I was informing the House during the debate — had come up in Kochi. After that, as a policy to promote new airports, we started the policy of Greenfield Airports because some of our older airports have no capacity for expansion. Sometimes those cities require a large airport for the future requirements. So, as I said earlier, we started this policy of Greenfield Airports. Hyderabad and Bangalore are the two Airports which are currently under construction under this policy. As I have stated in the answer, the new Greenfield Airports which are proposed are: One is in Chakan in Pune, the next one is in Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra, the other one is in Ladowal in Punjab, the next one is in Kannur in Kerala and the other one at MOPA in Goa. ...*(Interruptions)* These are the new proposals which have been received but the process is not yet complete. It is at an early stage. However, if there are some proposals in future, which will be received from the State Governments, we will examine them in the best interest possible.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no one can deny that we are lagging far behind even with the small countries like Thailand etc. when it comes to greenfield airports in the country. It is most unfortunate that even the metros Mumbai, Chennai and Visakhapatnam in Hyderabad were flooded recently and, especially, the Visakhapatnam airport was closed for about 15 days.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a question. Do not give information. We hope you know how to put a supplementary.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Sir, what would be the funding pattern of the construction of the greenfield airports in Hyderabad and Bangalore?

MR. SPEAKER: That is good and better.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: In Hyderabad and Bangalore, the greenfield airports, as per the policy, are basically promoted by the State Governments where technically even a 100 per cent private investment or FOI is possible

as per the policy. However, Sir, the bidding process is supposed to be a global bidding where the land can be provided by the State Government. These are all various models. So, there is not any thumb-rule as to how to proceed. But if the hon. Member would like to know the model of Hyderabad and Bangalore, they went through a bidding process. The land was provided. The State support has also been envisaged in that and the Governments of the respective States and the Airports Authority jointly hold 26 per cent, 13 per cent each, and the balance 74 per cent is by the Consortium which has bid and won these projects. If there is any further information which the hon. Member would like in the policy of greenfield airports, I would be more than happy to furnish him any further detail.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Sir, the Minister has stated in his reply that Bangalore and Hyderabad airports are under construction. Is there any timeframe for the completion of the Hyderabad International Airport, that is called Rajiv Gandhi International Airport?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I can assure the hon. Members that work on both the Hyderabad airport and the Bangalore airport is now progressing with a rapid pace. As per the concession agreement entered into between the Government of India and the Bangalore International Airport on 5th July, 2004, the project will be completed within 33 months from the date of financial closure. The financial closure was achieved on 23rd June, 2005. In the case of the Hyderabad, the financial closure was achieved on 22nd August, 2005 and the project will be completed within 36 months from the date of the financial closure. According to the information, which I have and what we have been monitoring, both the projects are on time.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri P. Ravindran, the new Member.

SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: What is your plan for modernization of Trivandrum Airport?

MR. SPEAKER: Trivandrum Airport! It is not a greenfield airport.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Though it does not arise out of this but I have answered the other day and I can just for the information of the Member, there is a little bit of land issue to be acquired from the State Government. I think, it is also progressing in the right direction and at a cost of almost Rs. 256 crore the phase-I and phase-II of the

Trivandrum International Airport work is likely to commence in the year 2006 itself.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, I complement you on your alert question.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my supplementary is related to Q 426. In part (d) of question no. 426 details of expenditure incurred on expansion and upgradation of about 43 airports of the country from the year 2000, till date have been given by the Government. I am happy to know that many works had been done during the NDA regime and the UPA Government is also carrying out many works. It includes Ahmedabad and rest of the airports of Gujarat but I will restrict my self to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Airport, Ahmedabad only where so far an investment of Rs. 70-87 crore has been made. As far as I know the hon'ble Minister is himself taking keen interest in it and it has the name of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel associated with it, therefore, that airport is going to be constructed on the lines of Singapore airport. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister what is the total amount proposed to be spend because

[English]

the expenditure which you are going to incur on this Airport will be increased.

By what time the whole project will be completed? I am asking this because as per the previous schedule it was to be completed in 2006. Now the Minister has changed the design and I am glad that the Minister is going to make it at par with Singapore airport. I would like to know from him as to what will be the total cost of the project and by which time it will be completed.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, the hon. Member is well aware of the position and despite that he has asked this question. He was with me a few days ago at Ahmedabad Airport to open the new Domestic Terminal. Anyway, he wants to make it a matter of record which he would like to refer back in Ahmedabad. Nonetheless, I have preempted him there at Ahmedabad, so it is not a problem. The fact is, I appreciate his concern for this airport. I have said earlier that Ahmedabad is one of the top airports of our country outside the four metros. I was not happy with what was planned earlier for Ahmedabad and now we have a world class design for the new International Terminal for

the Sardar Vallabhbhai Airport. Since the cost went above the sanctioning capacity of the Airports Authority of India we have taken the project to the Project Investment Board. The pre-PIB part of the work is completed and the PIB part of the work is expected to be completed by January or February of 2006 and soon thereafter, I shall be there to see that the work commences in the first half of 2006 itself.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, he will be breathing on your neck.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while I have reason to presume that the expansion and development of Chandigarh Airport is under the active consideration of the hon. Minister, I do not find any mention of Chandigarh in the reply to Question No. 426. I understand that there is a proposal also to acquire more land to expand the terminal and build up a new Terminal in view of the importance of the city. Maybe for record again, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what he is doing in this regard.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, Chandigarh, as the hon. Member knows, is a defence field. However, we have a civilian enclave there. The hon. Member spoke in the debate day-before-yesterday, but did not wait to listen to my answer.

MR. SPEAKER: He was busy with the job I had given to him.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: My reply was quite comprehensive and it stated about the project that we have for Chandigarh Airport. I will give him the details in writing within a short time. It is just available with me and so I can just read it out. For expansion of apron and buildings at Chandigarh Airport, Rs. 60 crore has been allotted which, I think, is a reasonably good amount for the civilian enclave where the field is being already operated by the Air Force and we will be starting to spend this amount in a very short time.

MR. SPEAKER: But you would keep in mind Kolkata also.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I mentioned about Kolkata the other day. Unfortunately you were not in the Chair on that day.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran
— Not present.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bagdogra Airport is the gateway of Eastern Region and for our neighbouring countries, namely Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh. The Government of West Bengal has already handed over the required land for expansion and development of Bagdogra Airport. The Central Government has already spent Rs. 25.7 crore. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any proposal to make Bagdogra Airport as an International Airport. I would also like to know as to when the Government will open Cooch Behar Airport in my constituency.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, the hon. Member met me this morning before the Question Hour. I have assured him that the work on Cooch Behar Airport is under way and we will be completing the work, I think, in 2006 itself and that will be a good thing for people in North Bengal.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: What about Bodoland area?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: One minute!

12.00 hrs.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, as far as Bagdogra is concerned, the hon. Members also realise that Bagdogra is not only a gateway to the North-East, but also to other neighbouring countries like Bhutan and other places and for Priya Da to go home. I think, we will definitely look at it. I can assure the hon. Member that Bagdogra is very much in our scheme of things for further expansion and for further development.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Bhatinda): Thank you Sir. Sir, in the Malwa belt of Punjab, there is no airport. Bhatinda is the headquarter of army. The patients who are afflicted by cancer, have to travel long distances for treatment. There are two major thermal plants, and a national fertiliser plant is there. It is the largest cotton belt. If people have to go by air in an emergency, they have to travel 250 to 300 kms upto Chandigarh or about 300 kms upto Amritsar where airports are located. About 35 kms from Bhatinda, the army airport is there. If civilian flights are allowed from the army airport, the people of this belt will gain out of it. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he will consider this proposal?

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, fortunately I understood Punjabi, so I can respond.

MR. SPEAKER: There is translation also.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, there is a possibility to look into all these issues. But as of now, I have no ready information to provide on Bhatinda, particularly. But we are looking at a green-field at Ladowal, which is between Jalandhar and Ludhiana. We are also going to see that the airport at Pathankot is also made operational, which is also in Punjab. In this way, we will examine further what are the possibilities. But as of now, I do not have any information on Bhatinda in particular.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Sir, Madam has forgotten to mention the HPCL's huge Refinery in Bhatinda, which is also coming up.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

NCC Training to Girls

*422 **SHRI ARUN SETHI:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any quota for girls in the National Cadet Corps (NCC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to increase girls quota and enhance the funds allocated for NCC training throughout the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the percentage of expenditure being shared by the Union and the State Governments for such training?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) There is no quota for girl cadets in the National Cadet Corps (NCC). However, efforts are being made by the NCC to encourage the enrolment of girl cadets.

Funding of NCC activities is the joint responsibility of the centre and the State Governments. Presently, expenditure on institutional training is borne by the concerned State Government and the expenditure on camps training is equally shared by the Centre and the

States. In the recently held Joint State Representatives and Deputy Directors General Conference, it has been recommended to enhance the Central Government share for NCC training.

[Translation]

Market Share of Public Sector Oil Companies

*428. **SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:**

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:

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

(a) whether the Public Sector Oil Companies are losing their credibility and share in the market due to adulteration of Kerosene and Naphtha;

(b) if so, the percentage of their share of all petroleum products including diesel, petrol, LPG, kerosene in the domestic market as on November 1, 2005 along with the percentage share of the market captured by the private companies;

(c) the distance criteria laid down by the Government for Public and Private Sector Oil Companies for opening of petrol pumps/gas agencies in rural areas and on national highways;

(d) whether the Government has received complaints regarding violation of laid down criteria by Private Sector Oil Companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) While the possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel, it cannot be construed that Public Sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) are losing their credibility and share in the market due to adulteration.

The Government have granted the rights for marketing of transportation fuels to new companies in terms of the Government resolution of 08.03.2002. These

companies have started commissioning retail outlets and sales at these retail outlets are largely carved out of the sales of existing outlets of OMCs.

The provisional percentage market share of OMCs and private sector oil companies of diesel, petrol, LPG, kerosene and all petroleum products during the period April-October, 2005 was as follows:

(Figure in %)

Product	Public Sector OMCs	Private Sector Oil Companies
Diesel	91.8	8.2
Petrol	96.5	3.5
LPG	96.6	3.4
Kerosene	100	0.0
All Products	83.4	16.6

(c) Consequent to the announcement of the dismantling of Administrative Price Mechanism (APM) effective 01.04.2002, there are no volume distance norms laid down for setting up retail outlets. OMCs set up retail outlets after conducting feasibility studies based on the potential and economic viability as per the marketing plans formulated by them. Further, while granting the rights for marketing of transportation fuels to new companies by the Government vide resolution of 08.03.2002, no limit on the quantum, size and location of retail outlets has been prescribed. However, for retail outlets to be set up on National Highways, permission for access to the retail outlet from the National Highways has to be obtained from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (North). They have laid down the norms for the access to the retail outlets along National Highways which have to be fulfilled for obtaining permission. As per these norms, the minimum distance between two fuel stations would be as follows:

Plain and Rolling Terrain in Non-urban (Rural) areas:

- (i) Undivided carriageway (for both sides of carriageway) 300 meters
- (ii) Divided Carriageway (with no gap in median at this location and stretch) 1000 meters

Hilly/Mountainous terrain and urban stretches

- (i) Undivided carriageway (for both sides of carriageway) 300 meters
- (ii) Divided carriageway (with no gap in median at this location and stretch) 300 meters

As regards domestic LPG distributorships, the OMCs open up such distributorships on commercial consideration. However, as a matter of policy the Government has advised OMCs to concentrate their future expansion plans in semi-urban/rural areas.

(d) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Occupancy Pattern of Trains

*429. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways maintain any data showing occupancy and earnings of individual trains;

(b) if so, the number of the trains running with low occupancy during 2003-04 and 2004-05, Zone-wise;

(c) the reasons for low occupancy of such trains;

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Railways in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken for realization of optimum benefits from operation of such trains by Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) and (b) Out of approximately 9000 passenger carrying trains running daily on Indian Railways, about 4000 are Electrical Multiple Unit (EMU) trains which have a set pattern of occupancy i.e. running over-occupied during peak hours with a much lower occupation level during off-peak. Of around 1500 Mail/Express trains, about 10% to 15% on an annual average basis remain at a low occupation level (below 30% of the capacity) in the reserved segment. The remaining around 3500 ordinary passenger trains with predominantly unreserved segment are generally occupied over 30%.

(c) Trains running on popular and convenient timings with lesser stoppages and running time are generally well patronized and also experience waiting list almost throughout the year. However, other trains not having these features are chosen by passengers for travel only as a second alternative and are, therefore, not fully patronized. The extent of patronization differs from train to train depending upon peak and lean periods as well as various factors mentioned above. Another reason for less patronization of trains is the availability of convenient and fast road networks in some sectors e.g. highways and expressways, which are getting developed rapidly in different parts of the country encouraging the use of personal vehicles, buses etc. more & more.

(d) and (e) The various steps which are being taken to improve the occupancy of less patronised trains are as under:

- 1) Introducing fast services and reducing running time of existing trains.
- 2) Making the timings of trains more convenient, if possible.
- 3) Studying the profiles of trains through Passenger Profile Management (PPM) project to make necessary modifications like re-distribution of reservation quota, augmentation/reduction of load of train etc.
- 4) Introducing new type of trains catering to specific requirements of passengers.
- 5) Cancellation of poorly patronised trains.

Upgradation Programme for ONGC Projects

*430. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is planning a massive upgradation programme for its various projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total investment to be made by ONGC for upgradation of its various projects;
- (d) the sources from which funds would be mobilized; and

(e) the time by which the upgradation works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Various offshore projects namely platforms and pipelines are to be revamped or upgraded by ONGC at an estimated cost of around Rs. 8583 crores.

ONGC have also drawn up an action plan for revamping/upgrading a number of onland surface facilities including flow lines, trunk lines, compressors and Gas Collecting Stations at an estimated investment of about Rs. 3883 crores.

In addition, ONGC have plans to invest about Rs. 884 crores for upgradation of seismic, well logging, work stations and IT projects in 2006-07.

(d) The investment required for the revamping/upgradation works is intended to be funded from ONGC's own sources.

(e) These upgradation works are scheduled to be completed between 2006-2010.

[Translation]

Monitoring of Welfare Schemes

*431. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that welfare schemes implemented by the Ministry have not succeeded in achieving their set targets in the absence of proper monitoring and co-ordination;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the shortcomings noticed in the implementation of the schemes during the last three years; and
- (e) the measures taken/to be taken by the Government to rectify those shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND

EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The implementation of welfare schemes for development of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities, Persons with Disabilities, Street Children, Older Persons, Victims of Alcoholism and Drug Addiction is being monitored periodically. Quarterly performance review of all the schemes was done by the Planning Commission for the last three years and half yearly basis in the current year. Performance review is an ongoing process. The schemes are also evaluated by independent agencies. In the last three years 103 evaluation studies have been sponsored to independent agencies such as Universities Departments, Research Institutes, Voluntary Organisations, Professional Associations working in the field of Social Welfare to obtain feed back for proper implementation of the Scheme.

(e) On the basis of the experiences of the implementation of schemes, feedback and requests received from State Governments, NGOs and beneficiaries the schemes are revised as per requirements. For instance, Post Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Castes, Pre-Matric Scholarships for Children of those engaged in un-clean occupation, National Overseas scholarships for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Scheme for assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Aids and appliances and Deen Dayal Rehabilitation Scheme. Schemes under revision are Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse, Up-gradation of Merit and Scheme for Children in Need of Care and Protection.

[English]

Committee to Examine Procurement Procedure

*432. **SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Committee to examine the procedures for acquisition/procurement of defence equipment;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations accepted by the Government; and

(e) if not, the time by which the said Committee is likely to be submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Government reviewed the Defence Procurement Procedure 2002 (Version June 2003) that dealt with Capital acquisitions involving 'Buy' and 'Buy and Make' categories, and promulgated the Defence Procurement Procedure (D.P.P.) 2005. Government also promulgated the Defence Procurement Manual (D.P.M.) 2005 for Revenue stores. Both D.P.P. 2005 and D.P.M. 2005 are part of the website of the Ministry of Defence (www.mod.nic.in).

In addition, a Committee was set up by the Government under the chairmanship of Dr. Vijay L. Kelkar to inter alia examine the following:

- (i) The current procedure and recommend changes in the acquisition process based on a "product strategy" for items which need development internally or through the "Transfer of Technology" route.
- (ii) To recommend modalities of integration of the user, the Defence Ministry and the Indian industry both in private and public sectors in the acquisition process of products required by the Armed forces.
- (iii) To recommend changes required to increase defence exports and incorporation of offsets in defence acquisition, etc.

The Committee has since submitted its report.

[Translation]

Killing of Workers on Railway Tracks

*433. **SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the increasing incidents of Railway workers getting hit and killed/injured by the passing trains while working on railway tracks in the country;

(b) if so, the number of workers killed/injured during each of the last three years and the current year, Zone-wise;

(c) whether the Railways provides any compensation to the workers killed/injured in those accidents;

(d) if so, the compensation given to them during the said period;

(e) whether the Railways have also ordered any inquiries on such accidents to find out the exact cause of such accidents and fixed responsibility of railway officials in this matter;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Railways against the officials found guilty; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Railways to check occurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Number of workers killed/injured during each of the last three years and the current year are as under:

Railways	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06 (upto Nov. 05)	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
Central Railway	18	15	36	18	25	19	26	15
Eastern Railway	16	0	19	0	13	0	11	0
East Central Railway	49	0	37	0	41	0	24	0
East Coast Railway	16	1	8	0	16	0	15	0
Northern Railway	25	42	36	41	30	37	22	15
North Central Railway	23	41	22	24	23	22	26	30
North Eastern Railway	3	8	8	2	6	1	1	0
Northeast Frontier Railway	8	0	11	0	16	0	10	0
North Western Railway	1	0	3	1	3	0	4	0
Southern Railway	10	0	17	0	22	1	11	0
South Central Railway	13	9	25	2	23	2	32	0
South Eastern Railway	10	3	12	9	6	1	6	0
South East Central Railway	7	0	10	1	15	0	8	0
South Western Railway	2	1	2	1	2	0	2	0
Western Railway	16	108	17	124	15	100	12	54
West Central Railway	19	9	21	9	15	5	16	0
Total	236	237	284	232	271	188	226	114

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Total amount paid as compensation in last three years and during the current year upto Nov 2005, on Indian Railway is approximately Rs 25.94 crore.

(e) and (f) Such accidents normally takes place with the staff working along the track and are a result of misjudgment on their part regarding the approaching train, therefore inquiry to fix responsibility is not generally

resorted to. Inquiry is, however, conducted for each case to assess the genuineness of the case for payment of the compensation.

(g) The trackmen are given suitable training. The clothing of trackmen is designed keeping in view the longer visibility. Whistle boards are provided at locations having less visibility so that driver can warn the workers working on or near track.

[English]

Drilling of Oil

*434. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of drilling of oil from the existing oil fields is very low in comparison to most of the oil fields of the advanced countries;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the drilling rate?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Drilling rate depends on the subsurface lithology and formation characteristics, which are different for different areas. The data on drilling rates is not published by international companies. The average rate of drilling of wells (Commercial Speed) for Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) in last three years was as under:

Year	Drilling rate for ONGC (M/RM)*	Drilling rate for OIL (M/RM)*
2002-03	1197	2207
2003-04	1247	2154
2004-05	1233	2252

* M/RM: Metres per Rig Month

It may be noted that comparative drilling rates in different countries and for different companies is not published in international journals.

(c) The various steps taken by oil companies to increase drilling rate include the following:-

- Use of premium drill bits.
- Use of high performance mud systems.
- Use of state-of-the-art rigs.
- Regular training of drilling crew.

[Translation]

Installation of Metro Channel Transmitters

*435. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received requests from various State Governments for installation of Metro Channel Transmitters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir. The DD Metro Channel was closed down in 2003.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions In Bharat Nirman Project

*436. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are presently involved in implementation of the Bharat Nirman Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether any proposals in this regard are under consideration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Bharat Nirman is a programme

for building rural infrastructure, comprising six components, namely, irrigation, water supply, rural roads, rural housing, rural telecom connectivity and rural electrification. Panchayats are already involved in varying measures in aspects of planning and implementation of certain schemes under these components. The National Committee on Rural Infrastructure headed by the Prime Minister, while accepting in principle the centrality of Panchayats in the programme, has desired that the feasibility of involving Panchayats in each of the Bharat Nirman components be considered by a Group of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of the Member-Secretary, Planning Commission. The process of interaction among different Ministries/Departments in this regard has been initiated.

Electrification of Railway Lines

*437. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the electrification works on some sections has been taken up by the Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, Zone-wise;
- (c) whether the Railways are aware that there is a very slow progress in electrification works;
- (d) if so, the progress made so far in each section alongwith the reasons for delay in this regard, Zone-wise;
- (e) the expenditure incurred on the above works in each section, till date, Zone-wise; and
- (f) the time by which the electrification works on these sections are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (f) The electrification work on the following sections is in progress as per schedule. The details are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Zone/Rly.	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Route Kilometre	Cost	Expenditure upto 31.03.05	Route kilometre electrified upto 30.11.05	Target Date
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	South Eastern/ East Coast	Kharagpur/Nimpura-Bhubneshwar including branch line of Talcher-Cuttack Paradeep	1995-98	540	325.18	305.88	450	Completed, except Cuttack-Paradeep Branch Line (90 RKMs) targeted for completion by March, 07
2.	Northern	Ambala-Moradabad	1992-93	274	223.73	201.83	170	March '08
3.		Moradabad-Lucknow-Utratia	2005-06	338	209.20	0.0	-	March '08 Preparatory work in progress.
4.	South Central	Tirupati-Pakala-Katpadi	2004-05	105	41.27	-	-	March '08. OHE and signalling works in progress.
5.		Renigunta-Guntakal	1992-93	308	188.34	73.77	86	Work completed on single line upto Nandalur, further work to be taken by RVNL alongwith doubling. Target not fixed.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6.	Southern	Emakulam-Trivandrum	1999-2000	320	162.32	149.99	252	March '06. Work for OHE, Sub-stations and Signalling in progress.
7.		Villupuram-Pondicherry	2005-06	38	8.6	-	-	March '06. OHE and signalling works in progress.
8.	Eastern	Krishnanagar-Lalgola	2000-01	128	63.84	15.87	-	December '06. Work for OHE, Sub-stations and Signalling in progress.
9.	South Western	Electrification of Bangalore area	2005-06	46	21.44	0.0	-	March '07. Preparatory work in progress.

Purchase of Electricity by Railways

*438. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways meet its electricity needs from the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC);

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of electricity purchased by the Railways per annum;

(c) whether the Railways are considering to purchase electricity from independent power producers as reported in the 'Business Standard' dated November 23, 2005; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) Yes, Sir. Presently, Railways meet its electricity needs for traction purposes from State utilities in 17 States and 3 power companies viz. Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), M/s. TATA and NTPC Limited.

(b) The quantum of electricity purchased by the Railways for traction purposes was 10133 Million Kilowatt hour in 2004-05.

(c) Yes, Sir. Railways are exploring the possibilities to purchase power from the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and Power Trading Companies (PTCs).

(d) The average rate charged for electric traction is about 421 paise per unit. This does not have any

relation with the cost at which the electricity is produced in the country. Therefore, an 'Expression of Interest' from IPPs/PTCs to supply electricity at cheaper rates at Railways Traction Sub-Stations (TSS) in Northern region (Requirement about 419 Mega Watt) and Southern region (Requirement about 490 Mega Watt) has been invited.

Detailed discussion is being held with prospective IPPs/PTCs to understand the complexities of the issue in view of the emerging scenario in the context of The Electricity Act, 2003. Railways are also exploring possibilities for hiring consultants to assist Railways in the process of selection of IPPs/PTCs through an open tender.

Working Hours of Operational Staff

*439. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operational staff of Railways, especially Gangmen, are put on duty for 22 to 24 hours continuously;

(b) if so, the steps taken to reduce stress level of the operational staff dealing with the safety operations;

(c) whether there is any proposal to put them on duty for not more than eight hours; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) No, Sir. The Gangmen on Indian Railways are not included in the category of operational staff. They work on a daily duty/roster of 8½ hours including preparatory and complementary time. The Operational Staff on the Indian

Railway mainly consist of Drivers, Guards and Station Masters. Drivers and Guards are classified as 'Continuous' and are statutorily required to work for 54 hours in a week. Their rostered hours have been fixed as 104 hours in a two weekly period of 14 days. This includes preparatory and complementary time.

Station Masters are generally classified as 'Continuous' or 'Essentially Intermittent'. When classified as 'Continuous', they are statutorily required to work for 54 hours per week and when classified as 'Essentially Intermittent', they are statutorily required to work for 75 hours per week.

(b) The operational staff are required to work beyond rostered hours in exceptional circumstances. To contain stress level, provision exists for periodic rest. Controlling over working hours, modernization of signalling, improvement in conditions of the running rooms, ergonomic design of crew-friendly locomotive cabs etc. are some of the measures taken in regard to reduce stress levels.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Various Committees/Tribunal and CAT/Ernakulam have recommended to maintain the existing classification/working hours of Drivers and Guards. Duty hours of Station Masters are decided on the basis of classification determined by job analysis. This system is applicable for all categories of Railway staff including Station Masters.

Hike in Air Fare

*440. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA) have increased their fare in the recent past in view of the hike in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices;

(b) if so, the details of the ATF prices before increase of the air fares;

(c) whether Public Sector Oil Companies have recently slashed ATF prices;

(d) if so, whether AI/IA proposes to share such reduction with its passengers;

(e) if so, the details in this regard; and

(f) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) While Air India has not revised the airfares, a marginal adjustment in fuel surcharge is done from time to time depending on the cost of ATF, Indian Airlines has increased fare by 10% (effective October, 2005) to offset the increase in the cost of operations due to increase of ATF prices.

(b) Details of ATF price movement since April, 2005 is as under:

Month	Price (Rs. per kilo litre)
April, 2005	32250
May, 2005	34800
June, 2005	31550
July, 2005	33500
August, 2005	34100
September, 2005	36700
October, 2005	38400

(c) to (f) Though the average price of ATF has declined to Rs.33,550/KL in December 2005, even this price continues to be about 22% higher than the average price of Rs.27500 in 2004-05. As such, there is no proposal for the time being, to reduce fares.

Inter Linking of Military Hospitals

*441. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to interlink all military hospitals to a Central Network for providing maximum medical facilities to the needy Army personnel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also planning to link private hospitals with the Military Hospitals in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the general public will be permitted to get specialized treatment in these hospitals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a project to inter-link all military hospitals by providing Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) connectivity. This will facilitate transmission of alphanumeric data as well as images like X-ray, Ultrasound, Computed Tomography (CT) Scan, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) alongwith Video Conferencing facility. Presently, telemedicine facility is available between Army Hospital (Research & Referral) Delhi Cantt and a few border Military Hospitals.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) No, Sir.

(f) In view of (e) above question does not arise.

Helicopter Service to Holy Places

4305. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of important holy places for which helicopter services are presently exists in the country; .

(b) whether any proposal to extend the helicopter services to other important religious and hill temples is under consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the services are likely to be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Vaishno Devi, Kedarnath, Badrinath and Amarnath shrines are being provided helicopter services by various operators.

(b) to (d) The operators are free to provide helicopter services to other religious places as per their commercial judgement subject to obtaining requisite clearance from the concerned State Governments and religious Trusts manning the shrines, as may be required.

Training in Film and Television Institute, Pune

4306. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the fields in which training is being imparted by the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune;

(b) the number of students who are getting training and the number of staff members working in the said Institute at present;

(c) the numbers of students to whom boarding facility is available in the said Institute; and

(d) the annual expenditure incurred by the Government on this Institute during each of the last three years;

(e) whether there is any proposal to restart the 'Training in acting' in the said Institute;

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The Film Institute of Pune imparts training in all aspects of film production and television programme production, viz.:

i) three-year post-graduate diploma in Film and Television, i.e. direction, cinematography, audio-graphy and editing;

ii) acting under 2-year post-graduate diploma course and 2-year post-graduate diploma in art direction;

iii) one-and-half-year certificate course in animation and computer graphics;

iv) one-year post-graduate certificate course in direction, electronic cinematography, video editing and audiography and television engineering; and

v) one-year post-graduate certificate course in feature film screenplay writing.

Besides, under short-term courses, in specialized areas, in-service training is provided to the officers of all grades of Doordarshan, IIS probationers, working professionals and people having interests in related areas.

(b) 223 and 224 respectively.

(c) There are students hostels for both boys and girls with the capacity to accommodate all the students admitted for all the courses. For boarding, mess

arrangements are made when sufficient numbers of students are available for running a cooperative mess on cost-sharing basis.

(d) The annual expenditure incurred by the Government of India on the Institute during each of the last three years on net deficit basis is as below:

(Rs./lakhs)			
Year	Plan	Non Plan	Total
2002-03	30	452	482
2003-04	358	490	848
2004-05	306	624	930

(e) and (f) The two-year Post-graduate Diploma Course in Acting has already been started from the Academic Year, 2004. The first session commenced from 12 July 2004. The intake of the course is 20.

[Translation]

**Telecast of Obscene Films from
Kailarus Relay Station**

4307. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the telecast of obscene films on November 4, 2005 from the Kailarus Relay Station on DD-I television channel;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in the matter; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that there had been a telecast of undesirable programme (video) alongwith audio signal of DD-I channel from LPT Kailaras for about six minutes on 2nd November 2005.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that an on the spot inquiry was conducted by Doordarshan and three

allegedly erring officials were placed under suspension w.e.f. 10th November 2005.

[English]

Juvenile Crimes

4308. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether juvenile crimes are on the rise;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Union Government to handle juvenile crime cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to check the rise in such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Model Rules under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 provide for detailed handling of juveniles in conflict with law including their institutional management and procedure to be followed in holding inquiries.

(e) Does not arise.

Certification of Films

4309. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines for certification of films in India;

(b) whether any instances of violation in censorship has come to the notice of the Government during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The Central Board

of Film Certification (CBFC) certifies film for public exhibition in accordance with the provisions of Section 5B(1) of the Cinematograph Act 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder.

(b) and (c) CBFC has informed that there were certain instances of violations of censorship that have come to the notice of the CBFC during the current year. The total number of violations detected region-wise is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The enforcement of the penal provisions of the Cinematograph Act lies with the State Governments/ Union Territories. However to strengthen the hands of the State governments in detecting violations of the Cinematograph Act and the rules made thereunder, the Central Government has evolved a Scheme for appointment of private detective agencies for all the nine regions of CBFC. These agencies assist in checking violations by conducting raids in cinema theatres and filing FIR's with Police authorities.

Statement

Region	Number of violations detected
Mumbai	5
Chennai	45
Kolkata	20
Hyderabad	6
Bangalore	100
Thiruvananthapuram	104
Delhi	22
Total	302

[Translation]

**Manufacturing of New
Intercept Planes**

4310. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia proposes to manufacture new intercept planes jointly with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any talks were held between India and Russia in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Russia has proposed joint development and manufacture of Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft. Talks have been held between India and Russia in this regard. The discussions are at a preliminary stage. Therefore, no time limit for taking a decision in this regard can be indicated.

[English]

**Marketing Division of Prasar Bharati
In NE Region**

4311. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati is planning to open a Marketing Division Office in North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that a proposal has been initiated for opening a Marketing Division Office in North East Region at Guwahati. Prasar Bharati has also informed that they are working out details in this regard and it is likely to be opened by the end of this financial year.

Inquiry Committees on Rail Accidents

4312. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inquiry committees appointed on rail accidents take long time to submit their reports;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of railway accidents on which inquiry reports are yet to be submitted; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for speedy action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Commission of Railway Safety while conducting inquiries into serious Railway accidents under Section 114 of the Railways Act, 1989 and accident inquiry committees of the Zonal Railways submit their Inquiry Reports mostly within

the prescribed guidelines of time frame. Though, all efforts are made to complete the accident inquiries within the prescribed time, however, in some of the case, submission of report is delayed due to some unavoidable circumstances e.g. matter requiring deep technical scrutiny, witnesses not being available, delayed receipt of technical reports from non-railway agencies etc. Inquiry reports of only 8 accidents (6 of the Commission of Railway Safety and 2 of railway inquiry committees) are under various stages, details of which are given below:

S.No.	Date of Accident	Brief Description	Remarks
1.	05.09.2005	Dashing of rail bus 602 with autorikshaw at manned level crossing no. 20 between Visnagar-Vadnagar stations of Ahmedabad division of Western Railway.	Inquiry being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety. Preliminary Report has been received.
2.	03.10.2005	Derailment of 1108 DN-Bundel khand Express between Datia-Songir stations on Jhansi division of North Central Railway	Inquiry being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety. Preliminary Report has been received.
3.	29.10.2005	Unusual occurrence leading to derailment of 415 Repalle-Secunderabad Delta Fast Passenger train between block stations. Ramannapet and Vallgonda at bridge no. 61 of Guntur division of South Central Railway.	Inquiry being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety. Preliminary Report has been received.
4.	07.11.2005	Dashing of truck with JWO-SSB Spl. Goods train at manned level crossing No. 96 between stations Shri Madhopur and Kachera on Jaipur division of North Western Railway.	Inquiry being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety. Preliminary Report has been received.
5.	09.11.2005	Side collision of 619 Up Gomoh-Chopan passenger with LHM Spl. Up goods train in Barwadih station yard of Dhanbad division of East Central Railway	Inquiry being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety. Preliminary Report has been received.
6.	17.11.2005	Fire in Coach No. NE 00206 WGS of 8616 Dn Hatia-Ranchi-Howrah Express under Ranchi Division of South Eastern Railway	Inquiry being conducted by accident inquiry committee of the railway. Technical details require deep scrutiny.
7.	25.11.2005	Rear-end-collision of 8006 Dn-Koraput Howrah express against stationary K-112 Kharagpur Howrah passenger outside Home Signal of Panskura station on Kharagpur division of South Eastern Railway.	Inquiry being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety. Preliminary Report has been received.
8.	12.12.2005	Dashing of tractor trolley against train engine of 4633 Ravi Express at unmanned level crossing No. C-21 between Jaintipura and Batala station of Ferozpur Division of Northern Railway.	Inquiry being conducted by accident inquiry committee of the railway.

**Stalls to Families of Swatantrata
Sangram Sainani**

4313. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of stalls allotted to the families of Swatantrata Sangram Sainani in Mumbai Division for catering at railway stations;

(b) the names of stations on which these stalls are located;

(c) whether the Railways under its New Catering Policy 2005 propose to retain these stalls allotted to families of Swatantrata Sangram Sainani; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) One refreshment stall at Vapi station, was allotted to a Swatantrata Sangram Sainani.

(c) and (d) As per Catering Policy 2005, licences of reserved category licensees will be renewed every 3 years on satisfactory performance. Renewal will be done for the existing licensees under the reserved category only on payment of all dues and arrears.

[Translation]

Accident of Purushottam Express

4314. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether accident of Purushottam Express took place near Gamahria station of Jamshedpur during June, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of inquiry committee appointed to enquire into the said accident;

(d) whether the report of inquiry committee on said train accident has been received;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the report on said accident is likely to be received; and

(g) the action taken/to be taken by the Railways against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 20.06.2005 an Electrical Banking Engine collided with 2802 Down New Delhi-Puri Purushottam Express between Gamharia and Birarajpur stations on Chandil-Tatanagar Broad gauge section of Chakradharpur division of South Eastern Railway. In this unfortunate accident, 4 persons including 2 Railway staff were grievously injured and 22 persons including 5 Railway staff received simple injuries.

(c) to (g) As per Section 114 of the Railways Act, 1989, Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Eastern Circle, conducted statutory inquiry into this accident and has submitted his final report concluding that the above accident occurred due to the driver of banking engine passed 'UP' starter signal at danger without any authority. Major penalty charge sheets under Discipline and Appeal Rules have been issued to the officials held responsible for this accident.

[English]

Steam Locomotives

4315. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of steam locomotives presently in working conditions in the Railways, Zone-wise;

(b) whether some of the steam locomotives are not in operation and are kept as national heritage;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to preserve those locomotives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As on date, 29 steam locomotives are working on Indian Railways in different zones as under:

Railway		Nos. of locos
Central	=	01
Northern	=	04
Northeast Frontier	=	15
Southern	=	07
National Rail Museum	=	02

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Considering the heritage value of steam locomotives, some locomotives have been displayed for posterity in the Rail Museums, Zonal/Divisional Railway Headquarters and public places. In addition, some of the steam locomotives are also under rehabilitation, to make them functional.

Completion of Nahur Railway Station

4316. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of construction work of Nahur Railway Station;

(b) the time by which construction work on the project is likely to be completed;

(c) whether funds for the construction of Foot Overbridge (FOB) at the above station has been sanctioned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are three major items to be completed for construction of Nahur halt station. The present status of these work is as under:

- (i) Overhead Booking Office – Fabrication and erection of steel work has been completed. Floor slab have been cast. Brick work of wall is in progress.
- (ii) Island Platform – Platform walling on both down and up side, Earthwork and soling of platform surface have been completed. Concreting of platform surface is in progress.
- (iii) Foot Over bridge – Foundation of column of foot over bridge on east side and on island platform have been completed. Columns on platform have been cast. Steel girders of foot over bridge have been fabricated. Assembly of girders is in progress.

(b) March 2006.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Rs. 10.10 lakhs has been allotted during 2005-06.

Airports Authority of India

4317. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) was constituted as a consequence of merger of the National Airports Authority of India (NAAI) and International Airports Authority of India (IAAI);

(b) if so, whether two different cadres of NAAI and IAAI are still working at various Airports under the name of Airports Authority of India;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the complete merger is likely to take place?

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

(c) and (d) Both National Airports Authority and International Airports Authority of India were having different pay-structure, work culture, career progression etc. The management of Airports Authority of India (AAI) has attempted to bring about uniformity through various administrative orders by rationalizing, reviewing cadres and extending benefits available in one division to another division. In pursuance of provisions contained in AAI Act, various common regulations have been notified. Besides, in order to decide broad principles for inter-se seniority of employees between various cadres so as to further integrate the working of different departments at various levels, a high power Committee has been constituted. Further efforts to merge different cadres/departments can be taken only after receipt of the report of the Committee. Hence, the time by which the complete merger can take place, cannot be precisely indicated.

[Translation]

Construction of ROB in Patna

4318. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a railway overbridge is being constructed at Chirrayatad in Patna;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The work of construction of a Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Rly kms.545/ 1 at Chiraiyatand (Patna) has been sanctioned on cost sharing basis with Govt. of Bihar in Railway's Works Programme of 2000-01. The total estimated cost of work is Rs. 16.89 cr. with Railway's share as Rs. 7.95 cr. & State Government's share Rs. 8.94 cr.

The Railway portion of work bridge proper i.e. bridge across the railway track is being constructed by Railway and approaches by State Govt./Bihar Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd.

The bridge is to be completed in two phases. In 1st phase construction of new two lane bridge shall be completed and after commissioning of 1st phase, existing bridge will be dismantled and another two lane bridge will be constructed.

Presently work is in progress on Railway portion as well as on approaches. The completion time shall depend on completion of approaches by State Govt. also. Railway shall make all possible efforts to complete its portion of work alongwith the work on approaches.

[English]

National Institute of Social Defence

4319. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) provides training to Students in geriatric care;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of students trained during the current year alongwith the placement provided for the pass-out students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) has been organizing two long term courses namely, (a)

One Year Post Graduate Diploma in Integrated Geriatric Care; and (b) Six Month Certificate Course in Geriatric Care.

(c) During the current year 2005-06, 100 students were trained in Six Months Certificate Course in Geriatric Care and 19 students in One Year Post Graduate Diploma in Integrated Geriatric Care. These courses are not linked with direct placement with Institutions.

Harassment of Traders by RPF

4320. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that trader community coming to Mumbai for purchase of goods is being harassed by the Railway Protection Force personnel at the Dadar, CST and Mumbai Central Railway Stations;

(b) if so, whether any complaints has been received in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to overcome such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Shortage of LPG

4321. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of the assurance given by the Government for normal supply of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), the shortage of supply of LPG cylinder remains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the reasons for which more than one cylinder is not being given to customers on demand; and

(d) the steps the Government proposes to take to ensure supply of at least two cylinders per customer per month on demand?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI

SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The temporary shortage of LPG had emerged from September 2005 largely on account of non-materialization of some additional LPG imports planned by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), shutdown of RIL's refinery for the period from 4th October to 1st December 2005 and some unplanned shut downs of other refineries/fractionators in the country during the current year. Normal production of the RIL refinery has resumed from 1st December 2005. Also, OMCs have imported LPG over and above their originally planned quantities. The situation is expected to improve and normalize in the coming few weeks.

(c) and (d) Domestic LPG is a subsidized product. While OMCs are making all efforts to meet the genuine demand of the customers, there is also a need to keep a check to prevent diversion of domestic LPG cylinders for unauthorized use. Thus, supply of at least two cylinders per customer per month on demand cannot be ensured.

[Translation]

Construction of Rohtang Tunnel

4322. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 26 dated December 2, 2004 regarding construction of tunnel and state:

(a) whether the global tenders for construction of tunnel at Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh have been invited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the agency to which contract has been awarded;

(d) the time by which the construction work is likely to start; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in inviting the global tenders?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Global tendering for the design consultancy and construction supervision for the Rohtang Tunnel Project has been invited and several parties have come forward with an Expression of Interest. These offers are under evaluation. Only after the design for the Tunnel is finalized can the global tenders for construction of the tunnel be floated.

Construction of ROB near Fekary

4323. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for construction of ROB (Rail Overbridge) near Fekary at National Highway-No.6 in Maharashtra is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the construction work on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No. Sir. The construction of Road Over Bridge (ROB) on National Highway (NH) No.6 near Fekary in State of Maharashtra is to be taken up on Built, Operate & Transfer (BOT) concept by State Govt. Public Works Department (PWD)/NH Division. The General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) has been already approved by Railway in 2001. The detailed drawing and design for Railway portion of work i.e. bridge proper (bridge across the Railway tracks) shall be checked and approved by Railway for which necessary centage charges has to be deposited by State Govt. to Railways as per extant rules. The detailed drawing and design is still awaited from State Govt.

Issue of LPG Connections

4324. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the number of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) connections issued by the various Public Sector Oil Companies during each of the last three years, till date, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): The details of LPG connections released by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) during the last three years and April-November 2005 are as under:

Year	Number of LPG connections (Figure in lakhs)				
	IOC	BPC	HPC	IBP	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
2002-03	28.87	19.15	18.20	1.12	67.34

1	2	3	4	5	6
2003-04	29.83	26.77	21.11	0.58	78.29
2004-05	35.30	18.57	19.11	0.31	73.29
April-Nov. 2005	14.39	7.27	6.65	0.28	28.59

[English]

Cadre Review of Administrative Cadre

4325. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4566 dated August 25, 2005 regarding Cadre Review of Engineering and Administrative Services in MES and state:

(a) whether the examination of cadre review of Administrative Cadre in Military Engineering Services (MES) has been completed by the Departmental Cadre Review Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The examination of the Cadre Review of the Administrative Cadre of the Military Engineering Services (MES) is not yet complete.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Since Finalization of the cadre review involves consultation with the Department of Personnel & Training and the Ministry of Finance, no time frame can be fixed.

Complaints by BPCL Dealers

4326. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR:

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

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) dealers of Haryana had made any

complaints against the officers of the company in September, 2005;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government on the issues raised by the BPCL dealers;

(c) whether the BPCL officials of Panipat and Noida, against whom the complaints were made, have been issuing threatening letters for termination of the dealership instead of taking action on these complaints; and

(d) if so, action taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) A complaint dated 26.09.2005 was received from the Haryana BPCL Dealers' Association alleging that BPCL officials have illegally stopped supplies to M/s. Inder Filling Station, Bhadson, Karnal belonging to the SC category and that BPCL officials in Panipat have terminated the dealership of M/s. Diesel Service Centre, Karnal on frivolous/fake grounds.

BPCL brought to the notice of the Ministry that on 14.07.2005 their officers had visited M/s. Diesel Service Centre, a BPCL RO located on the Karnal - Meerut Road, with the objective of carrying out a detailed inspection of the RO. However, it was reported by BPCL that their Inspection Team had to undergo immense difficulties and trauma as they were prevented from carrying out the inspection by a group of about 30 persons, reported to be the office bearers/members of the local/state petroleum dealers' association. BPCL had lodged a complaint in the matter with the Senior Superintendent of Police, Karnal and the matter was also reported in the press.

The Ministry took up the matter with the State Government of Haryana and requested them to expedite action on the complaint lodged by BPCL; ensure the safety of OMC staff & installation premises apart from safe movement of petroleum products; arrange for providing administrative participation in carrying out checks at ROs on a sustained basis; and to instruct the police authorities in the State to provide required support, such as registration of complaints and investigation in matters involving wrongdoings reported by the officers of OMCs.

As regards M/s. Inder Filling Station, Bhadson, Karnal, BPCL have reported that in view of the serious nature of repeated malpractices/irregularities indulged in by the dealer, they are in the process of taking necessary steps to terminate the dealership.

(c) It is reported by BPCL that their officials have not issued any threat to any dealer. In fact, some of the dealers misbehaved with the officials of BPCL and made derogatory statements when malpractices committed by the dealer were found.

(d) Does not arise, in view of the answer to part (c) above.

ROB at Azamgarh Railway Station

4327. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey to construct bridge over the Belaisa crossing near Azamgarh railway station at Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Railways construct Road Over/Under bridges in lieu of existing busy level crossings on cost sharing basis if the traffic density at the level crossing is one lakh or more TVUs (TVU – A unit obtained by multiplying the number of trains with the number of road vehicles passing over the level crossing in 24 hours); otherwise on deposit terms. Proposals in both cases have to be sponsored by the State Government fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rules.

A proposal for construction of Road over bridge in lieu of Level Crossing 29 between Azamgarh and Sarai Rani stations at Km. 49/9-10 has been received for sanction on cost sharing basis. The proposals received from State Government are examined in respect of feasibility for construction of ROB at site, estimated cost of approach work submitted by State Government, undertaking for closure of level crossing after commissioning of ROB/RUB, priority assigned by State Government in their Annual plan, progress on already sanctioned work and throw forward of the liabilities for already sanctioned works before being considered for inclusion in Railway's Works Programme presented to Parliament along with Budget documents for approval. Before taking up the construction, General Arrangement Drawing (GAD), detailed designs and detailed estimate are prepared and approved and

detailed soil investigations taken up at site. In view of multiple activities many of which depend on the initiative of concerned State Government and Road Authorities, no definite date of starting of construction can be indicated.

Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for SCs/STs Students

4328. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for providing scholarship to SCs and STs students;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the eligibility criteria and salient features of the scheme;

(c) the funds earmarked for implementation of the scheme; and

(d) the number of students to be awarded fellowship under the scheme annually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The Scheme is under consideration.

(b) The Scheme is intended to provide fellowships to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students for pursuing higher studies leading to M. Phil and Ph. D. students registered for M. Phil/Ph. D. course in Universities/ Institutions identified under the scheme shall be eligible for availing fellowship.

(c) A sum of Rs. 24.83 crore has been provided to implement the scheme during the current financial year 2005-06.

(d) A total number of 2000 fellowships are to be awarded annually to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students.

[Translation]

Survey of Manmad-Surat Railway Lines

4329. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey in regard to the Manmad-Malegaon-Dhulia-Nardana-Surat railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to accord its approval for the construction of the said railway line; and

(d) if so, the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) A broad gauge line already exists between Surat and Nardana. A survey for Shirpur-Nardana-Dhule was conducted earlier and the project could not be taken up in view of heavy throwforward of on-going projects and acute constraint of resources.

[English]

Air Connectivity to NE Region

4330. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any plan for ensuring better air-connectivity to various destinations of the North Eastern Region (NER);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including the North Eastern Region. Subject to these guidelines, airlines are free to provide air services to any place depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. Indian Airlines, Alliance Air, Sahara Airlines, Air Deccan, Jet Airways and Kingfisher Airlines are already providing connectivity to North East. Besides Alliance Air under an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with North Eastern Council has taken on lease 4 ATR aircraft which are exclusively deployed in the North East Region.

Acquisition of Land for Refinery in Paradip

4331. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land has been acquired for setting up the refinery in Paradip;

(b) if so, the compensation paid to the land owners;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between Government of Orissa and Indian Oil Corporation Limited with regard to compensations, Sales Tax exemptions and other related matters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has acquired 3,347 acre of land for Paradip Refinery Project.

(b) IOCL has paid an amount of Rs.57.5 crore to the Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO), a Government of Orissa Enterprise, nominated for carrying out land acquisition work for the refinery project on behalf of IOCL. The above amount included Rs. 40.3 crore towards compensation to land owners.

(c) and (d) An Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Orissa Government and IOCL on 16.02.2004 for the implementation of the project based on fiscal incentives agreed to by the Orissa Government. Compensation to the land owners had already been finalized before signing the MoU. Salient features of the MoU include a package of incentives given by the Orissa Government, including the deferment of Sales Tax on products of the refinery for 11 years from the commencement of commercial production and exemption of Entry Tax Oil crude oil & construction materials.

Production of Commissioned Programmes

4332. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kolkata Doordarshan has been allotted only about Rs.96 lakh for producing commissioned programmes by the Doordarshan Directorate, whereas

other major Kendras have been allotted between Rs.4 to Rs.6 crore for the same purpose;

(b) if so, the reasons for allocating less funds to Kolkata Doordarshan; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to allocate funds to Kolkata Doordarshan at par with the other Kendras for producing commissioned programmes?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati, a statutory autonomous corporation, has informed that the allocation of Rs. 96 lakh is specifically meant for the programmes in Bengali commissioned under the Indian Classics series.

Funds ranging between Rs.39 lakhs to Rs.168 lakhs have been allocated in similar fashion to other Kendras for such productions in eleven other regional languages.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that funds allocated to DDK, Kolkata for the programmes in Bengali language under the Indian Classic series are adequate.

Higher Pay Scales to Prasar Bharati Employees

4333. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether higher pay scales to the staff of Programme and Engineering Cadre in All India Radio and Doordarshan have already been given for opting their services in the Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, the reasons for not giving higher pay scales to other categories at par with the Programme and Engineering staff by giving them option; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the pay-anomalies in the pay scales of different cadres arising out of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's order dated February 25, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Higher pay scales had been given to the certain categories of Prasar Bharati employees on functional necessity.

(b) and (c) A proposal received from Prasar Bharati is already under construction of the Govt.

Production of Towed Array Sonar Nagan System

4334. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of installation/induction of indigenously developed Towed Array Sonar Nagan System in Indian Navy;

(b) whether the Indian Navy has placed orders of this system to the Bharat Electronics Limited;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Keltron Controls Aroor and KECL, Kuttipuram is planned to augment their facilities and infrastructure to take up the production and testing of Array System;

(e) if so, whether the draft technology document is transferred to the Keltron;

(f) if so, whether the Letter of Indent for the Towed Array Sonar Nagan System is released to enable Keltron to take up the infrastructure investment; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Technical trials of the system have been completed onboard front line ship of Indian Navy. Balance sea trials and evaluation trials are scheduled on alternate platform September 6th onwards.

(b) and (c) Indian Navy is considering placement of orders for this system for new construction ships. M/s BE Bangalore has been identified as Prime Production Agency and system integrator for Nagan system.

(d) Keltron Controls is presently integrating the prototype array in Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory premises. Their facilities and infrastructure needs to be augmented to produce Array.

(e) Transfer of technology is already taking place.

(f) and (g) Not yet. M/s. BE will place Letter of Indent on receipt of orders from Navy.

Retail Outlets to SCs/STs

4335. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is sanctioning retail outlets to the candidates belonging to SCs/STs;

(b) if so, whether these outlets are set up by the HPCL at the cost of the company itself;

(c) if so, whether persons belonging to this category are compelled to purchase the land for setting up such outlets;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of retail outlets sanctioned by the company to SCs/STs in the country since 2004 till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In terms of the guidelines of the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), including Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), for the selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products, 25% of the total retail outlets being set up are reserved for the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) categories. In respect of all such reserved locations, HPCL, like other OMCs, set up the retail outlet, with all basic facilities, at their own cost.

(c) and (d) Applicants belonging to in SC/ST categories are not expected to offer land, infrastructure and finance for setting up retail outlets.

(e) The number of retail outlets allotted by HPCL to SC/ST category, in the country from January, 2004 to September, 2005, State/Union Territory-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State/Union Territory-wise number of retail outlets under SC/ST category allotted by HPCL during January, 2004 to September, 2005

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of allotments during January, 2004 to September, 2005	
		SC	ST
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24	16
2.	Assam	2	6

1	2	3	4
3.	Bihar	1	3
4.	Chandigarh	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	6	7
6.	Delhi	1	0
7.	Goa	0	0
8.	Gujarat	11	22
9.	Haryana	30	0
10.	Himachal Pradesh	7	1
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	0
12.	Jharkhand	4	5
13.	Karnataka	34	8
14.	Kerala	25	2
15.	Maharashtra	21	22
16.	Meghalaya	0	8
17.	Mizoram	0	3
18.	Madhya Pradesh	10	26
19.	Nagaland	0	2
20.	Orissa	4	7
21.	Pondicherry	3	0
22.	Punjab	66	0
23.	Rajasthan	24	16
24.	Sikkim	0	1
25.	Tamilnadu	56	3
26.	Uttar Pradesh	61	5
27.	Uttaranchal	12	1
28.	West Bengal	14	5
Total		418	169

[Translation]

CBI Investigation in Tehelka Case

4336. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the CBI has completed the investigation in Tehelka case;
- (b) if so, the findings thereof;
- (c) if not, the present status thereof; and
- (d) the time by which investigation is likely to be completed in this case?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No Time frame has been given to the Central Bureau of Investigation for completing the investigation. It is for the Central Bureau of Investigation to decide in what time frame they would be able to complete the investigation.

[English]

List of Minorities

4337. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESVARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court of India has directed the Union Government that the notified list of minorities in the country be kept to a bare minimum and should ultimately be done away with;
- (b) if so, details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to implement the directives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the case of Bai Patil & Another Versus Union of India and Others relating to inclusion of 'Jains' in the list of Minorities Communities notified by the Union Government, the Supreme Court of India inter-alia made the observation that the Commission instead of encouraging claims from

different communities for being added to a list of notified minorities under the National Commission for Minorities Act 1992 should suggest ways and means to help create social conditions where the list of notified minorities is gradually reduced and done away altogether. The Ministry has taken note of the observation made by the Supreme Court.

(c) The Government is already implementing various Schemes for socio-economic development of backward sections of the minorities keeping that in view.

Digitalization of Cable Television

4338. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has prepared a national action plan for digitalization of cable television;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the action plan?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendations dated 14th September, 2005 on digitalization of Cable Television has recommended that there should be a national plan for digitalization from 1st April, 2006 till 31st March 2010. These recommendations are available at TRAI's website (www.trai.gov.in). Essential features of this plan are:

- i) Introduction of digital service in all cities/urban agglomerations with a population of one million plus by 2010. In all these cities the existing analogue service will continue simultaneously;
- ii) Licensing for new entrants and automatic licensing for existing operators;
- iii) Rationalization of import and domestic duties by April 1, 2006.
- iv) Use of Entertainment tax for a consumer education programme during these four years (2006-10).

(c) These recommendations are under examination of the Government.

[Translation]

**Doubling of Railway Line from
Allahabad to Varanasi**

4339. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether long distance trains plying on Allahabad and Varanasi railway route generally get late due to single track;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to double the railway line between Allahabad and Varanasi via Gyanpur;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to overcome this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The section capacity has not yet reached the level to justify doubling.

[English]

Status of War Widows

4340. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the widows of soldiers who sacrificed their lives during various operations before January 1, 1999 are not being given the status of war widows;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir. When a soldier dies in any operation, there is a system of declaring him as a battle casualty as per the prescribed procedure. Widows of such battle casualties are commonly known as war widows.

(b) and (c) Various benefits are given to the war widows/next of kin of the battle casualties depending on the nature of the operations.

**Extension of Railway Line from
Pandurangapuram to Sarapaka**

4341. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for extension of railway line from Pandurangapuram to Sarapaka in Andhra Pradesh was dropped by the Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways have received requests/representation from various quarters for laying the said railway line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction by the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Requests have been received for construction of new rail line from Pandurangapuram to Sarapaka. The survey had been completed. In view of the heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and the severe resource constraints, the proposal could not be taken up for consideration.

**Training Centres for
Locomotive Drivers**

4342. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Training Centres for locomotive drivers in the country particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Alleged Pilferage of Fuel

4343. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has inquired into the alleged pilferage and adulteration of fuel being supplied to the army in Ladakh region;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the action taken against the persons/officials found guilty; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) A Court of Inquiry was ordered by the Government to enquire into the alleged pilferage of fuel being supplied to the Army in the Leh sector. Investigations reveal a conspiracy between some officials of the Indian Oil Corporation, Transport agencies, Truck drivers and certain Army officials to fraudulently supply water instead of fuel with the intent of receiving illegal gratification. Two officers have been suspended from duty and one officer was arrested by the civil police. Further investigations are in progress by the Army and civil police. To avoid such incidents, guidelines on accounting and storage of Fuel, Oil and Lubricants detailing the Accounting, usage of Bulk Storage tanks, inventory control and stock verification have been issued to all field formations by the Government in September, 2005.

Connecting Hajira Port by Rail

4344. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the project connecting Hajira Port to its hinterland by railway line; and

(b) the total expenditure incurred on the project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) It is an unsanctioned project to be implemented through Public Private Partnership by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). The Final Location Survey and bankability study have been completed. The financial structure envisages equity funding by strategic partners and viability gap funding. The strategic partners have not yet given clear commitment for financial participation.

(b) An expenditure of Rs.13.21 lakhs has been incurred on bankability study and final location survey.

[Translation]

Commission to Petrol Pump Dealers

4345. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the difference between the commission being paid by the Public and Private Sector Oil Companies to their petrol pump dealers;

(b) whether the Government has received representations from the Public Sector Oil Companies petrol pump dealers to pay the commission at par with those of private sector petrol pump dealers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The dealers' commission on petrol & diesel paid by the public sector oil marketing companies to its retail outlet dealers is Rs.848/KL and Rs.509/KL respectively. The dealers' commission offered by the private petroleum companies varies depending upon the investment made by the dealers.

(b) to (d) Government have received representations from the Federation of All India Petroleum Traders (FAIPT), requesting a 5% ad valorem commission. The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad have been engaged to conduct a study to examine the expenditure by OMCs on the marketing setup and dealers' commission and to make suitable recommendations. The report is awaited.

Low Cost Air Services

4346. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for introducing low-cost air services in the country received during the last three years, till date; and

(b) the number of proposals of those have been approved by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government does not differentiate airlines on the basis of their business model hence no such data is maintained by the Government.

However, during the years 2003 to 2005 (upto 20.12.2005) 14 applications were received for operating scheduled air transport (passenger) services; out of which 5 were approved.

[English]

Inland Gas Supply Grids

4347. SHRI L. GANESAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Inland Gas Supply Grids are being set up to meet fuel demands;

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

(c) if not, the manner in which the Government proposes to meet the needs as per the demand and supply of both Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and Natural Gas in the country;

(d) whether there is a proposal to fully utilize the gas/oil resources in the Cauvery basin benefit Tiruchirappalli, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur and Nagapattinam districts in Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Government is

formulating a Pipeline Policy which envisages the progressive development of a nation-wide gas grid in a competitive environment, involving both the public sector and the private sector. The implementation of different pipeline segments will, inter-alia, depend upon achieving appropriate tie-ups for sources of supply and marketing of gas.

Gas pipelines in the country have been laid and are being laid by the companies on commercial considerations. At present, GAIL, a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of this Ministry, is executing the Dahej - Uran pipeline and the Vijaipur-Kota pipeline projects. GAIL plans to implement various other pipeline projects for which the Detailed Feasibility Reports (DFRs) are under preparation. The Gas Transportation & Infrastructure Company Limited (GTICL) and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPCL) also propose to lay gas pipelines in the country.

(c) As against an estimated demand of around 150 million standard cubic metre per day (MMSCMD) of natural gas, the total availability at present is around 92 MMSCMD. The efforts made to increase availability of natural gas include augmentation of domestic gas availability under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), import of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and initiatives to import gas through transnational pipelines.

As regards LPG, the demand is met through a combination of domestic production and imports. During 2004-05, the total demand was 9938 TMT, out of which, 7737 TMT was met through domestic production and 2217 TMT was imported.

(d) and (e) The gas available in the Cauvery basin is being fully utilized by the consumers in various parts of Tamil Nadu. During the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2005-06, an average of 2.069 MMSCMD and 2.156 MMSCMD respectively of gas was supplied from the Cauvery basin.

New Airport in NCR

4348. SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to

construct a new airport in the National Capital Region (NCR):

- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government of Haryana is offering 4000 acre of land adjacent to IGI Airport for construction of Sista Airport;
- (d) If so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) and (e) Do not arise.

Plan for Railways

4349. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has prepared any long term plan for Railways;
- (b) if so, the main emphasis laid in the long term plan; and
- (c) the details about its financial implication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (i) Railways has formulated an Integrated Railway Modernisation Plan (IRMP) - 2005-2010 in November, 2004.
- (ii) A Corporate Safety Plan 2003-2013 has also been prepared.

(b) (i) Integrated Railway Modernisation Plan: This Plan identifies activities with definite time frame for implementation. The Plan is directed towards modernisation in freight business segment, passenger business segment and in other relevant spheres of Railway working. The identified activities seek modernisation not as an end but as a means to make Railways an even more responsive and responsible organization. Activities identified are oriented towards attaining enhanced efficiency, increased

customer satisfaction or reduced costs. The Plan areas include:

Passenger Business Segment includes increased induction of modern coaches in all Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains, expansion of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) across the country, Environment Friendly toilets in coaches, Improved Safety features in coaches in terms of its crashworthiness and fire retarding features.

Freight Business Segment includes introduction of Higher Axle Load, Double Stack Containers and Roll-on-Roll-Off wagons on the identified routes, Introduction of light weight and corrosion resistant steel and aluminum wagons, Extension of Freight Operations Management System to cover Terminal, Rake and Crew Management System, Completion of works identified under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY) along with some other Throughput Enhancement works.

Other Modernisation Initiatives includes Track Modernisation and maintenance practices, Modernisation of Bridge Management System, Signalling and Telecommunication System, Mechanical and Electrical System and the Disaster Management System.

The Modernisation Plan identifies targets for completion of each activity along with funding requirements. A large number of these works are already sanctioned as a part of Railways' successive annual plans, and would be financed through normal funding channels. The balance funds required would have to be mobilized through measures such as increased internal generation, extra budgetary resources and through enhanced budgetary support as necessary.

It is expected that the Integrated Railway Modernisation Plan, the first such exercise, will ensure that the Railways not only sustain the current level of performance but are also able to cater to the growing demands of the passenger and freight traffic, provide modern and efficient services to millions of its customers and become a World Class Railway system in the foreseeable future.

(ii) Corporate Safety Plan: The Corporate Safety Plan states the objectives, strategies and targets for which the Indian Railways would be striving in the next decade. The document encompasses the priorities of the safety related works and indicates a broad timeframe to complete them along with assessed approximate requirement of financial investments.

While the endeavour is to minimize fatalities in accidents, the plan objectives can be treated as an intermediate stage in our efforts to realize a vision of accident-free and casualty-free Indian Railways system. Though achieving a situation of accident-free system is a herculean task, a realistic and analytical approach has been adopted while planning all necessary steps projecting the required investments in this labour intensive, resource-strapped mammoth organization.

The Corporate Safety Plan of the Indian Railways (2003-2013) also envisages a safety action plan directed towards continuous reduction in risk level to its customers, implementation of suggested system reforms, imbuing better safety culture, enhancement of asset reliability etc. This covers continuous rehabilitation and modernization of assets, qualitative changes in men and machines, induction of appropriate technologies in support of human efforts etc.

(c) (i) The plan also outlines our financial strategy. Out of the total expenditure of Rs.24,000 Crore, Rs.4,000 Crore is available under Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF), Rs. 3,730 Crore is proposed to be mobilized through internal generations and Rs. 6,000 Crore through market borrowing. The balance requirement of Rs.10,270 Crore is proposed to be met through Budgetary Support.

(ii) The Corporate Safety Plan envisages a safety action plan, indicating broad time frames, involving total investment of Rs.31,835 crores for safety related works in the ten year period, which covers continuous rehabilitation of modernization of assets, qualitative changes in men and machines, induction of appropriate technologies in support of human efforts etc.

Arrangements for Security Checks at Airports

4350. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that X-ray machine to check baggages of the passengers was out of order on November 19, 2005 at Raipur Airport and the luggage was loaded without checking;

(b) if so, whether there is no stand-by arrangements at the airports in the country for security checks;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to make alternative arrangements for security checks in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) On 19.11.2005, the machine installed for checking the registered baggage of the passengers at Raipur airport was unserviceable. However, as per the standing instructions the registered baggage of the passengers were loaded after manual checking.

(b) to (d) Additional X-ray machines have been provided at some of the major airports in the country as standby to X-ray machines in operation. However, at smaller airports, due to constraint of space in the Terminal Building, additional X-ray machines have not been provided. Whenever the X-ray machines go out of order, registered baggage of the passengers are checked manually by the security personnel.

[Translation]

Hiring of Studio Buildings on Rent

4351. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether studio buildings of Doordarshan Kendras in Uttar Pradesh have been hired on rent;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total expenditure incurred during each of the last three years; and

(c) the time by which the construction of buildings to house studios of each of the Doordarshan Kendras in Uttar Pradesh is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that only one Doordarshan Kendra (Studio Centre) at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh is functioning from a rented building. The total expenditure incurred towards rent of the building during the last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05) is Rs. 3,68,820/-, @ Rs. 1,22,940/- per year.

(c) Construction of Doordarshan's own studio building at Gorakhpur is in progress which is expected to be completed during 2006-07.

**Railway Line from Bilaspur
to Mandla**

4352. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey for laying railway line from Bilaspur to Mandla;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways have approved the said project;
- (d) if so, the reasons for delay in starting the work on the project; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) A survey was completed during 2003-04 exploring two alternative ways of connecting Bilaspur to Jabalpur — one, by constructing a direct line between Bilaspur and Jabalpur via Mandla avoiding Nainpur and the other, by constructing a new line from Bilaspur up to Mandla Fort only and completing the gauge conversion of Mandla Fort-Nainpur section. As per the survey reports, the cost of the first option was assessed as Rs. 1284.11 crore, while the second option as Rs. 736.96 crore, with a negative rate of return (ROR) in both the cases.

In view of non-remunerative nature of the project, heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, it has not been considered feasible to take up construction of Bilaspur-Mandla-Jabalpur new line wholly or partly for the present.

[English]

**Doubling of Railway Line from Viramgam
to Jamnagar**

4353. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes doubling of railway line from Viramgam to Jamnagar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The traffic on the section has not reached the level to justify doubling.

[Translation]

**Diversification of Business
by ONGC**

4354. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN": Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has not been producing crude oil as per the target fixed for the last three years, continuously;
- (b) if so, whether the company is making efforts to diversify its business in other fields; and
- (c) if so, the reason for allowing the ONGC to diversify its business?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) During the period 2002-03 to 2004-05 the actual production of oil by ONGC was marginally higher than the targets fixed in 2002-03 and 2004-05 whereas it was marginally lower than the target in 2003-04. The details are as follows:

Year	Crude Production (MMT)	
	Target	Actual
2004-05	26.174	26.484
2003-04	26.387	26.057
2002-03	25.9	26.005

(b) and (c) In addition to concentrating on its areas of core competence in exploration and production of oil and gas, ONGC have been exploring various options for diversification of their activities by forward and backward integration, and in this context, have signed the following Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)/Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with various agencies:

- i) MOU with Gujarat Industrial Corporation Ltd. (GIDC) to create infrastructure facilities within the Dahej Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to facilitate setting up LNG based value addition projects.
- ii) MOU with Karnataka Industrial Areas Development

Board (KIADB) & Kanara Chamber of Commerce & Industry towards development of a Coastal SEZ at Mangalore, Karnataka.

- iii) MOU with Kakinada Sea Ports Ltd. (KSPL) & Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) for the development of Port-Based SEZ at Kakinada.
- iv) MOA with Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) for setting up a 750 MW combined cycle Gas Turbine power plant at Tripura in order to monetize its locked up assets in terms of isolated gas pools.
- v) MOU with Power Trading Corporation (PTC) for bulk sale of surplus power from existing as well as future units of ONGC.

The various projects relating to power generation, oil refinery, petrochemicals, LNG transportation, etc. envisaged in these MOUs are at a conceptual stage. However, ONGC have been advised that, in view of the critical importance of increased domestic oil and gas production to energy security and to fuel higher rates of growth to accelerate poverty eradication, diversification projects should not be at the expense of ONGC's core competence which is in the business of exploration and production.

[English]

Forgery in Ordnance Factory, Dehradun

4355. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Audit Authorities have reported a case of forgery allegedly committed by Ordnance Factory, Dehradun;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken against the erring officials held responsible; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE):
(a) A case of procedural irregularity has been observed by Defence Audit.

(b) It was reported that the inspection documents for supply of items to Army were certified by the agency other than designated.

(c) Unit level enquiry has been conducted.

(d) The item under consideration is simultaneously supplied to Army and MHA. Supplies to Army are inspected by Controller of Quality Assurance. MHA accepts the stores under self certification by the factory. The inspection documents got mixed up. The documents for MHA were inadvertently attached with documents for the supplies to Army.

(e) No action was taken against any individual.

(f) The mistake occurred inadvertently. Preventive measures have been taken to avoid recurrence of such mistakes by the factory.

[Translation]

India's Participation in TAP Gas Pipeline Project

4356. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the Government is exploring the possibilities of joining the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) Gas Pipeline Project in view of uncertainty of Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline as reported in Dainik Jagran dated November 27, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

- (c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) There is no uncertainty in regard to the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. The Government is discussing the details of the project with the Governments of Iran and Pakistan. Two separate Secretary-level Joint Working Groups (JWGs), viz. India - Pakistan JWG and India - Iran Special JWG (SJWG), have been constituted for this purpose. The meetings of these Working Groups are being held regularly and discussions are progressing satisfactorily.

India's participation in the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) Gas Pipeline Project is not linked in any way to the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. The Governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan have been examining for some time the setting up of a transnational gas pipeline to exploit the gas reserves in Turkmenistan. They have designated ADB as the lead Consultant and development partner. India has recently been invited to join this pipeline project. Given its requirements of natural gas, India has agreed to do so, initially as an 'Observer'.

[English]

Construction of Escalator at Railway Stations

4357. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposals for the construction of escalators at railway stations in the country particularly at the Trivandrum railway station;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Demands have been received for provision of escalators at various stations. The demand for provision of escalator at Trivandrum Central was received in November 2003, which was examined in detail but was not found feasible.

NFDC and CBFC

4358. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons nominated in National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) since June, 2004;
- (b) whether the Government has removed any person from their organisations since June, 2004; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) While no appointment of a non-official member has been made to the Board of National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) since June, 2004, the Board of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) was reconstituted vide notification dated 05.02.05, 03.03.05 and 03.06.05 appointing 23 members to the Board. The Chairperson was appointed vide notification dated 13.10.2004.

For the purpose of enabling the CBFC to discharge its functions for certifying films, the Central Government appoints advisory panel members for each of the regional offices from amongst the members of the public. There is no ceiling on the number of members in each advisory panel. The details of the advisory panel members appointed since June, 2004 are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) According to Section 3 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, the Central Government shall constitute the Board of the CBFC which shall comprise a Chairman and not less than 12 and not more than 25 other members. As per Rule 7 of the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983, the Central Government shall constitute an advisory panel at each of the regional offices of the Board and the number of members would be determined after consultation with the Board. However, the Central Government may dispense with such consultation in respect of members not exceeding one third of the total number. The Board of CBFC is constituted for a period of three years or until further orders whichever is earlier and the advisory panels are constituted for a period of two years or until further orders, whichever is earlier. The Board of CBFC which was constituted on 28.01.2004 with 24 members was reconstituted again in 2005 vide notifications as mentioned above and the Chairman was also replaced. The advisory

panels for the nine regional offices which were constituted on 04.02.2004 were reconstituted again in 2005 for six regional offices as given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Members appointed to CBFC's Advisory Panels after June, 2004

S.No.	Region	No. of Members appointed in 2005
1.	Mumbai	100
2.	Bangalore	44
3.	Hyderabad	109
4.	Chennai	97
5.	Thiruvananthapuram	42
6.	Delhi	27

Statement-II

Members removed from CBFC's Advisory Panels after June, 2004

S.No.	Region	No. of Members appointed before June, 2004
1.	Mumbai	53
2.	Bangalore	27
3.	Hyderabad	30
4.	Chennai	28
5.	Thiruvananthapuram	27
6.	Delhi	30

Acquisition of Land

4359. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assurance had been given by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to the land owners for providing employment to the family members at the time of acquisition of their land for development of Cochin Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether agreements were also signed at the time of land acquisition in this regard;

(d) if so, whether all the assurances/commitments have been fulfilled;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Revenue Earnings from Advertisements

4360. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by the Railways through advertisements displayed at the railway stations in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether any share or benefit has been given to the State Government from such earnings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Details of revenue earned through advertisements displayed at the railway stations in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is indicated below:

		(Rs. in crores)
2002-03	-	1.18
2003-04	-	1.56
2004-05	-	2.22

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Running of Trains

4361. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any experiment in collaboration with IIT for running several trains on the same track as reported in the Navbharat Times dated November 25, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether experiment conducted on the said tracks has proved to be successful;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways propose to introduce such system; and

(f) if so, the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However a project on "Satellite Imaging For Rail Navigation" (SIMRAN) was taken up by Research Design & Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)/Kanpur. The project aimed at designing a Global Positioning System (GPS) based train running information system. The scope of the project did not include running several trains on the same track.

(c) and (d) IIT/Kanpur conducted initial survey for mapping the track Latitude & Longitude of section Kanpur-Allahabad & Kanpur-Lucknow.

(e) and (f) It has since been decided to drop the project.

[English]

International Flights from Pune

4362. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of international flights are operating from Pune Airport; and

(b) if so, the details of international flights that have already commenced or are scheduled to commence in near future?

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

Air India and Indian Airlines have commenced scheduled international services to/from Pune by operating 3 frequencies/week to Dubai and 2 frequencies/week to Singapore respectively.

[Translation]

Raising of Platform Level

4363. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have approved to raise the level of platform at Mandawali and Chandrawal railway stations in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether construction works for raising the level of platforms at these stations have been started;

(c) if so, the progress made so far in this regard; and

(d) if not, the time by which the works are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) There is only one station named Mandawali Chander Vihar in Delhi. The work of raising of platform at Mandawali Chander Vihar on UP line side has been started and progress so far is 50%. The work of raising down line has also been approved during 2005-06.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Separate Railway Zone for Kerala

4364. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for establishment of separate Railway Zone for Kerala;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) New zones are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern and other administrative/operational requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency and not on regional considerations. The demand for a zone in Kerala, when examined in the light of these considerations has not been found feasible.

Restriction on Export of Jet-Kero/ATF

4365. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Oil Companies have requested the Government to consider for imposing restrictions on the export of Jet-Kero/Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The oil marketing companies (OMCs) distributing PDS kerosene represented to the Government in February-March 2005 that stand-alone refineries, in both public and private sectors, were not offering the required quantities of kerosene at the appropriate prices for PDS kerosene. In consequence, OMCs were being obliged to import kerosene at higher prices even while some stand-alone refineries were exporting Jet kerosene/Aviation Turbine Fuel, a product equivalent to Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO). Apprehending that the non-availability of domestically produced SKO at the required prices for the PDS might assume critical proportion, the Government began consideration of various options to ensure availability of kerosene for PDS, including restriction on export of Jet kerosene/ATF. Meanwhile, as a result of intensive consultation held during the period April-July 2005 among all concerned, including stand-alone refineries, there was a substantial improvement in the availability of kerosene at the appropriate prices for the Public Distribution System (PDS). The situation is being kept under close review.

[Translation]

Electrification of Naini-Itarsi Railway Route

4366. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for electrification of Naini to Itarsi railway route;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Asian Gas Grid

4367. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct any study on Asia Gas Grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from some foreign countries for joining in such studies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) The idea of an "Asian Gas Grid" linking the North and Central Asian and Gulf natural gas producing countries with the consuming countries of Asia was first proposed by the Minister (P&NG) at the Third Asian Gas Buyers' Summit in New Delhi, on February 14-15, 2005.

This proposal was given concrete shape at a presentation made by an international financial consultant

at the Ministerial Round Table of North and Central Asian Oil Producers in dialogue with principal Asian consumers in New Delhi on 25 November, 2005. The participants at the Round Table were informed that the Asian Gas Grid proposal was a practical proposition. It would require the setting up of gas pipelines across the Asian Continent extending over 22,000 km, at an approximate cost of US dollars 22 billion.

At the Round Table a consensual view emerged that "the possibility and feasibility of promoting and developing gas and oil interconnections through LNG and through trans-national oil & gas pipelines within the Asian region" should be studied. This study "could include the exploration of all alternative linkages by land and sea throughout Asia, including alternatives of linking the Caspian basin to countries in South Asia."

It was agreed that India, in association with Republic of Korea and other participating countries, would set up a Working Group to prepare the Master Plan to pursue these proposals, including the setting up of an Asian Gas Grid Institute which would monitor, guide and support the proposal. The time required for the implementation of the proposal would be known after the proposed studies have been completed.

Doubling of Ernakulam-Kayankulam Railway Line

4368. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of doubling of railway line from Ernakulam-Kayankulam line via Kottayam and Alappuzha;

(b) whether the Government has any plan to modernize the Kottayam railway station in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) On Ernakulam-Kayankulam line via Kottayam and Alleppey routes, patch doubling of Ernakulam-Mulanturutti- Kuruppantara, Kayankulam-Mavelikara-Chengannur and Kayankulam-Cheppard-Haripad sections respectively have been taken up where works are in various stages of progress.

(b) and (c) Following passenger amenity works are in progress at Kottayam railway station for its upgradation:

- (i) Improvement of flooring of platform surface,
- (ii) Improvement of circulating area of Computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) Office,
- (iii) Improvement of Face to Face and telephone enquiry systems.

In addition, provision of coach consist information system has also been sanctioned for Kottayam station and the work will start shortly.

[Translation]

Transmission of Pak TV in Bordering Areas

4369. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether false propaganda is being broadcast by Pakistan from across the international border by using high power transmitters can easily be received in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Rajasthan and the security agencies have been demanding to the Union Government for increasing the number of high power transmitters and also to strengthen broadcasting system in border States particularly in areas of Rajasthan along the international border;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that Pak TV programmes are reported to be received in parts of border districts of Rajasthan. Requests for strengthening of TV coverage in the border areas of Rajasthan have been received from time to time from various quarters. For terrestrial coverage, two high power transmitters at Jaisalmer and Barmer (interim set up) and eleven low power transmitters are presently

functioning in the border districts of Rajasthan. For further expansion of terrestrial coverage, a high power transmitter is under installation at Bikaner, and capacity of the transmitter at Banner is envisaged to be augmented to a permanent set up.

Doordarshan has launched its Ku-Band (free-to-air) DTH service which provides multi-channel TV coverage in the entire country (except A & N Islands) including border areas of Rajasthan which can easily be accessed with the help of a small sized dish receive unit.

[English]

Appointment of Air Hostess/ Flight Purser

4370. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria and eligibility conditions prescribed for appointment of Air Hostess/Flight Purser in the National Carriers;

(b) whether knowledge of Hindi language is compulsory for appointment to these posts;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received representations from the non-Hindi speaking persons to remove the 'Knowledge of Hindi Language' from the selection criteria; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The eligibility conditions for the post of Air Hostess/Flight Purser in Air India are: (i) the candidate should be unmarried having Indian nationality; (ii) should be graduate from Indian University or HSC(10+2) with 3 years Diploma in Hotel Management & Catering Technology from Institute affiliated to National Council of Hotel Management; (iii) Height for Female is 157.5 cms. & for Male 165 cms. (relaxation of height by 2.54 cms for Gorkhas, Garhwals and those hailing from North East States & hilly areas); (iv) Weight - in proportion to height as per Company standard; (v) Age Limit should not be more than 24 years as on the specified date. The upper age limit is relaxable upto 5 years for SC/ST and 3 years for OBC candidates; (vi) Normal eyesight

and (vii) should be fluent in English and one or more Indian languages. Preference is given to applicants who are conversant in French, Germany and Japanese.

In Indian Airlines, the eligibility conditions are (i) should be graduate from Indian University or HSC (10+2) with 3 years Diploma in Hotel Management & Catering Technology from Institute affiliated to National Council of Hotel Management; (ii) Height for Female is 154.5 cms & for Male 163 cms.(relaxation of height by 2.5 cms for SC/ST candidates); (iii) Weight - in proportion to height as per Company standard; (iv) Age Limit should be between 18-25 years. The upper age limit is relaxable upto 5 years for SC/ST and 3 years for OBC candidates; (v) Normal eyesight and (vi) should be fluent in English and one or more Indian languages. Should also having working knowledge in Hindi. For Cabin Crew two years experience in an airlines of repute.

(b) and (c) In Indian Airlines, working knowledge of Hindi has been prescribed as one of the conditions for determining eligibility for the candidates for the post of Cabin Crew. However, in Air India, 10 marks are allotted for proficiency in Hindi for all posts as per the recommendation of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

RPF Nexus with Mafia

4371. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any nexus between Railway Protection Force and mafia as reported in the Asian Age dated October 5, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to check the activities of the RPF personnel deputed at the railway stations and to plug the loopholes in the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Inclusion of Thalassemia Children in
Handicapped Category**

4372. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representations for inclusion of Thalassemia children in the handicapped category;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The Foundation Against Thalassemia, had requested that children with Thalassemia should be kept under the category of persons with disabilities so that they may avail the benefits of various Government programmes. Since Thalassemia is a disease, persons suffering from this disease cannot be treated as persons with disabilities.

Procurement of Air Defence System

4373. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to procure Air Defence System from Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Procurement of required weapon systems including Air Defence System, is done as per the Defence Procurement Procedure. It would not be in the interest of national security to give details of the proposed procurements.

**Gauge Conversion of Dindigul-Sabarimala
Railway line**

4374. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken up the gauge conversion work of Dindigul-Sabarimala metre gauge line into broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the present status thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No Railway line exists between Dindigul-Sabarimala.

[Translation]

**Construction of ROBs
in Haryana**

4375. SHRI ATMA SINGH GILL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct Railway Over Bridges (ROBs) on the national highways in Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Railway constructs the Road Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of busy level crossing (LC) where traffic density is more than 1 lakh Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) otherwise on deposit terms. ROB/RUB on certain important National Highways are constructed by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under National Highway Development Programme (NHDP) Scheme. These ROB/RUBs are fully funded by NHAI. On other National Highways work is executed on cost sharing basis/deposit terms with respective State Govt. The proposal for construction of ROB/RUBs on cost sharing basis are sponsored by the State Govt./Road Authorities and are examined in respect of feasibility for construction of ROB at site, estimated cost of approach work submitted by State Govt., undertaking for closure of level crossing after commissioning of ROB/RUB, priority assigned by State Government in their Annual Plan etc. pre-requisites required under extant rules. After fulfilling the above criteria necessary action is taken by Railway for sanction of work in Railway's Works Programme. Railway takes up the Railway portion i.e. across the Railway tracks and approach is done by State Govt./Road Authorities. Railway make all possible efforts to complete its portion of work alongwith or before completion of approaches by State Govt./Road Authorities.

There are two ROB works i.e. ROB in lieu of LC No.63/A & LC No.32/B on NH-10 sanctioned on cost sharing basis in the State of Haryana. In case of LC No. 63/A detailed estimate has been sanctioned and General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) modified by the State Govt. and same is under approval. In case of LC No.32/B State Govt. has not taken up their portion of work. GAD and estimate are awaited from the State Govt.

Stoppage of Trains

4376. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether very few trains have their stoppages at Bokaro and Giridih railway stations;
- (b) If so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ensure the stoppages of other express/mail trains at the above stations to solve the problems faced by the passengers of this area; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) There are two stations of Bokaro viz., Bokaro Steel City and Bokaro Thermal. All the trains passing/terminating have stoppages at Bokaro Steel City and Giridih. All the passing trains except 3025/3026 Howrah-Bhopal Express (weekly) have stoppage at Bokaro Thermal station. At present, there is no proposal to provide stoppage of additional trains at Bokaro Thermal. The passengers of Bokaro Thermal can avail 3025/3026 Express from Gomti, which is 5 Kms. away from Bokaro Thermal.

[English]

Crash of Sea Harrier Jump Jet Fighter

4377. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Sea Harrier Jump-Jet Fighter of the Navy crashed while taking off from Dabolim airport at Goa recently;
- (b) If so, the loss of lives and properties suffered as a result thereof;

- (c) the compensation paid to the victims;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;
- (e) if so, the findings of the said inquiry;
- (f) whether there is any proposal to upgrade Sea Harriers Fighter Aircraft keeping in view of such incidents; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A Sea Harrier Jump-Jet fighter of the Indian Navy met with an accident while taking off from Dabolim Airfield, Goa, on 5th December, 2005. The pilot Lieutenant Commander H.P.S. Pannu died in the accident and the aircraft was totally damaged. The compensation to the next of kin of the pilot shall be paid according to the service norms.

(d) and (e) A Board of Inquiry has been constituted to enquire into the reasons of the accident and its report is awaited.

(f) and (g) Mid Life Upgrade of Sea Harriers in accordance with the scheduled planning has been entrusted to the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

Project of Harijan Sevak Sangh

4378. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has stopped the funding for a project run by the Harijan Sevak Sangh;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government has blacklisted some NGOs for running schools project meant for weaker sections; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI

SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The grant-in-aid for a residential school at Barchana, Distt. Jaipur, Orissa was stopped due to lack of appropriate facilities. Recently, the school has been inspected and in view of improvements, it has been decided to restore the grant.

(c) and (d) 17 NGOs have been blacklisted due to non-compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant, adverse reports from the State Govt. and misutilisation of the grant.

Educational Training to Mentally Retarded Children

4379. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up more institutes for imparting educational training to mentally retarded children in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Awareness About Level Crossings

4380. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large number of train accidents occurred at level crossings due to lack of awareness among public;

(b) if so, whether the Government is taking any measures for creating awareness among public in this regard; and

(c) if so, the measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard alongwith funds earmarked for the purpose during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There had been 98 accidents at level crossings during 2002-03, which came

down to 95 in 2003-04 and 70 (provisional) during 2004-05. Majority of these accidents took place at unmanned level crossings on account of failure of road users for not following the provisions of Section 131 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Some of the measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard are as follows:

(i) To educate road users about safe practices to be followed by them at level crossings, publicity campaigns are periodically launched through different media like quickies on TV, cinema slides, posters, radio, newspaper and street play etc.

(ii) Involvement of village Panchayats is also organized in railways' public awareness programmes.

(iii) Safety posters and pamphlets etc. are progressively displayed / distributed at level crossings, village Panchayat Offices, petrol pumps etc.

(iv) Joint Ambush Checks with civil authorities are conducted to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Railways Act, 1989.

Railways have been undertaking publicity campaigns for creating awareness about various aspects of railway working, including safety measures at railway level crossings, through print and electronic media. No separate budget is earmarked only for the safety measures.

Opening of Military College

4381. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun is the only college in the country to provide necessary preliminary training for boys of Indian birth or domicile, wishing to become officers in Armed forces of India;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to open any such college in other parts of the country;

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In addition to Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC), Dehradun, there are five Military Schools and 20 Sainik Schools in the country which prepare boys for entry into the Armed Forces of India.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to open another Rashtriya Indian Military College in other parts of the country.

(d) As there are five Military Schools and twenty Sainik Schools with similar objectives already functioning in the country, there is no need to open another Rashtriya Indian Military College.

Investment by GAIL in Gas Cracker Projects

4382. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the GAIL (India) Ltd. has proposed to invest in various gas cracker projects in the country;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the amount proposed to be invested therein; and
- (c) the time by which these are likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of estimated costs and time-schedules for the completion of such projects is as under:

S. No.	Name of the Project	Estimated cost (Rs. in crore)	Estimated time schedule for completion
1.	Assam Gas Cracker Project, near Dibrugarh, Assam	5480.81	60 months from the date of approval by the Government.
2.	Kerala Petrochemical Complex, Ambalamugal, near Kochi, Kerala	8210.00	48 months from the date of appointment of the Project Management Consultant after approval by the Board of Directors of GAIL.

[Translation]

Construction of Ordnance Factory at Rajgir

4383. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total expenditure incurred on the construction of ordnance factory at Rajgir in Bihar;
- (b) whether the construction of the said factory in Rajgir has been stopped;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE):

(a) An expenditure of Rs. 306.04 crores has been incurred on the construction of Ordnance Factory at Rajgir till date.

(b) Yes Sir, the construction has been kept in abeyance.

(c) and (d) The sanctioned cost of the project was Rs. 941.13 crores. While executing the project, cost overrun of almost 57% has been estimated. Keeping this in view, an Expert Committee has been constituted to review the Ordnance Factory, Nalanda Project.

[English]

Railway Terminus at Nagpur City

4384. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal to construct railway terminus at Nagpur City near Godhni is pending with the Government;

(b) If so, since when it is pending along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which this project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Construction of Ring Railway at Saurashtra

4385. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals for construction of Ring Railway in Saurashtra region to ease traffic problem;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Survey of Pune-Nasik Railway Line

4386. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey in regard to Pune-Nasik-Dahanu railway line;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said railway line is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The survey for Pune-Nasik new rail line was completed in 2000-01. As per the survey, cost of construction of this 266 km long line was assessed as Rs.1044 crore. Keeping in view heavy throwforward of on-going projects and acute constraint of resources, it was not found feasible to consider the proposal.

[English]

Outstanding Dues under Pre/Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes

4387. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge accumulation of dues under Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship schemes for the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes are outstanding to be paid to different State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations;

(b) if so, the details of outstanding dues under the said schemes separately, till date, State/UT-wise;

(c) the reasons for growing accumulations; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for regular clearance of such dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) A statement showing State/UT wise outstanding dues towards Central Share during the year 2005-06 under the scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SC students is enclosed. With regard to Other Backward Classes, funds are released on year-to-year basis keeping in view the overall budget allocation.

(c) The revision of the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste students by which full tuition fee instead of 50% tuition fee was to be paid along with the increase in rates of maintenance allowance and increase in income ceiling of the eligibility resulting in increase in the number of beneficiary students led to an increase in the requirement of funds for the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme. In addition, State Governments have been increasing the fee structure in schools and colleges/ universities including professional institutions.

(d) The Ministry has sent proposals to the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance to provide additional funds during the current financial year to clear the outstanding dues.

Statement

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-matric Scholarship to SC Students – State-wise position of outstanding dues to be released as Central assistance during 2005-06.

S.No.	State	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19186.32
2.	Assam	4.00
3.	Bihar	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.00
5.	Goa	0.00
6.	Gujarat	0.00
7.	Haryana	64.56
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	95.55
10.	Jharkhand	27.27
11.	Karnataka	7281.26
12.	Kerala	3034.13
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00
14.	Maharashtra	5264.63
15.	Manipur	102.43
16.	Meghalaya	6.83
17.	Orissa	0.00
18.	Punjab	541.29
19.	Rajasthan	1914.92
20.	Sikkim	0.54
21.	Tamil Nadu	1713.31
22.	Tripura	2.75
23.	Uttar Pradesh	16299.19

1	2	3
24.	Uttaranchal	2.97
25.	West Bengal	629.50
26.	Daman & Diu	1.53
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00
28.	Delhi	0.00
29.	Pondicherry	80.60

Maintenance of Border Roads

4388. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the length of border roads maintained by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in the border districts of some States alongwith international border with Pakistan;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on construction and maintenance of border roads in Punjab during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government is aware that many of the border roads in Punjab are in dilapidated conditions; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to repair these roads expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) 2921 Kms.

(b)	Year	Expenditure
	2002-2003	- Rs. 8.57 Crores
	2003-2004	- Rs. 7.94 Crores
	2004-2005	- Rs. 11.98 Crores

(c) The roads maintained by BRO in Punjab are in good condition.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Surplus Staff in AI and IA**

4389. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any surplus staff in Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to rationalize the staff strength in these airlines?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Installation of Approach Lighting System at Airports**

4390. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Approach Lighting system has been installed at the airports in Tamil Nadu for the operation of wide bodied aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Approach lighting systems are already provided at Chennai, Coimbatore and Tiruchirapalli airports in Tamil Nadu. Work for installation of approach lighting system at Madurai airport has been initiated and is scheduled to be completed by June, 2006.

Rationalisation of Airport Charges

4391. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representation/requests from the domestic airlines for rationalisation of airport charges and modification in Route Dispersal Guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The scheduled airlines have requested the Ministry of Civil Aviation to review the Route Dispersal Guidelines on account of heavy losses suffered by them especially on Category II and IIA routes. There is no specific request for rationalisation of airport charges.

(c) A Committee was set up in September, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Shri Satendra Singh, Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), to review the Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by DGCA in 1994. The Committee has submitted its report in March, 2005. Inter-Departmental consultations are being made for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

*[Translation]***Construction of Housing Units**

4392. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of housing units constructed for the families of army personnel during the last three years and current year so far, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon during the said period; and

(c) the number of housing units likely to be constructed in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Housing units for families of Army personnel are being constructed under the Married Accommodation Project. No project has been completed as on date. Presently, construction activity is in progress at 43 stations. An expenditure of Rs. 284.42 crores has been incurred till date for construction of married accommodation for families of Army personnel under the Project. Phase-I of the project envisages construction of 50,185 Dwelling Units for the Army.

Return of Land after Exploration

4393. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) the details of the land acquired by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for carrying out its exploration and production activities during the last five years;

(b) the amount of compensation paid to the land owners during the said period;

(c) whether ONGC has received representations from the land owners for return of the land where exploration work is over;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by ONGC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Details of land acquired by ONGC for carrying out their exploration and production activities during the last five years are as under:

Year	Total land acquired (in Acres)	Compensation paid (Rs. in Crores)
2000-01	986.16	13.73
2001-02	910.91	15.07
2002-03	691.36	15.42
2003-04	746.40	19.29
2004-05	642.91	16.36
Total	3977.74	79.87

(b) An amount of Rs.79.87 Crores was paid by ONGC to land owners as compensation during the last five years.

(c) to (e) A representation was received for the return of land acquired on a permanent basis in Assam. The case is under process to return the land to the original owner through the district revenue authorities.

Representations are received occasionally complaining of non-payment/delay in payment of compensation. These are resolved in association with the district revenue authorities concerned.

[English]

Modernisation of Railway Towns

4394. SHRI L. GANESAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any policy regarding modernisation/renovation of Railway towns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways proposed to improve the basic facilities like widening existing road, over bridges and repairing/renovating the houses, schools and parks in Tiruchirappalli Railway town; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal regarding widening of existing Road over Bridges in Tiruchirappalli Junction station. There are proposals for rewiring of staff quarters, replacement of pipelines, re-roofing of school and improving the colony road in Tiruchirappalli area.

(d) The details of the works sanctioned in Tiruchirappalli area are given below:

S.No.	Description of work	Cost (in Thousand of Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Golden Rock — Reconstruction of Staff Quarters. Type - I - 30 units Type- II - 16 Type III - 12 & Type IV - 4 units.	2,66,00

1	2	3
2.	Ponmalai Colony: Rewiring of Staff Quarters Type - I - 815, Type II - 342.	1,00,00
3.	Ponmalai - Replacement of pipelines in colony to ensure uniform distribution of water supply (C-Type-1300 % F-Type-500)	60,00
4.	Golden Rock - Re-construction of Staff Quarters on age-cum-condition basis Type III-7 units	25,76
5.	Tiruchirappalli: Re-construction of Type V - 2 units	28,30
6.	Tiruchirappalli: Re-construction of Type IV - 4 units	24,19
7.	Tiruchirappalli Fort: Re-construction of Type II - 4, Type III 2-units	28,10
8.	Tiruchirappalli: Re-construction of Type V - 2 units	26,70
9.	Kallukuzhi Colony: Replacement of corroded pipe lines	41,00
10.	Ponmalai Railway Hospital: Re-building of dilapidated septic ward.	29,25
11.	Tiruchirappalli Goods Yard - Re-tiling of Staff Quarters - 60 units	16,55
12.	Tiruchirappalli Jn. - Replacement of over-aged scaled pipeline in distribution system.	12,53
13.	Golden Rock Colony - Railway Matriculation Higher Secondary School/ English medium: Re-roofing of existing Mangalore tiles roof into RCC sloped roof.	9,00
14.	Golden Rock Railway Hospital - Improvements to the operation theater Phase - I.	9,00
15.	Tiruchirappalli Goods Yard - Colony - Extensive repairs to the colony road, shoulders damaged flooring and plastering front varandah.	24,45
16.	Tiruchirappalli Division: Kimber Garden: Re-roofing of Mangalore tiled roof with RCC tiled roof for the barracks.	15,64

Uneconomic Trains

4395. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has made any study to find out the uneconomic trains;

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

(c) the action taken by the Railways on such study; and

(d) the details of revenue loss by various zones during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Study of occupancy of trains is a continuous exercise being carried out by Zonal Railways to take corrective steps to improve the earning and occupancy wherever the occupancy is found low. However, out of approximately 9000 passenger carrying trains running daily on Indian Railways, about 4000 are Electrical Multiple Unit (EMU) trains which have a set pattern of occupancy i.e. running over-occupied during peak hours with a much lower occupation level during off-peak. Of around 1500 Mail/Express trains, about 10% to 15% on an annual average basis remain at a low occupation level (below 30% of the capacity) in the reserved segment. The remaining around 3500 ordinary passenger trains with predominantly unreserved segment are generally occupied over 30%.

(c) Some trains have been cancelled due to low occupancy while quotas/compositions of trains have been changed in respect of some other trains with low occupancy so as to improve their patronisation.

(d) Figures of train wise revenue loss are not maintained separately on the railways.

[Translation]

Extension of Satna-Rewa Railway Line

4396. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the Satna-Rewa railway line upto Mirzapur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the construction work on this railway line is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A survey for Rewa-Mirzapur new line (175 kms) has been taken up.

Reservation Services

4397. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to start round the clock reservation of service in Metro cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Reservation booking on internet through the website www.irctc.co.in of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is available throughout the country including the Metro Cities from 04.00 hrs. to 23.30 hrs. There is no proposal to extend it further.

[English]

Training to Army Personnel

4398. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the School of Foreign Languages impart training to personnel of Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the details of various foreign languages courses offered by the said school;

(c) the number of army personnel got training in different foreign languages during each of the last three years;

(d) whether civilian students are also admitted in the said school; and

(e) if so, the criteria fixed for admission of civilian students in the said school?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The School conducts four types of courses, namely Interpretership, Certificate of Proficiency, Advanced Diploma and Short-term in ten languages (Arabic, Burmese, Bahasa Indonesia, Chinese, French, German, Russian, Sinhala, Spanish and Tibetan) on a regular basis and twelve languages (Dari, Dwivehi, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Malay, Persian, Pak Urdu, Pushto, Turkish, Thai, Vietnamese) on request basis.

(c) The number of Army personnel who received training in different foreign languages at the School during the years 2003, 2004, and 2005 are 49, 40 and 45 respectively. The language-wise break-up is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Admissions of civilian candidates are made on the basis of an entrance examination to test English language ability and general awareness with the minimum eligibility criteria of 10+2 pass.

Statement

The Number of Army Personnel who received training at School of Foreign Languages in different languages during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005

Sl. No.	Language	2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	French	04	02	08
2.	Russian	02	03	04

1	2	3	4	5
3.	German	-	01	02
4.	Turkish	-	-	02
5.	Vietnamese	-	-	01
6.	Arabic	-	04	02
7.	B/Indonesia	03	06	01
8.	Chinese	02	06	21
9.	Dari	-	-	02
10.	Spanish	-	01	01
11.	Tibetan	02	01	01
12.	Persian	05	-	-
13.	Pushto	23	14	-
14.	Dzonkha	01	-	-
15.	Sinhala	02	02	-
16.	Thai	02	-	-
17.	Dwivehi	03	-	-
Total		49	40	45

**Customer Service at Delhi and
Mumbai Airports**

4399. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted recently at the behest of the Airports Authority of India has revealed that the customer satisfaction level at Delhi and Mumbai Airports, is much below the international standard;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to further improve the services at these airports to bring them at par with international standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airport Authority of India (AAI) has conducted a survey through the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and Airport

International Council (ACI) for ascertaining Customer Satisfaction Level of Mumbai and Delhi airports and benchmarking them against the best airports of the Middle East/Asia Pacific. For July-September (2005) quarter, the survey has rated Mumbai airport as 2.99 (for international operations) and 3.22 (for domestic operations) and Delhi airport 2.78 (for international operations) and 3.01 (for domestic operations) on a five point scale.

(c) Actions are at final stages for modernisation/ restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai airports through Joint Venture route to make them world class airports with world class management.

[Translation]

Widening of Bilaspur Airstrips

4400. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to increase air services from Raipur and Bilaspur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to widen Bilaspur airstrip or construct a new airstrip;

(d) if so, the details alongwith the time by which construction work is likely to be started; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. Subject to these guidelines, airlines are free to provide air services to any place depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to upgrade the existing airstrip or construct new airstrip at Bilaspur at present as there is no firm demand from any scheduled airline.

**Agreement between India
and France**

4401. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: .

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and France on defence co-operation recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued to India as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) No agreement on defence cooperation has been signed between India and France recently. Pursuant to the Joint Statement issued on September 12, 2005 following the meeting between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the French President Jacques Chirac, both countries are holding discussions with a view to finalising a framework agreement on defence cooperation.

[English]

**Reduction in Prices of Aviation
Turbine Fuel**

4402. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to reduce the prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent to which the prices are proposed to be reduced;

(c) the number of times the prices of ATF were reduced in the last two years – alongwith the dates thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to reduce the prices of other petroleum products;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) were deregulated effective April, 2001. Government neither raises, maintains or reduces ATF

prices. These are commercial decisions taken by the oil marketing companies (OMCs) in the light of prevailing market conditions. Recently, the public sector OMCs have reduced the domestic prices of ATF by around 1.8% in view of fall in international oil prices. The price revision in the ex-storage price of ATF (ex-Mumbai) during the last two years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) to (f) Since the end of 2003, there has been an unprecedented, sharp and spiraling increase in international oil prices combined with considerable week-to-week and even day-to-day volatility. Therefore, Government, in June 2004, elucidated the principles which would govern its policy of containing the burden of increase in international prices on consumers of sensitive petroleum products. It was decided that the burden should be equitably shared by consumers, the Government and the oil companies. Therefore, the full impact of the international price increase has not been passed on to consumers of sensitive products and OMCs have been modulating the price increase in petrol & diesel besides maintaining the prices of subsidized products like domestic LPG & PDS Kerosene, in consultation with the Government. In consequence, OMCs have incurred huge under-recoveries on sensitive petroleum products namely, petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene & domestic LPG. The prices of other petroleum products are determined by OMCs based on commercial considerations.

Statement

Ex-storage Point Price of ATF Ex-Mumbai

	<i>RS/KL</i>
01.01.04	14110.00
01.02.04	15030.00
01.03.04	13790.00
01.04.04	13920.00
01.05.04	14820.00
01.06.04	17210.00
01.07.04	16150.00
01.08.04	17850.00
01.09.04	19900.00
01.10.04	20670.00

01.11.04	22730.00
01.12.04	20800.00
01.01.05	18030.00
01.02.05	18120.00
01.03.05	18030.00
01.04.05	21700.00
01.05.05	23550.00
01.06.05	21150.00
01.07.05	22560.00
01.08.05	23000.00
01.09.05	24630.00
01.10.05	25910.00
01.11.05	25390.00
01.12.05	22320.00

[Translation]

**Recruitment Rules for Prasar
Bharati Employees**

4403. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court had recently directed the Union Government to finalise the service conditions of the employees of Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter; and

(d) the time by which the service condition of the employees of Prasar Bharati are likely to be notified?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its recent order has directed the Government to finalise the Recruitment Rules & Service Condition for employees of Prasar Bharati within 6 months.

(c) and (d) Necessary steps have been initiated to expedite the finalisation of the Recruitment Rules and Service conditions at the earliest as per the directions of the Supreme Court.

**Outdoor Railway Agencies for
Booking of Parcels**

4404. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed for appointing Outdoor Railway Agencies for booking of parcels and luggage under the liberalised schemes; and

(b) the commission and the service charges paid by the Railway to these agents under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The contracts for working of Out Agencies and City Booking Agencies are awarded by inviting open tenders. The contract is awarded to the lowest satisfactory tenderer. Other requisites like financial soundness, experience, availability of godowns, trucks, buses, trained manpower etc. being equal, preference is given to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes tenderer.

(b) The rate of commission or service charge for road bridging of parcels and luggage from Out Agencies/ City Booking Agencies to rail head is quoted by the tenderer while submitting their tenders.

[English]

**Electrification of Ahmedabad-Jamnagar
Railway Route**

4405. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to electrify the railway route from Ahmedabad to Jamnagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to relative priority for electrification of other high density routes, there is, at present no proposal to electrify Ahmedabad-Jamnagar section.

**Formation of Independent
DGQA Board**

4406. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High Level Committee has recommended that Director General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) should be separated from the control of Department of Defence Production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to form an independent Defence Quality Assurance Board (DQAB)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to set up an independent Defence Quality Assurance (DQA) Board.

[Translation]

**Investment made by
ONGC Abroad**

4407. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:

SHRI SITARAM YADAV:

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

(a) the total investment made by ONGC (Videsh) Limited abroad till November 1, 2005 country-wise; and

(b) the details of income-expenditure of ONGC during 2003-04 and 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The investment made abroad by ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) till 1st November 2005 in various projects in the oil and gas sector, is as follows:

(Rupees in crore)

Country	Amount spent till 1st November, 2005*
Vietnam	896.18
Russia	10,041.15
Sudan	6,011.40
Australia	34.64
Ivory Coast	47.42
Libya	65.66
Syria	7.56
Myanmar	106.32
Kuwait	1.29
Iraq	4.43
Iran	30.39
Others	22.22
Total	17,268.67

* The figures are provisional

(b) The details of income and expenditure of ONGC during 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as follows:

	(Rupees in crores)	
Income from operations	32927.00	47245.40
Total Cost & Expenses	20392.10	28768.60

Completion of Railway Projects

4408. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the past the Railways had issued white paper with regard to shortage of funds and non-availability of adequate funds for the ongoing projects of Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether revenue earnings of the Railways from various sources has increased recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to fix priority to complete the pending and ongoing projects of Railways keeping in view the increase in revenue earning of Railways during the recent past; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A White Paper on Railway Projects was published in July, 1998 in which the issue of heavy throwforward and availability of inadequate funds for Railway projects was highlighted.

(c) and (d) The overall traffic revenues of the Railways to end of November, 2005, have registered a growth of 13.89% (approximate) over the corresponding period of last year. Segment-wise details are as under:

(Figure: Rupees in crore)

Traffic Segment	Traffic Revenue to end of		
	November, 2004	November, 2005 (Approximate)	%age growth
Passenger	9279.41	9827.48	5.91%
Other Coaching	614.51	694.18	12.96%
Goods	19356.70	22881.24	18.23%
Sundry	645.00	642.42	-0.40%
Total	29895.62	34045.32	13.89%

(e) and (f) Re-prioritisation of projects has been done recently. Further with the increase in internal generation, it is proposed to revive Capital Fund for funding of some of the critical throughput enhancement works.

[English]

Introduction of Sabarimala Pilgrimage Special

4409. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce

Sabarimala Pilgrimage weekly special between Mumbai and Ernakulam through Konkan Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 165/166 Dadar Terminus to Ernakulam via Konkan Railway winter specials have been planned to run on 20.12.05, 24.12.05, 27.12.05 and 31.12.05. Train No. 165 will depart from Dadar (T) at 12.45 hrs. and reach Ernakulam next day at 16.45 hrs. whereas Train No. 166 will depart from Ernakulam at 23.45 hrs. and reach Dadar (T) at 03.45 hrs. on the third day.

[Translation]

Net Utsav Scheme

4410. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has recently launched a Net Utsav Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent upto which the scheme proved to be beneficial to the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines had launched the Net Utsav Scheme from 30th August, 2005 to 25th October, 2005 as incentive to the passengers who book tickets online through their website and travel against the Netickets. The schemes was open to passengers purchasing neticket on Bangalore-Mumbai, Delhi-Bangalore and Delhi-Mumbai and vice versa sectors, and also entitled them certain incentives in the form of free tickets and additional bonus points etc.

(c) The scheme enabled Indian Airlines to promote its 'Neticket' product in the market as a distribution medium for ticket sales as well as to promote Indian Airlines' product on the specified sectors, where it was facing competition.

*[English]***Employment in ALIMCO**

4411. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the wastage of public money through employment of casual personnel in Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any step to improve the productivity of permanent employees of ALIMCO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The casual employees are engaged by ALIMCO for achieving production targets on urgent basis. The number of such employees has come down from 77 in April 2005 to 33 by November 2005.

(c) and (d) A training calendar for improving the productivity and Human Resource Skills of employees is drawn for every year. In the current year between April-Nov 2005, 53 employees have been trained.

*[Translation]***Patriotic Films**

4412. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any sharp decline in production of patriotic films during the last some years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of patriotic films produced and telecast in the country especially in Maharashtra during the last three years, Doordarshan-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to promote the production of such films and curbs the production of action films in future;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c): The film industry in India is almost entirely in the private sector and no data is centrally maintained on the genre of film made every year. However, the comments of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and Doordarshan have been obtained. CBFC have stated that there is no such category as "patriotic film" in the classification of films under which the certificates are issued. If at all, there are any patriotic movies they are included in the classification as historical which may include other movies also which are not patriotic. As such, no concrete reply pertaining to the number of films so produced can be given. Doordarshan have stated that they do not produce any feature films and the number of patriotic films telecast from DDK, Mumbai are two in the last three years, out of which one film was repeated four times. In the National Network 13 patriotic films were telecast in the last three years.

(d) to (f) It is the endeavour of the Government to encourage production of quality films in all categories. Organisations such as the National Film Development Corporation, Directorate of Film Festivals and Children Film Society, India play an important role in meeting this objective through financial support, Awards and film festivals at the national and regional levels.

*[English]***Utilization of Central Assistance by
Karnataka Government**

4413. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds released during 2004-05 under the centrally sponsored scheme for the construction of hostels for SC boys and girls have been fully utilized by the Government of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of hostels have been constructed and the pending plans of the constructions; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No sir.

(b) to (d) In the year 2004-05, Government of India had released Rs.447.68 lakhs towards 50% share of the estimated cost for construction of 23 boys hostels for 1150 SC boys vide sanction order number 11013/17/2004-SCD-I, dated 29/9/2004. In the same year, another sanction order bearing no. 11015/17/2004-SCD-I, dated 29/9/2004, was issued for releasing an amount of Rs.150.15 lakhs towards 50% Central Share for construction of 9 hostels for 450 SC girls.

According to the schematic norms, the State Government is required to complete the project within a period of 5 years from the date of release of Central share.

Employment on Compassionate Grounds in BRO

4414. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any policy for dependants of persons serving in the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) who are entitled for employment on compassionate grounds in case of their deaths;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that widows of the deceased employees have been refused employment in BRO;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of such cases pending with the BRO as on date; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to appoint the widows/female dependents of the deceased employees in BRO?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Compassionate appointments are made against five percent direct recruitment quota of group 'C' and 'D' posts. These appointments are given to a dependent family member i.e., spouse or son (including

adopted son) or daughter (including adopted daughter) or brother or sister in case of unmarried Government Servants who are wholly dependent on the Government servant.

(c) to (e) From January 1985 to January 2002, there was a ban on recruitment of female personnel in the Border Roads Organisation. Female dependents are now employed within the provision of rules. At present there are 165 pending cases of widows and 35 cases of other female dependents seeking appointment.

[Translation]

Extension of Mahakoshal Express

4415. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to extend the Mahakoshal Express plying between Jabalpur and Nizamuddin up to Jammu is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce new train on the said route keeping in view the consistent demands of the passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline

4416. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has expressed its willingness to set up Indo-Iran gas pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any discussions have been held in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) In a recent meeting between the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the Minister for Industry and Energy of Russia, in New Delhi, on 24.11.2005, the Russian Minister said that the Russian national gas company, Gazprom, was prepared to participate in the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project as an investor or as a contractor; the Russian Minister conveyed that the former role was the preferred option for Gazprom.

The Government is discussing the details of the project with the Governments of Iran and Pakistan. Two separate Secretary-level Joint Working Groups (JWGs), viz., India-Pakistan JWG, and India-Iran Special JWG (SJWG), have been constituted for this purpose.

Gazprom's offer to join the project will be considered when the structure of the proposed project has been agreed to between the three principal participating countries.

Import of Coaches

4417. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated requirement of different types of railway coaches in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government has worked out any plan to meet the requirement of coaches;

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

(d) if not, whether the Government proposes to go for import of such coaches; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) No estimate of the requirement of coaches for the Eleventh Five Year Plan has been made yet.

[Translation]

Non-utilisation of Hindon Air Force Station

4418. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the airstrips in Hindon Air Force Station are damaged due to non-utilisation for the last many years as reported in 'Navbharat Times' dated October 2, 2005; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to renovate and utilise the airstrips of Hindon Air Force Station?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The airstrip at Hindon airfield is being extensively utilized by the Indian Air Force for flying. No damage to the airstrip has been caused due to non utilization of the airstrip.

Expansion/Modernisation of Airports in Himachal Pradesh

4419. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for expansion/upgradation of airports in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the works are likely to be completed?

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

(b) to (d) Details of works along with funds involved and status are as under:

Extension of runway upto 4500 feet, construction of apron, taxiway, terminal building for 10'0 passengers, car park, operational wall etc. have been completed at Kangra airport with an estimated cost of Rs.10.76 crores. Completion of some minor works is contingent on diversion of road by State Government. Construction of new terminal building complex for 100 passengers with an estimated cost of Rs.7.81 crores at Kullu airport is at advanced stage. At Shimla airport, construction of new fire station (Category IV) with an estimated cost of Rs.2.50 crores is at preliminary stage.

Inter-City Train between Sirsa-Delhi

4420. SHRI ATMA SINGH GILL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce an inter-city super fast train between Sirsa and Delhi; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Acceptance of Tenders for Married Accommodation Projects

4421. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Military Engineering Services (MES) has failed to accept tenders for married accommodation projects within the time stipulated under the Fast Track procedure;

(b) if so, the resultant extra expenditure involved alongwith the reasons for the same;

(c) whether any overpayment has also been made to the contractors due to the negligence of Garrison Engineer, Mathura;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the precautionary measures taken to avoid such mistakes in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) No Married Accommodation Project has been sanctioned under the Fast Track Procedure in the last three years. Therefore, the question of extra expenditure on the account does not arise.

Chief Engineer, Lucknow Zone had concluded two contracts for execution of construction works at Mathura in 1996 at a total cost of Rs. 9.01 crores. Due to incorrect pricing of deviations, an overpayment of Rs. 52.91 lakhs to the contractors was detected. A staff Court of Inquiry to investigate the overpayment was ordered in July, 2002. The Court of Inquiry has held eight personnel responsible

for the deemed overpayment. The departmental disciplinary action against these personnel is in progress. The measures to be taken to avoid overpayment are already laid down in Departmental Manuals and Regulations.

[Translation]

Railway Siding at Giridih

4422. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that rail passengers are facing a lot of inconvenience due to non-availability of railway siding at Giridih in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, whether the Government would consider to construct railway siding at Giridih; and

(c) if so, the time by which the construction work on the project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) There is no inconvenience to rail passengers due to non-availability of railway siding at Giridih in Jharkhand. There is a Goods Shed which can accomodate 08 eight-wheeled-wagons at Giridih. There has been no inward or outward traffic for last 02 years, and the Goods shed at Giridih was closed due to non-availability of traffic. Railways may re-open Giridih Goods shed if adequate traffic is offered.

Illegal Oil Depot

4423. MOHD. MUKEEM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that various illegal oil depots are operating and selling spurious petroleum products in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether any raids have been conducted by the Government to find out such illegal oil depots;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of illegal oil depots detected by the Government;

(d) the action taken against them; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to check the operation of such illegal oil depots?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL

GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d): Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that there have been a few instances when complaints were received regarding selling of petroleum products illegally. Based on the complaints, raids were conducted. During the period April-November, 2005, two raids were conducted at the locations at Mayapuri and Badarpur in Delhi and FIRs were lodged in respective police stations against the unauthorized dealers.

(e) "Petroleum Products" is an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. This Ministry has issued Motor Sprit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply and Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 1998, Naphtha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobile) Order, 2000 and Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobile) Order, 2000 with a view to curbing illegal sale and unauthorized diversion of petroleum products for the adulteration of auto fuels. Any person found violating the provisions of these Control Orders is liable to be proceeded against under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The State Governments are empowered to take action under these Control Orders.

[English]

**Modernisation of Delhi and
Mumbai Airports**

4424. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission is seeking to scrap the entire process of modernisation of Mumbai and Delhi airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any difference of opinion between Planning Commission and Ministry of Civil Aviation over the issue;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken to resolve the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) The

process of modernisation and restructuring Delhi and Mumbai airport is being carried out through inter-ministerial consultations. Government takes appropriate decisions after taking into account various view points.

Security Breach

4425. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Army plays down security breach" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated December 8, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into the incident;

(c) if so the outcome thereof;

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such lapses?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) A case of loss of pen drive in the Army Head Quarters has come to the notice of the Government, recently. A Board of Officers was constituted to inquire into the incident and it has come to the conclusion that the pen drive was lost by an Army Officer but it apparently did not contain any official or classified material. The concerned officer has been counselled for the said loss. Appropriate security related remedial measures have been taken to prevent recurrence of such lapses.

**Joint-venture with Russia for
Production of Defence**

4426. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has entered into a Joint-venture with Russia for the production of Defence components, submarines and fifth generation fighter aircraft; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No Joint-venture exists for production

of defence components, submarines and fifth generation fighter aircraft.

- (b) Does not arise.

Inventory in ONGC

4427. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the huge inventory is being held by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC);

(b) if so, the value of inventory held by ONGC at the end of each of the last three financial years;

(c) whether any independent body has ever carried out a physical verification of inventory;

(d) if so, the results thereof;

(e) if not, whether the Government proposes to carry out the verification; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) According, to information received from ONGC, their inventory holdings are directly related to the magnitude of operations envisaged/carried out during a particular period.

(b) The value of inventories held by ONGC during the last three financial years is as below:

As on	(Rs. in Crore)
31.03.2005	2569.19
31.03.2004	2405.69
31.03.2003	1571.02

(c) to (e) No outside agency has carried out a physical verification of ONGC's inventory. Such verifications are carried out by ONGC's stock verification wing under the Materials Management Department, and its reports are acceptable to their auditors. ONGC are now planning to engage an outside agency to carry out verification of the large number of low value items.

Agreement with Thailand for Exploration of Oil and Gas

4428. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement was made with Thailand to explore oil and gas in its offshore region and to invest in setting up CNG distribution network;

(b) if so, the present status thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to explore more oil and gas outside the country and to reduce dependence on imports?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) PSU Oil Companies like Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) through its subsidiary ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), Oil India Limited (OIL), GAIL (India) Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) have interests in exploration and production acreages abroad. OVL has expanded its portfolio to thirteen countries, namely, Vietnam, Russia, Sudan, Libya, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Myanmar, Egypt, Qatar, Sao Tome & Principe, Cuba and Nigeria. Similarly, OIL-IOC consortium has taken exploration blocks in Libya with OIL as operator. The total investment commitment in overseas E&P projects is estimated to be over US\$ 5 billion. OVL's production from its overseas ventures amounted to 5.06 million metric tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas during 2004-05. These companies are vigorously pursuing exploration and production opportunities abroad for future acquisitions.

Restart of Mahanadi Express

4429. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to restart Mahanadi Express between Bhopal and Bilaspur via Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Not justified.

**Schools/Colleges/Hostels/Technical Training
Centres for SCs and OBCs**

4430. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides financial assistance to the States/Union Territories for opening and expansion of schools/boarding schools/colleges/hostels/technical training centres for SCs and OBCs;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received from various States/Union Territories in this regard and the financial assistance allocated/released thereunder during 2004-05 and 2005-06, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) the number of proposals pending with the Union Government in this regard, particularly from Gujarat;

(d) the reasons for their pendency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes Sir. Government is providing financial assistance to the States/Union Territories under the Scheme of Hostels for SCs and OBCs.

(b) There is no State/UT wise allocation of funds under the said schemes. However, the details of funds requested/released to States/Union Territories during 2004-05 and 2005-06 for SCs and OBCs are given in the statement-I and II respectively.

(c) 5 proposals are pending for SCs and 7 for OBCs including the proposal of State of Gujarat.

(d) Proposals in respect SCs are pending due to paucity of funds. Proposals in respect of Backward Classes are held up for want of additional documents from the State Governments/UT Administration.

(e) These proposals will be considered on availability of sufficient funds in case of SCs. Proposals for Backward Classes will be considered as soon as State Governments/UT Administration furnish the requisite documents.

Statement-I

*Central Assistance requested/released to various States/UTs under the
scheme of Hostels for SCs Boys and Girls Hostels.*

S.No.	States/UTs	2004-05		2005-06	
		Funds requested	Amount sanctioned	Funds requested	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	3650.00	700.00	5563.00	0
2	Chhattisgarh	196.90	196.90	398.05	0
3	Gujarat	0	0	0	60.00
4	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	1907.53	1907.53
5	Jharkhand	206.94	206.94	222.88	222.88
6	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	6.39	6.39
7	Karnataka	593.87	593.87	0	0
8	Kerala	152.21	152.21	0	0
9	Pondicherry	0	0	242.52	50.00
10	Punjab	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
11	Rajasthan	0	0	96.75	96.75
12	Tamil Nadu	1275.00	1275.75	0	0
13	Tripura	158.83	158.83	0	151.89
14	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	395.67	395.67
15	Uttaranchal	95.81	95.81	0	0
Total		7627.80	3435.28	8044.69	2891.11

Statement-II

Central Assistance requested/released to various States/UTs under the scheme of Hostels for OBCs Boys and Girls Hostels.

S.No.	States/UTs	2004-05		2005-06	
		Funds requested	Amount sanctioned	Funds requested	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	440.00	330.00	781.00	330.00
2	Assam	8.00	0	20.00	0
3	Bihar	0	0	287.00	0
4	Chhattisgarh	133.00	133.00	0	0
5	Gujarat	138.00	138.00	150.00	0
6	Himachal Pradesh	42.00	42.00	140.00	0
7	Jharkhand	97.00	97.00	86.00	0
8	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	546.00	0
9	Karnataka	0	0	259.00	259.00
10	Kerala	48.50	0	48.50	48.50
11	Manipur	233.00	0	233.00	0
12	Madhya Pradesh	91.50	91.50	120.00	120.00
13	Orissa	0	0	3.00	0
14	Pondicherry	371.00	50.00	0	0
15	Punjab	0	0	58.00	0
16	Rajasthan	0	0	52.00	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
17	Tamil Nadu	630.00	157.50	787.00	205.00
18	Tripura	27.00	27.00	39.00	39.00
19	Uttar Pradesh	355.00	212.00	249.00	71.00
20	West Bengal	0	0	97.00	0
Total		2475.00	12.76	4252.00	10.72

**Declaration of Year 2006 as
Ex-servicemen Year**

4431. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any requests from various quarters for declaring the year 2006 as the Ex-servicemen Year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE):
(a) and (b) Yes Sir, some requests have been received to declare 2006 as the year for Ex-servicemen. The activities suggested are rally of ex-servicemen, honouring the veterans, publicity and cultural show etc.

(c) There is no plan to declare year 2006 as ex-servicemen year.

[Translation]

Redressal of Grievances of Ex-servicemen

4432. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints from ex-servicemen relating to different problems/aspects;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during each of the last three years; and.

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for redressing their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE):
(a) Yes, Sir. Representations are received from ex-servicemen at various levels and locations in the government.

(b) The number of representations received from ex-servicemen in the Ministry of Defence, Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare in the last three years is as follows:

2003	-	8031
2004	-	7193
2005	-	7518*
*(upto 16th December 2005)		

(c) The grievances of ex-servicemen are attended to expeditiously in consultation with concerned Central/State Government agencies.

[English]

**Additional Funds for
Welfare Schemes**

4433. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated to Tamil Nadu for the implementation of various welfare schemes during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has

requested for additional funds for the implementation of schemes; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Statewise allocation of funds is not made. Funds are released to the State Governments/UTs on the basis of the proposals received under various schemes and programmes as per the terms and conditions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Renovation of Amalner Railway Station

4434. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for renovation of Amalner Railway Station in Jalgaon district in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All prescribed amenities exist at the station.

[English]

Export of LPG

4435. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to export Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to various countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) As the current demand of LPG is more than domestic production, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) import LPG to meet the shortfall. However, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) supply bulk LPG to the tune of about 75 TMT to 80 TMT per annum to Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC), Nepal under an Agreement valid till 31.3.2007. In addition to this, about 500 MT of packed LPG per month is being supplied to Bhutan by IOC.

Reconstitution of Partnership

4436. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the policy of the Indian Oil Corporation to accept the resignations from the Financial Partners of firms of Petrol pump SKO/LPG dealership and the firm is allowed to be reconstituted;

(b) if so, the period required/taken to complete the formalities keeping in view the fact that these products are covered in essential commodities;

(c) the number of such dealerships being run on adhoc basis due to pendency of such reconstitution proposals; and

(d) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared and the dealership firms will be allowed to be reconstituted finally?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) do accept resignations of financial partners from retail outlet (petrol pump) dealerships/SKO-LDO dealerships/LPG distributorships if such partners are signatory to the dealership/distributorship agreements. Such dealerships/distributorships are allowed to be reconstituted, in terms of Company policy, depending upon the merits of the case. Since requests for reconstitution require detailed examination, and the process involves obtaining legal clearances, no specific time limit can be stipulated for taking a decision in the matter.

(c) IOC have reported that no IOC dealership is being run on an ad hoc basis owing to the pendency of any proposal for reconstitution.

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

**Procurement of Consumable Items for
Defence Forces**

4437. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army Purchase Organisation procures items for the consumption of Defence Forces;

(b) if so, whether quality control of the contracted items is ensured by the Composite Food Laboratories;

(c) if so, the number of inspections to supervise dispatch of goods to various supply depots carried out during 2004-2005;

(d) the number of cases in which the supply was found below the tendered requirements;

(e) the action taken against such suppliers; and

(f) the steps taken to check such sub-standard supply?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (f) Inspections are carried out to analyse quality of goods and accepted goods are dispatched under the supervision of a Board of Officers to various supply depots. If supply is found below specifications, such sub-standard supply is rejected. During the year 2004, out of a total 22,002 samples drawn for analysis, 1921 samples were rejected.

[Translation]

Opening of Gas Agencies

4438. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received requests/representations for opening of Gas Agencies in Jharkhand and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Representations received for the opening of LPG distributorships in the country, including Jharkhand and Bihar, are forwarded to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for their consideration. OMCs have the freedom to set up LPG distributorships at viable locations based on their commercial considerations. As a matter of policy, Government have also advised OMCs to concentrate their future expansion plans in semi-urban and rural areas. The details of places where gas agencies are likely to be opened in the near future in Jharkhand and Bihar are available with Director (Marketing) of OMCs.

**Distribution of Rickshaws to
Handicapped Persons**

4439. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to distribute rickshaws among handicapped persons for their welfare on payment basis as well as free of cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of rickshaws distributed among handicapped persons during each of last three years and current year on payment basis and free of cost, separately, State-wise;

(d) whether rickshaws so distributed are purchased by the Government themselves; and

(e) if so, the present rules regarding purchase of rickshaws for the handicapped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Mis-utilisation of ADIP Funds

4440. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the mis-utilisation of ADIP funds disbursed to Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur during 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to prevent mis-utilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) As per provisions of the Scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of aids/appliances (ADIP), funds are given to the implementing agencies including Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) for distribution of aids and appliances to persons with disabilities. No complaint regarding mis-utilisation of funds has been received against the officials of ALIMCO during the year 2004-05. It may also be mentioned that in all the camps held by ALIMCO States/District Authorities are associated.

[Translation]

Allotment of Petrol Pumps

4441. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the large scale irregularities in allotment of petrol pumps as reported in 'Dainik Jagran' dated August 17, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The news item in question refers to alleged allotments of dealerships made to some politicians and their relatives, etc. The guidelines of the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) for selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products, which are objective and transparent in nature, provide for a detailed procedure to be followed by OMCs in making selection of dealers/distributors. As per these guidelines, there is no bar on allotment of dealerships/distributorships to

politicians or to their relatives, provided they are selected in keeping with the provisions of these guidelines.

However, in case a complaint is received against any such selection, and it is established after inquiry that the selection has been in violation of the said guidelines, remedial action is taken by the OMCs as per their grievance redressal mechanism. Further, as and when any complaint/representation is received by the Government against selection of dealers/distributors, the same is looked into and appropriate remedial action taken after enquiry through the mechanism available in the OMCs.

[English]

Freight Terminals

4442. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have signed a MoU with the Central Warehousing Corporation to develop a network of freight terminals to provide single window service including loading/unloading, storage and road-bridging, at the originating and destination points;

(b) if so, the details of terms and conditions thereof;

(c) the number of freight terminals identified for the purpose, zone-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to streamline the freight services to boost the earnings of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The broad terms and conditions as envisaged in the MoU are as under:

- (i) Railway will provide land on lease for a period of 30 years to Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) who will construct railway siding for the purpose of development of warehousing complexes. The lease period can be extended further on mutually agreed period between Railway and CWC.
- (ii) CWC will construct, develop and maintain

the entire warehousing complexes at their own cost on the leased railway land. The common facilities like approach roads, circulating areas, lighting and fencing etc. will be provided by CWC at their own cost. Additional godowns can also be constructed by Railways or any other authorized party at the same rail terminal.

- (iii) Railway Administration will charge a nominal lease rent @ Re 1/- (one rupee) per sq. meter per annum for the lands leased to CWC.
- (iv) 5% of the Gross Revenue from the third year of the agreement shall be railways' share.
- (v) CWC will provide loading/unloading facilities and total logistics through storage/delivery/distribution by road to the door steps of the users.
- (vi) CWC will provide state-of-the-art warehousing and handling facility in tune with technological upgradation and the facilities offered by other competing modes of transport so as to attract the customers to avail of facilities available at the complex.
- (vii) CWC, making full use of the logistics services and the infrastructure available at the Warehousing complexes will act as marketing partner of the Railways to improve the share of Railways in transport sector by (a) aggregation of piecemeal traffic for outward movement in block rakes, and (b) storage, handling and road bridging/distribution of inward traffic received in block rakes.

(c) 22 locations have been identified for development of warehousing complexes. The zone wise details are as under:

Central Railway - 5, Eastern Railway - 3, East Coast Railway - 2, Northern Railway - 4, North Central Railway - 2, Southern Railway - 1, South Central Railway - 1, South Eastern Railway - 1, Western Railway - 1 and West Central Railway - 2.

(d) To streamline the freight service and to boost

the earnings of Railway, the following steps have been taken:

- i. The siding rules have been liberalized and made customer friendly.
- ii. A new scheme called "Engine-on-Load (EOL)" wherein the train engine waits during loading/unloading operations, was introduced to get faster release and better availability of wagons.
- iii. In order to encourage public-private partnership in procurement of wagons and attract additional traffic to the Railways, a scheme called "Wagon Investment Scheme (WIS)" has been introduced by Railways.
- iv. In addition to CWC, state-of-the-art Rail Side Warehouse Complexes shall be developed through public-private partnership.
- v. Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), a public sector undertaking (PSU) is also playing a vital role in attracting export/import cargo through containerized movement.
- vi. 10% concession in freight rate to the incremental traffic booked from sidings during the period December 2005 to January 2006.
- vii. 20% concession in freight rate for incremental traffic booked from sidings in the notified empty flow directions of wagons.
- viii. 15% concession in freight rate to the incremental traffic booked from sidings during the non-peak period i.e. from July to September.
- ix. Powers have been delegated to the General Managers of the Zonal Railways to give Station-to-Station Rates to attract incremental traffic.

Military Exercise with China

4443. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed any agreement with China for military exercises in the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits India is likely to derive from such exercises?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) India has not signed any agreement with China for military exercises in the Indian Ocean.

Development of Air Borne Early Warning and Control System

4444. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) proposes to develop indigenous Air Borne Early Warning and Control System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A programme for design and development of indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW &C) System costing Rs. 1800 crore was sanctioned by Government on 6th October 2004. Preliminary designs of various subsystems of the AEW&C are completed and are under review by expert committees.

(c) The Airborne Early Warning and Control System is likely to be developed by April 2011.

Regional Programmes on DD/AIR

4445. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where Doordarshan have accorded priority to the regional programmes; and

(b) the steps taken to accord priority to the programmes promoting culture of the State and rural life?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan gives priority to programmes promoting culture of the States and depiction of rural life through 32 Doordarshan Kendras located all over the country. A statement giving names of DDKs and their States is enclosed.

Prasar Bharati has also informed that all AIR Stations have been mounting various programmes in different formats like talks, features, discussions, and plays etc. on promotion of cultural heritage of the country. AIR Stations put out regular programmes providing coverage to the important cultural activities of their area and also apprise their listeners about the prevalent cultural mores in their areas. They also broadcast folk and tribal music as well as programmes based on light and classical music and folk theatre to promote the cultural tradition of different parts of the country.

Statement

List of Regional Kendras

1. DDK, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)
2. DDK, Agartala (Tripura)
3. DDK, Aizwal (Mizoram)
4. DDK, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)
5. DDK, Bangalore (Karnataka)
6. DDK, Bhubaneshwar (Orissa)
7. DDK, Chennai (Tamil Nadu)
8. DDK, Dehradun (Uttaranchal)
9. DDK, Delhi (New Delhi)
10. DDK, Gangtok (Sikkim)
11. DDK, Guwahati (Assam)
12. DDK, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh)
13. DDK, Hissar (Haryana)
14. DDK, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)
15. DDK, Imphal (Manipur)
16. DDK, Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh)
17. DDK, Jaipur (Rajasthan)
18. DDK, Jalandhar (Punjab)
19. DDK, Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir)
20. DDK, Kolkata (West Bengal)

21. DDK, Leh, Ladakh Region (Jammu & Kashmir)

(Amount in Crore of Rupees)

22. DDK, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)

23. DDK, Mumbai (Maharashtra)

24. DDK, Panaji (Goa)

25. DDK, Patna (Bihar)

26. DDK, Pondicherry (Pondicherry)

27. DDK, Port Blair (Andaman & Nicobar)

28. DDK, Ranchi (Jharkhand)

29. DDK, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)

30. DDK, Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir)

31. DDK, Shillong (Meghalaya)

32. DDK, Shimla (Himachal Pradesh)

Development of Nilgiri Mountain Railway

4446. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) is running into losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of financial position during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Railways have any proposal to improve the track, coaches and other infrastructures in NMR;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to improve the services and to provide better facilities to the tourists visiting NMR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Nilgiri Mountain Railway is running into losses owing to less patronage. The financial position during the last three years are as below:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Earnings	3.35	3.68	4.22
Expenditure	4.93	5.07	8.68
Loss	1.58	1.39	4.46

(c) to (e) An amount of Rs.2 crores has been sanctioned for coach maintenance. Besides, there are proposals for the manufacturing of additional coaches, locos and for the track renewals.

Computerised reservation with Touch Screen facility has been provided with at Mettupalaiyam, Coonoor, Udthagamandalam stations for the convenience of the tourists. Funds for provision of amenity and repair works at various stations, over this Railway, has also been allocated.

Production of Crude Oil from Sick Wells

4447. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether The Energy Research Institute (TERI) has developed a microbiological technique to enhance the production of crude oil from sick oil wells upto three times;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce this technique in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has developed a microbial technique to enhance production of crude oil from oil wells up to three times. TERI's extensive research work in this regard was initially (1992-1995) funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. Later on, TERI signed an agreement with the Institute of Reservoir Studies (IRS) of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) in 1999 for the development of the Microbial Enhanced Oil Recovery (MEOR) technique to enhance production of oil from stripper oil wells upto reservoir temperatures of 90° C. This technique, which is more applicable for wells with

low production than for sick wells, is found to contribute a two-to-three fold production gain.

(c) and (d) The MEOR technique has been implemented in 26 wells of the Ahmedabad and Mehsana assets of ONGC and in 3 wells of Oil India Limited in Assam. ONGC have initiated steps to implement this technique in their Assam asset also. Further, ONGC plan to implement MEOR on a large scale in the fields of Ahmedabad and Mehsana assets, some 60 wells/year from 2006-07.

**Assessment for Modernisation/
Maintenance of Airports**

4448. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh assessment has been made regarding the modernization and maintenance needs required at various airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/being taken in this direction by the Government; and

(d) the details of major additional facilities proposed to be created at the international airports to make them more customer friendly and safe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Modernisation and maintenance of infrastructure facilities at the airports managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) is a continuous process which is assessed and taken up from time to time depending on traffic requirement and availability of resources, land etc.

(d) Major additional facilities proposed to be provided at international airports inter-alia include increased terminal capacity, additional conveyor belts, additional check-in immigration and customs counters, introduction of Common User Terminal Equipment (CUTE) system, check-in counters and in-line baggage system with check-in baggage conveyor belt, additional X-ray baggage inspection system and additional baggage trolleys. Besides, AAI has also initiated action to provide additional passenger boarding bridges, escalators, elevators etc.

Sale to Non-Defence Customers

4449. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ordnance Factories have increased their sales to the non-defence customers including exports;

(b) if so, the details of sale to non-defence customers during 2004-2005, factory-wise;

(c) the details of major non-defence customers of ordnance factories; and

(d) the steps taken to achieve the said targets by these factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 2004-2005, Ordnance Factories have sold items worth Rs. 977.75 crores to Non-defence customers. Factory-wise details of sale to non-defence customers during 2004-2005 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The major non-defence customers of Ordnance Factories are Central and Para Military forces, like CRPF, BSF, CISF and NSG, State Police Organizations, Civil Sector and Overseas customers.

(d) Capacity in Ordnance Factories has been exclusively created to meet the requirement of Defence Forces. Since actual requirement from Defence Forces varies from the requirement projected during creation of capacity, constant endeavour is made to exploit the installed capacity by increasing supply to non-defence sector through product diversification, after meeting the Defence Forces' requirement.

Statement

Sl. No. Factory		Rs. in Crore
1	2	3
1.	Ordnance Factory, Katni	2.00
2.	Ordnance Factory, Ambarnath	21.26

1	2	3
3.	Metal & Steel Factory, Ishapore	6.16
4.	Ordnance Factory, Muradnagar	0.01
5.	Ordnance Cable Factory, Chandigarh	1.09
6.	Ordnance Factory, Bhusawal	0.04
7.	Ordnance Factory, Ambajhari	4.33
8.	Machine Tool Prototype Factory, Ambamath	3.95
9.	Heavy Alloy Penetrator Project, Trichy	1.02
10.	Rifle Factory, Ishapore	147.69
11.	Small Arms Factory, Kanpur	100.06
12.	Gun & Shell Factory, Cossipore	38.70
13.	Ordnance Factory, Dum Dum	0.00
14.	Ordnance Factory, Trichy	81.49
15.	Ordnance Factory, Kanpur	0.00
16.	Field Gun Factory, Kanpur	42.30
17.	Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur	81.17
18.	Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur	0.98
19.	Grey Iron Foundry, Jabalpur	0.48
20.	Cordite Factory, Aruvankadu	2.43
21.	High Explosive Factory, Kirkee	10.71
22.	Ordnance Factory, Bhandara	2.96
23.	Ordnance Factory, Itarsi	2.00
24.	Ammunition Factory, Kirkee	134.93
25.	Ordnance Factory, Varangaon	59.81
26.	Ordnance Factory, Khamaria	83.16
27.	Ordnance Factory, Chandrapur	14.27
28.	Ordnance Factory, Badmal	0.21
29.	Ordnance Factory, Dehu Road	33.00

1	2	3
30.	Heavy Vehicle Factory, Avadi	0.39
31.	Ordnance Factory, Medak	51.19
32.	Ordnance Factory, Dehradun	29.24
33.	Opto Electronics Factory, Dehradun	0.69
34.	Engine Factory, Avadi	0.01
35.	Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur	4.52
36.	Ordnance Parachute Factory, Kanpur	1.26
37.	Ordnance Clothing Factory, Shahjahanpur	4.62
38.	Ordnance Clothing Factory, Avadi	9.62
39.	Ordnance Equipment Factory, Hazratpur	0.00
Total		977.75

**Acquisition of New Helicopters
by Pawan Hans**

4450. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of helicopters with Pawan Hans as on date;

(b) whether the Government has approved acquisition of new helicopters by Pawan Hans during 2004-05;

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

(d) the details of the profit earned by Pawan Hans during each of last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) As on date Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) has 30 helicopters in its fleet.

(b) and (c) In the Annual Plan for the financial year 2004-05, the Government has approved an outlay of Rs. 94 crores for acquisition of new helicopters. PHHL has

signed agreements for purchase of one new Bell 407 helicopter and two Dauphin N3 helicopters.

(d) During the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, PHHL has earned net profit after tax of Rs. 15.39 crores, 52.69 crores and Rs. 49.58 crores respectively.

Recruitment in ALIMCO

4451. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there are irregularities in the matter of recruitment at Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur;

(b) if so, whether the rules are being flouted and discriminations taking place against SCs, STs and OBCs, candidates by the ALIMCO administrations;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Three complaints have been received in the matter of recruitment in Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur.

(b) to (d) The reservation to SCs, STs and OBCs is being provided as per rules in ALIMCO. As on 1.12.2005, there are two vacancies which are to be filled by SC candidates. The vacancies have arisen due to recent retirements.

[Translation]

Funds for Empowerment of Panchayats

4452. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided to Panchayats for the development of villages during each of the last three years and current year, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government proposes to set up a fund of Rs.500 crore for the empowerment of Panchayats;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress achieved in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Funds are allocated to Panchayati Raj Institutions under the Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Central Finance Commission Grants. SGRY is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development. The main objective of the Scheme is to provide additional wage employment in the rural areas as also food security, along with the creation of durable community, social and economic infrastructure in the rural areas. SGRY is implemented through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at District, Block and Village levels, in the ratio of 20:30:50. Statement-I showing the mandays generated and works completed under SGRY from 2002-03 till September, 2005 is enclosed.

The Central Finance Commission is required to make recommendations on the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of the States to supplement the resources of the Panchayats on the basis of the recommendations of the State Finance Commissions. The Eleventh Finance Commission recommended grants of Rs. 8000 crore for Panchayati Raj Institutions for the period 2000-2005. A Statement-II showing State-wise release of grants as per XI Finance Commission recommendations and its utilization by Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) is enclosed.

The 12th Finance Commission recommended a grant of Rs. 20,000 crore for the Panchayats for the period 2005-10. Details of the release of the first instalment for 2005-06 are given in enclosed Statement-III. The share of States in allocation is given in enclosed Statement-IV.

(b) to (d) A proposal for the creation of an incentive scheme for the empowerment of Panchayats is under the consideration of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Statement-I

Mandays generated and works completed under SGRY during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and current year

Sl No.	States/UTs	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06 (upto Sept., 05)	
		Mandays generated (in lakhs)	No. of works completed	Mandays generated (in lakhs)	No. of works completed	Mandays generated (in lakhs)	No. of works completed	Mandays generated (in lakhs)	No. of works completed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	392.09	88119	445.55	89062	336.26	84171	180.95	36491
2	Arunachal Pradesh	16.62	2411	18.42	3426	8.53	1491	3.22	456
3	Assam	483.5	40517	637.2	84781	626.02	96475	318	35865
4	Bihar	442.44	68876	489.85	70077	605.32	80623	162.26	31254
5	Chhattisgarh	377.68	37215	308.55	50152	348.85	56147	118.03	21748
6	Goa	0.68	27	0.49	18	3.57	45	0.05	18
7	Gujarat	201.4	20884	323.19	50477	264.68	78404	71.27	24481
8	Haryana	119.184	29933	68.87	40302	70.118	17004	29.48	5192
9	Himachal Pradesh	21.74	8761	39.06	17849	40.18	18954	13.9	7780
10	Jammu & Kashmir	47.1	17419	47.89	20481	43.73	18060	1.85	1058
11	Jharkhand	283.85	39153	386.05	46017	303.88	47007	52.69	11785
12	Karnataka	519.6	126445	566.07	112144	419.24	116254	161.54	37330
13	Kerala	70.95	12999	100.86	12257	118.91	15021	43.43	4242
14	Madhya Pradesh	531.52	161574	585.21	175147	581.39	169110	237.52	39759
15	Maharashtra	490.38	72068	630.96	87761	674.69	99929	195.82	30799

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
16	Manipur	14.91	4278	14	3281	31.93	6923	4.374	397
17	Meghalaya	24.43	2952	34.37	5458	36.96	5545	12.4	1418
18	Mizoram	12.99	5277	15.38	6019	6.54	2644	0.22	716
19	Nagaland	16.39	474	398.99	0	36.71	2818	36.71	2818
20	Orissa	599.03	96868	618.57	114536	553.94	59808	236.27	14229
21	Punjab	25.93	17227	46	18076	33.39	26053	11.88	2822
22	Rajasthan	377.84	57073	268.62	63643	219.48	49458	89.67	15254
23	Sikkim	6.28	778	8.21	850	5.34	1339	3.15	575
24	Tamil Nadu	491.96	79225	512.06	153846	519.41	137100	295.66	30805
25	Tripura	99.46	13921	126.96	25414	108.46	24849	67.06	8842
26	Uttaranchal	62.1	4654	91.44	26937	94.29	33881	46.73	10986
27	Uttar Pradesh	1335.11	253913	1330.53	270985	1750.45	277648	502.48	81300
28	West Bengal	414.39	154857	445.04	139387	377.56	112659	215.04	41483
29	A&N Islands	0	0	0.42	13	3.01	131	3.79	185
30	D&N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
31	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
32	Lakshadweep	0.1	0	0.01	0	0.13	4	0	
33	Pondicherry	3.28	198	1.42	197	0.13	64	0.76	122
All India		7482.93	1416096	8560.24	1685893	8223.09	1639619	3116.2	500210

Statement-II

31.3.2005

Allocation and Release of local bodies grants as per the recommendations of EFC

Sl. No.	State	Panchayati Raj Institutions										Urban Local Bodies										Total Release of Local Bodies	
		Annual Allocation		Released					Annual Allocation			2000-01					Total	Grants					
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04			2004-05				
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17							
1	Andhra Pradesh	15204.83	0.00	15204.83	15204.83	30409.66	7602.41	69421.73	3293.14	1846.58	4012.56	2483.71	4939.71	3293.14	16465.70	84987.43							
2	Arunachal Pradesh	556.85	278.42	0.00	0.00	1670.55		1948.97	13.87	6.84	6.83	20.50			34.17	1983.14							
3	Assam	4668.95	0.00	4668.95	2334.47	4668.95		11672.37	430.84	215.42	215.42	646.26			1077.10	12749.47							
4	Bihar	10875.00	0.00	10875.00	16312.50	10875.00	5437.50	43500.00	1340.94	0.00	0.00	3352.35		670.47	4022.82	47522.82							
5	Chhattisgarh	4200.39	2100.00	6300.79	4200.38	2100.19	6300.59	21001.95	572.23	286.10	858.36	572.23	286.11		2002.80	23004.75							
6	Goa	185.45	92.72	278.19	92.72			483.63	92.73	46.36	139.10	46.36		231.82	695.45								
7	Gujarat	6960.87	0.00	6960.87	10441.30		17402.18	34804.35	2650.46	1325.22	1325.24	3975.69		6626.15	13252.30	48056.65							
8	Haryana	2941.75	1470.88	4412.63	2941.74	2941.75	2941.75	14708.75	732.80	366.40	1099.20	732.80	732.80	732.80	3664.00	18372.75							
9	Himachal Pradesh	1313.38	656.68	1970.08	656.69	1313.38	1328.46	5925.29	77.84	38.92	38.92	116.76	77.84	116.76	389.20	6314.49							
10	J&K	1488.14	744.06	744.08	0.00			1488.14	313.16	156.56	156.58	469.74			782.90	2271.04							
11	Jharkhand	4825.76	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	537.00	0.00	0.00	1342.50			1342.50	1342.50							
12	Karnataka	7682.35	3941.18	11823.53	3941.17	11823.52		31529.40	2498.39	1248.20	1248.19	3744.56		8240.98	12481.95	44011.35							

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
13	Kerala	6592.58	3298.28	9888.88	6592.58	6592.58	6592.58	6592.58	32982.90	1504.91	752.48	2257.38	1504.91	1504.91	1504.91	7524.55	40487.45
14	Madhya Pradesh	10109.00	5054.70	15163.30	10109.00	10109.00	10109.00	5054.50	45490.50	2548.00	1274.00	1274.00	3822.00	3822.00	2548.00	12740.00	58230.50
15	Maharashtra	13134.58	6567.26	19701.88	6567.29	6567.29	6567.28	19701.88	59105.61	6325.09	3182.54	9487.64	3182.54		3182.55	18975.27	78080.88
16	Manipur	375.43	187.72	583.15	0.00	187.70			938.57	87.82	43.96	43.96	131.88			219.80	1159.37
17	Meghalaya	512.16	256.08	768.24	256.08	768.24			2048.64	53.96	27.00	26.98	80.97			134.95	2183.59
18	Mizoram	157.11	78.58	235.67	157.10	157.11		157.11	785.55	78.89	38.44	115.34	78.89	78.89	78.89	384.45	1170.00
19	Nagaland	257.33	128.68	386.01	128.68				643.33	35.72	17.86	17.86	53.58			88.30	732.63
20	Orissa	6911.76	3455.88	10367.64	3455.88	3455.88		13823.52	34558.80	799.20	399.60	1198.80	399.60	1198.80	799.20	3996.00	38554.80
21	Punjab	3082.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	9278.13		2902.62	12180.75	1094.53	547.26	547.27	1841.79			1094.53	3830.85
22	Rajasthan	9818.96	4909.48	14728.44	4909.48			24547.40	49094.80	1888.32	994.16	2882.48	994.16	1988.32	2971.08	9830.18	59024.98
23	Sikkim	105.85	52.92	158.79	52.92	158.77			423.40	4.16	2.06	2.08	6.24	6.24		16.94	440.04
24	Tamil Nadu	9322.36	4661.18	13983.54	4661.18	13983.54		6726.76	44016.20	3687.34	1933.66	5801.02	1933.67	3867.34	5741.66	19277.35	63283.55
25	Tripura	569.19	284.60	853.79	284.59			853.78	2276.76	80.32	40.16	120.48	40.16	120.48	80.32	401.80	2678.38
26	Uttar Pradesh	23342.67	11671.34	35014.01	11671.33	23342.66		11671.33	98370.97	4557.84	2278.80	6836.36	2278.82	4557.84	4557.84	20506.38	113880.05
27	Uttaranchal	3040.00	1520.00	4580.00	0.00	1820.00		4580.00	12180.00	475.00	237.42	237.58	712.50		475.00	1882.50	13822.50
28	West Bengal	11954.59	5777.30	17331.86	5777.29			5777.29	34863.77	3949.78	1974.90	5684.86	3949.78	3949.78	3949.78	18748.90	54412.87
	Total	160000.00	57185.92	206944.18	120027.31	132845.76	143381.86	660184.83	40000.00	19061.02	48064.29	38282.97	27128.86	44841.84	175188.98	835373.81	

Statement-III

*Details of XII Finance Commission Grants
released to States so far:*

(Rs. Crore)		
State	Panchayats Grants released	Municipalities Grants released
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00
Assam	0.00	0.00
Bihar	162.40	14.20
Chhattisgarh	61.50	7.45
Goa	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	0.00	0.00
Haryana	38.80	9.10
Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00
Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00
Jharkhand	0.00	0.00
Karnataka	0.00	0.00

1	2	3
Kerala	98.50	14.90
Madhya Pradesh	166.30	36.10
Maharashtra	198.30	0.00
Manipur	0.00	0.00
Meghalaya	0.00	0.00
Mizoram	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	0.00	0.00
Orissa	0.00	0.00
Punjab	32.40	0.00
Rajasthan	123.00	0.00
Sikkim	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00
Tripura	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00
Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00
West Bengal	127.10	39.30
Total	1008.3	121.05

Statement-IV

Shares of States in Allocation (2005-10)

Sl. No.	State	Panchayats		Municipalities	
		Per cent	(Rs. Crore)	Per cent	(Rs. Crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.935	1587.00	7.480	374.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.340	68.00	0.060	3.00
3.	Assam	2.630	526.00	1.100	55.00
4.	Bihar	8.120	1624.00	2.840	142.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	3.075	615.00	1.760	88.00
6.	Goa	0.090	18.00	0.240	12.00
7.	Gujarat	4.655	931.00	8.280	414.00
8.	Haryana	1.940	388.00	1.820	91.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.735	147.00	0.160	8.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.405	281.00	0.760	38.00
11.	Jharkhand	2.410	482.00	1.960	98.00
12.	Karnataka	4.440	888.00	6.460	323.00
13.	Kerala	4.925	985.00	2.980	149.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8.315	1663.00	7.220	361.00
15.	Maharashtra	9.915	1983.00	15.820	791.00
16.	Manipur	0.230	46.00	0.180	9.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.250	50.00	0.160	8.00
18.	Mizoram	0.100	20.00	0.200	10.00
19.	Nagaland	0.200	40.00	0.120	6.00
20.	Orissa	4.015	803.00	2.080	104.00
21.	Punjab	1.620	324.00	3.420	171.00
22.	Rajasthan	6.150	1230.00	4.400	220.00
23.	Sikkim	0.065	13.00	0.020	1.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	4.350	870.00	11.440	572.00
25.	Tripura	0.285	57.00	0.160	8.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	14.840	2928.00	10.340	517.00
27.	Uttaranchal	0.810	162.00	0.680	34.00
28.	West Bengal	6.355	1271.00	7.860	393.00
Total		100.000	20000.00	100.000	5000.00

[English]

Concessional rates for music and sports programmes

4453. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati has offered concessional rates for live telecast programmes pertaining to music and sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of Prasar Bharati and to make it competitive to private operators?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The rates for cash outflow for sports coverage are also available to live musical performance etc. These range between Rs., 60,700/- to Rs. 3,06,700/- depending on factors such as distance from Kendra, availability of coverage van and uplinking equipment and manpower etc.

(c) It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to enhance the quality of its programmes and coverage of national and international events, by adopting innovative methods and modern market strategies.

Security Deposit for LPG Cylinders

4454. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount charged as security deposit for LPG cylinder on issue of a new connection;

(b) whether there is any proposal to reduce the security deposit; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The rate of security deposit for 14.2 kg domestic LPG connection is Rs.850/cylinder effective 19th January 2005. However, for the North-Eastern region, including Sikkim, the rate of the security deposit is Rs.500/cylinder. The security deposit rate for 19 kg capacity LPG cylinders is Rs.1,000 per cylinder and for 5 kg LPG cylinders it is Rs.350 per cylinder.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Keeping in view the procurement cost & cost of servicing each customer, the chargeable deposit rate works out much higher.

FM Private Operators

4455. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Task Force to recommend the policies and norms for FM private operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Task Force has submitted its report;

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

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) The Government has already notified a new policy for expansion of FM radio broadcasting through Private Agencies (Phase II). The policy, inter-alia, provides for One Time Entry Fee (OTEF) to be decided on the basis of closed tender system, annual fee @ 4% of gross revenue subject to a minimum of 10% of Reserve OTEF, foreign investment including FDI, upto 20% of the paid up equity, continued restriction on broadcast of news and current affairs programmes and a graded penalty regime for violation of Terms and Conditions. The policy also provides for migration of Phase I operators to Phase II regime.

Further details of the policy are available on Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in

Awarding of New Gas Blocks

4456. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently awarded gas exploration blocks in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh;

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

(c) the estimated gas reserves likely to be explored from these blocks;

(d) the names of the agencies participated under the new exploration licensing policy; and

(e) the time by which the production will be started from these blocks?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Blocks AA-ONN-2003/1 and AA-ONN-2003/3 falling in Assam and block AA-ONN-2003/2 falling in Arunachal Pradesh have been awarded separately to three consortia under the fifth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-V). Block No. AA-ONN-2003/1 has been awarded to a consortium of M/s Jubilant Oil and Gas Pvt. Ltd., Jubilant Securities Pvt. Ltd., Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and GAIL (India) Ltd; block No. AA-ONN-2003/3 has been awarded to Oil India Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Block No. AA-ONN-2003/2 has been awarded to a consortium of NTPC Ltd., Geopetrol International Inc. and Canoro Resources Ltd.

(c) to (e) These are exploration blocks, where exploration of oil & gas is proposed to be carried out. The estimated gas reserves will depend on the size of discovery, if any, after exploration. Hence, no estimate of reserves can be made at this stage.

Expenditure incurred on Maintenance of Airports

4457. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports in the country;

(b) the expenditure incurred on maintenance of airports during each of the last three years;

(c) the average number of passengers, these airports handle annually, airport-wise; and

(d) the details of the revenue earned by each airport during the last three years; year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) manages 126 airports in the country including 25 civil enclaves at Defence airfields.

(b) The expenditure incurred on maintenance of airports during the last three years i.e., 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are Rs.205.74 crores, Rs.245.02 crores and Rs.284.65 crores respectively.

(c) Number of passengers handled during 2004-05 at top 45 airports, airport-wise (including International and Domestic) are as under: Mumbai- 15885777, Delhi- 12782979, Chennai- 5633926, Bangalore- 4113383, Kolkata- 3494564, Hyderabad- 2845029, Cochin (CIAL)- 1596126, Ahmedabad- 1289747, Goa- 1265410, Trivandrum- 1160151, Calicut- 827861, Pune- 600949, Guwahati- 598932, Lucknow- 453345, Coimbatore- 391175, Srinagar- 389493, Jaipur- 380251, Vadodara- 361894, Amritsar- 347911, Nagpur- 277830, Indore- 269625, Mangalore- 268424, Jammu- 262316, Varanasi- 253011, Agartala- 230328, Udaipur- 217018, Bhubaneswar- 205230, Visakhapatnam- 200036, Port Blair- 193785, Patna- 176234, Bagdogra- 172619, Trichurapalli- 167991, Madurai- 158424, Rajkot- 158172, Leh- 141000, Juhu- 134821, Aurangabad- 133199, Imphal- 129103, Bhopal- 127510, Chandigarh- 105846, Jodhpur- 104609, Dibrugarh- 95678, Raipur- 95257, Silchar- 90509, Ranchi- 79698. The remaining airports handled 636624 passengers in total.

(d) The details of the revenue earned by Civil Airports during the last three years, year-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Revenue Earned during the last three years

S.No.	Name of the State	Year	2002-03				2003-04				2004-05			
			Total Revenue	Total Expenditure	Net Profit/Loss	6	Total Revenue	Total Expenditure	Net Profit/Loss	9	Total Revenue	Total Expenditure	Net Profit/Loss	12
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	Port Blair (C.E.)	168.46	369.71	-201.25	293.08	588.18	-295.10	323.45	680.88	-357.43			
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Cuddapah #	0.00	2.84	-2.84	0.00	-5.91	-5.91	0.00	8.06	-8.06			
3.		Donakonda #	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00			
4.		Hyderabad	7232.90	5497.99	1734.91	6920.88	5441.48	1479.40	8978.66	6313.35	2665.34			
5.		Nadrigul (Flying Club) #	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
6.		Rajamundry	28.59	41.00	-12.41	25.77	79.12	-52.35	31.81	169.590	-137.78			
7.		Tirupathi	44.34	252.13	-207.79	51.44	341.48	-290.04	88.79	490.13	-401.34			
8.		Vijaywada	8.42	211.97	-203.55	31.11	189.57	-158.46	48.22	378.7	-332.48			
9.		Vishakhapatnam (C.E.)	251.47	485.82	-234.35	208.96	547.3	-340.34	370.25	641.04	-270.79			
10.		Warangal #	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00			
11.	Arunachal Pradesh	Along # (C.E.)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00			
12.		Daporizo (C.E.) #	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00			
13.		Passighat #	0.00	4.00	-4.00	0.00	4.09	-4.09	0.00	4.09	-4.09			
14.		Tezu (C.E.)	1.25	20.83	-19.57	1.99	26.57	-24.58	1.61	20.63	-19.02			
15.		Zero (C.E.) #	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00			
16.	Assam	Dibrugarh (Mohanbari)	193.93	792.43	-598.50	196.64	959.84	-763.20	257.98	670.77	-412.79			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
17.	Guwahati		1790.53	4820.29	-3029.76	1356.52	4717.19	-3360.67	1521.77	8631.44	-5109.97
18.	Jorhat (C.E.)		35.01	193.12	-158.11	42.96	306.84	-263.88	65.28	237.65	-172.37
19.	Ulbari (North Lakhimpur)		6.54	238.89	-232.35	10.21	297.21	-287.00	7.97	211.24	-203.27
20.	Rupai #		0.00	3.85	-3.85	0.00	2.15	-2.15	0.00	2.15	-2.15
21.	Shella #		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
22.	Silchar (Kumbhigram) (C.E.)		57.35	289.26	-231.91	68.44	291.95	-223.52	57.57	207.05	-149.48
23.	Tezpur (C.E.)		10.08	80.21	-70.13	10.09	102.35	-92.25	12.44	74.17	-61.73
24.	Gaya		21.63	322.12	-300.49	94.71	390.6	-295.89	97.67	739.9	-642.23
25.	Jogbani #		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
26.	Muzaffarpur #		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
27.	Patna		594.78	1187.21	-592.43	603.92	1690.19	-1086.27	597.3	1790.94	-1193.64
28.	Raxaul #		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
29.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh (C.E.)	117.71	359.44	-241.73	118.76	346.61	-227.85	169.20	448.95	-278.75
30.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur #	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
31.	Raipur (Manna Camp)		111.58	363.71	-272.13	242.34	520.09	-277.75	284.81	647.12	-362.31
32.	Delhi	Delhi I.G.I. Airport	58071.95	36953.46	21118.49	64896.12	37692.63	27203.49	77648.13	43177.22	34470.91
33.	Delhi	Delhi (Safdarjung)	96.53	753.78	-657.25	166.81	881.85	-715.04	315.45	1017.52	-702.07
34.	Goa	Goa (C.E.)	2250.03	1373.35	876.66	2186.63	1711.19	475.44	2932.39	1605.76	1326.64
35.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	3259.65	3243.03	18.62	3272.53	3689.98	-417.45	4560.18	4755.55	-196.37
36.	Bhavnagar		117.61	248.39	-130.78	129.32	314.49	-185.17	119.72	476.04	-356.32
37.	Bhuj (C.E.)		186.04	192.78	-24.74	154.88	279.09	-124.21	181.37	313.98	-132.61

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
38.		Dessa (Palampur) #	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
39.		Jamnagar (C.E.)	80.48	120.81	-40.33	76.45	124.77	-48.32	91.38	169.11	-77.73
40.		Kandla	1.15	52.55	-51.40	1.85	50.48	-48.82	1.44	68.22	-56.78
41.		Keshod (Junagarh)	1.12	58.45	-57.33	1.39	47.03	-45.64	1.76	53.89	-62.13
42.		Porbandar	33.75	122.45	-88.70	39.18	134.13	-94.95	37.98	228.55	-190.57
43.		Surat	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.45	31.83	-25.37	9.3	38.07	-28.77
44.		Rajkot	310.03	513.83	-203.80	345.48	609.96	-264.48	375.24	682.58	-307.32
45.		Vadodra (Baroda)	788.39	952.88	-164.49	857.97	1083.19	-235.22	1017.15	1216.75	-199.6
46.	Himachal Pradesh	Kangra (Gaggal)	4.08	77.29	-73.21	6.82	89.43	-82.61	3.19	199.29	-196.10
47.		Kulu (Bhuntar)	37.45	231.28	-193.83	30.72	250.24	-219.52	17.38	316.05	-298.67
48.		Shimla	10.78	332.24	-321.46	10.77	195.95	-185.18	7.15	274.19	-267.04
49.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu (C.E.)	326.80	671.43	-344.63	360.54	828.68	-268.14	445.89	965.4	-519.51
50.		Leh (C.E.)	144.03	158.46	-14.43	183.16	239.51	-56.35	218.72	229.55	-10.83
51.		Srinagar (C.E.)	417.66	503.86	-86.20	440.65	574.9	-134.25	632.58	667.11	-34.53
52.	Jharkhand	Chakulia #	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
53.		Ranchi	173.86	575.91	-402.05	214.82	805.66	-590.84	261.32	927.22	-665.9
54.	Karnataka	Bangalore (C.E.)	7264.52	4069.92	3194.60	8098.81	4458.96	3639.95	10858.78	4654.24	8204.53
55.		Belgaum	7.50	142.24	-134.74	39.20	216.02	-176.82	50.47	208.12	-158.65
56.		Hassan #	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
57.		Hubli	1.11	15.22	-14.11	27.12	49.54	-22.42	20.7	151.51	-130.81
58.		Mangalore	474.13	784.55	-320.42	554.48	859.25	-304.77	599.37	1235.77	-636.4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
59.	Mysore #		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
60. Kerala	Calicut		2231.36	1660.86	570.50	3124.77	2168.56	956.21	3700.76	3204.59	496.17
61.	Cochin (C.E.) #		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
62.	Trivandrum		4280.36	4436.34	-155.98	4678.61	4543.82	135.79	4761.34	5201.13	-439.79
63. Lakshdeep Island	Agatti		26.12	189.26	-163.14	21.35	99.35	-78.00	10.84	140.88	-130.04
64. Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal		231.97	904.41	-672.44	363.01	982.05	-599.04	342.56	1230.96	-888.4
65.	Gwalior (C.E.)		7.07	164.38	-157.31	8.40	181.21	-172.81	2.31	208.16	-205.85
66.	Indore		548.25	613.46	-65.21	642.44	695.33	-52.89	677.96	993.83	-315.87
67.	Jabalpur		5.70	143.67	-137.97	7.36	141.18	-133.82	3.18	373.37	-370.19
68.	Khajuraho		116.68	426.77	-310.09	139.56	561.34	-421.78	216.47	889.75	-673.28
69.	Khandwa #		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
70.	Panna #		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
71.	Satra #		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
72. Maharashtra	Akola #		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
73.	Aurangabad		291.73	480.17	-188.44	295.77	547.22	-251.45	301.19	663.52	-362.33
74.	Hadapsar #		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
75.	Juhu		772.78	439.97	333.81	1457.07	785.65	671.42	1369.80	495.37	874.52
76.	Kothapur (SG) #		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.44	4.50	-0.06
77.	Mumbai		78197.37	42880.18	33317.19	76764.20	42236.22	34527.98	87717.89	56168.67	31551.22
78.	Nagpur (Sonegaon)		562.35	1951.03	-1388.68	606.45	2130.45	-1524.00	781.65	3700.37	-2918.72
79.	Pune (C.E.)		992.31	618.85	373.46	1095.38	754.69	340.69	1340.62	700.68	639.94
80.	Sholapur (SG) #		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
81. Manipur	Imphal		225.15	792.49	-567.34	208.46	812.72	-604.26	235.53	510.91	-275.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
82.	Meghalaya	Shillong (Barapani)	0.00	77.39	-77.39	7.04	124.37	-117.33	6.44	122.03	-115.59
83.	Mizoram	Lengpui (Aizwal)	80.39	204.14	-123.75	60.79	194.34	-133.55	57.03	118.25	-81.22
84.		Tural (Aizwal) #	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
85.	Nagaland	Dimapur	39.31	297.80	-258.49	49.30	373.62	-324.32	38.2	304.99	-266.79
86.	Orissa	Bhubneshwar	347.94	1075.05	-727.11	559.44	4534.99	-975.45	585.62	2068.57	-1470.95
87.		Jharsuguda	0.14	53.52	-53.38	0.14	47.53	-47.39	0.49	51.05	-50.56
88.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	11.65	27.78	-16.13	12.85	33.28	-20.43	7.27	37.13	-29.86
89.	Punjab	Amritsar	699.70	1170.45	-470.75	688.41	1289.46	-601.05	1082.77	1836.35	-755.58
90.		Ludhiana	3.35	74.11	-70.76	1.71	135.79	-134.08	2.68	145.59	-142.91
91.		Pathankot	0.00	34.38	-34.38	0.00	47.03	47.03	0.00	170.3	-170.3
92.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	936.82	1644.86	-708.04	1100.32	1768.32	-668.00	1156.35	2432.1	-1275.75
93.		Jaisalmer (C.E.)	0.00	2.47	-2.47	0.00	6.37	-6.37	0.03	45.73	-45.7
94.		Jodhpur (C.E.)	139.47	325.81	-186.34	174.02	354.05	-180.03	202.82	451.71	-248.89
95.		Kota	6.26	65.87	-59.61	4.40	90.90	-88.50	65.34	77.23	-11.89
96.		Nal (Bikaner) (C.E.) #	0.00	47.95	-47.95	0.00	46.15	-46.15	0.00	115.39	-115.39
97.		Udaipur	419.60	791.89	-372.29	570.22	955.30	-385.08	653.89	1062.33	-408.44
98.	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	817.99	1046.88	-228.89	980.49	1154.02	-173.53	1235.06	1256.13	-21.07
99.		Chennai	27844.19	20377.04	7467.15	29725.91	23360.20	6365.71	35812.76	20881.82	14930.94
100.		Madurai	187.71	532.60	-344.89	413.17	617.78	-204.61	284.75	684.09	-399.34
101.		Salem	1.13	15.11	-13.98	0.69	17.76	-17.07	1.17	23.65	-22.48
102.		Trichirapalli	337.86	660.89	-323.03	356.37	807.04	-450.67	439.57	938.34	-498.77
103.		Tuticorin	0.00	15.57	-15.57	0.00	22.70	-22.70	0.00	28.08	-28.08
104.		Vellore	0.00	3.35	-3.35	0.00	6.75	-6.75	0.00	5.39	-5.39

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
105.	Tripura	Agartala	251.84	1185.63	-933.99	242.38	160.36	-1361.24	427.03	1275.80	-848.77
106.		Kailashahar #	0.00	11.52	-11.52	0.00	11.71	-11.71	0.00	11.71	-11.71
107.		Kamelpur #	0.00	1.96	-1.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
108.		Khowai #	0.00	3.00	-3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
109.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra (C.E.)	101.86	347.86	-246.00	55.87	334.43	-278.56	58.41	524.87	-466.46
110.		Allahabad (C.E.)	21.47	1008.47	-987.00	44.3	1051.55	-1007.25	158.21	1771.65	-1613.44
111.		Gorakhpur (C.E.)	1.56	16.28	-14.72	33.42	34.25	-0.83	31.10	34.47	-3.37
112.		Jhansi #	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
113.		Kanpur	2.33	128.02	-125.69	5.58	165.00	-159.42	8.90	182.80	-173.90
114.		Kanpur (Chakeri) (C.E.) #	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
115.		Lalitpur #	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
116.		Lucknow	1221.85	2192.54	-970.69	1319.09	2387.84	-1048.75	1776.74	2856.80	-1080.06
117.		Varanasi	515.57	1275.47	-759.90	550.67	1445.98	-895.31	652.06	2107.80	-1455.74
118.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun	8.72	249.01	-240.29	7.66	117.78	-110.12	10.49	137.27	-126.78
119.		Pant Nagar	5.46	79.58	-74.12	5.80	87.03	-81.23	1.85	91.43	-89.58
120.	West Bengal	Asansol #	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
121.		Bagdogra (C.E.)	285.98	676.90	-413.92	321.25	955.24	-633.99	400.48	528.60	-129.12
122.		Belurghat	0.03	5.24	-5.21	0.43	4.91	-4.48	1.75	5.82	-4.07
123.		Behala	0.05	17.31	-17.26	0.05	17.52	-17.47	0.09	20.39	-20.30
124.		Kolkata	19985.55	17184.01	2801.54	22460.69	18402.15	4058.54	25320.56	17838.09	7482.47
125.		Cooch-Behar	0.00	17.34	-17.34	0.47	13.06	-12.59	0.47	12.77	-12.30
126.		Malda	0.23	6.07	-7.84	3.04	17.12	-14.08	3.06	9.44	-6.36

(C.E.) = Civil Enclave

= Non Operational Airport

Employment in Railways**4458. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:****SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had announced to provide employment to one member from each of the families of those killed in train accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways had provided any employment during the current year;

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

(e) if not, the reasons for making such announcement without having any policy in Railways in this regard; and

(f) the steps taken by the Railways for making a policy for such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Certain announcements had been made for providing employment to those killed or crippled in some serious train accidents like the accident of Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) and Jammu Tawi-Ahmedabad Express in Ferozepur Division of Northern Railway in December 2004 and derailment of Passenger train between Ramanapet and Valigonda stations of Guntur Division of South Central Railway due to flash floods in October 2005.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The matter is under examination.

Cable Tariff

4459. SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the basic amount fixed/stipulated by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) according to which cable operators could charge 7 percent increase with effect from January 1, 2005 from the consumers;

(b) whether certain cable operators are charging higher than the said stipulated amount from the consumer;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any disparity in charges of cable operators in various areas of Delhi;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the erring cable operators and make the charging identical from all the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No basic amount is fixed/stipulated by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). TRAI has permitted 7% increase in cable charges with effect from 01.01.2005. The 7% increase will apply to the charges, excluding taxes, prevailing as on 26.12.2003. These tariff orders are available on TRAI's website (www.trai.gov.in)

(b) and (c) Complaints against cable operators for charging higher than the permissible rates are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Tariff Order dated 1.10.2004 and as per the provisions of TRAI Act 1997.

(d) to (f) The TRAI in its recommendations dated 1.10.2004 on the issues relating to broadcasting and distribution of TV channels has not proposed for regulation of uniformity of cable rates keeping in view of the fact that rates tend to vary from one area to another depending on various factors. However, TRAI is of the view that uniform rates shall start emerging after the introduction of addressability and non-discriminating interconnecting agreements and the best price regulation is done through competition. Government has, so far, issued one license and two Letters of Intent to Direct to Home service providers so as to bring in effective competition.

Separate Companies for Ground Handling and Engineering Operations

4460. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a separate Joint Venture Company for ground handling and engineering operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) While there is no specific proposal at present for Joint Venture Company, Air India have formed subsidiary companies for ground handling and engineering services and Indian Airlines have formed subsidiary company for ground handling. Indian Airlines and Airports Authority of India have plans to set up subsidiary companies for engineering services and ground handling respectively. Action is at hand for Government approval of these subsidiary companies.

Agreement between BEML and HMT

4461. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) has entered into a MoU with HMT to commence the process of drawing the financial assistance provided by the Planning Commission for building metro infrastructure in Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has agreed in principle to grant financial assistance for building metro infrastructure;

(c) if so, whether the financial assistance is being routed through the Department of Heavy Industry;

(d) if so, the amount provided to BEML during 2005-2006 for the project; and

(e) the time frame fixed for the completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir. However, during subsequent discussions with Department of Heavy Industry, it has been proposed to provide funds to BEML directly by Department of Heavy Industry.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The project is expected to be completed in 16 months from the disbursement of Rs. 25 crore budgeted for 2005-2006.

Medical Examination

4462. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during 1999-2000 and 2003-2004, 1608 recruits were declared medically fit at the time of their enrolments in the Army by Recruiting Medical Officers (RMOs) but they were subsequently declared medically unfit during the second medical examination conducted at the Training Centres and 1083 out of 1608 recruits were invalidated on grounds of organic diseases and physical deformities which pre-existed even before enrolment;

(b) if so, the reasons for not detecting the same by the RMOs during the time of recruitment;

(c) whether the matter of false medical examination has been inquired into;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the officials found guilty; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) As per revised recruitment policy effective from 1st April, 1998, recruitment in the Army is carried out through open rallies. The recruitment process starts with the preliminary screening of the aspiring candidates at the rally site followed by document checking and physical fitness test. Then medical examination of the aspiring candidates is conducted by Recruiting Medical Officers at the rally site. This is followed by a written examination for the medically fit candidates.

The recruitment medical examination at rally site was conducted in sub optimal conditions, as poor light, noise and insufficient power supply, where a number of disabilities could be missed. Many candidates, on the advice of private practitioners, are also known to take drugs which may mask symptoms of a disability. Some defects may have been in the nascent stage, which may have progressed in the 2-3 months intervening period between initial medical examination and second medical examination.

Each case of non-detection of a disease at the Recruiting Medical Examination is enquired into and suitable administrative/disciplinary action taken.

The newly posted Recruiting Medical Officers are being provided special training in Military Hospitals for conducting medical examination at Recruitment Rallies.

[Translation]

**Alleged Irregularities in Allotment of
Petrol Pumps**

4463. SHRI UMAKANT YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints from various quarters regarding alleged irregularities in allotment of dealership of petrol pump "Kissan Seva Kendra" by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) in Uttar Pradesh during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Government receive complaints, from time to time, regarding alleged irregularities in the allotment of different types of retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs). Such complaints, as well as the complaints received directly by the OMCs themselves, are investigated by them in line with their laid down procedure, and remedial action taken based on results of such investigations.

In respect of the State of Uttar Pradesh, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) initiated the process for appointment of dealers for the 'Kisan Seva Kendras', i.e., IOC's retail outlets in rural areas, from around the middle of June, 2005. Since then, out of 22 complaints received regarding alleged irregularities in allotment of such outlets, 2 complaints were not substantiated after investigation. In the remaining 20 cases, investigation is at various stages of the process. Remedial action in such cases will depend on the outcome of the ongoing investigations.

Naphtha Cracking Plant, Panipat

4464. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has stopped construction work on the Naphtha Cracking Plant at Panipat; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

**Petroleum substitute from
plastic wastes**

4465. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nagpur based scientists have claimed commercial production of petroleum substitute from plastic wastes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) In terms of the information available with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, a Nagpur based professor had claimed to have developed a catalytic process at laboratory scale for the conversion of plastic wastes into liquid hydrocarbon products. However, on detailed scrutiny, the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas concluded that the proposal could not be recommended for further research and/or funding. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas have no further information regarding the commercial production of petroleum substitute from plastic wastes.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

[Translation]

Maintenance of Quarters

4466. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated and released for construction/maintenance of quarters for armed forces personnel during each of the last three years and current year, cantonment/station-wise;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the quarter situated at Race-course in Delhi are in dilapidated conditions; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to repair these quarters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) and (c) Some of the buildings at Air Force Station, Race Course, New Delhi are of very old vintage. In the current year 19 works amounting to Rs. 4.65 crores have been released for repairs and upgradation of the existing buildings by the Air Force.

[English]

Supply of Substandard Quality Uniforms

4467. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the soldiers posted in Leh, Siachen and other hostile areas were provided sub-standard quality uniform and other livery items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to fix responsibility of the officers responsible for providing sub-standard uniform and livery items to soldiers; and

(d) the measures taken to provide uniform and other livery items to soldiers of these areas suitable to the environment conditions of the area?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) In the recent past, no case of sub-standard quality uniforms has been reported from Leh, Siachen and other hostile areas. The uniforms for the soldiers of the entire Army are procured either from Ordnance Factories, or through trade. Quality of the items procured are as per the specifications provided by the Director General of Quality Assurance (DGQA). The stores, before supply to the ordnance depots, are inspected and passed by inspectors of DGQA.

Reconstitution of Dealership

4468. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for reconstitution of Petrol pumps/ LPG / SKO dealership pending in the office of the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) Uttar Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) the number of proposals out of them lying pending due to family settlement and death of one of the partner covered under the then approved reconstitution policy;

(c) whether the IOC had issued instructions to the Divisional offices not to delay in finalizing the reconstitution proposals covered under approved policy;

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to clear the pendency of such proposals; and

(e) the time by which all such proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) There are a total of 22 proposals for reconstitution of retail outlet (petrol pump)/ SKO-LDO dealerships and LPG distributorships pending in the Uttar Pradesh State Office of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), location-wise break-up of which is as follows:-

Agra	-	7 cases.
Allahabad	-	1 case
Bareilly	-	9 cases
Lucknow	-	3 cases
Tiloi	-	1 case
Varanasi	-	1 case

(b) While seven cases are pending owing to the death of one of the partners, one case is pending because of family settlement.

(c) There are instructions by IOC not to delay finalization of any proposal which is covered under the approved policy.

(d) and (e) Since requests for reconstitution require detailed examination, and the process involves obtaining legal clearances, no specific time limit can be stipulated for taking a decision in the matter.

New Railway Line from Raniganj and Bankura

4469. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to introduce a new train from Durgapur to Howrah;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any new railway line from Raniganj to Bankura is going to be set up shortly in the Eastern Railway division; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Request for Helicopters

4470. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received a request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for providing four Defence helicopters to its police department on demand to ensure quick deployment of forces and to curb naxalite activities;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A request was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for providing helicopters as and when requisitioned by the Director General of Police, Hyderabad on short notice for the purpose of rescue and reconnaissance operations in Andhra Pradesh.

- (c) Helicopters are made available by the Indian Air Force, for relief and rescue operations on case to case basis, subject to availability.

Middlemen in Defence Deals

4471. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether despite issue of orders, middlemen are still thriving in defence deals;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the government thereto; and
- (c) the steps proposed to eliminate the role of middlemen in defence purchase?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Defence Procurement Procedure 2005 followed for capital acquisition allows direct dealing with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEMs)/Authorized Vendors/Government sponsored Export Agencies (applicable in case of countries where domestic Laws do not permit direct exports by OEMs). Further the procedure incorporates several provisions to ensure transparency and cut down delays in the procurement process. Some of these provisions include the following:

- (i) Making Qualitative Requirements more broad based so as to avoid single vendor situations.
- (ii) Direct Offsets and Integrity Pact as part of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Purchases over Rs. 300 crore.
- (iii) Standard contract terms upfront as part of the RFP. This includes provision regarding penalty for use of undue influence by the seller and prohibit engagement of any agent or payment of agency commission by the seller.
- (iv) Broad timeframe for completion of different procurement activities.

Promotion of SC/ST Employees in GAIL (India) Ltd.

4472. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of percentage of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes employees in GAIL (India) Ltd. Category-wise;
- (b) whether reservation rules/orders for promotion of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are being followed in GAIL (India) Ltd.;

(c) if so, the number of Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe employees promoted during the last three years, category-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to implement the rules/orders in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The total number of percentage of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes employees in GAIL (India) Ltd. Category-wise is as under:

Group	SCs/%	STs/%
A	301/15.1%	105/5.3%
B	66/14.1%	23/4.9%
C	149/17.9%	74/8.9%
D	6/15.0%	0/0

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The number of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees promoted during the last three years, category-wise, is as under:

Group	2003 SCs/STs	2004 SCs/STs	2005 SCs/STs
A	45/22	60/18	49/21
B	13/2	9/2	8/1
C	22/11	34/20	16/18
D	3/2	0/1	0/0

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

Bonus Points on Air-Mileage

4473. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain airlines, including Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI) are offering bonus points on air-mileage in respect of the journeys performed by their respective airlines;

(b) is so, the details of such schemes; and

(c) the amount spent by IA and AI during the last three years on such schemes, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of Promotional Schemes where members of "Flying Returns" were offered bonus points on air mileage are (i) Golden/Silver Edge Clubs - 25% & 10% extra mileage point bonus can be earned over and above normal accruals (depending on class of travel) on Indian Airlines and Alliance Air flights on domestic and SAARC sectors effective 01.07.2003 and 01.07.2004 respectively; (ii) 25% additional mileage for every Air India international flights booked online in India; (iii) bonus are also given for enrolment through American Express, e-statement bonus, Member Profile, Member Get Member Points, Maharaja Club/Leading Edge Club Profile Update bonus, e-statement, paid enrolments, opting for membership for IC-AMEX Gold Co Brand Card and one time click bonus; (iv) Additional mileage points have been offered for Air India flights from India-New York/Chicago, India/London/ Paris on First and Executive class and Air India flights from India-Frankfurt on Executive class.

(c) There is no direct expenditure incurred by Airlines on bonus point credited to Frequent Flyer Programme (FFP) members account under promotional schemes. The points earned (normal as well as bonus) can only be utilized by the members for issuance of award tickets on Airlines or any FFP Alliance Partner Airline.

Facilities to Forces Deployed for Internal Security

4474. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forces deployed for internal security in the remote operational areas on regular basis are not equipped with adequate facilities for day-to-day operation;

(b) if so, whether the Government has not provided any fund for such facilities in the operational areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The units and formations of the Indian Army and the Assam Rifles deployed in the remote operational areas on internal security/counter insurgency/

counter terrorism duties, are adequately equipped with mobility and communication facilities, for effective performance of their tasks.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Monitoring of Air Space with Radars

4475. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to modernize the equipments for making the monitoring of the Indian air space more effective, particularly in view of the increasing pressure on air traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the radars which are installed at various airports in the country are not of latest standard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to install sophisticated radars at all airports in the country?

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

(b) Various steps taken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) inter-alia include introduction of Reduced Vertical Separation Minima (RVSM) in Indian airspace, installation of Flight Data Processing System (FDPS) at Nagpur, Trivandrum, Ahmedabad & Varanasi airports, Automatic Dependent system (ADS) with Controller Pilot Data Link Communication (CPDLC) at Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi & Mumbai airports, Flight Information Display System (FIDS) at 16 airports, Advanced Surface Movement Guidance & Control System (ASMGCS) at Delhi airport, Dedicated Satellite Communication Network (DSCN) to connect 80 airports, radars at 12 sites for radar surveillance, radar networking, introduction of Satellite Based Augmentation system (SBAS) for high level of accuracy, availability and reliability. Besides, AAI has also initiated action for replacement of old equipment, high frequency transmitters, Non-Directional Beacons, Instrument Landing Systems, Distance Measuring Equipment, Automatic Message Switching Systems, VOR/DVOR etc. with the state-of-the-art equipment.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Selection of LPG Dealers

4476. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being adopted by the Public Sector Oil Companies for evaluating the income/financial condition of an individual while making selection for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) dealership;

(b) whether income of parents are not clubbed with the unmarried children in case unmarried children apply for LPG dealerships whereas the income of unmarried children are clubbed with parents income in case either of parent apply for same;

(c) if so, the justification thereof?

(d) whether the Government proposes to rectify this anomaly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The guidelines of the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) for selection of LPG distributorships, provide for evaluation of a candidate under different parameters, with different weightages attached thereto. Out of these parameters, the one relating to the capability of a candidate to provide finance carries a maximum weightage of 35 marks, out of the maximum allocable 100 marks under all the parameters. Further, this capability is judged from the details that may be furnished by a candidate with regard to free and unencumbered fixed deposits in banks, any other documents/resources which can be readily converted to liquid cash, certificates from bankers/financial institutions for credit worthiness and willingness to extend loan, fixed and moveable assets, income from business/agriculture, rent earnings, royalty, etc.

However, in the case of distributorships reserved for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe category, no evaluation is made under this parameter.

(b) and (c) In the context of allotment of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products, a family unit is defined to comprise the individual concerned, his/her spouse and unmarried sons/daughters. As per this definition, parents of an applicant are not part of his/her

family, and, therefore, the income/financial condition of the parents is not taken into account in evaluating the financial condition of the applicant.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. In view of the reply given to parts (b) and (c) above, no change in the existing guidelines of the OMCs in this regard is contemplated.

[Translation]

Burma Battalion

4477. SHRI AVINASH RAJ KHANNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any regiment in Indian Army called Burma Battalion;

(b) if so, whether the benefits available in armed forces are being provided to the soldiers who have been medically discharged from the said regiment;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government would consider to provide the benefits to those soldiers for which they are entitled; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) As per records dating back to 1948, no regiment of the Indian Army was named the Burma Battalion. Prior to Independence some Indian nationals had joined the Burmese Army. The pension liability of the Burmese Army pensioners of Indian origin and Nepalese origin is of the Government of Myanmar. With a view to compensating these Burmese Army pensioners of Indian/Nepalese origin and to meet the rise in cost of living, ex-gratia ad hoc allowance is borne by the Government of India.

Maintenance of National Highways No. 22

4478. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway No. 22 is maintained by General Reserve Engineering Force (GREF);

(b) If so, whether the Government is considering to entrust the maintenance work of NH-22 to Public Works Department of Himachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to provide financial assistance to Public Works Department, Himachal Pradesh for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The total length of National Highway 22 (NH-22) is 424 Kms. Of this, only the stretch of 89 Kms from Wangto-Pooh is under the charge of the General Reserve Engineers Force.

(b) No Sir, there is no proposal to entrust the stretch with BRO to Public Works Department of Himachal Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Film Festivals

4479. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has invited any country to hold film festivals in the country in 2005; and

(b) if so, the response of the respective Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Awarding Tenders

4480. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been irregularities in awarding tenders in RITES, Ltd. as reported in Rashtriya Sahara dated November, 20, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) On the basis of a report of the Central Bureau of Investigation, an investigation has been conducted by the Rail India Technical and Engineering Services (RITES) Vigilance which has revealed that there have been irregularities in the awarding of a tender by RITES Limited in regard to changing of the specification of material from machine broken ballast to hand broken ballast after opening the tender, awarding the tender to an ineligible firm and acceptance of the recommendations of the tender committee by the tender accepting authority which was beyond his financial powers. For these irregularities, departmental action against the officials responsible is underway. The irregularities as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated November 20, 2005 have, however, not been established during investigation.

(d) Guidelines on construction project management have been issued by RITES Limited in September, 2005 for strict adherence in order to avoid such irregularities in future.

Terminal Facilities at Stations

4481. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway stations in Maharashtra where terminal facility is available at present;

(b) whether any proposal is under considering of the Government to provide terminal facility at some other stations of Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) At present, terminal facilities are available at Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai Central, Bandra (Terminus), Dadar, Lokmanya Tilak (Terminus), Manmad, Bhusawal, Amravati, Nagpur, Neral, Pune Daund, Solapur, Miraj, Chatrapati Sahu Maharaj (Terminus), Roha, Nanded, Purna,

Aurangabad and Ratnagiri in Maharashtra State.

(b) No, Sir. Not at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of Railway Siding

4482. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to construct a 'railway siding' for Iron Factories in Giridih;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be constructed and completed; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There are 5 or 6 Sponge Iron Factories near Giridih. But they have not approached Railways offering any inward or outward traffic or asking for any Siding.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

New Railway Lines in Kerala

4483. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representations from Members of Parliament to establish new railway lines in the State of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Details of proposals received from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament during last one year for construction of new rail line falling fully/party in the State of Kerala and Action Taken thereon is as under:-

Sl.No.	Proposal	Action Taken
1	2	3
1.	Chengannur-Kottarakara-Thiruvananthapuram	On the suggested alignment area, survey for Kayankulam-Kotarakara via Adoor, Pattanapuram & Auvaneeswaram has been taken up.

1	2	3
2.	Guruvayur-Idappalli	Survey was completed in 2003-04. In view of unremunerative nature of this line and acute constraint of resources, the proposal could not be considered.
3.	Chamarajanagar-Guddalure/Nilambur	In view of heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, the proposal could not be considered.
4.	Nilambur-Nanjangud	Survey was completed in 2003-04. In view of unremunerative nature of the line and, acute resource constraint with the Railways, the proposal could not be considered.
5.	Dindigul-Sabarimala	Survey was completed in 1997-98. In view of unremunerative nature of this line and acute constraint of resources, the proposal could not be considered.
6.	Vaikam Road-Vaikam Temple	Survey was completed in 2002-03. In view of unremunerative nature of this line and acute constraint of resources, the proposal could not be considered.

Benefits to Widows of Post-op. Vijay

4484. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn distinction between Operation Vijay and Post Operation Vijay casualties thus diluting the benefits being extended to the widows/next-of-kins of post Operation Vijay casualties;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remove the anomaly in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A distinction has been made by the Government between casualties in war on the one hand and those arising out of border skirmishes and action against militants/terrorists/extremists etc., on the other, owing to the different levels of risk, the intensity of action involved in each case and also in the interest of the morale of the Armed Forces personnel.

According to this policy, Operation Vijay was treated

as a war-like engagement and a special welfare package including enhanced ex-gratia compensation of Rs. 10 lakhs to the Next of Kin of the Battle casualties was provided. However, no distinction has been made between Operation Vijay and post Operation Vijay casualties, in so far as the pensionary benefits are concerned. All war widows would be entitled to liberalised family pension.

[Translation]

Compensation to Land Owners

4485. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have paid the compensation to the land owners for acquisition of their agriculture land of Taluka Shirangaon Bund and Parsoda in Chandur market located at Amrawati-Narkhed rail route for laying railway lines;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be paid to the land owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As advised by the State Government, the entire compensation amount for land acquisition in Parsoda village has been disbursed.

However, in Shirajgaon Bund village the disbursement of compensation amount to the tune of Rs.9,79,525/- has been done so far against Rs.12,28,441/-.

(b) and (c) The land acquisition and disbursement of compensation is being done by State Government as per Land Acquisition Act. The necessary payment for land is released to State Government based on their demand and further disbursement is the responsibility of State Government.

[English]

**JV Rights between Prasar Bharati
and BCCI**

4486. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati acquired JV rights from BCCI for five years with effect from 1999;

(b) if so, the term and conditions for payments fixed;

(c) whether installments due were paid as per the terms and conditions fixed;

(d) if not, the details of payments delayed by the Prasar Bharati during the said period;

(e) the reasons for delay in payments;

(f) the details of interest paid to BCCI for such delayed payments; and

(g) the steps taken to make such payments in time by the Prasar Bharati in future?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that the Agreement required Prasar Bharati to pay a rights fee of Rs. 46 crores per annum to the BCCI for the period of the contract subject to pro-rata deductions on account of reduction in the number of playing days/hours of play.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that the delay in payment of an amount of Rs.161 crores was

mainly on account of non-availability of sufficient funds and non-submission of invoices by BCCI.

(f) Rs.141.78 lakhs.

(g) Ensuring availability of adequate funds to meet such liabilities.

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3469/05]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, 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 Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3470/05]

(4) A copy of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India), Annual Report of the Corporation (Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and

English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 713 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th December, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3471/05]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3472/05]

- (2) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cantonment Boards, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3473/05]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3474/05]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3475/05]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3476/05]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the MSTC Limited including its subsidiary, Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the MSTC Limited including its subsidiary, Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3477/05]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited, Jodhpur, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited, Jodhpur, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3478/05]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3479/05]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3480/05]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Refractories Limited, Bokaro Steel City, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Refractories Limited, Bokaro Steel City, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3481/05]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pune, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pune, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3482/05]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Raigad, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Raigad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3483/05]

- (h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3484/05]

- (i) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3485/05]

- (j) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madras Fertilizers Limited, Chennai, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Madras Fertilizers Limited, Chennai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3486/05]

- (k) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3487/05]

- (l) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3488/05]

- (m) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mecon Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Mecon Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item (f) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3489/05]

- (3) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited for the year 2004-2005, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3490/05]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology, Chennai, 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 Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology, Chennai, for year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3491/05]

- (5) 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 respective accounting years.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3492/05]

- (6) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, for the year 2004-2005, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3493/05]

- (7) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the

Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, for the year 2004-2005, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3494/05]

- (8) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Bengal Immunity Limited, for the year 2004-2005, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3495/05]

- (9) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audit Accounts of the Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited, for the year 2004-2005, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3496/05]

- (10) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, for the year 2004-2005, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3497/05]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rai Bareilly, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rai Bareilly, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3498/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (2) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3499/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3500/05]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Commission for Backward Classes, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Memorandum of Action Taken (Hindi and English versions) on the advices tendered by the National Commission for Backward Classes, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Commission for Backward Classes, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3501/05]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3502/05]

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule(6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th December, 2005 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on 15th December, 2005 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Central Sale Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th December, 2005 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.04 hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House in its Fifth Report presented to the House on 21 December, 2005 have recommended that leave of absence from the sittings of the House be granted to the following Members for the period mentioned against each:

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Shri Chandra Shekhar | 25.07.2005 to 30.08.2005 |
| (2) Late Prakashbapu V. Patil | 25.07.2005 to 30.08.2005 |
| (3) Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias
Pappu Yadav | 22.03.2005 to 24.03.2005
19.04.2005 to 13.05.2005
and
25.07.2005 to 23.08.2005 |
| (4) Shri Harihar Swain | 23.11.2005 to 23.12.2005 |
| (5) Shri Suraj Singh | 23.11.2005 to 23.12.2005 |
| (6) Shri Manjunath Kunnur | 29.11.2005 to 23.12.2005 |
| (7) Shri Govinda Aroon Ahuja | 25.07.2005 to 30.08.2005
and
23.11.2005 to 14.12.2005 |

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

12.04½ hrs.

**COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO THE ALLEGATIONS
OF IMPROPER CONDUCT ON THE PART
OF SOME MEMBERS**

Report

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee to inquire into the allegations of improper conduct on the part of some members.

MR. SPEAKER: Copies of the Report and translation will be available on the publication Counter.

12.04½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Twenty-Third Report

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (14th Lok Sabha) on "Review of norms for re-appropriation of funds".

12.05 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED
CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES**

Statement

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing Final Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in Chapter I of the Second Report (14th Lok Sabha) on the subject "Working of National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)" of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

12.05½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Eighth Report

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Eighth Report (English and Hindi versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances regarding New Civil Aviation Policy and Purchase of Aircraft by Indian Airlines and Air India.

12.05½ hrs.

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE (2004)

Fourth Report

[English]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): I beg to present the Fourth Report (Hindi and English Versions) of Railway Convention Committee (2004) on 'Revival of Capital Fund from 2005-06'.

12.06 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND
FERTILIZERS (2005-2006)**

Tenth Report

[English]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): I beg to present a copy of the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on 'Pricing and feedstock Policies relating to Fertilizers'.

12.06½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL
AND STEEL (2005-2006)**

Eleventh to Thirteenth Reports

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (2005-06):

- (1) Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Eighth Report on the Demands for Grants (2005-06) of Ministry of Coal;
- (2) Twelfth Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report on the Demands for Grants (2005-06) of Ministry of Mines; and
- (3) Thirteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report on the Demands for Grants (2005-06) of Ministry of Steel.

12.06½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Twenty Eighth to Thirty Second Report

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Sir, I beg to present a copy of each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance:

- (1) Twenty-eighth Action Taken Report on the Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure and Disinvestment)
- (2) Twenty Ninth Action Taken Report on the Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)
- (3) Thirtieth Action Taken Report on the Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Planning
- (4) Thirty-first Action Taken Report on the Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (5) Thirty-second Action Taken Report on the Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Company Affairs.

12.07 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Statements

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jharkhand): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the Statements showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the following Action Taken Reports of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution relating to Department of Food and Public Distribution and Department of Consumer Affairs:

L Department of Food and Public Distribution

- (1) Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution (1995-96), Tenth Lok Sabha on Ministry of Food, Demands for Grants (1994-95).
- (2) Sixteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution (1995-96), Tenth Lok Sabha on Ministry of Food, Demands for Grants (1995-96).
- (3) Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution (1994-95), Tenth Lok Sabha on Ministry of Food—Annual Report (1992-93).
- (4) Third Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution (1996-97), Eleventh Lok Sabha on Ministry of Food, Demands for Grants (1996-97).
- (5) Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution on 'Sugar'.
- (6) Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution (1997-98), Eleventh Lok Sabha, on Ministry of Food, Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the (erstwhile Ministry of Food).
- (7) Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution (1998-99) – Twelfth Lok Sabha—on Ministry of Food & Consumer Affairs (Department of Sugar & Edible Oils), Demands for Grants (1998-99).

- (8) Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution (1998-99), Twelfth Lok Sabha on Ministry of Food, Demands for Grants (1998-99).
- (9) First Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution (1999-2000), Thirteenth Lok Sabha on Demands for Grants (1999-2000) of the erstwhile Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs (Department of Sugar and Edible Oils).
- (10) Second Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution on Action Taken Report on the Ninth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (1999-2000) of the erstwhile Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs (Department of Public Distribution).
- (11) Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution (1999-2000), Thirteenth Lok Sabha on Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution (Department of Food & Public Distribution) on Demands for Grants (2000-01).
- (12) Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution (1999-2000), Thirteenth Lok Sabha on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the erstwhile (Department of Sugar and Edible Oils).
- (13) Fourteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Food and Public Distribution.
- (14) Nineteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Sixteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grant (2002-2003).
- (15) Twenty Fourth Report of Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution on Procurement, Storage and Distribution of Food-grains.
- (16) Twenty Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the

Ministry of Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution).

- (17) Third Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution on Sick Sugar Industry and Sugar Development Fund of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution).
- (18) Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution).

II. Department of Consumer Affairs

- (1) Thirteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies & Public Distribution on "Consumer Protection",
- (2) Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies & Public Distribution on Demands for Grants (1998-99)-Ministry of Food & Consumer Affairs (Department of Consumer Affairs).
- (3) Third Report on Demands for Grants (1999-2000) of the erstwhile Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs (Department of Consumer Affairs).
- (4) Seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the erstwhile Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.
- (5) Thirteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the erstwhile Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).
- (6) Eighteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2002-2004) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).
- (7) Twenty-Third Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).

- (8) Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).

- (4) 150th report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 144th report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Department of Space;

- (5) 151st report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 142nd report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research; and

- (6) 152nd report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 141st report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Department of Biotechnology.

12.07½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Seventy-sixth Report

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): I beg to lay on the Table the Seventy-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce on 'Floriculture'.

12.08 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin - Part II dated September 01, 2004.

The Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 20.4.2005. The report relates to the examination of Demands for Grants of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2005-2006.

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on 20.7.2005.

There are 26 recommendations made by the

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3503/05

12.07¾ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

One Forty Seventh to One Fifty Second Reports

[English]

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadavpur): I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests:

- (1) 147th report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 143rd report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Department of Ocean Development;
- (2) 148th report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 145th report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Department of Atomic Energy;
- (3) 149th report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 140th report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Department of Science & Technology;

Committee in the said report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendation mainly pertain to issues like strengthening of the exploration programmes, setting up strategic storage for Crude Oil/ Petroleum Products, setting up of regulatory mechanism to oversee consumer interests, development of alternate fuels, energy conservation measures, technology upgradation, National Gas Grid, rationalisation/restructuring of duty structure on Petroleum Products etc.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee 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.

12.08½ hrs.

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO STARRED
QUESTION NO. 141 DATED 01.12.2005 REGARDING
ROYALTY ON CRUDE OIL**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to statement with reference to part (a) of the Starred Question No. 141 dated 1.12.2005 asked by Shri V.K. Thummar and Jivabhai Ambalal Patel, Members of Parliament, regarding Royalty on Crude Oil, the amount of royalty paid to the crude oil producing States during 2003-04 against the Gujarat State was shown as Rs. 8667.46 crore, which may please be read as Rs. 867.46 crore. As such, a copy of the corrected statement of the question is being laid on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, some regret should be expressed, even for a typing mistake, I take it.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I express my deep regret at this typing error.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

**Royalty paid to the Crude Oil Producing States
during last three years**

Amount of Royalty received in (Rs Crore)			
States	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
Gujarat	1130.97	867.46	887.97
Assam	894.06	703.18	589.13
Andhra Pradesh	77.25	77.29	78.35
Tamil Nadu	102.32	70.64	71.06
Tripura	6.96	5.94	5.75
Rajasthan	2.39	1.43	1.20
Arunachal Pradesh	10.98	20.84	4.51
Total	2224.93	1746.78	1637.97

12.09 hrs.

(ii) (a) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Department of Fertilizers

[Translation]

*THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the sixth report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers in pursuance of Direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Pt. II dated September 01, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizer examined Demand for Grants of the Department of Fertilizers for the year 2005-06 and presented the sixth report to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 21st April, 2005. The report contained 16 recommendations. These recommendations related to:

1. Payment of subsidy directly to the farmers;

2. The impact of new pricing scheme on the finances of the fertilizers manufacturing units and finding solution for the same. New Pricing Scheme (NPS) for urea units is being implemented in two stages – stage-I & stage-II (from 1.4.2003 to 31.3.2004 & 1.4.2004 to 31.3.2006). A Working Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of DR. Y.K. Alag to review the effectiveness of stage I & II of NPS beyond stage II i.e. from 1.4.2006 onwards. The Committee desired that the Working Group would give its report at the earliest and they be informed of the latest developments in this regard.
3. Facilitate adequate availability of feedstock mainly gas/LNG and conversion of Naphtha/Fuel Oil/SLHS plants into gas based plants, rationalizing and making competitive the pricing of LNG. The Committee recommended that the issue relating to preferential allocation of domestic natural gas and making available imported LNG to fertilizers units at reasonable prices requires an expeditious examination and an early decision in the overall interests of the fertilizers industry.
4. A joint Venture Project (OMIFCO) between Oman Oil Company and Indian Sponsors KRIBHCO and IFFCO is under construction at Sur in Oman for production of urea/ammonia. The overall progress made by the project was 97.26% in relation to construction, commissioning and supervision activities against the original target of 99.73%. The Committee recommended that the Deptt. of Fertilizers should take all possible steps to ensure that the OMIFCO project will go on stream as per the schedule and that there are no cost and time overruns in the commissioning of the project.
5. Endorsing the Demands for Grants of Rs. 17167.07 crore of which Rs. 16398.82 crore are non-Plan funds of the Department of Fertilizers for the year 2005-06, the Committee observed that Ministry should try to contain the expenditure for the year within the sanctioned budget of the Ministry and follow the instructions of the Ministry of Finance to observe austerity.
6. The Committee recommended that for balanced fertilization stagnation in consumption of phosphatic fertilizers is a cause of concern. The factors including the policy environment with regard to phosphatic and potassic fertilizers sector should be looked into. To overcome the availability of basic raw-materials for these fertilizers, Government should give necessary incentives for setting up more joint ventures in countries where raw-materials are available in plenty. The Committee also recommended that immediate necessary steps should be taken by Deptt. of Fertilizers to ensure adequate and timely availability of raw materials and also to remove other bottlenecks, so that the actual production of fertilizers meet the targets set and also that all the fertilizers companies - Public, Private and Cooperative operate at an optimum level of the installed capacity and that the dependence on imported fertilizers is kept to the bare minimum possible.
7. Recalling the recommendations made by the Committee in its 41st and 44th reports (13th Lok Sabha), the Standing Committee stated that the problem regarding the issuing of sales certificates by the State Governments delays the payment of concession to the units in the decontrolled fertilizers. Efforts should, therefore, be made to expeditiously replace the existing methodology with the new scheme based on the data of imports, production and dispatches of fertilizers
8. Out of the 10 PSUs coming under the purview of the Deptt. of Fertilizers, viz FACT, FCI, NFL, RCF, PPCL, MFL, PDIL, HFC, BVFCL and FAGMIL during the last four years only four PSUs, namely, RCF, NFL, PDIL & FAGMIL were profit making and the rest of them are either chronically sick or loss making. In this regard the revival of the sick, loss making and closed fertilizers PSUs has been entrusted by the Deptt. of Fertilizers to Project and Development of India Ltd. (PDIL). PDIL has submitted their report in respect of PSUs to Deptt. of Fertilizers. The proposals for revival of these units based on their techno-economic viability will be sent to the Board for Restructuring of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) for their consideration. The Committee recommended that Department should expedite the process of examination of reports for revival of PSUs to BRPSE at the earliest.

All the recommendations of the Committee have been considered in the Ministry and action has already been initiated. Of the total 16 recommendations/observations, 12 recommendations/observations i.e. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10, 11,14 and 15 have been accepted by the Government. One recommendation/observation i.e. 9 the Committee does not desire to pursue in view of the Government replies. The factual position in respect of recommendations 12, 13 & 16 have been given to the Committee on 22.11.2005.

The Action Taken Replies in respect of recommendations/observations i.e. 1 to 16 have been sent to the Committee on 29th July, 2005. No further observations have been received on these ATNs.

12.10 hrs.

- (ii) (b) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals**

[Translation]

*MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement on the status of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers.

The Standing Committee on Chemicals & Fertilizers examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) for the year 2005-06 and presented their fifth report to Lok Sabha on 21st April 2005. The report contained 22 recommendations. The gist of the recommendations is as follows:

- i) Utilization of budgetary allocation of implementing agencies.
- ii) Establishment of new extension centers of CIPET.
- iii) Framing of a National Policy on Petrochemicals.

- iv) Setting up a Design and Tool Room Centre at Hajipur (Bihar).
- v) Implementation of Assam Gas Cracker Project.
- vi) Disbursement of pro-rata compensation to Bhopal gas victims.
- vii) Provision for requisite in-house expertise to enable IPFT to undertake assigned activities.
- viii) To develop and discover new drugs in Tuberculosis Malaria Leishmainia, etc.
- ix) Mechanism to monitor the price behaviour in Pharmaceutical sector in the wake of the amendments in the Patents Law.
- x) Research and Development in Pharmaceutical sector.
- xi) Monitoring of prices of drugs not under price control.
- xii) Follow up action on the recommendations of interim report for ensuring availability of life saving drugs at reasonable prices.
- xiii) Check on usage of banned drugs in the country.
- xiv) Budgetary allocation for increasing exports under Pharma Export Promotion Scheme.
- xv) Details of the recovery and the extent of pending liabilities of the drug companies.
- xvi) Provision to be made for Drug companies to initially pre-deposit a percentage amount before resorting to judicial remedies.
- xvii) Development in progress of MCIE
- xviii) Utilisation of funds for North Eastern Region.
- xix) Reconstruction of the Endosulfan Plant of HIL.
- xx) Revival of sick/closed companies
- xxi) Rehabilitation of IDPL
- xxii) Financial assistance to RDPL

All the recommendations of the Committee have been considered in the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals and action has already been initiated. The

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3506/05.

Department reviewed the plan fund position of the implementing agencies. The Government is making all efforts to ensure that the three new extension centers of CIPET are established within the remaining period of the Tenth Five-year Plan. The department is in the process of obtaining approval of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC). The Cabinet Note on National Policy on Petrochemicals is in the process of being submitted to the Cabinet Secretariat. The scheme for setting up a Design and Tool Room Centre at Hajipur (Bihar) was not an approved scheme in the 10th Five year Plan. The Department had taken up this scheme with the Planning Commission at the time of the Mid-term Appraisal of the 10th Five Year Plan. However, the Planning Commission did not approve it. The Public Investment Board (PIB) has recommended the Assam Gas Cracker Project. The draft Cabinet Note has been circulated to Ministries/departments concerned for their comments. Disbursement of pro-rata compensation to the victims of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster is taking place through the office of the Welfare Commissioner on the directions of the Supreme Court. Till 2nd December 2005, claims of 5,01,582 persons have been settled and they have been paid a total pro-rata compensation of Rs.1349.85 crore. The cadre restructuring exercise in IPFT has been completed. The amendments in recruitment rules to incorporate the provisions of appointment on contract are under process. Efforts are being made by NIPER to develop and discover new drugs in Tuberculosis, Malaria, Leishmainia, etc. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has been advised to undertake a special watch on the prices of medicines in view of the introduction of product patent for medicines. As regards thrust on R&D, a meeting was held with the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology and Department of AYUSH. The proposals for additional funds on various schemes for R&D support have been conveyed to the Ministry of Finance. NPPA has an effective system of monitoring the movement of prices of non-scheduled medicines of mass consumption. Due to efforts made by NPPA, 32 companies have reduced the price voluntarily in respect of 32 formulation packs ranging from 1.15% to 34.62%. A Committee under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary was constituted to examine the span of price control (including trade margin) in the light of National Common Minimum Programme. The Committee has submitted its interim report to the government. As a follow-up action on the recommendations of the Committee, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also been requested for its comments on the issue of greater coverage of health Insurance Scheme, Special Scheme

for people below poverty line and other related issues. A Task Force constituted under the chairmanship of the Principal Adviser (PP), Planning Commission to explore various options other than price control for achieving the objective of making available life saving drugs at reasonable prices has submitted its report. A Core Group under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary has been constituted to examine the recommendations of the Task Force and to draft a new Pharmaceutical Policy. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare looks after the subject of banned drugs. The budgetary provision of Pharma Export Promotion Scheme has been raised in the year 2005-06. The government is making all possible efforts for early recovery of DPEA liabilities. As regards feasibility report on Mega Chemical Industrial Estate (MCIE), the Consultant has submitted the Location Study report and also a Project cost report for site at Haldia (West Bengal). The Endosulfan Technical Plant of Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL) has been re-commissioned and trial production has started. The revival proposals of HOCL and HIL has been considered by the Board of Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises and recommended by it. A Note on rehabilitation package of HAL is being placed before the Committee of Secretaries (COS) for its recommendation. A draft Cabinet Note on revival of BCPL was circulated to the Ministries/departments concerned. However, as per extant instructions the matter would be placed first before Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) for consideration/recommendations. The department has released Rs. 5.00 crore to IDPL for making its plants at Gurgaon, Rishikesh & Chennai Schedule M complaint and for the repair/upkeep of building & Labs at R&D centre, Hyderabad and for rehabilitation of the Muzaffarpur plant. Regarding RDPL, this department is considering the release of Rs.1.00 crore as equity to RDPL subject to provision of funds by the Planning Commission.

12.10 ½ hrs.

- (ii) (c) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Tenth Report of Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Demands for Grants (2005-06) pertaining to the Ministry of Steel

[Translation]

*THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3507/05

Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Tenth Report of the Standing Committee (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73-A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin - Part II dated 1st September, 2004.

The aforesaid Tenth Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on the 26th April, 2005. The Report relates to the examination of Demands for Grants of Ministry of Steel for the year 2005-2006.

The Committee in the said report has made a total of 31 recommendations (contained in 38 paras) with reference to Aims, Objectives and Achievements of the Ministry and where action is called for on the part of the Government.

The Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/observations contained in the Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on the 25th August, 2005.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha. 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.

12.11 hrs.

(iii) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Third Report of Standing Committee on Water Resources pertaining to the Ministry of Water Resources

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): I beg to lay a statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Third Report of Standing Committee on Water Resources in pursuance of Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II, dated September 01, 2004.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3508/05

The Third Report of the Standing Committee on Water resources (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) was presented in the Lok Sabha on 20th April 2005. This Report related to the examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2005-06.

Action Taken Notes on the recommendations/ observations contained in the above said report of the Standing Committee had been sent to the Committee on August 26, 2005. There were 27 recommendations/ observations made by the Committee in the said report where action was called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertained to the issues like augmentation of budgetary resources, utilization of irrigation potential already created, strengthening of monitoring mechanism for effective implementation of various schemes, need for expeditious clearance of projects, need for a single Administrative Ministry for dealing with all issues concerning 'Water', expeditious implementation of interlinking of rivers project, need for creating awareness among the people to conserve as well as put to good use the available limited ground water resources in the country, to improve the quality of Ground Water and prevent decline in the Ground Water, to remove bottlenecks for full utilization of funds under the Command Area Development Programme, expeditious implement of various flood control schemes, to take urgent steps to prevent diversion/misutilization of funds released to State Government under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, etc.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in 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.

12.12 hrs.

(iv) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 88th report of Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): I am making this

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 3509/05

statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 88th Report of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture in pursuance of the directions issued by hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Parliamentary Bulletin-Part II, dated September 1st, 2004 under the provisions of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

The Eighty-Eight Report on the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture was presented to the Rajya Sabha on 29th April, 2005 and laid in the Lok Sabha on 29th April, 2005. The report contains 30 recommendations/para(s). These recommendations of the Committee have been examined carefully in the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Action Taken Replies on various recommendations have already been sent to Rajya Sabha Secretariat on 30.09.2005. The majority of the recommendations have been accepted by the Government and action has already been taken/initiated. A Statement indicating the action taken/status of all the recommendations contained in the Standing Committee Report is annexed.

12.12½ hrs.

- (v) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 8th to 10th Reports of Standing Committee on Railways**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): I beg to lay a statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 8th, 9th and 10th Reports of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways (2004-05) in pursuance of Directive 73 A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II, dated 1st September, 2004.

The 8th Report of the Committee on "Demands for Grants (2005-06)," presented to the Lok Sabha on 20.4.2005, contained 30 recommendations (including part recommendations) which were considered by the Ministry of Railways and Action Taken Notes thereon were furnished to the Committee in October, 2005.

The 9th Report of the Committee on "Railway (Amendment) Bill, 2004," presented to the Lok Sabha on

11.5.2005, contained 7 recommendations and Action Taken Notes thereon have been furnished to the Committee in September, 2005.

The 10th Report of the Committee on "Resource Mobilisation (Action Taken on the 16th Report of the Standing Committee on Railways (XIII Lok Sabha)," presented to the Lok Sabha on 11.5.2005 contained 7 recommendations and Action Taken Notes thereon have been furnished to the Committee in September, 2005.

Statements showing details of all the recommendations contained in these Reports and implementation status thereof are enclosed. Since the statements are voluminous, I request that the same may be taken as read.

12.14 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

- (i) **Need to formulate a Master Plan for development of backward areas of the country, particularly thirty-six backward districts of Bihar as announced by Minister of Finance during Budget 2005-06.**

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav, please call the attention of the hon. Minister.

A little more alertness should be there. It is not that only the Speaker has to remain alert.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I draw the attention of the Minister of Finance towards the following matter of urgent public importance and request him to make a statement in this regard:

"Need to formulate a Master Plan for development of the backward areas of the country, particularly thirty-six backward districts of Bihar as announced by Minister of Finance during Budget 2005-06"

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, while presenting the Budget for 2005-06, I

had announced the establishment of a Backward Region Grant Fund. I had made an allocation of Rs. 5000 crore in the Budget for 2005-06. I had also announced that consequent upon the establishment of the Fund, the existing Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) would be wound up with suitable transitional arrangements that will protect every district now covered under the RSVY. Under the transition arrangements, Bihar will continue to receive assistance under RSVY.

I had also referred to the NCMP which lays emphasis on special economic packages for States including Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The Planning Commission is the nodal agency for designing and implementing the Backward Region Grant Fund. The Planning Commission has informed that the scheme is under finalization and has been circulated to the Ministries concerned. The draft proposal is like to be submitted to CCEA for approval shortly. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening here? I cannot even listen to the Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: At present 21 districts of Bihar are covered under the backward districts initiative of the RSVY. Districts plans have been approved for Rs. 45 crore per district over a three year period starting from 2003-04. An amount of Rs. 165 crore has already been released. However, the Government of Bihar has given utilization certificate for only part of the amount. It is expected that utilization certificates for the remaining amounts will be submitted in due course.

In addition, under the Special Plan for Bihar, as part of RSVY, an amount of Rs 270 crore has been already released in 2005-06. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please maintain silence. It is very unfortunate.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, the hon'ble Minister has given his statement in response to the Calling Attention. Through you, I would like to draw his attention towards his budget speech and quote from his budget speech. He had said, "An announcement for a Grant Fund for Backward Districts was made in the last budget and a

lot of debate has taken place on this proposal thereafter. An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has identified 170 backward districts on the basis of norms affecting people socio-economically. It has also been proposed by the IMG that resources will be provided under the new facility on, the condition on Panchayati Raj Institutions being given adequate powers, which includes transfer of officials and funds. I propose to accept the recommendations made by IMG and am happy to announce the establishment of a Backward Region Grant Fund. An amount of Rs. 5,000 crore has been allocated under the Plan for 2005-06 and similar amount will be allocated every year for the next four years. Consequent upon the establishment of this Fund, the existing Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) would be wound up with suitable transitional arrangements that will protect every district now covered under the RSVY."

His second point was regarding Bihar and I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the same. He had said, "Special Economic Packages for Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir and N.E. region have been mentioned in the National Common Minimum Programme. Bihar has been getting special assistance through RSVY till now. Transitional arrangements under RSVY will continue till 2006-07. In the meanwhile backward districts of Bihar will start getting assistance from Backward Region Grant Fund. I would also like to mention that recognizing the needs of Bihar, the Twelfth Finance Commission has given a whopping grant of Rs. 7,975 crore for a period of 2005-10."

Bihar is one of the states recognised for requirement of special grants for development in the area of health and education. Bihar has not received funds in accordance with its needs since the commencement of the first five year plan after attaining freedom and it is now in a pitiable condition. The people of Bihar have always been looking at the centre for help and for its due share. After the division of Bihar and creation of Jharkhand its condition has become worse. The state of Bihar used to get 70% of its revenue from Jharkhand and with the creation of Jharkhand, Bihar is bereft of this 70% of revenue and is left with only Rs. 30 out of Rs. 100, and it has a population of 8 crore, the condition of its roads is poor, the condition of electricity is poor, health and education sectors are in bad shape, arrangement for water is poor, no industry has been established there and whatever industrial units it had, have gone in the area of Jharkhand after partition. Not a single big industrial unit established by Centre is left there. The remaining part of Bihar depends especially on

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

agriculture. Appropriate thing to do there was to revive the closed sugar mills, but Bihar has always been neglected. Particularly Bihar has been maltreated by the previous government for 6 years at a stretch, it has got step-motherly treatment and this is a history in itself. I will give an example of one department which is under the Ministry of Rural Development to illustrate the neglect of Bihar by the NDA Government, its share of Rs. 300 crore per year amounting a total of Rs. 1800 crore has been curtailed. NDA Government has not given the amount which was to be given under the Ministry of Rural Development and other departments. The present UPA government is committed to the upliftment of backward and poor states and according to it the hon'ble Minister of Finance has proposed to allocate Rs. 5000 crore for the development of 170 backward districts.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: It is very unfortunate to say that what the hon'ble Minister of Finance has replied, what he had promised, the commitment made in the budget was that 36 districts of Bihar are poor and only one district has been left out, instead he should have given package for the whole state. But what I think is that he has given a vague reply. I think it is not going to help the state. Bihar is the most poor state in this country. There is utmost poverty there. I want to ask to the hon'ble Minister that he has announced to provide Rs. 5000 crore for 170 backward districts which include 36 districts of Bihar, what has happened to that amount? Eight months have lapsed, but not even one Rupee has been given to the backward districts of Bihar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is a limit to everything. You are violating the rule every second.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I will conclude with one last question?

MR. SPEAKER: Well, you can ask.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I have a submission.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I will come to your matter.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I have a submission to make before you take up the Calling Attention. My submission is that I have been informed by the Secretariat that the second Calling Attention listed today has been postponed.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I find the hon. Minister is here. If you want, I can allow it to be put it.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): You may do it after Calling Attention.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: First listen to my question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us cross the bridge when we come to it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am not raising the Calling Attention. My submission is that this is most unfortunate. Yesterday the hon. Minister was very much present for four hours.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am not going into the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dasgupta, it is my decision. Please do not make any observation on the Minister. Somebody is ill. We cannot help it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am raising this matter. The reduction of interest rate of provident fund is an important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I will see that nothing is recorded. This is not the time. Who has said I am not allowing? I have committed to you. Knowing that, you are raising it. You are the senior-most Members of the House. Do you want me to make a commitment on the floor of the House?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, why are you raising it?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is it?

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given you a notice regarding breach of privilege.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, that matter is under my consideration. Nothing more can be said now.

I was thinking of reverting back to the Calling Attention.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I would like to know from the hon. Minister the time by which he is going to release funds and whether the Government have devised a master plan for the over all development of Bihar. Do you earnestly strive to push the State of Bihar out of the vicious bracket of backwardness coupled with acute poverty?

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied to this question.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Which steps are proposed to be taken for the development of this State? Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is being done for the development of Bihar?

MR. SPEAKER: How will the Minister respond? Unless you sit he will not be able to respond.

[English]

May I remind hon. Members — because it has become necessary — that they have been misusing the facility which is given to them?

I have been too liberal in allowing Calling Attention. The rule is:

"The shall be no debate on such statement at the time it is made but each member in whose name the item stands in the list of business may, with the permission of the Speaker, ask a clarificatory question and the Minister shall reply at the end to all such questions."

Because the Chair has been allowing, you are asking. Of Course, there is no question of allowing now. You are insisting forcibly that you must be given time for as long as you want. The whole purpose of Calling Attention is coming to an end. Therefore, I shall consider in future whether to allow or not.

Shri Sita Ram Yadav — not present.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You can see that all of them are leaders here. In such a situation how can Calling Attention be moved.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you need to be liberal at this point of time.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have permitted. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Throw this book away then see how liberal I am. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav. Please speak up. Please ask some long question.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, an honourable Member is absent. Please permit me to raise question on his behalf. The absent Member is also a Member of our party.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have already lost. 20 seconds.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the struggle for freedom, Bihar spearheaded the entire nation, however, Bihar is yet to come out of the backwardness bracket. The underlying reasons have been covered in the reply given at 12.00 hrs. This answer is delayed. Reply to Calling Attention Motion should have been presented by 10.00 hrs as it serves as a feedback material to the Members in raising questions. The hon. Minister has produced figures in it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are such an astute Member. It is only a one page statement.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Figures show that as many as 21 backward districts of Bihar have been covered under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, whereas of

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

these 21 district, it was said in the beginning that each of the backward districts will be allotted the sum of Rs.40 crore for three years and Rs.165 crore has been released. Under special plan of Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, Rs.270 crore was released and an amount of Rs.45 crore was allotted to each of these 21 districts, thus it turns out to be Rs.945 crore. Now, let me refer to the middle part which is read as follows:

[English]

"The planning Commission is the nodal agency for designing and implementing the Backward Region Grant Fund. Planning Commission has informed that the scheme is under finalisation and has been circulated to the Ministries concerned. The draft proposal is likely to be sent to CCEA for approval shortly."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this answer is very unfortunate. I am very sorry to say that, injustice has been done in case of Bihar. This is why I had asked that what time it will be submitted. Way back in the year 2002, it was in the House that the then Minister of Finance had stated that a COSHANG cell shall be put in place under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission to eliminate the element of backwardness from Bihar. But what is the fate of that cell? It is being said that the Planning Commission is drafting it and it is close to finalisation. Subsequently, it will be referred to CCEA, thereafter it will be forwarded to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and then eventually approval shall be accorded to it. I have also been a Minister.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, you know how to delay matters.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: This will be an unending process. This is an injustice against Bihar. Under Calling Attention Motion the Inter-Ministerial group had selected as many as 170 backward districts across the country. But what is the status of my district. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the time by which a special package shall be put in place under time-bound programme for the upgradation of Bihar.

As of now, the basis of upgradation has not been on the Gadgil formula or the demograph but on the basis of the internal resources of the State concerned, allocations have been continued to be made to Bihar. If the Government continues to have the same policy in practice, the elimination of the element of backwardness shall continue to be a distant dream. So, therefore, plan allocation should be made on the basis of poverty, on the basis of population, on the basis of need of State but not on the basis of availability of internal resources of the State. After the formation of Jharkhand, nothing but drainage is left in Bihar. The mines and minerals have been covered within the territory of Jharkhand and now its status has become similar to North-East States. Mr. Speaker, Sir, your neighbouring State Assam is also faced with the same sort of circumstances. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I have allowed you.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Today Bihar is passing through financial crisis. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister to take measures for the development of the areas concerned under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana so that Bihar may fall into the main stream category. I would like to know the quantum of amount proposed to be released to Bihar under the cell to be constituted by the Planning Commission. By the time it is finalised and is allowed to see the light of the day, it will remain with the Planning Commission, thereafter it shall be referred to the CCEA and as a result of the procedural delays involved therein, Bihar will continue to be neglected. It will simply delay the whole process. I would like to know from the Government when it will be completed.

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has stated in his reply that he has released Rs.165 crore for Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. Besides, he has also stated that an amount of Rs.270 crore has been released under special schemes. Hon. Minister is willing to deviate from the prime issue. In the Calling Attention Motion the basic issue was that the backward districts identified in the country are 170. Out of 38 districts of Bihar a lot of people have not been included. There is a strong apprehension that Siwan district does not figure in the list. Through you, I want to submit that hon. Minister of Finance has stated in his Budget Speech on 28 February, 2005 that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking about them. You should ask some different question.

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his budget speech hon. Minister of Finance stated that a corpus shall be put in place for the economic and socially backward people and he had assured to earmark Rs. 5 thousand crore to this end.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav has already asked this question.

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH : I am just asking whether Rs. 5 thousand crore shall be released. Hon. Minister has stated in his reply that this issue is lying pending with the Planning Commission and the Planning Commission has kept the same on the back-burner. Whether the hon'ble Minister be pleased to grant approval, to those schemes which are kept pending for long under Backward Area Grant Scheme and release amount for them during the March, 2005?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have been humbly seeking your cooperation. I have already said that I would not allow any other Member who has not given a notice. As an exception since one Member is not present today, I am allowing Shri Prabhunath Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, you are very kind.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, I have allowed you to put only one question and beyond one question, it will be deleted.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, I shall obey your orders and not ask any long question.

SHRI RABINDER KUMAR RANA (Khagaria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had also given Notice for this but my name does not figure in it.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you know the manner, in which the name appears?

SHRI RABINDER KUMAR RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given my name.

MR. SPEAKER: You may ask your leader.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that 21 districts of Bihar have been included in it. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, you put only one question.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know what will happen to the left-out districts?

MR. SPEAKER: What will happen to the left out districts?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has stated that the 'Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana' is being discontinued. Under this scheme 21 districts of Bihar have been allocated funds. It means that Rs. 45 crore have been given but as per my information, this amount has been kept at the disposal of the officers on whose discretion the type of work and the amount to be spent, will be decided. This arrangement will lead to scams loot of money as the people's representatives have been left out. They can't give their suggestions and if given, these will not be taken into account.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know whether the suggestions given by the people's representatives to the Government of Bihar will be accorded priority or not and whether the remaining districts in addition to 21 will be included.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very pertinent question. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I have asked a pointed question.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I have allowed you.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, hon. Members will recall that the Backward Regions Grant Fund was intended to be an expanded and restructured RSVY. But I made it very clear that until the Backward Regions Grant Fund is established, the RSVY will continue. In fact, the RSVY is continuing since 2003-2004 and while the Planning Commission is in the final stages of designing and submitting it to CCEA for approval, it is not correct to say that the RSVY stood suspended. The RSVY is still being implemented and the money earmarked in the Budget is being spent under RSVY. When the Backward Regions Grant Fund is established it will be subsumed in the Backward Regions Grant Fund and it will be spent as Backward Regions Grant Fund.

Therefore, there is no question of money not being released. I have figures for the whole country up to 22nd of December, 2005. In 2003-2004 a sum of Rs. 1,073.25 crore was released. That was the last year of the NDA Government. In 2004-2005 a sum of Rs. 1,764.09 crore was released. That was the first year of the UPA Government. In the current year we have, so far, released to the whole country under RSVY a sum of Rs. 1,014.12 crore. The total release, if you add the Rs. 200 crore that was given to Orissa under KBK in 2002-2003, is Rs. 4,051 crore. But, as of today, the expenditure reported to us is only Rs. 2,256 crore. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH: How much money has been released for Bihar?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am coming to it. Please wait a minute. I am giving you the figures.

We have released, including the amount of Rs. 200 crore under KBK, a sum of Rs. 4,051 crore and the expenditure reported by all the States is Rs. 2,256 crore. Now, let me come to Bihar. In Bihar, for reasons which I do not wish to go into now, nothing was released to Bihar in 2003-2004 under RSVY. The UPA Government released Rs. 157.50 crore divided into 21 districts at the rate of Rs. 7.50 crore per district as the first instalment. We have received, so far, and in the current year, from one district

an utilisation certificate. Because we have received the utilisation certificate we have released another Rs. 7.5 crore. We have received no utilisation certificate in respect of any other district for any other part of the money.

The rules are very clear. The rules say that the second instalment will be released once you give an expenditure statement for 60 per cent of the first instalment. When that is not given, how does the Government, bending its rule, release more money? I would respectfully submit that all hon. Members from Bihar should urge upon the State Government – I am not saying this Party Government or that Party Government – to please send us the utilisation certificate so that we can release the further instalments of money.

Sir, apart from this, as all of you know, an amount of Rs. 1,000 crore was earmarked for Bihar under a special plan and that is what I have mentioned in the last paragraph of my statement. Under that special plan, an amount of Rs. 270 crore has been released to Bihar in 2005-2006. I submit with great respect that I can only provide the money and ask Parliament to vote for it. If Parliament votes it, as it did, the money is available. The money can only be given according to the rules. The money has been given to 21 districts of Bihar according to the rules. The next instalment of money can be given only if the rules are obeyed and the utilisation certificates are furnished. As and when utilisation certificates are furnished, money will be released and I am confident that the Planning Commission will get the approval of the CCEA for the Backward Regions Grant Fund. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: My Question has not been answered.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Will other districts be included in RSVY?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: What is your response to our suggestion of including people's representatives

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: When will the time-bound planning for the development of Bihar be formulated.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: On your behalf I have put the question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will ask him not to reply if you do it in this manner.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I am coming to your matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as far as districts are concerned, until the Backward Regions Grant Fund is approved by the CCEA, we are bound to implement the RSVY in the 21 districts already identified. When the Backward Regions Grant Fund proposal is approved, the districts will be listed there and only then, I can make the districts public. Before Cabinet approval, how do I say which are the districts? At the moment, 21 districts are covered. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No doubt, your matter will be considered.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Since the hon. Minister is here, we may take next Calling Attention, item no. 28.

12.41 hrs.

(ii) Situation arising out of reduction in the interest rate of Employees' Provident Fund

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Labour and Employment to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of reduction in the interest rate of Employees' Provident Fund." ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Silence Please. Otherwise, I will adjourn the House and go away.

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): Sir,

declaration of the rate of interest is governed by the provisions of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, according to which the interest is required to be credited on the balance available in the accounts of the members of the Fund at such rate as may be determined by the Central Government in consultation with the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund. In determining the rate of interest, the Central Government shall satisfy itself that there is no overdrawal on the Interest Suspense Account.

The Central Board of Trustees (EPF), in its meetings held on 21.11.2005 and 7.12.2005, had deliberated upon the issue of rate of interest for the year 2005-06. In the meeting held on 07.12.2005, the Board authorised the Chairman, CBT to take a decision in the matter. The Chairman, CBT, EPF has accordingly declared the rate of interest for the financial year 2005-06 at the rate of 8.5 per cent.

Thereafter, the central trade unions and others have raised the demand that the rate of interest should not be reduced from 9.5 per cent to 8.5 per cent. This demand was also raised during the Indian Labour Conference held on 9-10 December, 2005.

The recommendation of the CBT, EPF has been received in the Ministry of Labour and Employment, and the matter is under consideration in the Ministry, at Present

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, this statement of the hon. Minister is not at all satisfactory. I want to know from the hon. Minister the rationale behind this steep reduction of one per cent in respect of the interest rate. Secondly, I would also like to know whether it is a fact that the Government is seriously considering or reconsidering, on the basis of or in view of the countrywide protests by employees' organisations, against this reduction.

Thirdly, there is a huge amount, and if that be so, what is the total amount accumulated in the Special Deposit Scheme and how is it being used?

Lastly, Employees' Provident Fund is the only sort of social security in respect of a large number of employees, whose number may be more than four crores. In such a situation, when there is hardly any other social security available to the employees of the country and when a huge amount has been accumulated, is the Government not prepared to consider the interest of the employees and just bring the interest rate to the original level that has been existing?

MR. SPEAKER: I am thankful to you. This is how the Calling Attention notices should be dealt with. I wish to compliment you, Shri Rupchand Pal for this.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): You are complementing him for the first time, Sir.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, the country has witnessed large-scale protests against the decision of the Government to reduce the interest rate on EPF. Sir, the 12 per cent interest which was available was reduced by the previous NDA Government. It was because of such policies pursued by the NDA Government, the people of this country have voted them out. This Government is doing this against the mandate of the people of this country. The people have given them a mandate not for doing these type of things. If they are insisting or continuing the very same policies of the previous Government, the same fate awaits this Government also. This is a social security scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question first and after that, the threat can be given.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: EPF is a covenant between the Government and the workers of this country. The workers have entrusted the amount with them. The Government has no right to reduce the interest rate unilaterally. This is a scheme which helps the workers when they retire. Therefore, the Government is not supposed to betray the trust reposed by the workers on this Government.

Sir, the Finance Minister says that he is not capable of finding Rs. 1,300 crore towards EPF interest. However, Sir, the Finance Minister can very well find Rs. 700 crore for the corporate and elite members of this country, and the Government can pay millions of dollars as compensation to multinational companies concerning Dabhol, when they took over it. But the Government is not able to find Rs. 1,300 crore towards EPF interest. This interest rate was reduced as per the recommendation of the Reddy Committee Report.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has said that the matter is under consideration.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: At that time, Sir, the inflation was three per cent only and now the inflation has touched eight per cent, and it is natural that the Government should retain at least 9.5 per cent interest rate.

The interest rate on the Special Deposit Scheme where the major part of the corpus fund is deposited has also been reduced. If only you increase the interest rate of the Special Deposit Scheme, you can increase the interest rate of the EPF also.

So, I would like the Government to give a categorical reply that considering the demand of the workers all over the country, the interest rate on the EPF should be retained at least at 9.5 per cent. I would also like to know whether the Government will consider increasing the interest rate on the Special Deposit Scheme also.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hemlal Murmu is not present; Shri Gurudas Dasgupta:

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panaskura): The question has to be prefaced, as I understand from your deliberations in Parliament, when you were not in the Chair....

MR. SPEAKER: I was a bad Member, do not follow me.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I cannot use harsh language because the Minister is new.

MR. SPEAKER: He is not the Minister concerned. He is trying to be a stop-gap or is deputising for a sick Minister.

SHRI. GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I cannot be hard on him.

MR. SPEAKER: You should not be hard on anybody.

SHRI. GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I can be hard on untruth, and untruth is not an unparliamentary word.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am not saying that.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The last part of the statement says that the recommendation of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) has been received. It is an incorrect statement, absolutely incorrect. The Central Board of Trustees is composed of employers, the State and Central Governments and the trade unions. I have with me the joint statement of all the trade unions of the country including INTUC, BMS, CITU, AITUC and others. All of them have opposed. The point is, the hon. Minister in his statement has not been truthful.

Is it true that the trade unions have collectively opposed it? It is a multilateral Committee. There cannot be a decision by majority. If the trade unions have opposed

it, how can the hon. Minister say that they have received recommendations of the CBT?

The most important question is, the National Common Minimum Programme says: "The UPA Government will never take a decision on Employees Provident Fund without having considerations with and approval of EPF Board."

MR. SPEAKER: The Government has not yet taken a decision.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The EPF Board has not given any recommendation.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, you have said that.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, you are an eminent Parliamentarian. You know that the EPF Board cannot take a unilateral decision.

MR. SPEAKER: You have said it already.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Therefore, it is an infringement of the Common Minimum Programme by the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: I always pointed out, Mr. Dasgupta, the statement says that the matter is under the consideration of the Ministry. Therefore, no decision has been taken. That is what I am saying.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the point is, this is the normal way to avoid this issue. 'Under consideration' does not mean the Government makes a commitment. It is a unique way of parliamentary evasion. The Minister is indulging in parliamentary evasion not to lead the Parliament properly — I cannot say mislead.

Sir, I am raising a few more questions. Nearly five crore people are involved in the Provident Fund. If we take at least three members per family, 15 crore people are involved. It is the largest and the oldest social security scheme of the country. The Government seeks to play with it! I have a statement of the Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate. You are such a senior Member. This is a question of seeking clarification.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am seeking a clarification. Hon. Prime Minister is reported to have said, and the hon. Finance Minister is reported to have said, that they can do it if they earn. That means, if the accumulation of Provident Fund is Rs.1,60,000 crore and

if the Provident Fund earns Rs.1,60,000 crore, they can pay. That does not need the Government's approval. My basic question is, out of this amount of Rs.1,60,000 crore, rupees one lakh crore are deposited with the Government under the Special Deposit Scheme. That is the crux of the matter.

The NDA Government had reduced the interest rate on Special Deposit Scheme from 12 per cent to 8 per cent. This Government has come into power defeating the NDA. How can the same policy continue? NDA had been defeated because of their policies.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not the matter here. You cannot say whether he should be defeated or not defeated.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, at least with regard to Special Deposit Scheme, Government must be prepared to increase the interest rate. That is my second question. Will the Ministry of Labour in all its seriousness take up with the Ministry of Finance and Prime Minister the question of increasing the interest rate on Special Deposit Scheme?

Sir, my third point is, this is a double-edged weapon. As an eminent person, you are aware of it.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you bring the hapless Speaker into all this? You go on and put your question.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I have to address you.

MR. SPEAKER: You address me.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I cannot address somebody invisible! You are the first visible person for my eyes. I have to address you. I cannot close my eyes.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want you to close your eyes. You please think of me and the time!

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, you are the only eminent visible personality in the House and I have to address you. .../(Interruptions) After retirement, people put in all their funds in a fixed deposit and get the return. During all these years, the interest rates on fixed deposits, whether in a bank or elsewhere, that is, post offices, have been reduced by the present Government. It has come to nine per cent in some cases. In most of the cases, it is eight per cent. Just imagine that I am earning less because you are paying me less. After retirement, my benefit is becoming less because the Government is paying

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

less. After retirement, I take the money and go to a post office. The interest rate is reduced there. Therefore, the provident fund holders are under the threat of reduction of interest rate by the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is only one, whether the rates should be increased. That is the only question. What else is there?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: No, Sir. The Government is gradually withdrawing social security. I can accuse them because there is a talk of the pension scheme being withdrawn. There is a talk in the background of that. If the Pension Scheme is being withdrawn, the provident fund is being reduced, what will happen to the older generation of the country? What will happen? The Government is having a commitment towards the common people. I would like to know whether the Government can disown the responsibility of having the social security. Social security cannot be abandoned in a welfare State. It cannot be abandoned. There cannot be any market rate. Social security has to be continued by the Government by making a provision in the Budget. It is necessary to have it. A sum of Rs.700 crore is given. You can bail out UTI. This Government has bailed out UTI by paying thousands of crores of rupees. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: These are not questions that he can answer. How can he answer these questions?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: He has to. He has to because he is in the Government. He represents the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: While the Government can bail out UTI by paying thousands of crores, while they can bail out Enron, while they can bail out the stock market brokers, why can they not provide Rs.700 crore to 15 crore people of this country? That is my basic question. If the Government goes the way it is doing, there are going to be serious consequences. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is not the question. It is a threat.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am not holding any threat. I am telling the truth.

MR. SPEAKER: You are entitled to it.

Shri Chandra-ppan to speak.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, you said that he, the Minister was not sure whether they would be defeated or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Who said that?

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: It was your reaction, when somebody was threatening, pointing out the fate of NDA Govt., you said that he was not sure whether he would be defeated or not. I am not accusing anybody. I am saying that they should see the writing on the wall. ...*(Interruptions)* When people sitting on this side, the NDA friends were there in the Govt. and when they were doing things which were unpardonable, they were rejected by people. This Govt. by reducing the interest of EPF has betrayed to a great extent, the support extended by the working people of this country. I would like now to ask my question.

As a part of the implementation of the UPA programme, this Government is spending Rs.75,000 crore and introduced the Rural Employment Guarantee Programme for the uplift of rural poor. Now, the Government is going to abandon or to abdicate its special responsibility of paying higher EPF interest to of the workers. I would like to know from this Government whether they would evolve a scheme with the Budget support to provide the kind of assistance to the workers so that the workers would have been receiving the benefits, as if 9.5 per cent interest had been paid to them.

13.00 hrs.

That is to say this. May I know whether you would start a new scheme for the workers so that they would get this much of money which they were losing otherwise?

MR. SPEAKER: That is a good question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. Sorry.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. I am sorry.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry; please excuse me. Now, the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Otherwise, I will adjourn the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry. What is all this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your names have not come out in the ballot for Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Very well; Mr. Minister, you need not answer. Hon. Members, do you not want an answer?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a discussion under Rule 193. You should have said that Calling Attention is not needed and you wanted a discussion under Rule 193. Now, I cannot convert the Calling Attention into a discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Then, this will be converted as a discussion under Rule 193 and it will go to the next Session. I will allow you; you may give a notice for a discussion under Rule 193. Very well, then, let us adjourn.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, we want an answer.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: A demand is being made from responsible Members.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Let him answer.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody wants to put a question now. Is it Calling Attention or a discussion?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is it Calling Attention? Can anybody stand up at any moment of time, can any question be put and can any demand be made?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: We are sorry; please allow the answer. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras, North): Sir, I would like to say one thing on the EPF interest rate. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow. If you are not satisfied, you can do whatever you like. You can move a simple motion for getting rid of me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot blow hot and cold.

[Translation]

SHRI A. NARENDRA: The Chairman has been authorised by the CBT to take decision on the interest rates. The decision on the interest rate had to be taken.

[English]

due to reduction in interest and various investments, the net income has come down. The Corpus of EPF is Rs. 79,764 crore and the interest cannot be paid from the Corpus Fund. Interest has to be paid within the current income, for the recent years.

Sir, the Corpus Fund up to 31.3.05, of the EPF is Rs.79,764.48 crore.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: He is quoting the figures, which I believe is not true.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, if he is misleading the House, you can bring a privilege motion against him; I do not mind. You are welcome to bring a privilege motion. How do I know that he is right or wrong?

SHRI A. NARENDRA: The figure for employees' pension is Rs.66,445 crore; employees' insurance deposit is Rs.4,518 crore. In the case of contingency fund, it is Rs.133 crore; for special reserve fund, it is Rs.205 crore; for additional recoveries, it is Rs.27 crore, totalling Rs.365 crore.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, is it an answer?

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I told you at the beginning. But you made a comment. I told you that the Minister concerned is ill; I made a mistake in admitting this Calling Attention. I requested you, but you wanted it and you made a comment that the Minister is not present here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I did not make any comment. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, all of you are hon. Members of this House. You all know that I hold you in high respect. If the hon. Minister, who is obviously deputising the hon. Minister of Labour, is not able to satisfy you, what can be done?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he is not replying to our questions. So, we are walking out. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the Government should have been represented by an able Minister who could answer all our questions. The Government is making him a scapegoat. So, we are walking out. ...(Interruptions)

13.06 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and some other hon. Members left the House.)

MR. SPEAKER: You may complete your reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is the result of my mistake. I made a mistake by admitting this Calling Attention.

SHRI A. NARENDRA: In the Indian Labour Conference, the Prime Minister told that the available EPF. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): You support the Government, even then you are walking out. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister is not giving a correct reply. Therefore, we are accompanying with our party. ...(Interruptions)

13.06½ hrs.

(Shri Mohan Singh and some other Hon.

Members then left the House)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 9.5% interest rate is quite essential for the secured future of the employees. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI A. NARENDRA: Decision will be taken by the Government at the appropriate time. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khaire, this is not the way. Do not disturb the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to go out, you can also walk out.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: You don't want to allow us to speak, so, we too, are walking out. ...(Interruptions)

13.07 hrs.

(Shri Chandrakant Khaire then left the House)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You may complete your reply.

SHRI A. NARENDRA: Sir, this matter is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, I would like to raise a very urgent matter of public importance regarding conferring the status of classical language to Kannada. Actually, the status of classical language is given on the criteria of high antiquity of early text and recorded history, ancient literature, original literary tradition and heritage and distinctness of form.

As you very well know and will appreciate also, the
Not recorded.

entire South Indian music is known as Karnataka music and Purandara Dasa is known as the Pitamaha of this music. In Mahabharata, there is a mention of Karnataka. Even Pandharpur Vitthala is known as Kannada Vitthala.

I would like to bring it to the notice of this august House that the earliest recorded word of Kannada language is 'Isila' occurring in the Brahmagiri rock inscription of King Ashoka. The date of this inscription is 252 B.C. D. Lewis Rice has published this Prakrit inscription in Epigraphia Carnatica in the year 1903.

Secondly, there is one stone inscription, known as Halmidi inscription, which is in a village Halmidi in Belur Taluk of Hassan District. The date of this inscription is 450 A.D. This inscription is completely in Kannada script.

Why I am raising this issue is, Pampa Bharatha, Gadha Yuddha of Ranna, Harischandra Kavya of Raghvanka, Kumaravyasa Bharatha, Vachana Sahitya and Sharana Sahitya of Basaveshwara and Sharanas, Dasa Sahitya of Purandar Dasa and Kanakadasa, Jaimini Bharatha of Lakshmisha and Prabhu Linge Leele of Bhima Kavi, all these literary works purport to say that Kannada language is a very ancient language with great heritage.

Up to 10th October, 2004, the conditionality to accord the classical language status was different. It was thousand years for Indian languages. Suddenly, the UPA Government has changed this criterion on 27.10.05. I would like to know the rationale behind it. I urge upon the Union Government to accord the classical language status to Kannada language as it is one of the ancient languages of India.

Suddenly, the UPA Government has changed it on 27.10.2005. I want to know the rationale behind it.

I urge upon the Union Government to accord the classical language status to Kannada language because it is one of the ancient languages in India and it has more than two and half thousand years of pristine literature.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Sir, I thank you for permitting me to raise this matter. The Government of Gujarat has sought the consent of the Central Government for it proposed Industrial Park Ordinance with amendments in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The consent of Government of India has not been accorded so far. I would request the Central Government to review the matter and accord its consent at the earliest.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want the Government to take cognizance of an important matter. The river Ganga, which is called 'Mother' by our people, holds an important place in the psyche of our nation. Its water is used as part of ritual purification but, since many years, it has been getting more and more polluted and even after the repeated pleas, no attention has been paid towards it. The late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had, on June 14, 1986, assured the people of cleaning it and during these 19 years, Rs 1800 crore have been spent. Now it is claimed that the Ganga's water is no longer fit for ritual purification and if bath is taken with its water one may get infected. This is causing a lot of anguish among the people and they are writing to the government to solve this problem.

I, through you, want to bring it to the notice of the Government that nothing has been done to check all that is polluting the Ganges. The treatment plants of all factories are lying closed. Through you, I implore the Government to take this up on priority basis and draw up an action plan so that the Ganges and other rivers are purified. Besides, the receding water table should be restored to its original position. The sanctity of Ganga river should be maintained and we would cooperate in this task. I, through you, request the government to prepare an action plan in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.10 p.m.

13.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.16 hrs.

(The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at Sixteen minutes past fourteen of the clock)

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN in the Chair)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the House will take up matters under rule 377.

14.17 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (I) **Need to hand over maintenance of National Highway No. 22 in Himachal Pradesh to the State Public Works Department for proper upkeep and maintenance**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the House and the Minister of Defence of the Government of India towards the dilapidated condition of national highway No. 22 that leads to Kinnore district of Himachal Pradesh situated on the Indo-Tibet border, which is maintained by GREF, a unit under the Ministry of Defence. This area witness heavy snowfall in winter season and the traffic on this national highway gets disrupted for hours together.

Sir, GREF is unable to maintain this highway properly due to paucity of resources and funds. As a result of this, local people, farmers and orchard owners have to face many difficulties because they are unable to send their cash crops to markets due to disruption of traffic and they have to bear heavy losses. Due to disruption of traffic, tourists also get stranded.

Sir, through you, I appeal to the Minister of Defence to hand over the maintenance of national highway No. 22 that connects the border district of Kinnore to the rest of the country, to Public Works Department of Himachal Pradesh and this Department may be provided with necessary equipments, machinery and sufficient funds for better maintenance of this highway.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Madhusudan Mistry – Not present.

- (II) **Need to link villages in Lohardaga Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand with main roads under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna**

DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON (Lohardaga): Sir, a large area of my Parliamentary constituency, Lohardaga (Jharkhand) is covered with forests and mountains. Many villages in this area are inhabited by tribals and non-tribals. They have to visit the police station, the Block Development Office and also have to go to markets for sale and purchase of necessary goods. Due to the absence of roads they have to face many difficulties in frequenting

these places. There is an urgent need to construct a road there.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government that the villages situated in the forest and mountain areas of Ghaghara, Bishunpur, Raidih, Basia, Kamdara, Chainpur, Dumari block (all in Gumala) and Senha, Kisko block (district Lohardaga) may be linked to main roads of this area under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana on priority basis.

- (III) **Need to regulate the functioning of private schools with a view to check exploitation of parents**

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Faridabad): Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the whimsical attitude of private schools and all over the convert methods being employed by these schools to extort money. Education has been made an easy source of earning money by these schools. A handsome amount for 'Bharat Darshan Bhraman' is being collected from the guardians by exerting pressure on them and the students are taken to travelling to distant places.

During the travel students are taken for a dip in the sea and other hazardous ventures where they face the danger of losing their lives in the absence of proper arrangements for the safety of their lives and belonging.

There have been many glaring examples of extracting hefty sums from the guardians by the private schools under duress in the name of travelling for the sake of maintaining discipline and the children are taken to coastal areas for a dip in the sea.

I demand the Government that such incidents occurred from January, 2005 till date, may be investigated into and such schools may be penalised and clear guidelines in this regard may be issued that the guardians who are unable to pay the amount and unwilling to send off their only child for a long time may not be pressurised. In case any complaint is received in this regard, stringent action may be taken against the school administration, immediately.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the approved text.

(Interruptions)...*

* Not recorded.

(iv) Need to review the functioning of Department of Agriculture, Andaman and Nicobar Islands with a view to protect the interests of farmers in the region

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Department of Agriculture which is responsible for the welfare of the farming community in Andaman and Nicobar Islands through production and productivity, improvement of the crops etc., is not satisfactorily doing its job. Unfortunately, the Department failed miserably in all sectors like crop husbandry, soil and water conservation and minor irrigation.

Considering the potential of horticultural crops of these islands, Government of India, as per the recommendations of the Island Development Authority, approved high-value agriculture programme for an estimated layout of Rs.50.06 crore. The Department of Agriculture is responsible for these programmes through an agency, High Value Agriculture Development Agency. Many farmers took up the programme as per the guidance of the Field Officers involving PRIS. Not a single farmer is benefited out of this scheme so far. Moreover, many farmers have invested on the advice of the Field Officers with the hope of getting assistance as per Government of India's norms. The farmers are totally dissatisfied with the functioning of the Agriculture Department. Let me add here that 70 per cent population in Andaman District and 100 per cent population in Nicobar District are the farmers who totally depend on agricultural products.

Further, the imposition of ban on extraction of timber from forest was the major blow on the economic development and employment opportunity. To mitigate this grievance, non-timber forest produce like medicinal, aromatic and dye plants development was proposed by the Sekhar Singh Commission.

Accordingly, Andaman and Nicobar Medicinal Plants Board was created for promoting cultivation, collection, processing and marketing, etc. The Government of India has funded for the same but the Islanders are not benefited.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to look into the grievances of the farmers from these islands and accordingly firm decision is required urgently to set right the Agriculture Department of Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

(v) Need to ensure that persons who migrated from Pakistan in 1947 and settled in Jammu and Kashmir get the domicile of the State

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, in

1947 attainment of independence was coupled with the partition of the country. Thousands of Hindu families left behind their all movable and immovable properties in Pakistan and took shelter in Jammu and Kashmir. Those people who settled in Jammu and Kashmir got the citizenship of India which enabled them to vote in the Lok Sabha elections but they didn't get the citizenship of Jammu and Kashmir because of which they can't vote in Legislative Assembly elections.

Alongwith this, they are deprived of the citizenship of Jammu and Kashmir too. Due to this, they are also deprived of the benefits of government jobs of the State Government or in government schools, medical and engineering colleges, and education and loan facilities. After 58 years of independence of the country, they are forced to live miserable life.

I request the Union Government to solve this problem at the earliest.

(vi) Need to provide loans to farmers of Vidarbha region at lower interest rates and fix remunerative prices of cotton and soyabean

SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE (Wardha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, agriculture is an important indicator of the Indian Economy. 58 per cent labour force and two-third population of the country are dependent on agriculture. The Government introduced many schemes for agriculture and rural areas but migration of rural people and suicide cases of farmers are on rise.

There have been many cases of suicides of farmers of Vidharbha region of Maharashtra in the country because of decline in cotton and soyabean prices, outstanding loans of the farmers and unavailability of power for irrigation (load shedding). The Government must ponder over the recommendations of Swaminathan Committee and implement it.

It was shown on the television that the distressed rural people in my constituency have decided to sell a village named Dorli. This is a matter of concern. Sir, when sensex dips then the share market falls down and Government seems very concerned towards it but it is not serious on the issue of suicides being committed by the farmers.

I request the Government to fix the prices of cotton at Rs. 2700/- per quintal and soyabean at Rs 1800/- per quintal, waive off the loans of farmers, make irrigation available for farming and provide loans at 4 percent interest

rate for framing and get their loans provided through NABARAD. It should also implement O.T.S. scheme in all banks, provide electricity for irrigation, stop load shedding etc. By taking all these measures, migration of rural people can be stopped, farmers will not commit suicide and the economy of the country will be strengthened.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Manorama Madhavraj — Not present.

- (vii) Need to construct a foot over bridge/under bridge at the railway crossing in Morena city, Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Morena): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a railway crossing in the heart of Morena city under the North central Railway which has been completely closed down by the railways due to which the local citizens, students reading in schools, university, Kendriya Vidhyalaya, Polytechnic college as well as rickshaw pullers and hand cart pullers are facing a lot of problems. A number of people have lost their lives while crossing the railway line. In this regard there has been a long standing demand for constructing a foot over bridge/under bridge at this crossing but so far North Central Railway has not paid any attention towards this serious problem.

- (viii) Need to conduct a survey for laying of a new railway line from Konch to Dibiapur Railway station in Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Sir, a shuttle train runs between Attle and Konch in my Lok Sabha constituency Jalaun, Garoutha, U.P. In the year 1987 when Janata Party was ruling at the centre a proposal was passed to link railway lines from Konch to Dibiapur Railway Station via Bhed Jalaun and Orailya. After the survey, some work on laying of earth was also undertaken, however, it was stopped. The rural people of Jalaun and Orailya district will be benefited if action is once again taken on that proposal. The people of Jalaun and Orailya districts are deprived of rail facility till date. Around 50 lakh people of this area would be benefited from this.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to conduct a survey once again for laying a new railway line from Konch to Dibiapur in Uttar Pradesh and also to make budgetary allocation for the purpose so that this backward region could be developed.

- (ix) Need to review Drug Control Order to ensure availability of Drugs to poor people at cheaper rates**

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jaipalguri): Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the Government towards a serious problem of soaring prices of medicines for years due to policies adopted by the Union Government. It may be recalled that in 1978, the Union Government issued initial order for controlling drug prices. The order was issued in consonance with the recommendations of Hathi Committee. The Hathi Committee's recommendations were meant to control prices of drugs and to serve the interests of drug manufacturing PSUs, but succumbing to the pressure of multinational companies in drug business, the Government brought down the number of drugs under Drug Control Order to 30 only in recent years from 186 in 1978. Thus, people of India, particularly those living below the poverty line, have been thrown at the mercy of MNCs. I request the Government to review the Drug Control Order to ensure availability of drug to poor people within their means.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rewati Raman Singh — Not present.

- (x) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Bihar for improving the services at P.M.C.H., Patna, Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): The condition of the only prominent Government hospital in Bihar, the P.M.C.H. Patna is extremely pitiable. The same condition which was prevailing 20 years ago is prevailing even today. Rather the condition has become worse. People from all over the state come to this hospital for treatment. However, they did not get proper and satisfactory health care or treatment in this hospital. The main reason is the pitiable economic condition of the state due to which the state Government is unable to fund its financial needs.

Therefore, through this House, I urge upon the hon'ble Health Minister to provide sufficient central assistance to P.M.C.H. Patna.

- (xi) Need to provide Special Economic Package to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for consolidation of river embankments in Dumariaganj Parliamentary constituency**

MOHD. MUKEEM (Dumariaganj): Through you, I would

like to draw the attention of the Government towards my constituency, Dumariaganj, district Siddharth Nagar, Uttar Pradesh where every year houses of people living in villages like Amaria Gaighat, Magargah, Banjaraha, Kudja, Narkataha, Rasoolpur, Ekdegava, Gaura Bazaar, Amhawa situated on the banks of Rapti river, Semrehwa on the banks of Dhorahi river, Bhadwa, Aatri, Amhawa, Nandvalia, Gajhada, Baidoli on Banganga river, Tanejwa, Matiyar, Muhchurwa along Burhi Rapti river and Kukar Bhukwa, Parti Bazaar, Uska etc. situated on the banks of Kuda river are affected due to floods and soil erosion in these villages rendering people homeless and leading to loss of life and property. I have drawn the attention of the Government towards this subject a number of times but so far the Government have not done anything to check the soil erosion which is causing a sense of insecurity and resentment in the minds of people.

Therefore, through you, I would urge upon the Union Government to provide special financial package in public interest for protection and safety of villages situated along the Rapti Gorahi, Banganga, Budhi Rapti and Kuda rivers in my constituency Dumariaganj, district Siddharth Nagar, Uttar Pradesh from floods and erosion.

(xli) Need to conduct a survey for laying a new railway line linking Arni town in Vellore parliamentary constituency, Tamil Nadu

[English]

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN (Vellore): Respected Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to an important issue in my Vellore constituency. Arni town and its surroundings in my constituency are very famous for manufacture of silk saris and agricultural products consisting of varieties of rice. Arni pattusaris and Arni seeraga chamba rice remain the precious commodities that always attract international markets. Moreover, a number of temples of architectural beauty claiming ancestry from Ramayana period are attractions for plenty of tourists. In order to encourage weavers, agriculturists and tourism, a long standing demand of the people of this region is that Arni should be brought on the Railway map of the country. The Railway Ministry was good enough to consider this request favourably and included it in the Budget. "A new railway line will be laid and it will connect Tindivanam, Vanda Vasi, Arni, Seyyar, Arcot and Vellore Katpadi." The people of the region were very much pleased with the announcement and felt very happy about it. But, Sir, since the announcement about two years have elapsed and

until now there is no sign of any survey for the new railway line. This is very much disappointing for the people of Arni.

I urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to pay attention to this long standing demand of Arni people of my constituency and help to fulfil their long standing dream making it, at the earliest, a reality.

(xlii) Need to expedite the process of ousting illegal infiltrators from Bangladesh settled in Orissa

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I draw your attention towards the continuous stream of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants arriving through the sea route and settling on the coast of Orissa. This is not only a major concern for the State of Orissa but Centre should equally be alarmed. There is no doubt that aliens cannot be allowed to settle on our land with impunity.

Recently, Government of Orissa went on a drive to identify and deport illegal immigrants. This is a laudable step. But the manner in which the authorities have brought about their task has cast a shadow. Around three districts are affected by the Bangladeshi will exodees. I have been informed that the language being Bengali, many Bangladeshis illegally emigrate into Orissa, change their name to a Hindu one and try to enjoy the political protection. Some weeks back, the Centre has asked the State Government to review its decision. Meanwhile, there are reports of fresh batches of entrants arriving in the coastal districts of Orissa. As the infiltrators clear precious mangrove forests, set up colonies, fish in banned waters, lay prawn gheris and come in conflict with locals, the entire eco-system and the social system of the region faces problem.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to expedite the process of ousting infiltrators. I would like to make it clear that since partition, no refugees were ever settled in the coastal districts of Orissa. I would urge upon the Government to curb infiltration and a systematic and just process of identification of illegal settlers be started at the earliest.

(xiv) Need to take initiative for modernisation of age-old jute mills besides ensuring purchase of raw jute by JCI from jute growers at Minimum Support Price

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, the jute industry at present is going through great crisis. This has

been aggravated more this year. Despite the guidelines issued by the Government, the mill owners are not purchasing raw jute from the JCI at the Minimum Support Price. As a consequence, jute growers are forced to sell their produce at a price far below the MSP.

This scenario is leading to total ruination of the jute growers and on the other hand non-purchase of raw jute by mill owners has placed the entire work force of the jute industry into a grim future.

Due to this indifferent attitude of the mill owners, our jute industry, which was once a pride of the country as a whole, is on the verge of total collapse.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to undertake immediate steps to save both the jute growers and the jute industry itself along with taking initiatives for modernising the age-old jute mills with modern technology in a time bound manner.

(xv) Need to take steps to revive central cooperative Banks in Bihar with hundred percent Central share

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Union Government had set up cooperative banks with a view to benefit the rural farmers. The objective of this Bank was to promote cooperative agriculture and to provide loan facilities to the farmers. In the absence of any help from the Government the condition of Central Cooperative banks in Bihar region is becoming extremely pitiable. Not only that, the licenses of Chapra, Madhepura and Darbhanga branches of this bank in Bihar region have been cancelled. Farmer's money is deposited in these banks when the farmers approach banks to withdraw their money for getting their daughters married and for agricultural purposes, the banks refuse to give them money which forces the farmers to take loan from money lenders in spite of having their own money. Due to this a number of central cooperative banks in various districts of Bihar are on the verge of closure.

On the other hand on the recommendation of Vaidyanathan committee, funds to the tune of Rs. 14,000 crores are being released by the Minister of Agriculture for central cooperative Banks, out of which 35 percent investment will be made by the State Government and 65 percent by the Union government. The financial condition of the Government of Bihar is extremely poor. Government

of Bihar is not in a position to invest 35 percent of its own. In that situation, Union Government will have to invest the entire 100 percent capital to save the cooperative Banks in Bihar.

I would urge upon the Government to again issue licenses to run the Central cooperative banks situated at Chapra, Madhepura and Darbhanga so that the farmers are able to get their money refunded and the banks resume their operations. Alongwith this the Government should also take some effective steps to save these banks which are on the verge of closure by investing 100 percent funds released by the union Government.

(xvi) Need to check circulation of Bhutanese currency inside Indian Territory particularly in some parts of Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar districts of West Bengal

[English]

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the currency of Bhutan is in circulation inside Indian Territory particularly in some parts of Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar Districts of West Bengal. Currency notes of 1, 2, 5, 10 and 100 rupee denomination are floated by some unscrupulous businessmen. Since Indian currency bears higher value than Bhutan currency notes, Indian currency notes are collected by the above group of people and in exchange currency notes and coins are floated for circulation which is highly irregular and also a threat for the national security. Local administration may be well aware of the situation but suitable steps to stop this practice has not been initiated till now. I urge upon the hon. Home Minister to take immediate step to stop this illegal practice.

(xvii) Need to formulate specific programme to rehabilitate families displaced due to floods in Assam

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, attention of the Government is drawn about the urgent necessity of drawing a special Central plan for organised rehabilitation of landless families uprooted in the flood affected States in the country. In Assam alone, more than 10,000 families uprooted by flood and erosion during the decade are now staying in temporary dwelling houses on roads, embankments and reserved forest areas whose economy are completely shattered due to loss of usable and by erosion. They are left with no practical source of income. The one time relief provided with limited

Central Relief Fund could not solve their problem. They are also denied IAY houses and employment under NFFWP or SGRY under DRDA due to their temporary settlement. Unless specific programme is drawn by the Central Government for meaningful rehabilitation of these people in line with Tsunami or earthquake, there will be starvation death and social problem with wide range of economic disparity.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central government to seriously take up the issue as a national responsibility by drawing the special plans with 100 per cent Central assistance as the State Governments are unable to manage this huge task with limited resource available with them. Immediate de-siltation measures like dredging and river bank stabilisation through mechanised river training may also be taken up to prevent the recurring flood and erosion as envisaged in the task force constituted by hon. Prime Minister. The Brahmaputra Board may be directed to ensure immediate implementation of such programme already drawn with sufficient allocation of fund.

(xviii) Need to expedite construction of Road Over Bridge at level crossing No.81/A on Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar railway line in Sabarkantha district, Gujarat

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, the level crossing No.81/A on Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar railway line of Western Railway in Sabarkantha District in Gujarat has become a headache for the traffic passing through the Himmatnagar town to Ambaji and further west in Rajasthan. The Railway Ministry has sanctioned the R.O.B. on this level crossing (81/A) and the Minister of State for Railways has laid the foundation stone a few months back. However, the work of R.O.B has not started, though the Railway Ministry has already budgeted the money for construction of the R.O.B on this level crossing in the last year. and this year's (2005-06) Railway Budget.

I request the Ministry of Railways to complete the remaining formality, if any, to start the work of construction of the R.O.B. to relieve the sufferings of the people and vehicles passing through this level crossing No.81/A.

14.47 hrs.

CRIMINAL LAW (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up the legislative business, Item No.30, Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this Bill seeks to amend the Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Evidence Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you amending all the three statutes by this Bill?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We are trying to amend certain sections of these statutes by moving this Bill and getting this Bill passed. It seeks to introduce a new Section in the Indian Penal Code. That new section is recognized as Section 195A.

The Indian Penal Code provides that a person who gives false evidence can be punished but a person who induces another person to give false evidence or threatens another person to give false evidence cannot be punished under the existing Indian Penal Code. This clause provides for punishment, which can be awarded, to a person who induces another person to give false evidence or threatens another person to give false evidence. The punishment provided is seven years imprisonment but if it is found that a person has been sentenced to life because of the false evidence given, the inducer or a person threatening can also be given the same kind of punishment. Not only seven years punishment can be awarded but also life imprisonment can be imposed on him. Clause 195(a) provides this.

Sir, there is a provision that when a witness gives false evidence or produces a false document, he can be prosecuted. But the application for prosecuting him is required to be given by the judge himself and by no one else. It was very difficult for the judge who had to decide the cases to go to other courts and file the complaints and appear in the courts and things like that. We are now providing that the judge can file the complaint or he can authorize any other officer to file the complaint. This is a provision which facilitates prosecuting the witnesses giving false evidences. Now, this is another provision.

This Bill seeks to introduce Chapter 21(a) in the Criminal Procedure Code to provide for plea-bargaining. What is plea-bargaining? This is a new provision that we

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are introducing in the Criminal Procedure Code. Plea-bargaining is practised in other countries. Plea-bargaining is something more stringent than the provision provided in the Criminal Procedure Code for compounding the offence. And it is less stringent than the provisions provided in the Criminal Procedure Code for sentencing and punishing the accused person. This is a route followed in between these two extreme positions. When a case is filed in a court, there are certain provisions, certain kinds of cases that can be compounded. The accused and the complainant can be allowed to compound these cases; compounding is allowed. There are certain cases in which the permission of the court is required to compound the cases. And once the compounding is allowed when the compromise is allowed between the accused and the complainant, the accused is treated as acquitted. Accused is without any blame and he can go scot-free. By having this provision, that is, provision for plea-bargaining, we are saying that in cases which are of a little more serious nature, when the case is filed in a court of law, the accused person can go to the court and say that I admit the guilt. And he is subject to himself to your judgement under the provision of plea-bargaining. Such an application has to be accompanied by an affidavit and he has to say in the affidavit that he is doing it on his own without being under any pressure or without having been threatened in any manner. Of his free volition, he is doing this. That is what he is to submit in the court. If the court comes to the conclusion that what he is doing is correct then the court can give a notice to the prosecutor. If there is one to the lawyer who is supporting the accused – if the prosecutor is not there – and to the other lawyer also, the court can say that he can discuss this matter outside the court, and he can compromise in the matter.

On the kind of compromise that could be arrived at, the accused, the complainant, the prosecutor and the defence lawyer could talk to each other outside the court. They could decide what they should do to dispose of the case, to get the case disposed of by the court. In their discretion, they could decide that the victim could be given compensation. They could decide that the accused could be allowed to submit to the court and seek for lenience and things like that. When the matter is presented to the court, the court could accept the kind of agreement arrived at between the parties. The only thing that the court has to do is to see that everything that is being done is being done of free volition and without subjecting them to any kind of pressure. That is the only precaution the court has to take. Once the court comes to the conclusion that they

are doing it on their own, without any pressure from any quarter, the court could accept that.

When this kind of an agreement is arrived at, there are certain other conditions provided. If the minimum punishment is provided in any other law, what is to be done? There are many laws which say that five years' punishment is the minimum punishment that could be awarded or not less than five years' punishment has to be awarded. In that case, this plea bargaining provision provides that the court shall allow a punishment which is equal to half of the minimum punishment. So, half of the minimum punishment could be given. In other cases, where the minimum punishment is not provided for, the court could give a punishment which is equal to one-fourth of the punishment. These are the provisions here.

There are certain kinds of cases in which plea-bargaining is not allowed. What are those cases? If an accused could be punished to death or if it is a matter of very serious nature, such matter is not subject to plea-bargaining. If an accused could be punished for life imprisonment, such a case cannot come to the court for plea-bargaining. If an accused could be punished for more than seven years, the case cannot come to the court for plea-bargaining. If a juvenile offender is involved, the case cannot be treated under plea-bargaining. If there is any economic or social offence involved, such a case cannot be treated under plea-bargaining. These are the conditions under which plea-bargaining is allowed.

What are the advantages of plea-bargaining? One of the advantages of plea-bargaining is that the victim could be given compensation. This law provides that when they talk to each other compensation could be decided upon by the parties involved. So, the accused would give the compensation and the victim would get the compensation. This is a new concept. Under the old law, under the existing criminal jurisprudence, the concept is to punish the offender. The concept is not to give compensation to the victim but to punish the offender. In recent times, in our country and in other countries and other parts of the world also, the concept of giving compensation to the victim is getting accepted slowly. It is not sufficient to punish an offender. The offender should be punished but that does not give any substantive relief to the victim. That is why, now, the concept of giving compensation to the victim is getting accepted.

15.00 hrs.

We have introduced a law very recently, which is the Communal Harmony Law, as we call it, which is a law on

prevention of communal violence and compensation to the victims. We have introduced it and it may come up in the next Session or after that for discussion in this House. We have provided in that, that the victims of the communal violence shall be given compensation. Compensation by whom? This compensation can be given by the persons who are responsible for creating the violent situation in that area. This compensation can be given by the Government or by any other trust or by any other body who is created for this purpose. In other countries the trusts are created and those trusts are giving compensation to the victims of the violence. So, it is one of the most important things which provided that the offender should be punished.

As is rightly said by the hon. Member who was sitting here — I do not know whether he is here or has gone out — the offender has to be punished. But that is not sufficient. The victim has to be compensated and that concept has been accepted. There are many cases pending in the criminal courts and it has not been possible to dispose them of in time. Now, with the plea-bargaining, the disposal of the cases will be quicker and dispensation of the criminal justice will also be quicker. This is what is provided and this is one of the newest concepts, which we are introducing, in the Criminal Jurisprudence. So, there are these two things — plea-bargaining, allow the parties to come together and decide the cases. Second is to provide the compensation to the victims and thereby create a situation in which easier disposal of the cases becomes possible and easier.

The other provision relates to the witnesses going to the court. These are the important things. There are nine clauses and these nine clauses are providing for all these things. Now, this is an amending Bill. There was a demand made by many hon. Members and by many persons that we should amend the criminal laws in our country in order to make them more comprehensive and more effective.

Now, new crimes are becoming visible to us. The cyber crime is becoming visible to us and many new kinds of crimes are becoming visible to us. The Indian Penal Code or some other existing laws are not capable of meeting the requirements of the present time. That is why, an attempt is being made to find out what kind of new crimes are becoming visible and as to how to deal with them. There is a penal law which would be amended, procedural law would be amended as well as the law of evidence would also be amended, to some extent, to meet the new requirements. This is one of the steps taken in

this direction. We have passed the Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill in the last Session, we are passing this Bill in this Session and again we are likely to come before the House asking for the passage of the Bill which will be introduced. Why are we doing in bits and pieces? ...*(Interruptions)* This question is sometimes asked from us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has the Law Commission also recommended it?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This plea-bargaining was suggested by the Law Commission. It was suggested by other Committees which were appointed for that. The system of plea-bargaining is existing in other countries. By and large, we are trying to implement the suggestions given by the Law Commission. But it has not been possible for us to consider all the suggestions together and do it. If you try to do that, then a long time will be required. So, we are saying that let us cull out the suggestions which are easy to accept and introduce, and then amend these laws and take up other groups of suggestions, consider them and come back. So, in order to avoid the delays, we have adopted this method. Sometimes, people say that 'why are you coming like this, a few provisions this time and a few provisions afterwards. You do not do that'.

But we thought that we should not wait for a long time for all the provisions to be considered and introduced. So, whenever we find that on certain provisions there is an agreement, we are doing it.

This Bill was introduced in the House. It had gone to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee had made certain recommendations. We have accepted the recommendations in the Standing Committee. In the other House also, this Bill was discussed. When this Bill was being discussed, a few salutary suggestions were made on the floor of the House of Rajya Sabha by the hon. Members and the Government was in a position to accept those suggestions. Those suggestions were also accepted and I introduced this Bill. In the amended form this Bill has come to this House. I hope this House will accept this Bill and pass this Bill and allow us to have a better kind of Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and the law of evidence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian

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Evidence Act, 1872 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): I thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support this Bill. I would like to mention to the hon. Minister that he has rightly said that our old laws, that is the Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act etc. which are very old, require to be thoroughly amended and he would definitely try to take action on that line.

Some amendments were made in the Criminal Procedure Code. At the outset I would like to request the hon. Minister that so far as the provisions on plea bargaining are concerned, there seems to be a requirement for giving training to the prosecutors because the prosecutor plays a very important role in this. A notice is required to be given to the prosecutor. We know that there are large number of cases pending in the courts. I think the conviction rate is hardly ten per cent. There are so many reasons for that. I welcome this amendment which has been brought here.

As you know, our legal system is based upon the Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence which proceeds upon the premise of innocence of the accused and a presumption thereof. Obviously, that premise cannot be questioned. But those who are the victims of the offence, those who are informants, certainly, also have got the right to ensure that those who are culpable must be brought to book. And obviously, the experience in this connection is not very encouraging, which ultimately impules us to come with one amendment or the other.

Sir, you would recall that in criminal justice system, there are three components. First is the police, second is the prosecutor and the third is the justice delivery system. In civil law, we have come with alternative dispute redressal mechanism. In civil courts, outside compromise is also allowed. Similarly, these amendments will definitely help to minimise the disposal of the cases.

The sovereign responsibility cannot, at all, be given to any other authority. What is the position today? We are suffering in terms of policing. We are suffering in terms of proper prosecution and, as a result, the consequence is that proper justice delivery system is not being delivered.

I am given to understand that the conviction rate is 10 per cent. Please correct me if I am wrong. But, I would certainly like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is

the conviction rate in this country. If this is the level of acquittal, then, perhaps, something is seriously amiss which you need to address.

When we are getting the opportunity to discuss these important provisions by way of amending the Code of Criminal Procedure, certain connected and relevant issues can also be focussed upon. I would be grateful if the hon. Home Minister can enlighten on those concerns. What steps are being taken to improve the policing system in this country? What steps are being taken to strengthen the investigative capacity of the police? These levels of acquittals are happening only because the investigation is not proper and, therefore, the prosecution fails. Maybe, the time has come to ensure effective training for policing and investigation. The system of Directorate of Prosecution may be introduced because prosecutors are required to be given proper training. My humble submission to the hon. Minister is to enlighten us on those points.

Secondly, I would like to make some observations on the plea of bargaining. It is, indeed, a welcome step. I remember, the Law Commission, headed by Mr. Thakkar, had itself recommended as to why plea of bargaining should be included. I would like to quote the reasons as to why the Law Commission, headed by Mr. Thakkar, in its 142nd Report talked about plea of bargaining. It has given five reasons and they are very interesting. "When most people who are arrested are guilty anyway, then why should one bother about the trial?" This was the first reason given. The second one was that public money should not be wasted. The third one that they have suggested was plea-bargaining as a way of compromise. Both sides give a little and gain a little. The fourth one was that trial consumes time and cost. The fifth one was that both sides should avail it.

Based on the Thakkar Commission's Report, the plea-bargaining has been provided for and it is a welcome thing. That will definitely help the victims also. What is actually happening is that the poor victims are always suffering. When a poor man who has been punished for committing murder is acquitted, his poor family does not get anything. In this amendment, you have made a provision to pay compensation. Compensation will give some solace to the person who is a victim. My humble submission is that there is a need to bring in comprehensive amendments in the Code of Criminal Procedure, Evidence Act and the Indian Penal Code because cyber crimes and new cases are coming up. I would request the hon. Minister to bring in comprehensive amendments concerning the criminal system.

You have made mention about experts' evidence in counterfeit currency cases. Till now, only the experts from the Nasik Printing Press are allowed to give evidence. Now, when you have brought an amendment that other experts or experts from the Forensic Science Laboratory can also give evidence, I would like to point out that much requires to be done in our forensic laboratories. In many parts of our country, we do not have technologically developed modern forensic laboratories with the result that the cases are getting delayed. When a matter is referred to the forensic laboratories, it takes many, many months. My suggestion is that at the district level, at the regional level, we must have good forensic laboratories.

Another point that I would like to make is that the police are taking statements, those statements are unsigned and with the result, many witnesses turn hostile in the court.

15.14 hrs.

(SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG *in the Chair*)

I also agree that according to article 21, we cannot force anybody to give evidence against himself. But here is a case where the depositions are recorded by the police under section 161, which are unsigned. My submission is that those recorded statements are to be immediately verified by the higher officers or by persons who have magisterial powers or the persons who have got the right to administer the oath. In that case, if those things are done, then there will be little chances for people to go hostile. Many times, the police also plays a very crucial role. If they want to have any conspiracy against anybody, then they can prepare a statement in the manner and way which they like. These statements are submitted in Court as a diary. We have got the experience, the police are changing statements. They can do and undo any things. You can consider all this under section 161. When the statements given to the Police are unsigned, they are to be verified by the higher officer or by the magistrate as early as possible in a time bound manner.

With this, I support this Amendment Bill. I would request that comprehensive amendments should be brought in the Criminal Procedure Code, Indian Evidence Act and so on. We have now got the mafia crimes, cyber crimes, communal crimes and so on. It is very essential to have a comprehensive amendment for these cases.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, I rise to

support the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2005. This Bill is for amending the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872.

This Bill was introduced by the then Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K. Advani on 22nd August, 2003. It was then referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on 18th September, 2003. After having 14 sittings, the final Report was prepared on 18th February, 2005. The Report was laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament on 2nd March, 2005. The Rajya Sabha passed this Bill on 13th December, 2005. Originally, the amendments were proposed in Sections 161 and 162 and 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code. There was an amendment under Section 344. The proposed amendments under Sections 161, 162, 164 and 344 were opposed by so many lawyers of this country. The Bar Council of India and the various State Bar Councils including the Tamil Nadu Bar Council had also opposed it. The Standing Committee of Parliament had also opposed the proposed amendments. I, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Bar Council and on my own behalf, have submitted a Memorandum to the hon. Minister. I am very much thankful to the hon. Home Minister for safeguarding the interests of the litigants and the interests of the poor claimants in the criminal courts. The proposed amendments, as suggested by the previous Government, talk about taking signature from the witness under sections 162 Cr.PC and Section 164 Cr.PC talks about recording the statement of the material witness by the magistrates for the offences punishable with seven years imprisonment or more even death penalty. These were affecting the interests of the poor litigants. These provisions were removed. I personally and also on behalf of the lawyers of this country thanking the Home Minister for removal of these anti-public amendments.

I welcome the proposed amendment about plea bargaining. There is a new Chapter introduced from Section 265A to 265J under plea bargaining. Plea bargaining is successful in the United States of America. It is a pre-trial negotiations. Previously, the Indian law does not recognise the concept of plea bargaining. However, Section 206 (1) and (3) of Cr. PC and Section 208 (1) of Motor Vehicles Act enables the accused to plead guilty of petty offences and to pay a small fine. It does not involve bargaining between the prosecution and the accused. Section 320 of Cr.P.C., with the permission or without the permission, permits the accused as well as the victim to compromise offences. Even under Section 320 Cr.P.C., only 53 cases are permissible out of 383 offences, to be compounded, with or without permission.

[Shri S. K. Kharventhan]

After an elaborate discussion, the Law Commission recommended in its 142nd Report for plea-bargaining. It is a good proposal and a good amendment brought in by our Government. Even through the plea-bargaining is not a forced one; it is according to the will and wish of the accused.

According to Section 265(B), the accused has to first file the application, after the charge is filed before the Magistrate; so, he comes forward to file the application. The court is authorised to hear both the parties. According to Section 265 (G), hearing both the parties is permitted. Section 265 (E)(a) deals with compensation to the victims. There is another provision to safeguard the interests of the accused. Suppose the accused files an application for compounding the cases, under Section 265 (B), under Section 265 (G), it cannot be treated against the accused. It will safeguard the interests of the accused. It is a welcome step brought in by this Government.

There is another important provision under Section 195 (a). The original Section 195 of the IPC states that giving or fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction of offences punishable with imprisonment for life. Now, the provision brought in is clearly stating that 'threatening or inducing any person', itself is punishable. So, it is a very good amendment. This Section 195 (a) also tells which could be tried in the court where evidence is given. It is a welcome step.

With respect to Section 292 Cr.P.C., the cases on counterfeit, coinage, etc., there are many cases in the Magistrate's Court which are pending for want of concerned officers evidence. The present amendment will reduce the delays and the cases could be disposed of early.

Hence, the amendments brought in by our Government – by our hon. Home Minister – are welcome and I support this Bill wholeheartedly.

SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI (Vishnupur): Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this debate. I am in support of this Bill.

There are lakhs of pending cases in different courts of our country – from the highest court to the lowest. Cases are pending for years. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, the number of under-trials in prisons at the end of 2003 was 2,17,659. A majority of them are booked for petty offences. This is a very serious matter. These are under-trials who remain in jails for many

years. Many of them might not be proved guilty. Due to the long delays in the legal process, they are to remain in jails. What is the condition of our jails? It is horrible.

All our jails are over-crowded. The National Human Rights Commission indicates over-crowding of 32.33 per cent in our jails. The situation is really bad. The inmates are subjected to inhuman treatment. There are violations of human rights in every jail in the country. A complete overhaul of the system is needed. Also, there are a number of vacancies of judges existing in various courts. That should be filled up to clear the backlog of cases.

The Cr.P.C. as it stands today contains, for the purpose of disposal of criminal cases, four procedures of trial namely Summon Procedure, Warrant Procedure, police case and complaint case. There are Summary Procedure of Trial and Session Procedure of Trial. The process of trial of criminal offences as indicated above and contained in the Cr.P.C. are not matching with the huge number of cases pending in the subordinate judiciary, which necessitated the introduction of a separate procedure of trial of offences; and the same process of trial or adjudication of offence has been styled in the Bill, under the caption 'Plea-Bargaining'. It is likely to be inserted in chapter 21A of Cr.P.C. Just after the process of trial, summary trial begins from 260 to 265 Cr.P.C.

The New chapter, as aforesaid, "Plea Bargaining" starts from, 265A to 265L of Cr.P.C. The analysis of these provisions indicated that this separate procedure of trial would be much helpful in the matter of disposal of huge number of criminal cases. Pending for years together, the plea will be placed under consideration. If the plea had been given voluntarily, that will be considered separately in camera. In that event, there is no scope of creating pressure upon the accused to obtain plea. If the plea appears to be voluntary, then subsequent sections of the newly added sections, namely working out a satisfactory disposition of the case will come into play.

It appears that seeking the provision of plea bargaining is the option of the accused. If he seeks the benefit of the section and it is found that the same is voluntary, then the subsequent acts of working out a satisfactory disposition of the case will follow and the case will have its finality.

It will appear from the experience that a good number of cases will be adjudicated as per the procedure laid down. I hope, this special process of trial will be very much helpful to the society as a whole.

Sir, of course in the Plea Bargaining chapter offences are punishable just below 7 years. It will come under the purview of application of provision. Normally, offences punishable within 7 years under the IPC are tried by the Magistrate of the First Class. C.G.M. award punishment to the extent of 3 years. Offences to be adjudicated under the process of trial in the Plea Bargaining process is punishable upto 7 years and it seems Magistrate will adjudicate the same proceeding. If so, in case Magistrate awards conviction for more than three years, he cannot himself pass sentence. He is to refer the matter to C.G.M. for passing appropriate sentence, which will cause delay. So, amendment of section 29 of Cr.P.C. is required.

Sir, there was a move by the previous BJP Government to dilute the existing provisions, in the Cr.P.C., relating to the cases of atrocities against women and to make such cases compoundable. Such changes were designed against the rights of women. I thank the Minister for dropping it.

With regard to compounding of offences, there are apprehensions that this provision could be misused by the rich and powerful. It would go against the interests of the poorer sections.

Sir, another point that I want to make is related to the protection of witnesses. There are a number of instances where witnesses turn hostile, which ultimately save the guilty, making the rule of law a mockery. In some cases witnesses become untraceable and even physically eliminated. Mostly, in the cases involving rich and influential people, the witnesses turn hostile, be it the Jessica Lal murder case or the BMW case.

Sir, the case of Zahira Sheikh, the witness in the Best Bakery case, is a fine example. The most recent example is reported from Kerala where in a sex-scandal case, with alleged involvement of a former State Minister, some of the witnesses are reported to have turned hostile. In most cases in which influential people are involved, the witnesses are made to turn hostile by means of coercion and allurements. Hence, it is very essential to give protection to the witnesses. But there is no comprehensive law existing in the country to deal with this issue.

There are many recommendations from the Law Commission since the year 1958. But the recommendations mostly related to allowances and facilities to be made available for the witnesses. There is no suggestion of measures for the physical protection of witnesses. It is

high time that this aspect is also looked at. Sir, I welcome this Bill on behalf of myself and my party. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2003.

Sir, through you, and through this House, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the fact that Criminal Procedure Code, Indian Evidence Act or Indian Penal Code had been formulated during the British Period and only minor amendments have been made in between. You are aware that these minor amendments will not set things right. The most complicated problem is of delay in the judicial procedure of the country. There is a need to devise measures to remove delays in courts. Particularly, in criminal cases, a young person becomes an old one till the judgement is pronounced. I, therefore, suggest that a comprehensive reform is required.

Sir, there are several reasons responsible for it. Lakhs of cases are pending in courts, be it the Supreme Court, be it the High Court, Session Courts or Courts at lower levels like courts of the Magistrates. Neither any law is being formulated nor amendment is being brought forward for it. This is urgently needed to ensure speedy justice for people.

Sir, second point I would like to make is that corruption is prevalent in courts too but no step is being taken by the Government to weed out corruption. There is a need to set up a Commission for it also.

Sir, these are the facts and unless laws are amended comprehensively, it will not be possible to remove it. Criminal Procedure Code was formulated in 1860. It was amended in 1973, thereafter it was again amended in 2003 and still again an amendment has been brought forward now. The present amendment brought forward contains only some additions in the points included in the proposal of the 2003 amendment. You are aware that if someone commits a cognizable offence, he at first strikes at the witnesses. Provision for punishment has been made in this amendment for people bullying the witnesses, preventing the witnesses to depose by giving him allurements and for people giving false evidence. A few words have been added in section 195(A) through this amendment. Similarly section 161 and section 162 have

[Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh]

also been amended and particularly an entry has been added to it provision regarding which was already there in the section.

Sir, this amendment deserves to be welcomed and I support it, but at last, I would request the hon'ble Minister that in view of the present circumstances and occurrences there is a need to make comprehensive changes in the Criminal Procedure Code, Penal Code and Evidence Act.

With these words, I express my gratitude to you and conclude.

[English]

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN (Vellore): Sir, I thank you very much for giving an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2005 moved by the hon. Home Minister. This Bill should be supported by all.

First of all, those who have been giving false evidence all these years are being sought to be punished for the first time. Those who induce or threaten the witnesses are now being punished. Therefore, it is a welcome feature.

Sir, another important aspect of this Bill is that it contains the provision of plea-bargaining. The cases in criminal courts and in the civil courts in our country are piling up day in and day out. I would like to suggest three things before this august House. I am not a lawyer, but one amongst the ordinary citizens of this country. As a teacher by profession, I would like to suggest the following three things.

The cases that are pending in the portals of the courts should be divided into three categories. First, there should be a filtration process. In a country like Singapore, cases are brought daily before the courts. The Magistrate sits in the court, as you are sitting in your Chair. The policemen present an accused before the Magistrate. All the accused are made to stand in a queue. The policemen ask them if they have filed their FIRs or not. The Magistrate asks the accused if he or she had committed an offence. If the accused says that he had committed an offence, then he is immediately given a punishment in the form of a fine or such other thing. Sometimes, if not found guilty, the accused is acquitted also. The case is filtered out in this way.

Second, if the accused accepts that he or she has

committed an offence, then he is given punishment on the spot. Third, if the accused says that he or she had not committed any offence, then he is given the right to employ a lawyer to argue his case. Those cases are taken to the courts. This process of filtering out cases is pursued by countries like Singapore. Adhering to such a practice would also help reduce piling up of cases in our country as well.

Another aspect is the elimination process. The plea-bargaining provision indeed fulfils the elimination process. Our hon. Home Minister has said that death sentences, life sentences and in cases of seven years of imprisonment, this provision of plea-bargaining will not apply. Crime is said to be an act against the law of the State. Spiritual leaders define sin as an act against the law of God. Anyone who commits a sin is to be punished by God. Anyone who commits a crime against the law of the land is to be punished by the State. But here, our hon. Home Minister has exempted death sentences from the ambit of plea-bargaining. Plea bargaining is one the most acceptable and most welcome feature of this Bill. Cases of death sentences, life sentences and sentences of imprisonment up to seven years should be brought within the ambit of this plea-bargaining.

In Arabian countries, where the Islamic law prevails, even in cases of death sentences, the provision of plea-bargaining is in force. In Islamic law, the crime of killing is not against the law of the land, but it is against the interest of the family. In the Middle East courts, in the countries where Islamic law is practised even in respect of death sentences, people who are affected by the murdered person is given compensation. The compensation given to the affected people is demanded by the affected people themselves. The family members ask for Rs. 20 crore or 20 billion dollars and it is given by the offender. Such an arrangement is there. Therefore, plea bargaining has been accepted here. This plea bargaining should also be extended to all the aspects of death sentence, life sentence and even in cases related to seven years imprisonment. This is my humble suggestion.

Crimes are committed by polluted minds of the people. I would like to appreciate our hon. Home Minister for bringing this Bill. He is a great humanist. He wants to reduce the cases that are piling up in the country. He wants to modernize criminal law of our country. With that motive, he has brought forward this Bill. In order to minimise the crimes that are happening in the country, we should educate the people. I am pained to say one point in this great House of Parliament. Every issue is analysed and

discussed. But ethical education and spiritual knowledge have to be inculcated in the people. How to prevent people from committing crimes? This aspect has not been discussed in this House until now.

Therefore, moral education, ethical code and spiritual aspects of human life should be inculcated in the ordinary minds of the people from their infancy and childhood. Prevention is better than cure. That is what people say. But people who are becoming criminals in the course of time have to be prevented from committing crimes in the very beginning. It has to be nipped in the bud itself. The country of criminals should be converted into a country of non-criminals, a country of saints and spiritual leaders. Therefore, people have to be educated in this area. People are to be imparted spiritual knowledge and moral education. They should realize the importance of not committing immoral acts in worldly ordinary life. This Bill aims at preventing the growing criminal minds of the people. It has to be welcome by all sections of the people.

I also want to say one more thing here. If a Muslim commits a crime, he is immediately called a Muslim criminal. If a Hindu commits a crime, he is called Hindu criminal and a Sikh committing a crime is called a Sikh criminal. Likewise, they will say that there are Muslim terrorists, Hindu terrorists and Sikh terrorists. Terrorism is anti-humanity. It is crime against humanity; One who commits a terrorist act has to be treated as an enemy to humanity. He should not be called as a Hindu or a Muslim or a Sikh or a Christian terrorist. Religions have nothing to do with crime. Religions have nothing to do with terrorism. Therefore, I request everyone in the country, for God's sake, not to call anyone in the name of religion to which he belongs because he has committed a crime or an act of terrorism in the country.

This Bill which has been brought forward by our Home Minister is to minimise the piling up of cases in our country and to minimise the punishment given to the people by plea bargaining. It will certainly help the growth of moral life in this country. It will certainly reduce the growth of crime in this country.

With these words, I conclude and I support the Bill.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur):
Sir, I rise to support the Bill which deals with amending the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Indian Penal Code and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

At the outset, I would like to say that we need to modernise our laws when we are developing as a nation in which the citizens have a right to live in a manner that is compatible with the other citizens of the rest of the world.

We have seen that justice delayed is justice denied. In the case of an accused, if justice is delayed for a pretty long time, it amounts to punishment awarded without justice being delivered. Therefore, as a consequence, we have seen that several accused persons are languishing in jails, waiting for punishment to be given. But it is a punishment that has already been given to such a person, which is much more than the punishment that would have been awarded to him had justice been delivered to him in time. Therefore, we really need to modernise our system. So, I welcome this provision.

One of the objectives of this Bill is to dispense with justice in the shortest possible time. But probably the law has to be first passed by the Parliament. I think, probably, we need to look into that system afresh. For example, this Bill was first introduced in Rajya Sabha on 22nd August, 2003, more than two years ago, by the then Deputy Prime Minister. It has taken more than two years for it to come to the Lok Sabha. Hopefully we will pass it today. So, it will become an important law of the land. I, therefore, think that we really need to look into the time that is required, the time that is consumed in this process for the Bill to be passed afresh.

This Bill has several components. I would deal with a few components. First, it tries to deal with the witnesses. Nowadays, the witnesses are coerced, threatened or forced to give evidence in a manner that suits the person who is an accused. It is something which this Bill deals with. So, this is a very important issue. In fact, it has been highlighted and identified as one of the causes of justice not being delivered in time and delivered in a right manner. Various Law Commissions, various institutions have gone into that aspect. Therefore, this is a welcome amendment. I welcome it.

The second component deals with the plea-bargaining. This is something which is prevalent in the United States for a pretty long time. In fact, the moment the charges are framed, then the accused has a right to say that probably he would like to go for the plea bargaining and would go in for a system whereby he pleads guilty and he is awarded a punishment which is less than that. In fact, as the hon. Minister was saying, it will be half of the minimum punishment prescribed in our Indian system or

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

one-fourth if no such minimum punishment is prescribed under any law under which he is now tried.

I would rather feel that you are confining this plea-bargaining to certain situations and exempting certain punishments, certain accused persons who are undergoing trials for certain punishments and they will not be covered by that. For example, there is the life imprisonment or punishment for seven years or even for punishment where there is a life sentence. I think that if you are really going in for a system which is elaborately mentioned in the law, how can it be really practicable? The accused, the Defence Counsel, the Public Prosecutor and all the four of them have to come together and agree to a particular thing. So, it is a very system which is oil-proof. I think we really need to expand it, not just to this but also, probably, to all possible crimes that may be committed. Maybe, it is a good beginning. We can start with this and proceed on that. So, as I said earlier, plea bargaining is something which is prevalent in the United States for a very long period of time. The experiences of that country and many other countries, where it is prevalent, are available to us. So, this is not that we are making a first time effort. Therefore, using it and extending it to more than one will be more applicable.

Thirdly, we are dealing with and which the Minister did not mention, is probably compounding of an offence where the husband or the relatives of the husband could also be subject to that. You are also considering this now.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It was the part of the original Bill and in the Rajya Sabha that is deleted.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: That is why you did not mention it. So, Sir, these type of new provisions which are now introduced are really welcome and we really need to do it. This Indian Evidence Act was first passed by the then Government in 1872 and that is the law today. So, my suggestion to the Minister would be that if you are really thinking of modernising our legal system, we need not make just piecemeal amendments here and there. We will need to look at it totally afresh and bring about a new law which will be really modern in content and in application.

Take for example, he mentioned about the new law which the Parliament passed about a few years ago dealing with crimes of digital nature. Therefore, Sir, if you can bring about a new law completely modern and not just bring about a piecemeal amendment that we are

doing now, this will really be helpful to us. Therefore, I would request the Minister that maybe in next year or year after next, set up a proper commission and ensure that all these laws be brought about and, probably, it can be one single law. It is because the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Indian Penal Code, the Indian Evidence Act, probably some of these laws can be really integrated into one. You can bring about a new law. So, I really stand to support the Bill. I hope that the Minister would take cognisance of some of the suggestions that we have made.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The criminal justice system comprises chiefly the police, the prosecution and the judiciary which is the arm of the State closest to the citizen. This proximity empowers it to violate the rule of law frequently and brutally. Every time a police officer wrongly arrests or tortures a citizen with impunity, every time a rich or powerful person escapes punishment for a crime by bribing the prosecution and every time a big shot interferes in the criminal justice machinery to secure partisan goals, the ideal is compromised. The judiciary functions independently and fearlessly. The rule of law demands an independent police organisation. It also demands independent prosecution services which should be free from political interference but should be accountable for their actions. It is said that this Bill, as the hon. Minister mentioned, seeks to amend the Indian Penal Code, the Cr.P.C. and the Indian Evidence Act. The purpose is to improve upon the existing criminal justice system in the country. There is huge pendency and that is why we need it. Three reasons have been given. First is that there is huge pendency of criminal cases. Secondly, there is inordinate delay in their disposal. Thirdly, there is very low rate of conviction in cases involving serious crimes. These are the three main issues which this Bill seeks to address. The remedies that have proposed are also three, if not four. Prevention of the evil of witness turning hostile in criminal cases. Secondly, introduction of the concept of plea-bargaining. Thirdly, compounding the offence under Section 498(a) IPC which deals with the cruelty to women.

15.55 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

The three acts which are proposed to be amended are considered to be the bulwark of criminal justice system of our country.

The proposed amendments are based on the

recommendations contained in 142nd, 154th and 178th Reports of the Law Commission and Committee on Reforms of Criminal Justice System which was headed by Dr. Justice V.S. Malimath.

This Bill focuses on three issues, namely, witness turning hostile, plea-bargaining and compounding the offence under Section 498 A of the IPC and taking evidence of scientific experts in cases relating to fake currency.

I will come to the aspect of witness turning hostile for which correction is to be made in the Indian Penal Code. We all know that criminal justice system is evidence-based. False and fabricated evidence in the court leads to poor rate of conviction in criminal cases. The conviction rate in criminal cases is as low as 10 per cent due to perjury. Perjury is committed by the witness on his or her own volition or under threat or allurement or inducement by the third party. Punishment exists today for the witness who makes false statements under Sections 193 to 196 of the IPC. But there is no punishment for the person who threatens or induces the witness. This is not provided in the IPC. Here, this Bill seeks to make some addition.

Sir, the Bill proposes to introduce imprisonment for a term up to seven years with a fine or both for the person who threatens or induces the witness to make false evidence. But my point is, existing general provision under Section 344 of Cr.P.C. prescribing summary trial for perjury is found to be grossly inadequate. Thus, to check the witness from turning hostile, summary trial has been provided and a maximum punishment of imprisonment has been extended.

But the amendment leaves untouched the steps that are to be taken. Here, when evidence is the core issue of criminal justice system, if an allegation is made against someone, a third party, that a person is threatening or inducing or alluring a specific time should be provided to take evidence of that person. Now there is no scope for that. Will the court direct the police? So, a time frame has to be fixed. I think, that is necessary. The hon. Minister should apprise us on this aspect while replying to the debate.

I now come to the second aspect, namely plea-bargaining. This is nothing new in the jurisprudence system in the world. The United States of America has it, but it is a novel idea for us. The Law Commission, in its 154th Report, was of a very strong view that we should have a plea-bargaining system. The Committee on Reforms of Criminal

Justice System had also recommended the introduction of plea-bargaining in our country. It is not a replica, as the hon. Minister has also mentioned in his introductory remarks.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mahtab, we have to start a discussion at 4 o'clock. How long will you take?

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I will conclude within 10 minutes. I have two or three points to make.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. You may continue your speech later on. Now, we will take up Item no. 35.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Will the Bill be taken up today or tomorrow?

MR. SPEAKER: We can have it today after this discussion. It will come at 6 o'clock today unless the discussion collapses earlier.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: With this, I have some other things to do; I have to go. If I am not here, again there will be a problem.

MR. SPEAKER: We will accommodate you later on. I am sorry. It is so because we have admitted the discussion. Hardly we discuss sports.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Will discussion under rule 193 have precedence over the Bill?

MR. SPEAKER: That is not so. The Bill will be passed in this Session.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It seems it will take some time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Topdar, please listen. You need not join issue.

...(Interruptions)

16.02 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Need to develop sports infrastructure in the country keeping in view the forthcoming sports events

MR. SPEAKER: Before you start, I want to make one thing clear. It is because after I have admitted this notice for discussion, there have been certain, if I may say so,

[Mr. Speaker]

well-meaning but misinformed friends who have been advising me that I had done something improper. Let me make it clear that I had not admitted any notice or Motion to discuss the omission of any player from any team whatsoever. I am not mentioning anything, everybody understands. But, it was a matter, it seems to be that comments were made in newspapers about the propriety of the Speaker in giving, fixing or allowing a motion on that. Editorials were written. Some well-meaning Member of the other House advised the Speaker what to do and what not to do. Therefore, I want to make the position very clear.

I very much welcome it when young Members of this House took the trouble of giving a notice on an issue which concerns the nation as a whole. I believe, India's performance in sports requires a lot of improvement. Therefore, please restrict yourself, all the hon. Members, to the issue that he has mentioned.

You have raised a matter regarding need to develop sports infrastructure in the country keeping in view the forthcoming sports events. Let them have a discussion at a proper level. Let it not be said that there has been manipulation to espouse the cause of a particular player however big or however important he may be. It is because of the very unseemly comments made on the Speaker's decision to allow a discussion that I am forced to make these observations.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am most grateful for being given an opportunity to speak on a subject which is very very close to my heart, and it is of very very great importance to the country as a whole, which is regarding need for building up a broad-based, world-class infrastructure and environment of international standards. Especially, I am going to talk about Olympics. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I hope, very constructive participation will be there by some hon. Members and we should complete it by 6 o'clock.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: This discussion is very timely for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games to be held in March 2006 in Australia, Asian Games in Doha in 2006, Beijing Olympics in 2008 and the Commonwealth Games to be held in India in 2010. Actually we are late for preparing for these things. Internationally, they start preparing for Olympics eight years or 12 years in advance. We are just

preparing one or two years in advance. That also shows why we perform the way we perform.

Sir, you are yourself a keen lover of sports and whenever an Indian sportsman brings glory to the country, like Lt. Col. Rathore or Sachin Tendulkar of the Indian Cricket team, you have never failed to make a special mention of it in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vijaypat Singhania also.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: I am grateful to you for allowing me to raise this discussion. You are a Member of the Executive Committee of Mohun Bagan Athletic Club.

Several hon. Members here are very, very interested in sports like Mr. Sharad Pawar. He is the President of BCCI. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra is the President of Archery Association. Mr. Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is the President of Football Association. Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev has a lot of love for tennis. Mr. Dayankshi Maran loves tennis and snooker. Rao Inderjit Singh has been the National Champion of Skeet Shooting for three years and created a new record.

Mr. Rahul Gandhi has keen interest in shooting and squash. My friend, Mr. Navjot Singh Siddhu has been a former international cricketer. We are all proud of Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar who won two gold medals in 1998 Asian Games. Mr. K.C. Singh Baba has been two times national champion in power lifting and won two silver medals in Asian championship.

MR. SPEAKER: You compliment all of them.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Mr. Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa is the President of Cycling Association. Mr. Dushyant Singh is also very very keen on shooting. A large number of MPs of this House also participated in the Parliament's Sports Meet. I look forward to an enthusiastic discussion and debate on the subject of sports. I am sure we can build a consensus so that we, as a country, excel in sports internationally.

Let us go back to the last Olympics in Athens in 2004. While the US, China, Russia, Australia, Japan and Italy won gold medals in double digits, India could bag only one silver. So, we were relegated to the company of tiny countries like Slovenia, Estonia, Hong Kong and Paraguay who had all bagged one solitary silver medal.

My congratulations to Lt. Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore for his outstanding performance which I was privileged to witness in Athens.

16.07 hrs.

(SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG *in the Chair*)

The important fact, however, remains that we could only win one silver medal. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was a very, very proud moment when we saw our Indian lady athletes, especially Anju Baby George, Soma Biswas and J.J. Shobha performing really well. Even when Soma Biswas was injured very, very severely, she still limpingly started her race and finished third. I was sitting in the crowd and millions were watching all over the world. It was a very, very proud moment, I am sure, for every Indian.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in purchasing power parity, our GDP of 3.3 trillion dollars is the fifth highest in the world after US, European Union, China and Japan. In population, we are comparable to China. But while China bagged 32 gold medals, 17 silver and 14 bronze medals totalling 63 medals in the last Olympics, we could only win one silver medal. Sir, I recall while I was witnessing the Olympics, everyday I used to stand four or five times to listen to the Chinese National Anthem. Listening to it and seeing the Chinese athletes performing so well my admiration for the Chinese athletes really grew.

I would like to tell you what China does. Schools of Sports in China enrol five year old children. Then they send potential candidates to Sport Centres in provinces or cities to receive a very rigorous training. They send the best ones to train together in national teams. Competitions are relentless. The Chinese athletes are trained for years to become machines to generate gold medals. It is estimated that out of two lakh athletes in China, about 1200 enter the national team which produced 32 gold medals at Athens. Each gold medallist receives reward money which is 23 years' worth of a Beijinger's annual income. In the past two decades, China has produced 1,113 champions who have broken world records more than 750 times. So, the costs are huge but China considers the spending justified for bringing national honour through Olympic medals. A report on the internet estimates that China has spent 2.4 billion dollars, about Rs.11,000 crore in preparing for the Athens Olympics.

As against this, the Government of India had a budget of only Rs.42 crore in 1991-92 that has gone up to Rs.313

crore in 2005-06. It is only 0.06 per cent of our national budget and a negligible percentage of our GDP. We are spending only three per cent of what China spends on sports.

In international sports, the race for gold medals is becoming keener day by day. These medals have become symbols of the vitality of the country's youth and its fighting spirit. The Indian youth in the age group of 13-35 years constitutes more than 40 per cent of the population. So, we are a young nation. We have to concentrate on sports.

Sir, first and foremost is the need to improve infrastructure. Unfortunately, we have travelled in the opposite direction in the recent times. Till the 31st March, 2005, the Government of India used to give grants to State Governments and the local bodies for construction of facilities like stadium, swimming pools, shooting ranges, etc. This scheme was stopped from 1st April, 2005 and transferred to States since sports falls in the States List. With great difficulty, it has now been decided that at least the incomplete projects should be completed by March, 2007. Sir, since sports is low priority for many States, this money is likely to be diverted to other sectors unless the Planning Commission does something about it. As to be well prepared for this speech, I spoke to a lot of eminent sports persons in the country.

Mrs. Anju Bobby George who practices at Bangaluru told us that we lack world class infrastructure; the gymnasium is old; no woman expert is available to help in quick recovery; the equipment for physiotherapy is outdated; there is no money even for watering the track; the number of coaches is insufficient; there was a single expert who was hired from Ukraine for 200 athletes; and good coaches are rare. All facilities including medicines, sports-science should be brought under a single roof. These were her suggestions.

Sir, Ms. Maleshwari, the Bronze Medal winner in Sydney Olympics 2000 shares the same view that we lack world class infrastructure even at Nehru Stadium in Delhi. There is Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports (NSNIS), Patiala. I have myself visited that. I was really concerned to see the state of affairs of the gymnasium over there. If you saw the treadmill over there, it is really bad. I think we need to do a lot to improve the sports facilities in the country.

Sir, the Athletic Federation itself laments for lack of good accommodation for athletes even at New Delhi,

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

Bangaluru and Patiala; lack of science support, recovery measures and monitoring of diet.

Sir, I would like to suggest the hon. Finance Minister, through you, Sir, that we need to do a lot and we need really to increase our budget for sports. Even the Government is not spending The corporate section which is doing extremely well in the country is not really coming forward to spend in sports. Sir, most of the money in our country is going for Cricket. Cricket probably gets more than 80 per cent of all the sponsorship money. All our focus is towards cricket. Cricket is not even an Olympic sport. Cricket is played by, maybe 20 countries in the world whereas Olympic sports are played by more than 200 countries in the world.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister that in the coming budget, he must give tax exemption to the companies, to the public sector, to the corporates who encourage Olympic sports, who encourage sportsmen pursuing Olympic sports. If 150 per cent tax exemption is given then, I am sure, a lot of companies would come forward to encourage Olympic sports and sportsmen and we would start doing really well. Sometimes one does not appreciate the importance that sports play in our life today. In the global arena, today sports are very important. When you are in Athens and sitting in the Olympic stadium and you see the Indian athletes running with Indian flag, the feeling of pride and honour that one gets is very difficult to explain but we can all experience it. I think it is absolutely of paramount importance that this 150 per cent tax exemption is given. This request was made by hon. Member Shri Kalmadi and other Members of Parliament also for giving this exemption.

Sir, I would also like to request, through you, that the Government of India could also request the State Governments to ensure that the city Master Plans for urban development invariably earmark land for stadiums and sports facilities. We really need to strengthen Sports Authority of India as it is an apex body for country's sports. If we want medals, it has got to be strengthened.

Budget for SAI's centres: SAI has developed Sports Science Centres at five places. Five new Centres are planned along with upgrading of NIS, Patiala.

Dope Control: Drug disqualification is becoming another serious embarrassment for Indian sports. We can hardly forget what happened to Ms. Pratima Kumari and

Sanamacha Chanu, our weightlifters at the Athens 2004. There is only one Dope Control Laboratory with the SAI today which has still to get accreditation with the International Olympic Committee. I suggest we have at least one lab in each Regional Centre of SAI. We may also consider making drug tests mandatory for all national competitions to create greater awareness of this menace.

National Coaching Scheme: Under this Scheme, SAI provides coaches to State Governments on a matching basis for their State and District Coaching Centres. It spends money on their salary, kit, medical expenses and travel. The annual budget of SAI is about Rs. 37 crore. SAI has 1480 coaches only to cover the whole country, which is highly, highly inadequate. It needs to be increased at least ten times in the shortest possible time. You would be surprised to know that there is no recruitment of coaches since 1992.

Jaspal Rana, Arjuna awardee in pistol shooting, says that out of these 1480 coaches, there is not even a single coach for shooting, even when we Indians are from the land of Mahabharata and Arjuna. We have tremendous potential in archery and in shooting, but we do not have proper coaches or proper environment where we can grow. Otherwise, this country can produce hundreds of Jaspal Ranas and Col. Rathores, who can absolutely claim the number one position in the field of shooting and archery.

Sir, when we talk about sports equipment, SAI has five Regional Centres and five Sub-Centres for preparing Indian teams for Olympics and Asian games. The entire infrastructure and equipment is provided by SAI. For such sports, the equipment, a lot of time, needs to be imported. We do not make such quality equipment in the country. However, at Tughlakabad Shooting Range, under the 'Pay and Play Scheme' no arms have been imported since 1982, and the allocation has been reduced from Rs. 5.5 crore to Rs. 4.5 crore. Even though we have the stadiums, we have the shooting ranges, it is seen that most of the times, the Government are interested in erecting buildings, stadiums and shooting ranges, but nobody is interested in what is actually happening inside those stadiums and shooting ranges. We see that at the shooting ranges, sometimes, there are no arms and ammunition and there are no targets. We are just making buildings and maintaining those buildings. What actually is missing is the software part of it. We are interested in creating the hardware, but the most important thing is that we should have the software, we should have the coaches and we

should have the equipment inside those buildings. It is common knowledge that the arms and ammunition that we produce indigenously are of very poor quality. Leave alone the international competitions, the indigenous equipment is not even used in the national competitions. Our policies also discourage indigenous manufacture of these sports equipment, arms and ammunition in the private sector, which needs to be reconsidered.

Sir, our Sports Associations and Federations have frequently been in news for all the wrong reasons. For talent scouting, Federations and Associations are supposed to hold annual championships in different categories. They are supposed to have an annual calendar of events. However, most of them fail in holding competitions regularly; many of them fail in submitting their accounts as well.

Since sports is a State subject, State Chief Ministers could be requested to arrange for identifying rural sports talent by organising Rural Sports Tournaments. Like I said, today, cricket matches are watched with unparalleled enthusiasm and the game commands more than 80 per cent sponsorship. It is very important that we develop the interest of our youth in different sports, especially in the Olympic sports. I would like to congratulate Shri Sharad Pawar on becoming the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India and also for increasing the revenue of the BCCI manifold, that is, from Rs. 100 crore per annum to Rs. 400 crore per annum. Now, I feel that BCCI, along with taking care of cricket, should also encourage other Olympic sports. I think, it is very important that we look beyond Cricket now. Making sports and physical education a compulsory subject up to secondary level in schools is very important. A beginning could be made in the schools affiliated to the CBSE and all the Central Schools. I would like to quote what Swami Vivekananda said. Swami Vivekananda's call to the Youth was:

"Be strong my young friends, that is my advice to you. You will be nearer to Heavens through football than through the study of Gita. You will understand Gita better with your biceps, your muscles a little stronger, you will understand the mighty genius and the mighty strength of Krishna better with a little bit of strong blood in you. You will understand the Upanishads better and the glory of the Atman when your body stands firm upon your feet and you feel yourselves as men".

I think, the sports have always been playing a very important role and I feel we need to pay a lot of focus on that.

On sports equipment, the customs duty needs to be exempted in all the Olympic sports. Even today, when we import equipment for Olympics, there is sometimes customs duty. It is a dilemma. On the one hand, we want to encourage and get more and more medals internationally; on the other hand, when the sportsmen or the Federations want to import equipment, they are subjected to customs duty. So, the Government rather than subsidising them has been charging customs duty on that which I feel needs to be changed.

Even for sports like Polo, which is a very very Indian sport, when you import horses, there is Customs Duty on that. I feel, that also needs to be exempted. Col. R.V.S. Rathore, our Silver Medalist at the Olympics has suggested that cash incentives to sports persons should be high because they provide financial security. Also that the highest level of achievement should qualify for additional incentive. This will encourage people to concentrate on one event rather than attempting to try their luck in multiple fields. Here, I would like to thank the Government of India and specially the Indian Army which allowed Col. Rathore to be a brand Ambassador for different products and in turn I am sure, Col. Rathore is the best brand Ambassador of the Indian Army.

I would like to talk about shooting in detail because I am a little conversant with international shooting having very keen interest in shooting. I have been pursuing the sport for the last 15 years. I would like to tell this august House that from 15 year old to 25 year old, when I had all the time in the world I never had a proper gun. I could never get enough ammunition to practise. I wasted ten years of my life for want of good gun, for want of ammunition because the rules said that only the top ten shooters in the country can import.

[Translation]

If Government allows only ten people in the country to import then how the persons on 15th or 20th position could move ahead. This was the reason that only those people took up shooting who belonged to the families as with a shooting background. I could not do it despite having time and dedication and it took me ten years. When I achieved that rank and figured in the top ten then I made a lot of efforts and I am obliged that this policy was

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

changed in the year 2002 and 25 shooters are allowed instead of 10 shooters to import guns at their own cost. When shooters qualify for national tournament on their own and apply for licence, they face many difficulties. The mindset of officers granting licence is that as if they were giving guns as charity.

I would like to say that this should be done automatically. This number has increased from 10 to 25 in a country with a population of 110 crores. When our hon'ble Sunil Dutt was a minister then I had urged upon him and he had said that whosoever reaches at national level in shooting will be allowed for import of arms. When we talk of arms, these are not combat weapons, these are not for taking the lives of people, these are target weapons which are costlier than any A.K. 47. A terrorist has no restriction while importing an A.K. 47 but if a shooter who want to win a medal for the country, tries to import a gun then he is confronted with many difficulties. Many shooters keep on trying to get a licence despite being qualified for the national level. They are happier to get a licence than to win a medal. I would like to say that the Government should give licences automatically. I had a talk with hon'ble Shri Oscar Fernandes in this regard and he had given an encouraging response. He had said that not only the sportsmen but the gun dealers should also have sports weapons like air guns or air pistols which are totally harmless and cannot harm anyone but are essential for promotion of sports. It should be made automatic so that schools and gun dealers can make duty free import. This is under the OGL but even today it does not have duty exemption. While we want to win a medal in shooting at the international level and at the other hand duty is charged on import of gun instead of giving subsidy on its import to a shooter, then I think it is a major contradiction. It ought to be changed.

Sir, I have made a national record in shooting. I have been a national champion in shooting. I won a team event in the National Championship just a week ago. I wish that nobody face those problems which I faced while starting shooting. If you start shooting as sports you will come to know the problems that a person faces while starting any of the sports. India is the only country where ammunitions are not available at the shooting ranges, otherwise in other countries of the world there are shops at shooting ranges, from where you can take arms on rent, and can return them after practice. I am sorry to say that this facility is not available at any of the shooting ranges of the country

that you can purchase bullets from there and practice with them.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to take appropriate steps in this regard.

Sir, we have started a new scheme named "O.P. Jindal Pay and Play". This scheme has been started in Tughalqabad. Here, you can purchase ammunition at a lower price and can practice with it. I am very much grateful to our sports Minister Shri Oscar Fernandes for implementing this scheme. I would like to pay tributes to Late Shri Sunil Dutt who had encouraged so many schemes.

Sir, when any bullet is imported, it is imported at the last minute. Therefore we have to import that by Air. Thus its fare costs more than its original cost. If these bullets are imported in a planned way, in time and in bulk quantity and more over if these are imported by sea, then I think that these bullets will be cheaper to us. This is the same thing that

[English]

we do not have any money to eat bread, but then we have to spend on cakes."

[Translation]

I wish that this contradiction should end at the earliest.

I want that air weapons should be free from duties so that these can be used in schools. Shooting is a game where our country can dominate whole of the world.

Sir, there is no need of money for the schemes I have mentioned. I am not demanding money from the Government. We need to keep a liberal approach towards it. A liberal rule may be framed for sports weapons by abolishing license, permit and Quota Raj so that people can fulfil their dreams and passions.

Sir, I would like to thank Hon'ble Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs and each and every Member of this august House who passed Prevention of Insults to National Honour Bill. After passage of this bill any citizen of the country can flaunt National Flag on their cloths. I would like to give an example. Three or four month's back, I visited Brazil to take part in an international shooting event. When we were checking our weapons there, a player from that country saw that 'Bairita' was enshrined on my cap. He said to me that my cape bore name of a

foreign company and he asked me as to why I did not flaunt my national flag on it. I kept mum at that time because I did not want to disclose him that flaunting national flag on cloths was not allowed in my country. But I can proudly say that now our countrymen can flaunt our national flag on their caps and cloths. Whenever our players visit abroad to take part in sports at the international level, they would be inspired by the national flag that the good wishes of the one hundred crore countrymen are with them.

At the time of discussion on national flag, many of us expressed their apprehension that in case every citizen is allowed to flaunt national flag whether it would lower its dignity and the people will misuse it. I would like to say that we should forget such apprehension because when we keep statues of gods and goddesses, we do not abuse them rather we worship them. So, the foundation of our republic is based on faith. We should have faith on one another, it is our national flag, it will always inspire us to do more and more for our country.

[English]

In conclusion, I would just like to say that international sports provide a unique opportunity to countries to demonstrate the vitality of their youth. The race for gold medals is becoming keener by the day. Not only the developed countries, but also China and several Asian countries have made tremendous strides in winning gold medals through their sustained efforts in improving sports. Our progress in sports has been in fits and starts. The Commonwealth and Asian Games in 2002 temporarily renewed our interest in sports but effort is needed to sustain and nurture it to reach the highest level of performance in the forthcoming events like the Commonwealth Games, which India is hosting and the Beijing Olympics 2008. If the efforts of hon. Shri Suresh Kalmadi go through and India gets to host the Olympics, then we really have to build a sports culture in the country so that when we organise Olympics we can really excel in it. Therefore, I would like to appeal to all the hon. Members of this House to create an atmosphere where there is unanimity. We should lend our support to creating a stimulating environment for sports in India in which our talented youth can excel to prove their mettle. Sports will make our country, the youth of our country, strong, proud and disciplined. It will teach us to be good team players. Sir, no sport in the world can be won without being a good team player. By encouraging the sports culture in the country, we will all become good team players. We will

have a lot more pride in our country and we will become more and more proud, prosperous and happy citizens. Therefore, I would request this august House to support not only cricket but other sports also.

We must focus on Olympic sports also because they are played in more than 200 countries. They are really neglected in our country. Cricket in anyway enjoys a lot of attention in our country. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Indian Cricket team also for defeating Sri Lanka 2-0. We all really have to focus on Olympic sports also. I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank Mr. Jindal for taking up this issue for debate under the Rule 193. We have given notice in this regard on several occasions and I am happy that the Lok Sabha has held a debate on the issue after so many years. Despite having some very important work, I thought that something definitely should be said on the issue now. I would not take much time, but I fully support the points made by Shri Jindal. There are very important points and they need to be considered. The whole House should consider a point, the President of IOA, Shri Kalmadi is sitting here, everyone in the country feels that there should be progress of sports, but what is the budget for sports? It requires some consideration. The total budget of this year for sports including that of the 'SAI' is Rs. 312 crores, out of which more than 50 percent goes to the Sports Authority of India. The remaining amount goes for supervision etc. I would like to know how much money is being spent on players? Today we discuss about India, and say that it has a population of 106 crore people. Smaller countries have been winning medals but we have failed to do so. But, how can you expect to win several Medals from a country, which is spending .00001 percent of its GDP on the budget? If we compare the budgets of the last year and the current year, we will see that there is an increase of 40 percent in this year's total Budget Plan Allocation. There is an increase of 11 percent in sports. If Rs. 45 crores meant for the Commonwealth Games, are put separately, then it will come down to 7 percent. Unfortunately, this is the only sector, whose allocation has been reduced in comparison to the last year. It is not proper to expect our players to win big medals if plan allocation is reduced in comparison to the last year. We have to take part in the Commonwealth Games in the coming March. The whole House should say this unanimously. The hon. Minister is also sitting here and

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

quite evidently if this budget will remain limited to Rs. 100 crore, Rs. 150 crore, five crores and ten crores, it will not serve the purpose. Good results can come only if a minimum of two thousand crore rupees is given for the next five year in consultation with the 'IOA'.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I daily read in the newspapers that preparations are on for the Commonwealth Games. This bridge is being constructed because of the Commonwealth Games. So, Rs. 500 crore will be spent on it. Hotels are being constructed because of the Commonwealth Games and thousands of crores of rupees will be spent on them. In total about Rs. 40-50 thousands crores are to be incurred on facilities like hotel etc. I would like to say that if you spent 10 per cent of this amount for players, this may make a big difference. But we are following the theory of 'penny wise and pound foolish' If mosquito killer machines are required in Delhi for the Commonwealth Games, buy it or spend amount on something else, these things are being done. It is also being stated frequently that mosquitoes are in plenty so these machines are to be procured.

I want to tell something about the players. There are 250 to 300 Universities in India. Last year Rs. 12 crores were allocated for these 300 universities but not a single penny is allocated this year. It was told that the UGC would spend on it. There was a provision of budget for sports at the university level but it has been reduced to zero. If a swimming pool is to be constructed in a university, it costs Rs. 12 to 20 crores. There is not a single university in India, which has a swimming pool or equipment of international standard. You cannot expect that, from any of the university in India. It is mentioned that last year Rs. 7 crore was allocated for installation of synthetic playing surfaces and it was revised to Rs. One and a half crore but this year it is not. You compare our country with the other countries of the world? You say that the Netherlands is much ahead in hockey; Australia is much ahead in hockey. That is a very small country. There are 350 synthetic surfaces for hockey in the Netherlands and how many are there in our country? I am not talking of any government but if we want to think in this regard, then we have to think comprehensively.

You have said to the private parties to invest 50 percent of the amount and 50 percent of the amount will be invested by the Government. If 50 percent partnership is to be given to a capitalist or to a business house it means, you may give him an exemption of 165 percent under the tax net, then only he will invest 50 percent and

the rest 50 percent of the amount will be invested by the Government. If 50-50 percent investment is to be made then why do you not say it in simple terms? That is why not a single place is being prepared. Neither we invest 50 percent of the amount nor let them invest 50 percent of the amount. Provide them 165 percent tax exemption for sports infrastructure or for other work. Now, as 100 percent means only 30 percent, it means that 70 percent he invests from his own funds. If you make it 165 percent it comes to 50-50 percent. That is why it needs to be done. All national level federation, which also includes coaches, coaching campus, Junior, sub-junior and senior teams and these are be sent abroad as well.

Whether the total expenditure is there, it is all through Sports Federation and the total amount of expenditure fixed is Rs. 45 crore. I said, it includes the expenditure on Common Wealth Games as well. An expenditure of Rs. 1.00 crore comes on cricket.

This Federation controls the advertisements on cricket and its income from such advertisements is more than 50 times of our budget. They earn such a huge income. A cricket player gets both money and fame. What is being given by our Olympic games? It must also be seen. An amount of Rs. 4.5 crore as grant for the development of play fields are given to rural schools. There are 4.5 crore or 5.5 lakh villages in our country. Only Rs. 4.5 crore for all the villages all over the country for preparing play fields and executing all other works. It means less than Rs. 100 per village. Can any purpose be served in rural area with this amount? Can a play field be prepared? Leave all these small verses. Now, pay attention to what I like to say. Last time, the player who got gold medal in common wealth games was awarded a prize of Rs. 20 lakh. The player who brought gold medal in 2002 Asian Games was awarded a prize of Rs. 20 lakh. But now this prize money has been reduced to Rs. 6 lakh. The prize money upto 2004 was Rs. 20 lakh which has been reduced to Rs. 6 lakh in 2005. Not only they, who have won first prize have got this much a amount but they also got 30-40 lakhs as an incentive. Earlier any player winning a gold medal in Asia, in commonwealth countries was getting Rs. 20 lakh as first prize. Even his coach was also getting Rs. 20 lakh. Why was this amount reduced to Rs. 6 lakh? He said, it was done without any discussion or decision. But now we have fixed it as Rs. 6 lakh. If such are the incentives for sports then there is no scope for progress of sports and we should forget it. It is no use of talking much. Therefore, this matter should be discussed.

I have already seen 1951 Plan and so far ten national policies have been formulated. It is mentioned in all the policies that sports should be included as a compulsory subject in school curriculum. But it has not been implemented so far. At least it should have been adopted as a rule that if a student does not take part in sports he or she will not be promoted to next class. You do not give him marks, do not involve him or her but make it compulsory that if he or she has to go to next class, he or she should participate in sports. Despite having ten national policies, nothing tangible has happened because of the fact that no Bill has ever been introduced nor they felt any heed for it.

I can show all these items. You for the purpose of budget, in order to specify which national sports are subjected to step-motherly treatment. Since last year, sports has been allocated very less budget. I would like to say it again that the entire House should unanimously approve that the budget for sports meant for next year should be of at least Rs. 2000 crore. The whole House should discuss it together. With this, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very well said.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR (Krishnagar): First of all, I would like to extend my thanks to hon'ble Chairman for giving me an opportunity to express my views on such an important subject. This subject required a lot of discussion. I know about this subject very well. So, I fully understand the difficulties and problems of this field. I have been the member of Standing Committee for the last one and half years and I have got the opportunities to know about the playgrounds and the players. Whatever difficulties had been faced by me, are still looming before the players. I extend my thanks to our leader Shri Basu Deb Acharia who has respected my priorities. I would like to say that there is a need to bring about awareness among people regarding the sports. Unless the sports subject is not associated with education this awareness can not be generated. At the same time, this target cannot be achieved unless sports is made a part of education. There is a requirement to frame a new sports policy under which sports should be included in the curriculum as a compulsory subject. The Department of Education should issue instructions that schools should have ample space for sports. Most of the players should be selected at school level and this will be possible only if sports education is made an essential subject. The National Sports Policy

had been formulated in the year 1984. Since then, the Government have not taken any proper step in this regard. A little care had been taken in National Sports Policy in the year 2001.

I was surprised to see the reply given by the hon'ble Minister to a question asked in the House yesterday i.e. 21 December, 2005. He had stated that no comparative study had been conducted with regard to the knowledge of sports among women in India, China and European countries. Our country achieved freedom even before China. Today, China is making rapid progress in sports in the world. While our country is still striving hard for a gold medal. Unless a comparative study is carried out, we will not be able to know about the shortcomings in this field in the country. A lot of concern has been expressed about the weak performance of India in international sports keeping in view the need for sports infrastructure. If we see the performance of India in Olympic games, it becomes evident that we have not been able to gain anything, except in Hockey, Athletics, Boxing, Weightlifting and shooting during the last 100 years of history of the games. The 100 crore population of this country has not been able to bag even a gold medal in sports in international level. The players need proper infrastructure and it is necessary to make proper utilization of it. Our country has not been able to properly manage both these aspects. There is no lack of infrastructure but its distribution is improper.

Where is villages, there is absolute scarcity on the other hand in the town there is a mismanagement of it. We are not able to provide infrastructure for the sports like Kabaddi, Archery, Khokho etc. In our villages and tribal areas there is no dearth of talent but they do not have facilities. To encourage rural sports we need to have playground and stadia at the district level. We can upgrade the infrastructure by enabling the panchayats and district level councils to take monetary decisions. Four schemes related to sports infrastructure have been handed over to states by the Planning Commission. This way Sports Ministry must have got some relief but the Government of India cannot shirk its responsibility by stating it as a state subject. This subject should be included in Concurrent List so that it may become a responsibility shared by both state. It will do no good by leaving full responsibility on the shoulders of the State. For the four schemes which have been provided to the States, it is the responsibility of the Central Government to provide special economic/monetary assistance package in the budget. The Centre is aware of the economic condition of the states. I hope that the

[Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar]

Planning Commission would take care of the cost incurred on implementation of those annual assistance schemes. I hope that this would be taken care of in the next budget session. The debate should take place in the House and I do not want that it should remain confined to the paper as record. Prior also this issue was raised by way of Calling Attention and the then Sports Minister, Late Shri Sunil Dutt had assured and there were hopes that the basic organizational set up would be strengthened. I would request the Minister to see that stadium, play ground, tracks, swimming pools etc. are also a vital part of sports infrastructure. It is very important for our athletes to provide them with good tracks. Good playgrounds are also important for sports like football, hockey etc.

Sir, coach is the role model for a sports man. The basic requirement of a coach is required to be fulfilled. For them provisions for salaries, leaves etc. are also required to be made. If a coach is mentally satisfied only then he can impart good training. At SAI, few days back, the June-July 2005 the transfer of 736 coaches borne a negative impact of sports. There are many doubts over their transfers. Many coaches are posted at one place for past several years and few are transferred every year. This downs the morale of coaches as well as sport persons. We do not lack in good coaches and coaches from foreign countries have been engaged. They think that it has improved their standard but we find that we have not been able to secure medals in international events. The sportsmen have problem in communicating with them. We can reduce upon the cost incurred in engaging the foreign coaches by providing international level training to our foreign coaches.

When we talk about infrastructure, there comes in mind the pending project. In our country projects are not completed on time. This way both money and time are wasted and even their relevance is lost. By making hue and cry the old project remains as it is and the new project is started. Project would be completed and it can not be even utilized. We have not yet learnt to scientifically make use of our resources.

16.51 hrs.

(SHRI VARAKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*)

While elaborating on all these fact, I am glad that we are organising the next 2010 Commonwealth Games. Our talents also deserves the credit of this honour. The

international community has decided to give us the right to hold Commonwealth Games in India keeping in view the sports talent in India. As host of the Commonwealth Games we do have certain responsibility. First responsibility is to make such a big event successful. The infrastructure required for holding the games would not only be vast but also involve a lot of cost. The Government of India will fulfil this task in cooperation with the people of India. Second responsibility would be to win medals. We are having good opportunity to show our talents. It is a time when each of us have a duty to provide cooperation in strengthening sports infrastructure. Upgrading the existing infrastructure should be our priority. The infrastructure of Commonwealth Game would be completed by 2010. We should provide a parallel infrastructure. We should not engage too many agencies to establish infrastructure for our sports persons, it leads to chaos/difficulty while fixing responsibility. Our infrastructure should be too strong so that we can also win the bid to lost Asiad Games 2012 and Olympics games which are scheduled to be held on 2016.

It would be criminal not to mention about the most popular game in the country e.g. cricket while we are talking of the sports. Cricket has sensationalised the whole country, since the BCCI provides so much facilities to the sportsmen. The sports has much more fierce competition. For each position in the team at least four talents are waiting on the sidelines. If a player gives a below par performance, he is ousted from the team. Even though Saurabh's performance was not bad he was ousted. If his performance was bad then its OK, but in the last match Ganguly performed well. 80% people in the country thinks that it is not fair to turn him out. It was justified to let him play the entire series. A international sports personality like him deserves this also. We have high hopes from him.

I would also like to mention here that it was about cricket only so it came to the knowledge of people but it often happens to the talented sports persons of other sports. We face many hurdles at selection level till last moments we are not aware of who would be selected. When we used to go to participate in a sports events, unless we used to board the plane we were not sure that we would be able to play with the team.

There are several other related things which affects the sports. The important point about Federation association which would be appropriate to mention here is that the secretary of few of them do not have interest about the game, they do not know about any sports. Each of the secretary of Association remains in the Association

for 40-50 years. I would like to make a suggestion that the details of the funds received by the Federation should be maintained.

I want to make a few suggestions. I want to thank Shri Jindal for suggestions made by him in regard to development of sports and its infrastructure. I want to say that after retirement from sports, sportspersons do not have a job, that should be there, because it was seen that if a sportsperson retires from a sports he finds no job. Several times such ex-sports persons have to face starvation. Apart from this they should be treated as sportsmen, there should be no discrimination on the basis of caste. The talented sports person should get opportunity to make progress. Right now, a mention of federation was made. Our country has a total budget of Rs. 5 lakh crore Rs. 18 thousand is for education and Sports Ministry has granted a sum of Rs. 5 crore. I want to state that granting mere 0.5 percent of total budget to sports, our sports can make progress.

I hope that our sports will lead the international arena. My time is going to finish.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate Shri Jindalji, who having realized the importance of this issue have raised it under Rule 193 for discussion. At the same time, I would like to thank Hon'ble Speaker also, who has accorded priority to the subject. Our previous speakers hon'ble Vijay Kumar Malhotra ji, Smt. Jyotirmoyee Sikdar and Shri Naveen Jindal have given some very important suggestions and these people are directly associated with the sports. I associate myself with their suggestions.

Sports have a direct-relationship with the mental health directly affect the minds of the people too and have a bearing on the character and morale of the country. The sports also have direct relationship with building up morale of the people of the country. I am of the opinion that the funds spent on sports amounts to the expenditure incurred on shaping the character of a country. The fund allocation for sports by the Government of India had been gradually decreasing. As some of the speakers have said that presently the Government needs to spend approximately two-three thousand crore rupees for creating sports infrastructure.

Today, sports are taken as something meant for youth only. But I feel that sports and the way of life for everyone. India is said to have the largest number of persons

suffering patients from diabetes and heart disease in India is the highest in the world. We cannot afford to ignore sports in anyway. It has to become an indispensable part of our life. And the need of the hour is that the sports should be a part of the curricula since primary education.

The biggest advantage of the sports is that sports form character of a man. In our country, 40 percent of the population is living below poverty line. People who are occupied in agriculture, face the biggest problem of personality development. They cannot even express themselves correctly. If we had a developed sports culture, it would have helped us to grow in all round manner and India would have been an developed country. Nobody can deny this fact.

There was a time when it was said, "Padhoge likhoge banoge Nawab, Kheloge kudoge hoge kharab" meaning thereby that while the studying makes one the kind, playing spoils one's career. Today, sports are getting due importance.

17.00 hrs.

Sports offer rich career opportunities in modern world. But this is unfortunate and true that the people watching TV or listening commentary on Radio, do not participate in games or sports nor do they send their children to play in our country. This is certainly a case of double standard, which we are facing. I feel that when it is being discussed in the House and lakhs of, crores of people in the country are watching and rest of them would know it by tomorrow through newspaper. The paradox needs to be sprained? We are addicted to Cricket watching, but we do not send our children to play. Not even once in a week we go to playground. What is the reason after all?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Sir, I am concluding within a minute.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: This is a very important aspect. Games and sports are basically the process of human development. You just cannot expect physical development, but other aspect of human development are also associated with the games and sports. I do not want to reiterate what the previous speakers

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

have said, but if sports allocation is not increased, no good players would emerge. The fact is that we are short of good coaches, as Jyotirmoyee Sikdar Saheba was saying that experienced coaches who know local languages can coach/train the upcoming rural players by interacting in local language, they can understand their hardships, their problems. We need such coaches. Since, the sports have never been an integral part of education, the personality development out here is incomplete. In our country, professionals and those engaged in academics lack physical activity to balance themselves while those in sports, are dominated by physical energy. But what is required for a normal personality, i.e. nemo-muscular co-ordination, co-ordination between mind and body, is deeply missing in India. The way media is giving weightage to cricket and other expensive sports such as car racing, adventure sports, golf, billiards, tennis etc. I feel, that is more for money and less for sports interest. The fact is that speculation is being promoted on a large scale through media it has damaged the sporting mindset. I hope that the Government will encourage the sports in a way that the people would accept it as a career, as a culture, as a life style in India in coming years keeping in view the next commonwealth games.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. There are about 20 speakers.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Games and sports should be the part of cultural life of the people whether they belong to the poor class or to the rich class. I warn that the mode of disbursement of money by the Federation is not democratic. Its functioning is not democratic. The people belonging to a particular section of society are dominating these bodies. That is why functioning of the Federation should be more transparent and its set up more democratic. I would like to inform that I myself has a sports background and has been helping to one organize State level tournament in Gola Gokulnath, Lakhimpur Kheri for last 30-35 years, but have not received even a single pie as grant. Though an expenditure of 2-3 lakh rupees for the training of the children and for organizing tournament, is incurred every year but no grant whatsoever has been granted during the entire period.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Otherwise, we will not be able to finish this discussion today.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: I have to say that where sports talents are being encouraged, where there is active participation, the Government should provide grant directly. There is no denying the fact that we lack sports infrastructure. I think that the Government would take care of it in coming years. I would like to request the Government through you that we tried to construct a shooting range in Lakhimpur Kheri with the contribution from my MPLAD fund, but it is lying, incomplete till date. I know that many of my colleagues, who have a flair for games and sports want to do something for infrastructure building. I request the Government to provide direct grant on priority basis to those sports schemes for which MPs are contributing from their MPLADS Funds. Jindalji has literally raised a very important issue. I hope that this debate won't end up here only. This debate should continue in every nook and corner, every village and every town for a long time. It should not be confined to the four walls of Parliament only. Sports have always been an important medium to raise the level of national morale. Country and local games should be given equal importance, whether this role be played by media, Government or newspapers/magazine. Every tehsil, every district should create its own permanent infrastructure for sports. Deserving and very talented people are waiting in villages, but they are not getting support. For this reason, they are not able to come in front. I conclude with the hope that the House would adjourn to resolve that we would take care of our sportspersons. This is unfortunate but true that international players like Maj. Dhyanchand had to spent his last days facing financial crisis. I hope that no other player would face such a situation.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. You go on like this.

(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to inform the hon. Members that there are about 20 speakers who are waiting to speak on this issue. The issue is important. I do agree but the question is that time is limited and on no account, it can be extended.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR (Krishnagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the discussion on this issue is going on, let it continue, please.

* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the time allotted is up to 6 o'clock.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, it is a very important subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2005 is to be taken up. The House will adjourn sine-die tomorrow. Time is very limited.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yesterday I sat up to 9.30 hours. None of you were here. I was here yesterday. Before that day, I sat up to 9 o'clock.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

*SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN (Thiruvananthapuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are the second most populated country in the world. But in sports we are very behind. In Olympics too our position is too backward. Once we had hockey as our pride. We were in a very advanced position in hockey in the world. In the Olympics the medal for hockey was in our hands for a long time. We had such great players like Dhyanchand. There were none in the world to offer any serious competition to us. But now in hockey we are very backward. It is true that we had made some progress for a brief period of time. But again we have gone back. What is our position in other games? Many small countries including Latin American countries spend a lot of money on sports. But is it not true that we are going backwards in that area?

The health of a country rests in its sports. India is a country with a population of over 100 crores. 58 years have passed after the independence. We think about India when some international sports and games event takes place. We enquire whether India got any medal in such events. Usually the answer is in the negative. This is the case of all games. Among the developing countries we are the second progressing nation after China. We are competing with China in many fields. But in sports we are going backward. I feel that the reason for this phenomenon is the kind of neglect and lack of vision we exhibit in matters of sports. Because we do not have sufficient system to encourage and promote sports. In many places we do

not have playgrounds. If we were to compete with world nations in games we require synthetic stadia. We do not have that facility in many places. The athletes from Kerala, like P.T. Usha have played for the country and brought laurels to the country. Even such great athletes are practicing on sand tracks. They need synthetic tracks for their practice. There should be sufficient infrastructure for the proper training of our athletes.

We have an organisation called SAI in our country. There should be regional centres of SAI in all major places in the country. It is greatly required in Thiruvananthapuram. There are two sports schools in Kerala.

At Thiruvananthapuram and Kannur. There are around 500 students studying in these schools. These schools are under the Department of Education of the Kerala government. The girls students studying in these two schools under the Department of Education were earlier provided food by the Sports Council. Even that practice has been done away with recently. The sports Council does not have any schemes to promote and encourage the students hailing from rural areas. This is a pathetic situation.

School Games is going to take place at Thiruvananthapuram where more than 4000 students would participate. We should have a programme to find out the children with potential from this kind of events. These are the young talents who eventually grow into athletes and bring medals to the country. There should be an effort to identify them and promote their talents. But for that the government should take the initiative. There are many big companies and industrial firms in the country. They generally promote cricket and games like that. We do not gainsay the need to promote Cricket. It is a happy news that an hon. Member of this august House, Shri Sharad Pawar has become the President of BCCI. Shri Pawarji is working for the advancement of that game and we are happy about it. But what is the case of other games? The poor people who play other games are hardly sponsored by any big companies. They do not have money. And what is the plight of the players? When they retire from their games there is no provision for securing their future. There is no system to provide them employment. There is no system for supporting them after their retirement. Even the prize money that is given is less than 10 percent of the total amount they had to spend for their training for 3 or 4 years. We have a duty to save our sports persons from this pathetic plight. There should be an attitude favourable to the creation of a system to help sports

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

[Shri Pannian Ravindran]

persons. What I would suggest is that a cess should be levied from big companies for the improvement of sports. The budgetary allocation for sports should be increased at least 10 times of the present rate. We should feel and understand that sports is an important activity. Unless we as a nation give sports its due importance there is no future for sports in our country. There is no point in mentioning about football. We are extremely backward in this game. We have given up football and marching backwards in many other games. We have no system to facilitate the development of young talents in the fields of sports and games. We have no sufficient infrastructure for the training of players and sports persons. There should be a shift in our attitude towards sports. Sports should be given the attention it deserves. The government should take the initiative and should increase the allocation for sports.

Similarly another important issue is related to the pension for players. There should be a system of pension for those who retire from sports. Now in certain places a meagre amount is given as pension. This should be improved. The players and sports persons can contribute their best if their future can be secured by way of pension. There are certain sports persons who got injured during sports meets. Some of them remain injured throughout their lives. There is absolutely no system to look after such injured sports persons.

So what I would like to say is that the central government should come forward with positive steps for the improvement of sports and give sports due importance and attention. SAI should start regional centres in all states. There should be a minimum amount fixed for sports in the budget. There is an institution called Lakshmi Bai National Institute for Physical Education (LNPE). This institute should be established in states like West Bengal, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur etc. These are the states who contribute the majority athletes. In such states facilities should be provided for better sports education.

Cricket is attracting a lot of sponsors. That is a game which earns a lot of income. A portion of the cricket's income should be given to those poor games which are generally neglected. It will be a good idea if a rich and successful game like cricket can provide a helping hand to other sister games which are in a poor shape. If people like Pawarji can do something to make this possible it will be a great help to many other games. So my final appeal to the government is that the government should take more interest in sports. Before the honourable chairman

asks me to wind up I am concluding by saying that the government should start considering sports as an important national activity.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the important subject under rule 193 brought up by Shri Naveen Jindal and Shri Basu Deb Acharia. In the history of the world sports have been an integral part of human as well as animals lives. Sports has played a role in ensuing not only the culture entertainment, health of mankind but have contributed richly to the development of his personality as a whole. Apart from adding to the national prestige, sports also promote cordial relations and trade between two countries. In spite of having positive effects in all the facets of human life least priority is given to sports in the programmes of the Government. It has become customary to allocate very little amount for this area by the Government. Shri Malhotra has said a lot about this. But I would like to say that in six years rule of BJP nothing special was done for sports for which they are praising themselves.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell you that there is no developed sports culture in any state except West Bengal. Today, there is a need to promote this culture. Shrimati Sikdar, Member of Parliament who belongs to village, reached the pinnacle of sports and won gold medal in Asian Games. She expressed herself without any fear. I would like to say that talent search programme should be organized in villages and streets. Talent also exist there but these areas lack infrastructure and there is a need to guide them. I think this would also put an end to the problem of stagnation in talent hunting. This old adage "Padoge, likhoge to banoge nawab, kheloge, kudoge to banoge kharab" is still prevalent in villages and cities. Today the level of awareness among people of villages is very low. For this purpose there is a need to popularise the sports and to send across the message in rural areas for loving sports and also to arouse among the villagers a feeling of love towards sports. National Sports Policies have practical drawbacks. I would like to bring them before this House. I know honourable Minister and his enthusiastic approach from a long time. Various steps can be taken in this direction. A lot of money is being spent on those sports which are major source of revenue generation sports. Sports is not a salable commodity alone based on the premise that only revenue generating sports should be promoted. There should be homogeneity in sports

promotion and encouragement should be given to the conventional and traditional sports alike which are eliminating from villages and streets. The Government should make arrangement to encourage them. Encouragement should be given to the traditional sports which are eliminating. As my former speaker has said that education and training of sports should be compulsory in schools and universities. Sports coaches should be appointed. Sports should not be an optional subject. I would like to say that it is not appropriate to leave conventional sports to the mercy of the sponsorship of big companies. So, the Government should encourage them and for this Government shall do whatever possible it can do. Sports persons need to be given due representation in the formulating sports policy and amending them as well in various Consultative and Committees constituted for the said purpose.

Sir, the hon'ble Member who spoke prior to me stated that the secretaries of a sports association remain at the helm of affairs for 15 to 20 years. They should also be transferred for the reasons for which Government officers are transferred. Sportsman should have the participation in sports associations. The participation of sportsman is negligible in most of the sports associations. That is why we want that measures to encourage sports at grass route level should be given freedom through Panchayati Raj and adequate amount should be provided to them. Basic infrastructure should be set up in the field of sports at village level. At the end, I would like to say that there are various states like Bihar where there is a need to concentrate in this direction. I was going through the datas of North-Eastern states. I found that negligible amount is given for sports as national assistance. I have gone through the datas of 8-10 years. In Bihar and other states where there is desperate search for coaches is not yielding any results and good sportspersons like Legendry Arjun are leading the lives of dejected pupils. I would appeal to the honourable Minister to give attention so that good sportsperson may be found out from the neglected regions of the country. This would be good for the sports and national progress as well.

With these words I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on the discussion under rule 193 regarding the need to develop

sports infrastructure in the country keeping in view the forthcoming sports events, brought up by my friend, Mr. Naveen Jindal.

I really thank Mr. Naveen Jindal who has taken the initiative to bring up this discussion under rule 193. This is a very important time to discuss about sports. We are spending a lot of time discussing various developmental activities. We are utilising the time of our Parliament to discuss various subjects. It is important also to discuss the development of sports infrastructure.

Development of sports infrastructure is important to develop human resources. Good infrastructure for sports would lead to production of good sportsmen. We say, 'health is wealth'. We are running towards wealth but losing our health. So, what is the use of running towards wealth? In India, we see most of our people suffering from diabetics, blood pressure and other diseases because people do not have enough physical activities. Even a sportsman who indulges in physical activities maintains his health in a very good condition only in his young age. After crossing middle age, he drops his sports activities and becomes a patient. So, this is the time to discuss sports and development of sports infrastructure.

India is very well known for its human resources all over the world. India is focussing on developing its human resources in the fields of information technology, automobile engineering, etc. Our country is booming now. The entire world is dependent on Indian labour because of our sincerity, honesty and the knowledge base of our human resource. So, why are we lagging behind in sports?

When compared to other Asian countries, India is lagging behind in sports. I am speaking on this subject because I am a sportsman. When I was doing my school education, when I was in higher secondary, believe me, I was a body builder. Then, I used to lift weights because adjacent to my school there was a very good sports complex with all the facilities for weight lifting, gymnasium, etc. I used to practice there for two years continuously and I became 'Mr. Madras' in 1984. In 1986, I obtained the third position in the State. After I finished my schooling, I did not get good infrastructure to practice weightlifting and so I stopped my sports activities and left them. I may never become a good sportsman again.

In the first level, it is the infrastructure that attracts everybody to participate in sports at a young age. If the infrastructure is good, everybody would like to be a

[Shri A. Krishnaswamy]

sportsman. Since the sportsmen pay special attention to their physical fitness, they attract the attention of everyone. That is the reason why we can see that a player like Tendulkar attracts the attention of almost 100 crore people; even Dhanraj Pillai also attracts the attention of the people. I am a fan of Dhanraj Pillai. Two years back, I have conducted one national level hockey match in Chennai in Radhakrishnan Stadium, your namesake, which is a very fantastic stadium. In that Stadium, there is a synthetic track to play hockey. In my childhood, I used to play hockey in the by-lanes. The surface of these by-lanes used to be very rough. When we used to play hockey on such surfaces; we used to get a lot of injuries. A player like Dhanraj Pillai, at this stage, could afford to play hockey on synthetic tracks, but what about the village people or those people who are living in the urban areas, but who do not get the opportunity to play on good tracks?

While giving the approval for new constructions, we ensure that sufficient space is kept aside for park, playground and everything else. After that, when the area develops, we find the encroachers occupying those playgrounds and parks. We are saying here that we do not have proper infrastructure. When we do not have open spaces, how do we develop sports in this country? Wherever you have modern infrastructure, you will find that it is being utilised by top-class sportsmen or by those who are in high position. But what about a boy or a girl who wants to turn himself or herself into a good sportsman or sportswoman? They cannot enjoy those facilities.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to develop the sports infrastructure in each and every village, at least, in the district headquarters. By constructing sports complexes, they can develop sports. In Tamil Nadu, there is a branch of the Sports Authority of India; in all the States, they have branches. I want to know as to what they are doing for sports development. They are spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees, but to what extent it has helped in developing sports. What are all the sports/games which they have developed? What kind of training are they giving to the football and hockey players? Of course, cricket has grown into a big game in our country because it has lakhs and lakhs of fans. But how could a single game grow at the cost of other games?

Games like body-building, in which I have trained myself, weightlifting, power-lifting and Kabaddi are the games which are played in the rural areas; they are played

by people who are downtrodden. These are the games which are played in the villages; these are the games of the poor people or the games of the neglected people.

Even in sports, there are two kinds of sports: some sports are played by rich people and some sports are played by the poor people. Games like tennis and cricket are rich people's games, and games like body-building, weightlifting, Kabaddi are poor people's games. This kind of discrimination is there in the sports. How can we allow it?

Yesterday, Sir, we had a division on the issue of providing reservations in private institutions. I urge upon this Government to provide a kind of reservation while allocating funds to these games. They are poor people's games and, therefore, there should be some sort of reservation in fund allocation. I want to know from the Government as to what is our budget allocation for sports. We always talk about budgetary allocation for Railways, Defence and other things, but what about budgetary allocation for sports? In Asian countries, India is a fast growing country. But, if we fail to develop sports, we will be the losers of the human resource. So, while developing in the technical and other fields, we should also have to grow in sports also. Then only, there will be an equally balanced growth, otherwise, there will be deficit in sports and human resources will go down. I ask the Government to increase more Budget on this.

The NDA Government had sanctioned a Sports Academy in the State of Tamil Nadu. Till today, that has not been started. When Shri Radhakrishnan was the Minister of Sports in the NDA Government, he had sanctioned one Sports Academy in Tamil Nadu. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why it has not been started till today. When a Sports Academy has been sanctioned, it should not be delayed. It should be immediately looked into by the Minister.

My last suggestion is this. I have been a Member of Parliament for the past two years. I, myself, am a sportsman. I do not know who is the Sports Minister. Sportsmen can easily attract anyone. Everybody knows Tendulkar; everybody knows Dhanraj Pillai. Like that, the Sports Minister should also be a known figure, a popular figure. If any sports man is nominated as the Sports Minister, he will be very much interested in developing sports. We have Shri Naveen Jindal with us. I may suggest that Shrimati Soniaji can put him as the Sports Minister. Then the sports will develop in our country.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to discuss this subject. Our colleague Shri Naveen Jindal and Basu Deb Acharia also deserve accolades but the purpose of this discussion is to ponder over as to why we are not having the infrastructure required for international sport events. They have moved a motion in this regard but I wish that discussions should be such that the youths of our country get adequate opportunities and India could get its status world over. Therefore there is a need to provide facilities and create infrastructure. There is a need to discuss about this.

Sir, it is unfortunate that the discussion of sports in India is limited to Cricket only. When there is any crisis in cricket people consider this as a crisis of sports. When Ganguly was not pinched up in the team, there was a huge controversy in the country. It seemed as if a great crisis had struck the country. Every body seemed concerned about it and even I think that such concern for sports is no misplaced. Our country is a nation of hundred billion people. If it is to develop properly, sports is of crucial importance. If we develop sports in the country, the country would automatically develop. International events are organized throughout the world. Our country of hundred billion participate in almost all events but, when our sportspersons come back they do not bring any medal. Even custom people ask

[English]

Do you have anything to declare? There is no Gold Medal, no Silver Medal, no Bronze Medal. There is nothing to declare.

[Translation]

If our sportspersons participate in overseas events, they do not have to bother about customs. If they bring some medals and declare it to custom department, everybody will feel nice. The Government should come forward for this.

You asked who is our sports Minister. Perhaps nobody knows. Sports Ministers in our country are like musical chairs. Today is someone tomorrow is somebody else. Even today we do not know who is that, because I cannot see the Sports Minister. Perhaps Sports Ministers are given the portfolio after a game of musical Chair so that he has a good training. Had he been here today then

he could have heard what I am saying. As I have said we should look at it as a Human Resource Development. See, China is our neighbouring country with a population 30 percent more than our's. They had not been participating in international sports because they had withdrawn themselves from there. Now they have started participating then at any world event they achieve first place. It does not happen accidentally. Only China has achieved it, the USA has achieved it, these all countries are economic powers as well. If you go there and see their HRD policy then you will realize that they try to work on human resource as a whole. It helps sports automatically, this is what I think. Only concentration on sports will do no good. There is a need to think about the overall development of a population of 100 crore residing in our country.

There are some people who have interest in sports. For example, there is our Navin Jindal ji, who comes to Parliament and speaks with a sporting spirit and when he goes out he plays sports sans politics. I think those who have interest in sports should develop it and those who do not have interest they should not do it. But it is very necessary. We should look at sports as a way of life. We should develop those sports which are closely associated with our ancient culture. Making cricket our only sport will not do the needful. As he has mentioned about Kabaddi, Kho-kho, these are indigenous sports, these should also be developed. We have one apprehension that those sports such as Hockey which are developed in our country and are later played at international level, at that level we lose winning medals and Europeans are dominating in all other games. The same has happened with Chess which originated in our country but only recently our Anand has won a gold medal, otherwise we were never getting it. I am, therefore, of the view that Indian sports should be developed as our integrated way of life and I am hopeful that the Government will do the same.

By developing sports, not only sportsmen will develop but a sporting spirit will also develop in the country which is very much needed. A lot of tension in the society is being witnessed, it will also be reduced with development at sports. I thank your young sports Minister for showing interest in AIDS. If you develop sports then perhaps it may help in solving the problem of AIDS because the attention of the people will be towards a positive issue. We have been discussing how to develop sports infrastructure. This responsibility lies with our Government. If the Government does only lip service then it will not help sports. We can give lectures daily about the need of sportsmen and about

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

developing the sportsmen spirit, but as long as infrastructure of grounds are not there, it cannot be done.

We should begin with villages. The Scheduled Tribes of our country have natural instinct and strength, they should be given training in athletics. The Tribal people can become good athletes if they are imparted training as a part of their lives. Our fishermen community or people living along the coastlines can automatically become good sports persons if imparted good training in aquatic sports. But what they actually lack. They do not have infrastructure which is the responsibility of the Government to set up at the village level. If we construct a stadium in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai, this problem will not be solved. Therefore, the Government has to look after the setting up of infrastructure at the village level and take steps in this direction.

There is no need of playing every sports in each village. People of the villages can choose the sport as per their inclination. Each district should be made a specialized district for some sports. I represent Sindhudurg Parliamentary constituency which is situated on the coastline and could be developed as a center of aquatic sports. Whenever we talk of sports infrastructure, administration of sports is also very important. I have seen that our sportsmen have to deal with the selectors first before they play on the ground. They probably can get selected in team if they please the selectors first. If they are in team then only they can perform. As the name of Dhanraj Pillai was mentioned, even a player like him has to struggle to find a place in the team and he has to please the President of the Indian Hockey Federation, to get a chance. That is why, in my view sports administration is the most necessary thing.

17.40 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

We will have to pay attention to it. We will have to do it at the school, village and district levels. A sports curriculum should be brought out so that school going children can gauge their interest and aptitude. If they want to continue with sports only, then for them there is a need to introduce sports school in our country. Our Government should make efforts on these lines.

I believe that, if we could manage to open a Yoga school in each village then the income of the doctors will come down and it will create a kind of interest towards

sports amongst the people. Government should work in this direction as well.

Sometimes back we have seen that the BCCI had filed an affidavit in the Court; wherein the Board had stated that the Cricket team did not play for the country, but for their own team and for the Federation/Board.

Sir, any player who is representing our country must represent our country only. Such provisions are needed to be changed.

Sir, a woman sportsperson has been elected to this House from West Bengal. I wish that some more sports person from other parts of the country should get elected to the House, that will increase the sporting spirit in the House. I believe so. We need to introduce a provision under which all political parties should make efforts to bring sportsperson in the House.

Sir, funding of sports is also a matter of concern for us. We discuss all matters in the House, but we do not discuss upon sports infrastructure. I have heard that rupees one thousand and two thousand crores are paid for the telecast right of cricket matches. In my view, then 10% amount of commercial earnings received through the grant of telecast rights and through sponsorships, should be given to the Government for the development of sports other than Cricket. It will help to develop sports infrastructure in the country.

[*Translation*]

Sir, there is a need to reform the election process of Sports bodies. Though we are concerned about the electoral reforms for the parliamentary bodies, we remain apathetic in regard to the electoral process of Sports bodies who have the responsibility to make a player. There is a need to reform the election process of Sports bodies.

Sir, thank you, for giving me an opportunity to speak on this issue. I have been in this house for the last ten years but I have not got any opportunity to speak on this issue. I want that more and more sportsperson may join the politics so that we can develop our games. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (Nainital): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to take part in the debate. I also thank Shri Naveen Jindal ji for raising such an important issue. Before speaking I would like to congratulate all the Arjun awardies.

[English]

I think, we, the hon. Members of Lok Sabha, are very proud that our Gallery...*

MR. SPEAKER: No, you cannot refer to the Gallery. You can say that we are proud of all those sports persons who have been given Arjuna Award and that we want many more such awards.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': Sir, I am sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure we will learn from each other.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': Sir, it is demoralizing that the world's largest democracy with a population of over 100 crore can hardly be located in the Olympic map or in the competitive arena of other games and sports. Except for half a dozen sports disciplines, our children do not know much about the Olympics and other international sports even though over a minimum of 50 countries take part in them. Our kids do not know about them. Is it lack of exposure? Is it lack of media? Is it our parent's fault or our school's fault or our sports federations' fault or sports associations' fault or Olympic Association's fault? The sports should be started from the school level. There is no doubt that many Members present here would have been made Chief Guests in various sports. I have seen schools sports. I have seen the rural sports. I was simply surprised that every year since there is a budget from the State Government, the sports are organised in a lackadaisical way. No records are kept. The schools bring the children here and they just do the 100 metre or 200 metre or 400 metre race without a target, namely, the previous year's record or the standing record of the rural games.

I have seen school children participate in the rural games, for example a discus thrower who had just been called a couple of days before as the school was participating and she threw the discus without any technique. So, if we do not maintain records and if we do not have the target, we will never make champions. The sports start from our rural area but the kids do not know anything about most sports which is very surprising. How can we produce Olympic champions?

As far as our national federations are concerned, our sports coaches bring up our athletes to the State and the national level. But surprisingly, we waste a lot of money

on the international coaches. The international coaches are paid exorbitant wages plus perks whereas our coaches have produced the champions of national and international level. Then the cream is taken by the international coaches. That is a waste of money. As Mr. Jindal said, we have got some 400 NIS coaches in India. We will be running short of coaches in India and in future we will not be having Indian coaches. We need many more coaches. Most of the coaches in the Sports Authority of India are on ad hoc or contract basis. My request is that they should be regularised, especially coaches who are there on ad hoc or contract basis.

Being a sports person myself, I would like to give a few suggestions as to how to bring sports up. When our national teams go abroad to represent India, we see that the national champions or the players who have been selected to represent our country cannot afford to go out on their own money. Then they ask for the second, third or fourth line up team for representing India. That is one of the reasons why we lack medals. Being an international athlete myself, I have seen this happen. Most of our national champions could not represent India in the Asian Championship when I represented India.

Another thing is lack of international events for our national level athletes. Is it owing to lack of funds? Or, is it owing to the lackadaisical approach of our Sports Federations in affording such opportunities to our national athletes that our teams do not have enough experience in the international field? Most of the Sports Federations in the country never send their competition calendars either to the schools or to the SAI Centres, or to the universities. This causes a lot of problem for the young athletes. The sporting events conducted by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the inter-university sporting events coincide with our national junior and national sub-junior level sporting events. It has a very harmful effect and our young athletes do not get much scope for competition.

Sir, we are basically a fashion oriented nation. There is a lack of interest in hardcore sporting disciplines like those that are there in Olympic games and other international level competitions where most of the countries of the world participate. I have nothing against professional sports. Professional sports get all the attention of the media. There could be instances of match fixing etc. in professional sports, but professionals are meant to give us entertainment and excitement of the highest order. This is where all the money is and I have nothing against that. My humble submission is that events of international

* Not recorded.

[Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba']

championships, world championships of amateur sports should be shown live and also the highlights of such events should also be telecast. This would enable children living in remote and interior parts of the country to know about different sports.

MR. SPEAKER: Such things should find more publicity than the politicians.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': Sir, at present very few people in our country knows the difference between professional WWF wrestling, which among our fashion oriented people is very popular, and free style Olympic wrestling; or the difference between the two Olympic wrestling disciplines, namely, free style and Greco Roman style of wrestling; or the difference between weight lifting and power lifting; or the difference between Judo and Karate, leave alone the names of great athletes of yore such as the Maharashtrian wrestler Jadav who was the first individual to win an Olympic medal for India. Then, there are names like Milkha Singh, Dhyan Chand, V.S. Chauhan. Then there was our own ex-Member of Parliament who excelled in sports. I have forgotten his name.

MR. SPEAKER: Which discipline of sports did he represent?

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': Wrestling, Sir, he was an Arjuna Awardee. We have amongst us today our own Member of Parliament, Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar and Shri Navin Jindal. Even present day athletes are not known to the people. There are several newcomers, who have been Arjuna Awardees, like Major Ahlawat in Equestrian, Shri Anuj in wrestling etc.

Sir, I would like to make a few suggestions for upliftment of sports in this country. I will just read them point-wise. It will take me just half a minute.

Firstly, immediate review should be made of all SAI sports promotional schemes and the views of the coaches should be taken to develop Indian sports as a whole.

Secondly, there should be appointment of more SAI coaches on regular basis, as most of them are now either on contract or on ad hoc basis. First preference should be given to them.

Thirdly, we should formulate National and State "Sports Policy" for better coordination. Fourthly, there should be effective utilisation of the coaches of the Sports

Authority of India with suitable policy from State Governments and Central Government in consultation with All India Sports Authority Coaches Welfare Association. Fifthly, there should be arrangement of meetings with Director-General/Secretary of Sports Authority of India in every Regional Office on routine basis for positive interaction and development of sports. Then, High Power Technical Committee in each discipline with senior coaches to be set up for promotion of schemes and effective utilisation of the coaches of Sports Authority of India. More sports exchange programmes should be pursued with friendly countries through competitions, advanced training for players and coaches, scientific research and latest technologies, creation of infrastructure, etc.

MR. SPEAKER: They are very good suggestions.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion. I would be very brief in submitting my points.

Sir, in India, we know that one of the earliest war games was fought in Kurukshetra. It would have been apt for the hon. Member from Kurukshetra to have initiated this debate on sports. But I would like to congratulate him.

As you know and as the whole House knows, sports creates a spirit of determination and a desire to work in team spirit. In a country like India where we are deprived of success, any kind of an achievement and success not only means money but it also implies a lot of love for the country. Then suddenly, there is a spirit of oneness and well-being in the whole country when any of our sports persons succeed in any of the games either abroad or in India.

I remember a Hindi movie called 'Mera Gaon Mera Desh' which implies that the country cannot be taken as an isolated unit and only when all the villages come together, you can consider that the country has been dealt with properly. Till now, most of our activities of infrastructure building have been urban-oriented and very much urban concentrated. So, in my opinion, it is necessary that we have to come to terms to choose what we want to do in the field of sports infrastructure in the country. Do we want to create excellence amongst a few sports people or do we want to have a country with a billion plus population where sports facilities and sports infrastructure will be

available at a much larger scale? Or shall we let the people decide as to who wants to excel? The sense of achievement has to sink in. When a few persons excel in sports, it means that not only those particular persons concerned but the whole country improves. We can see a marked change on a much larger scale.

India is a young country. About 45 per cent of the population is below the age of 30 years and, by 2015, it is estimated that nearly 77 per cent of the country will be below the age of 35 years. This is going to be the youngest nation in the world. But the situation will not improve if we do not impart physical education. I would like to underline the sentence that physical education is very much necessary. Physical education goes beyond sports.

18.00 hrs.

If we do not impart proper physical education to our youth, then, the future of India will be very bleak. Mr. Minister, you can cut costs in the field of medicine, in the field of crime control and in many other fields. If you can involve the youth in activities such as sports, that will be better. Infrastructure is not only connected with building stadiums, gymnasiums although we need a lot of gymnasiums, swimming pools, water-sports facilities, mountain-sports facilities and all that which are definitely required. When you see sports, it is a very comprehensive thing. It is a pity that in our medical colleges even today we do not have sports-related medical education. Therefore, you find very few doctors in India who are capable of dealing with injuries related to sports. I personally feel that it is a very important thing which has to be taken care of.

If we see the past Governments, the Sports Ministry has been relegated to the background as an unimportant Ministry. Some of the hon. Members spoke earlier. They have also mentioned that the hon. Sports Minister does not deem it necessary to sit while this discussion is going on.

MR. SPEAKER: He has taken my leave because he has to go.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: It is not an individual that I am trying to mention about. I am talking about the general attitude of all the Governments that sports is a

very unimportant subject at the federal level and so also at the State levels. So, we have to set that right. How do we want to deal with sports in future? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House will have to sit till this discussion is over and the next Bill, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill is completed.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Asiad 1982 opened our eyes about sports-related infrastructure in Delhi. Delhi had a boom. Later on, we found that Asiad villages in Khelgaon and all the villages connected with it were given away to people to live in. But we could not keep the infrastructure ready for the future. So, when we make investments in sports-related infrastructure, we also have to ensure how we want to manage those infrastructures for future use for sports-specific activities. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are making very good points. But we have constraint of time. If you do not mind it, you can finish your speech.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Can I take two or three minutes more?

MR. SPEAKER: Please take two minutes more. I am very sorry to interrupt you. You are making good points. But we have to finish this discussion. Two-hours have been allotted to this. After all, we are hard-pressed for time.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: We have, mostly, a concept of Western games as sports whereas we have to change our opinion and look at sports in the Indian context. We have to realise that we have many traditional games, many traditional sports. In the villages, 85 per cent of India lives. Our people are very comfortable with those traditional sports because intrinsically in their DNA those games have sunk in. So, we have also to think how to encourage those games. I have got nothing against Cricket or certain other games. But then, it should not be concentrated only for those particular games. We have to spread out and think of other things.

Lastly, I would make one or two points here. Recently, a four-year-old boy from Orissa — his name is Budhiya — was sold. His mother sold him because she was in complete, abject poverty. She sold the boy to somebody for Rs.1000. The boy was bought by another sports instructor for Rs.1500 or Rs.2000. This four-year-old boy was one day constantly speaking in a very bad, abusive

[Shri Tathagata Satpathy]

language because he grew up in the slums. So, this young man, who bought him, got very much irritated, slapped that fellow a few times and said that the boy should go round the football field a couple of times till he was sitting there. This boy started running. The man, who had bought that boy, forgot about it and he went away to the State Secretariat in Bhubaneswar. This event took place at 7.30 in the morning. When the young man came back at 1 p.m., this boy was still running. The young man was surprised to see that there was not a drop-let of perspiration on that boy. He called the doctors. They checked the boy's heart-beat. They found that the boy had been running throughout from 7.30 a.m. till one of the clock and his heart-beat also had not gone up.

Sir, today many people in Orissa are saying that instructor, the man who bought him, should be punished, should be arrested because he is misusing the boy's abilities. But in my opinion it is children like these who should be picked up from their infancy, while they are infants, and they should be groomed to be proper sports people. So, India, as a country, has more spectators. I wanted to make a comment on one thing, namely, first of all that it is a country which is devoid of success. So, we are crazy for success. On the other hand, India has also created a lot of spectators but very few players. TV has created a lot of viewers or onlookers but they are mostly couch potatoes. We have to create players. The Government can help in bringing out our lads and girls from their sitting rooms to the playgrounds. Here, private companies can also contribute not just by giving jobs on sports quota but by encouraging sports and sports people right from their childhood.

MR. SPEAKER: Please!

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: The last thing I would like to mention. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The last thing.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, this is finally the final. Absolutely final.. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the last thing is that in this situation you were great to say that this should be discussed although the media wrote things that were not palatable to most of us because this is a subject which does not deal with any one person as such. It is a pity that politics in sports today is taking toll and is destroying sports whether it is * versus power or whatever it is. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No names to be taken.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: It is not only one Saurav Ganguly who goes out of the game. Sir, a State like Orissa was also deprived of one-day matches at Barabaki stadium just because of some little internal politics between two-three people. It is a pity. The whole country is sorry about it. We are sorry because all players should be given proper chances.

MR. SPEAKER: Should be given.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, finally I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kiren Rijju. Are you in your seat?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Sir, I may be permitted to speak from here. It is quite inconvenient from there.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, since it is sports. Please make specific points because we have to finish it. We have one Bill to dispose of.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Thank you hon. Speaker, Sir. I thank you for allowing this discussion. I would like to compliment my colleague Shri Naveen Jindal for bringing this important discussion in the Parliament.

[Translation]

If we look at the popularity graph of various Sports in the world, Cricket is nowhere in the picture. I would like to make it clear that I am not an opponent of the game of Cricket but I am putting up the factual position before the House. The Olympics, Asian games and common wealth games are global sports events and they indicate the ranking of countries in various sporting events but none of the said sports events include Cricket in their itinerary. It is really unfortunate that even our main news channels do not give coverage to sports other than Cricket.

Our country is ranked lowly in sports in the world and I would like to blame the Government system and media for this. Cricket is a colonial game and we are following it. I am not opposing Cricket but it is doing harm to other sports and it is a very big loss. It is a good thing that Shri Sharad Pawar has become the President of BCCI, but it is a danger sign for other Sports.

* Not recorded.

The population of our country is over 1 billion. When we do not get any medal in any Sport. We all feel sorry for that. It is a pity India does not figure anywhere among the leading sports countries in the world. ...*(Interruptions)* There are only 8-9 Cricket playing nations and a test match is played between two countries. It does not tell us about one country's rank in the world.

Hon'ble Minister of Sports is not here, yet I want to send him a message, through you, that hon'ble Suresh Prabhuji has said that each area has its own peculiarities and the people of Tribal, coastal and plain area have its own qualities, specialities and capabilities and the Government should allocate funds keeping in view the sports of that special areas and attention should be paid towards those sports. Initially, the Sports Authority of India has started special areas games, which has provided a chance to the people of tribals and remote areas to participate. Many young players had earned their names in Indian Football League. But whatever has been done for sports so far, is not sufficient.

I would like to quote an example, that there is not a single swimming pool and playground for archery in our Arunachal Pradesh. If we do not have good playground for volleyball, how can we produce good players? I do not agree with hon'ble Suresh Prabhakar Prabhuji on the point that our sport persons do not get medals in international sports. I would like to ask as to what our Government is doing for our sportpersons, and what facilities are being provided to them? The Government will have to pay more attention towards Sports in North-East, because the corporate world does not go there. First of all the Government will have to pay attention there. Hon'ble Malhotraji has mentioned about funds allocation. I am of the opinion that the funds allocation of India for Sports might be lowest in the world. But when our players comes back with Gold Medals we all including hon'ble Prime Minister, feel proud of it. We allocate only 200-300 crore rupees for Sports. Apart from our national game Hockey. We are yet to win a gold medal in any sports till now, but today the state of hockey is also in bad shape and our Government is not worried about it. We all say that Government should pay attention towards Sports but the ground reality is totally opposite to it and nothing is done for sports. The truth is that the Government should have to provide the funds as required.

Earlier, controversy was created over the expulsion of a Cricket player. Recently the sports controversy in Manipur caused furore in the entire state but no body in

the House showed any concern about it and raised the issue in the Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: The matter was raised.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Ok. I stand corrected. But in normal circumstances in regard to cricket the media behaves as if the whole nation can not do without cricket and is telecast on prime channels also. It seems there is no other work other than cricket in the world. If our mindset remains unchanged there will be no improvement in other sports other than cricket and their standard will continue to fall. In the end, keeping the paucity of time in mind, I would like to support the statement of Malhotraji that a provision of at least 2000 crore rupees should be made in the next year's budget.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is not for cricket, as you are saying.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Cricket Board has a lot of money. They claim that they are the richest Board in the world. But if you see the grounds of the country. ...* where the money goes?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why should you compare with it? It is a very friendly country. That sentence may be omitted.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: I would only say that we should not bring political spirit in sports but we have to work with sports in politics.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. It was a very well made speech.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE (Barasat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate my friend, the hon. Shri Naveen Jindal for calling the attention of the House to the subject of sports, which is a very important subject but, unfortunately, neglected by the Government as well as by the Parliament. This neglect compels you, Sir, in spite of your keen interest and love in sports, to try to

* Not recorded.

[Shri Subrata Bose]

shorten the discussion on sports which is hardly held in this House. I would not like to take much time of the House to repeat what Shri Jindal pointed out while making his speech about the meager allocation of funds including Olympics.

Having been a very active sportsperson, I am lucky to be able to say that I am still an active sportsperson having started playing the game of tennis at the age of 10 and even after 60 years I still try to find time to spend to play the game of tennis.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: I have been associated with sports. Apart from having represented the State at the national level, having been Captain of the Indian Davis Cup Team way back in 1969, about 36 years ago, and having held the positions in the State and National Associations, I found from my experience that although the primary objective of the sports Associations is to spot talents, nurture and develop them, I think the sports Associations, most of them do not engage in such occupations. They are satisfied by only organising perhaps some competitive events. Although competition is good, it is a necessity for players to develop, the sportspersons to develop, yet that is not all that the sports Associations are supposed to do. We may look at China. It gained Independence and came to a new regime after we gained Independence. If we look at the progress of sports in China, we shall find that China adopted a national sports policy and have very seriously executed it.

Unfortunately, we are still to have a National Sports Policy. So, while welcoming the new hon. Minister of Sports, I would urge upon him, through you, to have or to evolve a National Sports Policy so that we can develop sports in a proper manner.

China has not only concentrated on just developing sporting events but what they have concentrated on is the physical fitness in every discipline of sports, and that is entirely and absolutely necessary. My colleague and friend, Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar had pointed that out. So, we have to start that at the school level. So, I would urge upon the Government to set an example in this regard by having gymnasium for physical training of our young boys and girls, to start with, in every Central school. We have to make it compulsory for each and every student to take active interest and take part in gymnasium. That will make our sportsmen and our young boys and girls fit. When they

have talents, it will be easy for them to develop and nurture their talents.

Sir, I shall not take much of your time but I would also draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the Sports Authority of India has not been running in the way it should run. I think it is necessary for the hon. Minister of Sports to give much more attention to the working of the Sports Authority of India. You see very recently, I think, less than a year ago, 750 of their coaches, if I remember the number correctly, were transferred on a single day. Many of the coaches, who have been transferred, who are coaches in every discipline, have found a place where that discipline is not there. This is the way the Sports Authority of India is working.

MR. SPEAKER: Despite that, some of our players have done outstandingly well. I am grateful to them. That shows that with proper efforts, we can make good athletes.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Yes, they have contributed. I do not say they have not contributed. But I think that even the facilities available have to be updated in all the campuses of the Sports Authority of India. Although I do not think that the Government should intervene and interfere in the working of the Sports Associations and Sports Federations, I think in certain aspects, the Government can give them guidance. Very recently, a very emotional issue has been made of the omission of Saurav Ganguly from the Indian Cricket Team. I think this is not the forum to raise this subject. What I want to mention is this. Is the composition of the Selection Committee of the Board of Cricket Control of India the ideal one? At least on this subject, the Government can always guide the Sports Associations and Sports Federations.

Sir, you have personal knowledge in the discipline of Table Tennis. I know you have been very kind and you have very kindly taken interest in this. Unfortunately, there was an instance where the National Federation disqualified the State Association and encouraged the rival association to come up. But I think it is to the detriment of the game. I am not saying that the State Association was working properly. I do not hold any brief for them but I think here again, perhaps, the Government can play an advisory role and try to solve the problem. In recent years, West Bengal has been the nursery of Table Tennis.

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that there is no problem with the players but only with the officials.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Yes, even with the officials. Therefore, I think in certain cases it is necessary for the

Government to intervene. Sir, I would not like to take much of your time. I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I thank you for admitting this Discussion under Rule 193, which is very vital.

MR. SPEAKER: I was waiting for someone to give a notice.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (Sivakasi): Sir, Mahakavi Sulramania Bharathi who hails from Ettayapuram which happens to be in my constituency had composed a poem like this:

"O-di vilayadu pappa, Nee oynthirukkalaagathu paapa

Koodi vilayadu paappa nee oru kngandhaiyai vaiyathey paappa"

(Children be exhorted to enjoy playing; let them play unitedly without giving rise to jealousy and rivalry) "Have we provided enough of play fields to run and play to crores of our children in the country", is a moot question. It is only because our children are not shaped up in play fields that are scarce and inadequate all over the country we lag behind in the medals tally in international sports events in spite of our having a population of over 108 crores as of now. In a forum of almost 170 countries, especially in Olympic events. We have not attained even 100th position we have to do penance to shape up gold winners. I would like to thank the initiator of this debate and the Presiding Officer of this House for converting this House from a play field for politics to a field evenly suited for games too. Considering the paucity of time, I would like to confine myself to just three points that need to be highlighted. If true sportsmen are to be groomed, it calls for a conducive atmosphere and enough of encouragement boosting their morale. Talent hunt must be made and potential sports persons must be identified their latent talent must be identified and they must be provided with rigorous professional training. Secondly all the disciplines of Athletic and Games events must be equally encouraged. I am afraid our Union Governments has not paid adequate attention to all these three aspects of creating atmosphere, hunting talents and grooming those caught young.

I urge upon the Union Government to have a relook at the state of affairs its entrusting fully with the State

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Governments the responsibility to raise infrastructure needed for sports under Infrastructure Development Scheme. Centre must not abdicate its responsibility. When States are not able to meet their basic development needs how can they allocate funds and spend on Sports Infrastructure Development. States may not be able to groom sportsmen or develop sports. The claim that Navodaya Schools can handle this scheme is also improper. Those who flock Navodaya Schools through the place only to have good education but not to avail of sports facilities. They may not give due priority to sports. All the sports facilities, Clubs and Associations in the country are in the NGO sector. This hampers the proper distribution of funds allocated by the Centre. Hence I urge upon the Government streamline the existing system and appoint a Cabinet Minister for sports as a full-fledged measure to give a pep to growth of sports and its infrastructure. Rural areas must also be exposed to sports infrastructure and sports talent in rural areas needs to be identified, encouraged and groomed. In order to highlight this need and to show possible way to promote sports events, our leader VAIKO has arranged an annual State Level Volleyball Championship Tournament in his village Kalingapatti. Thousands of people gather there to witness the matches and it motivates the rural people, the youth in them to play and excel. This sports event has even been covered by Doordarshan to promote rural sports. Thus we must take all possible steps to promote sports to take our nation further. With this I conclude.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the Vedic times, sports have enjoyed a pre-eminent position in our society. During Vedic times, games were declared open with the lighting of the flame and the same practice has been adopted for Olympic games as well. There is a great similarity between Greek and Indian culture. In Greek religion there is a counterpart of our God Shiva called Nilampoj who too had snakes around his body. But I feel sad to say that a small country like Greece can host Olympic games whereas our country is not in any position to do so even after 57 years of independence.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, small countries get more medals than us. There is a long tradition of games in our country also. Talking of sports infrastructure, SAI has formulated Special Area Game Scheme, aim of which is

[English]

to spot and nurture sporting talent for modern competitive games from inaccessible rural tribal areas between the age group of 14 to 21 years.

[Shri Lakshman Singh]

[Translation]

For talent spotting the Government has fixed the age limit between 14 to 21. This should be brought down to 10 to 15 years. It is necessary to spot talent at 10 and then nurture him. I feel sad at the allowance given to such sportspersons. The Government gives Rs. 75 per day per persons, which is insignificant at present. Accident insurance premium is Rs. 75 per persons each year. The cost of medicines today have gone through the roof. Is the amount Rs. 300 sufficient for medical expenses? It is shameful that such a paltry sum is given as allowance. SAI should increase the allowance.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 17 Sports Area Games Centres in the country and 1300 trainees have been selected from all over the country. The youth constitute one third of our population and their population is around 30 crores. From this you have selected 1300 trainees for seven sports centres and it is not hard to guess about the total number of such sportspersons selected for each of the sports centres.

[English]

This means that they have selected only eight sportsmen for each sports training centre throughout the country, which is shameful.

[Translation]

I hope that the hon. Minister would increase the number of sportspersons to be selected for each sports center and also give the youth of far-flung rural areas and the tribal youth to show-case their talent.

Lack of funds is the excuse cited every time. Through you, I would like to state that National Development Fund is a central fund. The NRIs are given hundred percent exemption in income tax for making contribution in the said fund. But as of now no discussion has been held regarding the size of the said fund alongwith how much expenditure has been made therefrom and the items on which the said expenditure has occurred. The Minister of Finance also never said anything. The hon. Minister of Finance should inform the House regarding the outgo of funds from the National Sports Development Fund; the contribution to which is cent per cent exempt from income tax for NRI, to promote sports. The grapevine is that funds are diverted elsewhere with is very shameful.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is one Army Boys Sports Company Scheme, through which you promote talent with the help of the army. But, the point is, what is the allowance paid to the child selected? It is Rs 60 per day.

Take the national coaching scheme. For this, 1600 coaches are needed. But only 1500 coaches are available. In my view, even 1600 coaches are insufficient. The number of coaches should be increased to four five thousand. This should be done quickly so that the budding sportspersons can be trained.

We have a dope control center where several sportspersons have been tested positive. This has caused international embarrassment for us. There is a dope control center at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. The numbers of such centers should be increased to put effective check on this tendency among sportspersons.

Similarly, there is Laxmibai National College of Physical Education in Gwalior. Situated in Madhya Pradesh this is a sports education institute. It prepares sports curriculum. Its budget is four crore rupees only. Out of which the non-plan expenditure comes to Rs 2.90 crore. This budget needs to be increased just as the salaries of the coaches. More funds should be provided for expansion of infrastructure facilities there, because it is a very important institute in sports arena.

[English]

Now you have a scheme, 'Grant to rural schools for sports and sports equipment and development of playgrounds.'

[Translation]

For this Rs. 1-5 lakhs is given for buying equipment and providing fields. But there is no provision for constructing boundary wall under this scheme. The provision should be for providing sufficient funds for constructing a boundary wall around the play-ground in the rural areas.

Under Bharat Nirman Yojana, Rs 1.74 lakh have been provided for rural development. It is a good thing. Do carry on with rural development. However, under the Bharat Nirman Yojana, no mention has been made regarding promoting sports in the rural areas. Nor have we heard the Minister of Finance say anything about it.

Promoting sports in the rural areas and providing for sports infrastructure in the rural areas should also be a part of Bharat Nirman Yojana.

There is sports scholarship scheme. The Government have fixed absurd norms under this scheme. A sports persons receiving local scholarship in a college or a university gets Rs 750 per month. However, for a national level sports person his allowance is reduced. That is, a college or university level sports people get Rs 750 per month whereas a national level sports person receives only Rs 600 per month. This defies common sense. A national level player should get more scholarship. A state level player should get less than the national level player. And a college level player should get even less. Reforms are needed in this direction.

The Planning Commission gives funds directly to the states for the promotion of sports. But as per rules this amount can not exceed rupees two crores. My suggestion is to increase this amount to 10-15 crores per state so that we can promote sports.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to time constraint, I would like to conclude my speech. I would like to thank Shri Jindal for raising such an immensely important issue in the House for discussion. I would like to ask him a question. It is a good thing that he has raised this issue in the House. But he is a well-known industrialist. I do not know how many players he has sponsored so far. If he has sponsored any player it is commendable. If he has not, so far, I would request him to sponsor a very good child athlete of a village in Orisa-Budhiya. This would help a poor villager from Orissa to realize his potential.

I congratulate the Government of Orissa for selecting Angul district for rural sports.

[English]

It is an exemplary case for development of rural sports.

[Translation]

I request more and more rural villages, like Angul be selected in our country, so that the children residing in rural and backward areas get an opportunity to realize their potential.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamarajanagar): Mr. Speaker

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

Sir, I am grateful to you for calling me to speak on the subject "SPORTS IN INDIA". I congratulate the Hon. Member Shri Jindal for bringing this very important subject matter before this august house. The great Kannada writer and Janapeeth award winner DA.RA. Bendre sings a song by saying that children will learn while playing. But my question is that where is play in our country? Unfortunately it is all politics and not play.

Long ago, former member and Minister Shri. V. Sreenigasa Prasad donated Rs. 40 lakhs and I have also contributed Rs. 20 lakhs for the construction of a sports stadium in Chamarajanagar. Nothing has been done till today by the Centre and the State. This is the pathetic condition of sports in India. I have put several questions in this regard. I have got the usual, boring answers and there is no progress about the construction of this stadium. Infact, we wanted to have a very big sports complex in Chamarajanagar which includes a good swimming pool, indoor stadium, excellent tracks etc. etc. Really I do not know when this dream of the people of Chamarajanagar will become a reality?

I had made a request to post a coach to Chamarajanagar. One coach was sent their accordly. Shockingly he has been transferred to some other place within three months! What a mockery? I request the concerned authorities to bring back the coach immediately.

We are a backward country as far as sports are concerned even after 59 years of independence. We could not get even a bronze medal in track event in the Olympics. The performance of our sports persons has been dismal in other international events also. We have to blame ourselves for this condition. Infact, There is a cleavage in our sports arena. We have created two groups. One set of sports like Tennis, Golf and Cricket are for the rich people.

The common people, poor and the rural people have to be satisfied with their games like kabaddi, Volley ball, Sofe-ball, Throw-ball, Kho-kho etc. The rural children and children hailing from hilly areas like Chamarajanagar can excel in kabaddi and kho-kho. But who is their to encourage these games? Some times I feel that after a few decades we may forget all the games and remember only cricket.

Today China is challenging the entire world in sports activities. They are the hosts of 2008 Olympics. They are going ahead with the determination of claiming the top position in field events, track events and all their games,

[Shri M. Shivanna]

what is the position of our country in this coming 2008 Olympics? Can we get a single gold medal? How are the preparations going on? It is high time for us to awake and arise. The States and the Centre should realise the urgency and take all measures to lead our country into a new era of glorious sports activities.

I am a sportsperson. I was a very good wrestler and a kabaddi player. I had the ambition of becoming a Police Officer. But where is the encouragement for a sports person? Hence, it is very essential to provide reservation for sports persons in all jobs, Scholarships and other incentives. There is no dearth of talents in the country. But there is dearth of infrastructural facility. The physically and mentally challenged children deserve their share in sports arena depending upon their capabilities. There is a need for the Centre and the States to uplift the sports in the country. Of course, the first step in this direction would be to root out politics from sports. Enough is enough let us not quarrel about one individual. Our sports persons should play for the country and not as an individual. Our country is more important than one State.

Women sportsperson should be provided special incentives along with scholarships, quota reservations etc. We have the results before us in the form of Anju Bobby George, Sania Mirza, Aparana Poppat and others. Now, the need of the hour is the will power of the Centre.

I hope the Government of India will rise to occasion and do the needful to improve the standards of sports activities in the country. Sir, with these words I thank you and conclude my speech.

*DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho): Sir, honourable Minister Shri Naveen Jindal has initiated this discussion under Rule, 193 regarding sports on which you have given me an opportunity to express my views and I express my gratitude for this purpose.

Sir, our country is inhabited in villages. Our country has got a hundred crore population. Majority of the population is young and it would not be exaggeration to say that this is a younger country. But it is a matter of regret that our sports are only confined to cities or to cricket. So sports facilities will have to be extended to villages. Opportunity should be given to bring out to the talents of rural areas. As example, is not a team of Chhatarpur college of my parliamentary constituency thou

Khajuraho has been selected to play in national hockey from the entire Madhya Pradesh State. It means that talents are available everywhere and the only thing is that they should be given opportunities. Simultaneously, in addition to Cricket, basket ball, football, hockey, kabaddi, kho-kho, wrestling and other sports should also be promoted according to the interests of sportsperson and coaching should be provided to them for this. Special package should be given for sports activities in schools, colleges and universities because I know that these institutions lack funds. There is also no institutes in those universities as these are in other countries. There is no facility of playgrounds and swimming pools. It is unfortunate that today there is also no sports policy and as a result of it our sportspersons go to the foreign countries to play but they return with empty hands.

Therefore, as Mathotraji said that there should be a provision in the budget for Rs. Two thousands crores for sports. There is a need to mobilize infrastructural facilities in the entire rural and urban areas of the country. Even smaller countries get more medals than us in the Olympic games. We do not provide facilities to the talented players. They are given meager allowances which is shameful. Only 1700 youths are selected out of fifty crore youths. This is a very small number. How much is earmarked as the NSDF fund. It is said that there is a lack of coaches and it is also necessary to increase that number. There is a necessity to increase the number of educational institution related with sports and it is essential to provide them with funds. Provision should also be made for rural sports under the Bharat Nirman Yojana.

*SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, if we discuss about the position of India in the World Sports Map then except cricket there is no such sports in which we have expertise. At once stage India were a leading hockey team and today it seems struggling in the qualifying matches. Today in these entire country cricket is discussed and seen everywhere. What has happened to our traditional sports like wrestling, hockey, kabaddi and the sports person of the games and we are very weak in athletics. Our failure to build world class athletes states the reality.

The main reason of the bad condition of sports in our country is lack of adequate facility and infrastructure to brush up the sports talents. Today it is a dream to make a career in sports. If any boy or girl shows talents in sports

then his guardian or parents seem to destroy his or her sports talent through the excuse of studies. It is a reality that if sports sector is made as a means of prestige and livelihood then, it could help the country to build new sports talent and to brush up the present sports talent. We see that be it America or England, Sports are promoted at the school level and the Government itself provide facilities and arranges for their education who are interested in sports. But it does not appear in the sports sector here. Talented sports persons should be assured a whole life livelihood so that they could give a boost to sports.

Our forest dwellers and tribals are physically laborious due to living in the remote areas. They can be promoted in athletics. Such efforts are being made at many places through the Eklavya Khelkood Pariyojana under Banwari Kalyan Ashram. Limbaram in archery is a very prominent name synonymous with achievement. The sports talent of India remains limited to a few names like Sania Mirza, P.T. Usha, Malleshwari or Milkha Singh. The Government needs to promote sports activities at the village level to maintain continuity. Sports should be made the part of curriculum at the school level. The training of wrestling and athletics should be imparted by making mini stadia in villages and small towns and efforts should be made to provide importance to sports by their telecast on TV channels. Then only sports will get importance and means of livelihood to the sportsman would be available. If other Indian and sportsmen could get a place on the channels and sports pages of newspapers dedicated only for cricket, it would trigger new talent in the field of sports.

While keeping in view the competition for the sponsorship of Cricket it is also necessary to provide financial assistance for progress and development of Indian Sports and other sports and these sports should also be sponsored by these industries.

Cricket players are given lucrative jobs by big industrial houses, and lower Government establishments only after playing at the state level. One peon from my constituency who played international match of kabaddi on behalf of India could get jobs of a peon in the office of the district collector. What message we will give through this. So it is my submission that this discrimination should be avoided under which an international player of kabaddi gets a peon's job while a State player of cricket gets a lucrative job.

*SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Sir, the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

population of India is more than 100 crores. However, whenever the Olympic games are organized no Indian player appears at the podium. I would like to say that players of caliber should emerge in a country with such a huge population. But it seems that we are lagging behind in sports. Attention has not been paid towards the rural areas till date. Infrastructure for sports has been prepared only in cities but no attention has been paid towards the rural areas. If sportspersons of rural areas are guided in a right way then they will definitely make the country proud.

*SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views regarding sports. In our country sports are given a lot of importance since ancient times. In reality there is no shortage of talented sports persons in our country. There are a lot of talents in the rural areas who have inclination towards sports but due to lack of proper facilities their talents are not realised otherwise, it is from our own country that an eminent sports person like Major Dhyanchand was produced in the field of hockey and his talent was acknowledged worldwide. Hitler was also impressed with his sports talent. Flying Sikh Milkha Singh had brought honour to India in Olympics in the field of race. Along with this flying queen P.T. Usha had also brought laurels to our country in Olympics. All these talents actually came from small cities and belonged to middle class families. All kind of sports should be promoted through coaching institutes in small cities to bring out such sports talents. Besides cricket, there is a need for providing good sports fields and modern machines for sports persons playing sports like Hockey, Kabaddi, Volleyball, Football, Kho-Kho, Basketball and Tennis. It is not possible to do this without increasing budget allocation for sports. There are excellent archers in tribal areas who can prove to be as good as Arjun and Eklavya but unfortunately they do not even have means of livelihood. Shooters like Jaspal Rana can also be found in rural areas. The only requirement is to create a good atmosphere for sports and also provide facilities for the same.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are working overtime to get the Bill passed. At least make some arrangements for food?

MR. SPEAKER: The Speaker doesnot have any money for food. You must ask this from the person who has money.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am so happy that so many hon. Members have taken interest in this discussion. I have heard excellent speeches today. I have been hearing them because I like the matter. I am very much thankful to you. I am also very much encouraged to find that so many other hon. members wish to take part in the discussion and make their contributions. We have hardly discussed the subject.

Since the Bill has to be passed, we shall continue this discussion in the next Session and as early as possible.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Any hon. Member who wants to lay his speech on the Table of the House can do so.

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me to speak for 5 minutes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You may take five minutes, but there are another 20 hon. Members who want to speak on this issue. How can it be over, Mr. Nikhil Kumar? You can participate in the discussion next time.

CRIMINAL LAW (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005 – *contd.*

18.44 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we go back to Item 30. Mr. Jindal, you will get another turn. Shri Mahtab to continue his speech.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): On the amendment to the Indian Penal Code, especially on the provision regarding witness turning hostile, I had posed an important query.

18.45 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *In the Chair*)

The trial cannot proceed without evidence, without investigation into the aspect of inducement, when it comes

to the knowledge of the court. My specific question is what steps are there to have investigation and, in such a case, should it be completed within a specific time-frame? There are three other provisions, but I would like to know whether any provision for this purpose has been made in this Bill. To my comprehension, I do not find it because the idea is to minimise the court cases, when you are bringing in the third party into the purview. That is the main intention and that is a good intention. But here the law comes in between. My suggestion would be that some specific time-frame can be made so that we can quickly dispose of the issues, if it arises.

Now, I come to the second aspect of the Bill, about the plea-bargaining. I have said that it is not a new concept. In criminal jurisprudence in the world, it is not a new concept. It is prevalent in the United States, but for us, it is a new concept, no doubt. The Law Commission, in its 154th Report, had expressed its strong view to have this type of plea-bargaining. The Committee on Reforms on Criminal Justice System headed by Justice Malimath had recommended for introduction of plea-bargaining. It is not a replica, as the hon. Minister mentioned, of the system that is prevalent in the United States of America. Here, it is proposed in this Bill to involve the court as an adjudicator. I do not know whether in any other country the court has been involved as an adjudicator or not between the accused and the prosecutor by providing opportunity to them to decide the quantum of concession mutually and fix a date for hearing thereafter. It is stated in the Bill that the Court has to judge whether the application for plea-bargaining has been made voluntarily or not.

A problem arises from involving the court and the public prosecutor. Hypothetically, if I may say that the plea-bargaining fails, there is every possibility that the public prosecutor will take advantage of the information he had received while trying to arrive at a settlement. Legally, this is not correct.

As has been very adequately mentioned in different forums, even in the Standing Committee, in media and other spheres, unless there is an independent Directorate of Prosecution in place as a pre-requisite, this may go against the accused which will be termed as a bad law. Establishment of an independent Directorate of Prosecution was recommended by the Supreme Court in Vineet Narayan case. Here, in this Bill, it has been mentioned in page 3. The Court shall issue notice. The Court shall ensure that the entire process is completed voluntarily. The Court shall issue notice again to the accused and the

victim. All this burden is on the Court itself. We say that the Court is already burdened as a number of cases are pending. This is an extra work, non-judicial work or out of Court work. We are bringing in more job to the Court and the Court is burdened with more work. I am unable to understand this. The Court is already badly pressed. If you involve the Court, then I think, the Court will be more burdened if we adopt plea bargaining in this manner. Let us adopt the American system. What is the difficulty in having an out of Court settlement? Instead of involving the Court, I think, it is much better if we go in that process.

The third aspect is about compounding of offences under Section 498 of the IPC. This was intended to protect women from cruelty of husbands or his relatives with an attempt to provide a chance to the estranged spouse to come together. This is provided through this amendment. This was discussed earlier also in this House. I have no other opinion to this, and the National Commission for Women have said that it will dilute Section 498A. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): It is not there in the Bill. That provision has been deleted in the Rajya Sabha and we have accepted the demand made by the Commission.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I come to another aspect. These are mentioned when a point was made about going in a piecemeal manner. I would just like to draw the attention of the House, and through you, the attention of the hon. Minister towards Section 197 of the Cr.P.C. As per this Section, prior sanction of the Government is required for prosecution of public servants. This provision makes a mockery of the ideal of the rule of law. Some people are totally protected unless permission is given, no action can be taken. No prosecution can take place. We know that a number of instances are there. A lot of time is taken. Sometimes no decision is taken to prosecute some public servants. At times, the Police arrests persons just on the basis of an FIR. If somebody lodges an FIR, the Police goes and arrests the person. In our country, the provision is that a person accused is termed innocent until proved guilty. Why should we give blanket power to the Police to go and arrest the person just by having an FIR? In villages or in urban areas, when respected persons are apprehended, they are called to the police stations and arrested. Can some provision be made where this type of humiliation can be avoided? I also would insist that the Police should be made accountable for all its action.

I conclude with these words. I want to say that the rule of law demands, as I said earlier, independent police organisation. Independence of police administration is necessary.

Attempts should be made to achieve that goal. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Due to time constraints, I will make a brief speech.

The hon. Minister has brought forward a Bill and placed it before this House for passing. Of course, I have no slightest doubt that we, the Members cutting across political parties, shall pass this Bill unanimously.

This Bill is brought forward with some aims and objects, and for very cogent reasons. The Statement of Objects and Reasons is very good. One of the objects for amending the IPC as well as the Cr.P.C. is quick disposal of cases. This is very good.

I want to say that our judicial system was introduced during British regime. We are following that old system and unless and until we totally change it, quick disposal of cases cannot be done. We are following the old system and this system takes a long time. A case is filed before some court and nobody knows when it will be disposed of. From the lower court, it goes to the District Court, from the District Court, it goes to the High Court and some cases go from the High Court to the Supreme Court. This is the judicial system of our country.

IPC was enacted at the time of the British. According to my information, Lord Macaulay has drafted this IPC. He covered all offences and all the crimes that a person can commit. He considered all the aspects of Indian livelihood, all the aspects of rural problems and all other things. But time is changing.

Earlier there was a provision in the IPC if a person is killed or murdered by a lethal weapon. But now, the character of crime has changed. So, we need to amend the IPC. A new provision has been substituted for Section 195 (a) of the IPC, regarding false evidence given in the court, or for inducement or threatening or if one is compelled to give false evidence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude within a minute.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Who will threaten the

[Shri Ajoy Chakraborty]

witness or induce the witness or allure the witness? He will certainly be an influential man, who has money and muscle power in the locality.

19.00 hrs.

But this provision is relaxed. Presiding Officer of the Court can make the complaint and any competent person authorised by the Presiding Officer can lodge the complaint. My question is, who will take the evidence. If any witness gives false witness before the Court by inducement or threatening, who will collect the evidence? Will the complainant collect the evidence or the Presiding Officer as well as the complainant will give a direction to the police to collect evidence?

I think our Home Minister is a prudent, renowned lawyer also and knows better than me. I have a little experience as I was a practitioner in the Lower Court. They have practised in High Court and the Supreme Court. That is the difference. We know the basic problems involved in all these things. The Lower Court lawyers enter into cross examination but the lawyers of the Higher Courts do not enter into cross examination. So, we know the problems.

An FIR is lodged by somebody before the police station. As soon as the FIR is lodged, the case starts. After investigation, a chargesheet has been given before the Court for taking cognizance. The name of the witness in the charge sheet is there. Some of the witnesses could not be traced out. Some come before the Court voluntarily saying that they do not know. But the intention of this law and the amendment is very good. It is acceptable.

Plea of bargaining is a good idea. This has already been introduced in some other countries. In this Bill, which has been brought forward by the hon. Home Minister, a provision has been made for the plea of bargaining.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Member, please do not speak while sitting.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: I hope this good object will frustrate the lawyers also. They do not advise their clients to go before the Court and confess their guilt. It is a good object. In the villages of West Bengal there is a provision of *salishi*. Our opponent political party and sometimes the lawyers also created an uproar in West Bengal with regard to this. The lawyers will be the financial

losers if this *salishi* Bill is introduced. This is some sort of a *salishi* Bill because parties come to a compromise and settle the matter outside the court and then go the court for filing a petition that the matter is settled. This is a good idea and we welcome it. This amendment is a good idea. We welcome it. Everybody is supporting it. I also welcome the hon. Home Minister to have brought forward this Bill before the House for its approval.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. This Bill not only covers the legal aspect but I consider it to be practical also. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs is himself a very practical person. In this Bill, he has covered almost three points - first point is that this Bill has provided for awarding punishment if it is established that any witness is giving a wrong statement and there is a possibility that the court will award punishment to such persons if it is proved so.

Secondly, it has been stated in this Bill that action would be taken against any such person who tries to get witness by threat, coercion, or by enticement. Third point is that if in any given case a person wants to make a compromise then he can do so by giving a prior application in the court. This is a very good thing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister towards two three points. I think that there are some 2-3 matters towards which hon. Minister of Home Affairs has not paid any attention. We want that if the Government finds any substance in our words then it must be included in the Bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a practice of presenting witness in cases. I would like to submit that the hon. Minister should inspect jail for once. He will find that the number of innocent people in jails is more than the number of guilty people. The reason behind this is that in villages cases are framed out of enmity. These cases are not based on truth. If the incident is true then the name of the accused are false. Specially some two-three types of cases are totally false. For example, I would like to mention that these days dowry cases are very common in both rural and urban areas. The Hon. Supreme Court has also remarked in this regard on a number of occasions. The Hon. Supreme Court has stated that if a married woman dies within seven years of her marriage then no evidence is required in such case. In such case her husband would be held accused automatically.

I would like to inform the hon. Minister that people from poor areas work in big cities like Delhi, Gujarat, Mumbai, Kolkata for a sum of Rs.1500, Rs.2000 and Rs.2500. When a person gets married, his wife wants to live with him and desires that she should also live with her husband in cities like Mumbai and Delhi but due to lack of resources this is not possible. These women get sentimental and commit suicide within two-three months of their marriage. Thereafter the family members of such females file a dowry case against their husbands saying that so much of dowry was demanded from them and as a result of their failure to meet the dowry demands, their daughter was killed. The entire family of the husband is accused in such cases. If there is any unmarried daughter in the family then her name is also dragged in the case. In view of the law prevailing in our country, there is a rare possibility of getting bail in such cases. In such situation the unmarried girl has to remain in jail because she is also not granted bail. Even the High Court refuses to grant bail to her. This forms the basis for a false case.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that on the one hand we say that women are being killed for dowry and strict action should be taken against those who are responsible for this, and on the other hand we find that the more laws are enacted, the more they are misused. I would like to request the hon. Minister that if a person is awarded punishment on the basis of wrong evidence being given against him then it is gross injustice to him. Similarly, if there are no witnesses in a case under section 302 or 307 and someone in the village has an enmity with the accused he comes forward and express his willingness to bear witness in the case. He says that he will give witness in the case if the name of so and so person is also put to the list of accused persons. This is how people become witness and give statements. The court also punishes such person whereas he has nothing to do with the case.

In villages there are cases regarding Harijans. Otherwise also a very few disputes take place in villages with Harijans. Most of the mutual disagreements and disputes take place between well off people. Now, there are well to do people in most of the castes as they are not restricted to any one particular caste. Harijan's work under these rich people as labourers. If any dispute takes place between these people, they file a case through any Harijan and give false witnesses through their people. Police also files a charge sheet against them. When these people approach the court, they are held guilty and are awarded punishment.

Now, he has stated that those people who give false witness or give witness under pressure would be punished under the provisions of this Bill. I would like to request him that the Government must also investigate the role of investigating agencies which investigate into such cases. Nobody gives a written statement to police, in fact, they only give a verbal statement. When the police visits the spot it can also get eclipsed with external influences. The influences can be of varied roots. In case of being influenced, they simply pose questions relating to credentials and their inclination, therefore, police claim to have recorded the statements. Subsequently, the police draft the diary in such manner that it may lead to conviction. Therefore, if he avers (state positively) that action will be taken against those who give false statements. I would like to know from him the proposed line of action to be embarked upon to hold such police officials responsible who produce the facts in misleading way which even results in the conviction of the innocent ones.

I am not saying that such erring police-officials should be put behind bars nor I ask for their dismissal. At least there should be some element of fear in them and they should feel apprehended of being brought to book and will avoid perpetrating mistakes in deliberate manner. Suppose the person concerned is working as SDO he should be demoted as officer-in-charge. Simply put, some token punishment must be there to ensure impartiality in investigation.

Second thing that I wish to drive home is that he has devised ways to entrap the false witness but the plaintiff who makes false statements under some influence or the other, on the basis of which the court passes verdict. If the accused is set free and is entrapped in the vicious elongated process for years together in the hope of delivery of justice. He will think that the complainants' statement was false and the witness produced fake evidences. In such case what shall be nature of punishment. As the plaintiff is not counted as witness when the case advances to the evidence stage. Government has not laid down any modus operandi for the complainants, which is why I would like to submit that some way must be devised to apprehend the erring complainants as well as the witnesses. If somebody is subjected to sufferings for the reasons attributed to the false statements made by the complainants at he/she should also be subjected to stern legal action whatsoever in course of Justice. He has said that the false evidence shall come to light naturally, as regards that let me tell him

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

that earlier statements were recorded in the court under section 164 if the complainant withheld so but the Supreme Court ruled that no statement would be recorded until and unless the police desires so. In such situation I fail to see as to how they will detect the false witnesses on the basis of facts only. There is only one stage for recording evidence when the case is with the CJM and the case is taken into cognizance, therefore, the case is referred to the trial Court. In the trial Court evidence is recorded which leads to either conviction or acquittal of the accused. If convicted, the accused approaches the higher Judiciary for appeal and then files an appeal in the Apex Court if the situation so warrants where he is not produced as a witness nor his statements are recorded. The witnesses produced and the evidence taken in the lower courts form the basis of interpretation in the higher or highest courts. So, it's incumbent upon the Government to make it essential that in case of charge-sheet being submitted by the police, the recording of statement of plaintiff or witnesses be made mandatory. Only after making it mandatory one would be able to find out what figured in the respective statements made by them before the magistrate or in the trial Court. Whether there is a difference in between the two. Without knowing the difference, how will we be able to identify original and the fake witnesses. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should know, the fact in that even now most of the people living in villages are poor by economic standards and they become witness in the courts just for a few rupees. They also subsist on them. If some innocent gets convicted by virtue of such fake witnesses, nothing can be worse than this. This is why it deserves a serious consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, I am going to conclude in a minute or two. I am telling you the fact and put forward a sincere request to consider each and every aspect in a serious manner. I would like that the Government should put in place some criminal procedure for the investigating officers, the plaintiffs of the case and the persons giving fake witnesses as presently only the evidence has been covered sadly, the plaintiff and the investigating officers have been exempted. If the Minister determines some procedure this will facilitate the delivery of justice. I believe as the Minister said that cases are to be settled through out of the court settlement then, one may submit affidavit to the court for this purpose. I agree

that the Minister has taken correct step. This may resolve one issue but still doubt would persist. The doubt will always remain if a person file a petition in court and both the parties have agreed on it, but later on, the other party goes against the things agreed upon earlier, the court may have doubt that such petition has been filed by force. Therefore, a small sentence should be included in this procedure that whatever petition is filed, it should be signed by both the parties. In my opinion this move will cause no new dispute. Then I believe that the Minister seriously considers the things I have said and get this Bill passed after making a provision of punishment for investigation officer and petitioner also in it. I do not want to say anything about witness separately, as he has already made a provision about it. We are already prepared to get this Bill passed. I like to request one more thing, though it is not related to the subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, you have finished your speech, please sit down now.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I want to say a personal thing. You please listen. You will also appreciate it.

We all had personally requested that 16 crore Bhojpuri people live in this country, therefore a Bill concerning Bhojpuri be brought in the next session. They have much hope from you. Afterwards, we will take you there and honour you. Therefore, please do this. We will get this Bill passed without voting.

With this, I conclude.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while thanking you I want some clarifications regarding this Bill so that when it becomes a law there would be no ambiguity. Take for instance the following provision in the second part of section 195:

[English]

"And if innocent person is convicted and sentenced in consequence of such false evidence, with death or imprisonment for more than seven year".

[Translation]

It takes at least five-six years to decide the case and to punish the guilty. After the sentence has been pronounced how are we to know whether or not the statement has been made under duress or pressure?

The second thing is suppose it comes to light that the evidence given by the convict was under pressure or undue influence. What would happen to the conviction or the sentence passed? Would it be annulled? Secondly, it was inserted in Section 195, "that Court or any other officer authorized by the Court," may give rise to complaints. It would be better to fix a rank. Otherwise the Court can direct its steno or clerk to become a complainant. This would prevent him from taking up the case in future. Hence, the provision such officer not below the rank of so and so should be added.

Sir, the plea of bargaining is a new concept and you ought to be congratulated for this. But there are some apprehensions in this regard. However, those with practical legal knowledge can tell about apprehensions in this regard. For instance you have kept the socio-economic factor out of its purview. But how would you define it? Different courts would give different judgements. This would defeat its very intention. Therefore, it would be better to define the term 'socio-economic' in the Act itself. Secondly, a provision made in it that

[English]

This Act does to apply to persons who have committed offence against women and children.

[Translation]

It may cause a problem. The aim of this Act is reconciliation, to bring about a compromise. An exemption should be given if the concerned woman or child is from the same family. Suppose, a father beats his son leading to injuries. This becomes a non cognizable offence. In order to include plea of bargaining, some exemptions should be given. It should be specified under Section 265 B that at such stage an application can be given? Whether it can be given before the charges are framed or after framing of the charges or any time during the trial? If it is specified, the court would keep application and evidence in mind. Otherwise, it would lead to a controversy that the statements or evidence have been recorded and plea bargaining can not be resorted to. Therefore, there would be no problem in its implementation if it is made clear at which stage it can be specified.

In Section 365-B It has been mentioned:

[English]

After receiving the application under sub-section (1),

the Court shall issue notice to the Public Prosecutor or the complainant.

[Translation]

In this 'or' should be replaced with 'and'. Suppose, the Court issues a notice to the prosecutor, the complainant would not come to know about it, unless and until, the prosecutor, the complainant and the accused do not come face to face. The plea bargaining would be of no use. Therefore, 'or' be replaced with 'and'.

The wordings used in Section 265 (4)A-

[English]

"...the Court is satisfied that the application has been filed by the accused voluntarily..."

[Translation]

According to the Cr.P.C. the Court puts it in record its satisfaction. Here, oral satisfaction is done away with.

[English]

The Court must record the reason as to how the Court is satisfied with the application voluntarily made.

[Translation]

In Section 265-C, the word 'victim' has been used. Ordinarily, in a case more than one person is injured.

[English]

There may be more than one victim.

[Translation]

Suppose four persons are injured. The Court effects a compromise with a single victim. And if the other three do not accept the compromise, the entire exercise would be infructuous. Therefore, victim/victims word should be used.

Section 265-B and 265K have been introduced after immense labour and deliberations. It may lead to one problem. Suppose a delegation consists of those person who are agreeing to compromise, approach the Court. In such a case the Court becomes biased because the Court comes to know that the accused has confessed his crime. A provision should be made that when a Court is hearing a case and if plea bargaining fails then the case should

[Shri Avinash Rai Khanna]

be transferred to another Court so that the case is heard in an unbiased manner.

'Juvenile' and 'child' have been kept out of the definition of 265-L. If an accused is both a juvenile as well as a child, can there be two judgements in a case? A person who is a major, gets the benefit of being so. 'Juvenile and 'child' should not be kept out of this definition because such accused should not be allowed to take benefit of being so. A schedule of offence has been mentioned. Amount of fine has not been defined in it. It should be defined.

Now I would come to the practical difficulty being faced by the Court. The police is overburdened. It has to look after law and order, traffic, perform election duty and VIP duty. The Personnel engaged in investigation have to perform these duties also. The I.O. is unable to attend the Court even for 2 years for being either on VIP or election duty or for being away on special checking. Therefore an I.O. should not be transferred from the concerned police station until he submits the file, the Challan and records his statement.

I would like to tell that procedure is misused. Suppose, in a murder case the district Court, the High Court and the Supreme Court rejects the bail application. But the I.O. has the power to facilitate his bail. As per the law, if the challan regarding the accused is not produced within 90 days the accused become eligible to get bail. The bail can be obtained by making manipulations with the I.O., although it has been rejected by the Supreme Court. A stringent action should be taken against such I.Os.

Sir, I want to know about a technical point. Evidences are of two types. One is oral and the other is documentary evidence produced by an expert. Suppose a doctor gives a medico-legal report. The accused asked the CMO to constitute a medical Board. Now the board gives a different opinion. If the doctor's opinion is false, would this law be implemented in such cases. The law is silent on this because the doctors give an opinion they do not make a statements. Doctors can be bribed to give a favourable MLR. What action would be taken when the Board and the doctor give different opinions?

Similarly, there are different kinds of tests conducted under essential commodities Act. The accused has the right to get a second sample tested from laboratory. Both the tests give contradictory reports. The police considers

one report whereas the accused cites the other. Whether Section 195 would apply on them in case the reports are contradictory? These questions need reply. The need clarity. First, the High Court will give its judgement and then the Supreme Court and thereafter, the case will be settled. Till then, the objectives of the Bill, introduced by you cannot be achieved. These points should be clarified right now, so that there is no hurdle in its implementation.

Concluding, I may add that we have to prepare the police as well as judiciary as per the requirement of the law. We have to change their mindset and provide them modern technology. For example, a case is registered under Section 304(A) which have a provision for two years imprisonment. Suppose a person belonging to Delhi is involved in some accident in Guwahati, then that person will have to appear in Guwahati on every hearing. Punishment for this offence as per law is two years, but in this case he would suffer too much to forget through his life. Whether the offence is compoundable with a provision for two years imprisonment or non compoundable, these cases should be reviewed and the accidental cases too, be brought under the plea of bargaining.

[English]

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Emakulam): Sir, I welcome this Criminal Law Amendment Bill which in fact is a three in one piece amending the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act. There is no need to go further deep into the Bill because there is almost unanimity in accepting the provisions of the Amendment Bill. Our criminal administration system is undergoing a sea change with the introduction of a new concept, that is, the concept of plea-bargaining. Plea-bargaining is a new concept in India which in fact is imported from the United States but with drastic changes. I think the plea-bargaining adopted by us is more effective than the one being practised in the United States. There is strict judicial control in the Indian system. It will greatly enable the courts to clear the arrears of cases. A perennial bane of the Indian judiciary is the never-ending arrears of cases. Our judiciary is suffering from some sort of a docket explosion. So, with the introduction of this system, a majority of minor offences which attract punishment of less than seven years imprisonment can be settled out of court under strict judicial surveillance and control.

But at the same time, I have to give a caveat because we cannot believe our police totally. In various offences, the police can extract confession and produce a person

before the court for plea-bargaining. The case can be closed at that stage and the real culprit will go scot-free. In other words, this is a perfect system and through plea-bargaining we are introducing another great concept in victimology, that is, to compensate the victims, apart from giving punishment to the accused or the offender.

So, in all these respects, I have to welcome this move. This amendment will greatly modify our criminal administrative system and I hope our lower judicial officers will make use of these provisions to clear arrears of cases. Let us hope that with this and many more amendments to come, we would provide a more clean, just and equitable justice system in the country.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2005 because the objects of this Bill are consistent with the legal requirements of the country today and I congratulate the hon. Home Minister for bringing out very simplified amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code. Some time ago, when the Home Minister brought certain changes in the Criminal Procedure Code, there was a lot of hue and cry in the country and the whole legal world was against those amendments. We should appreciate the Home Minister for responding to all those objections of the legal world and now bringing out a very simplified Bill which will go a small way to correct some of the evils that are bedevilling the criminal judicial system in the country.

Sir, we cannot expect for the moon today, we cannot expect a perfect world and a perfect judicial system. We will have to go step-by-step. It is an evolving society. We will have to make amendments to the system and try to improve the life and liberty of the people in the society. So, in that context, when we look at the amendments, there are four in kind. These try to remedy the deficiencies afflicting the existing criminal judicial system.

As you are aware, one of the important aspects of the judicial system is the crux of the evidence provided by the witnesses and because of the witnesses turning hostile, there is no fair and reliable system for delivery of justice to the people. Another criticism about the judicial system is that a large number of cases are pending in courts. Neither the accused nor the victims get justice and justice delayed is justice denied. This is a far cry that we get everywhere in our country about the judicial system.

Sir, after globalisation has started in our country,

there are a lot of cases of fake currency notes and the cases relating to this also are not being dealt with properly because of absence of expert witnesses. Then, finally we have the matrimonial problems and these also bring about a social evil in the society. So, these four defects are sought to be remedied by this Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill and there are more points which can be said in favour of these four amendments than against them.

At the same time, I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Home Minister that the objective of 'witness turning hostile' in the insertion of 195 (a) can be successfully implemented if only the Government is willing to bring about, what is called a Witness Protection Scheme. It is because today, in the changing world of mafia, in the changing world of gangsterism, nobody is willing to give an honest witness. If a murderer commits a murder, and anyone who witness it says that he is going to be honest and he is going to the court, and he deposes before the judge, then within 24 hours he will be nowhere and another murder will be committed. This is the type of system that we are evolving today. Lawlessness is increasing. Therefore, unless there is protection to the witness, there is no possibility of bringing more and more effectiveness of these results. However, one salient provision of this is that those who threaten will get an offence which is non-bailable in character and that will bring about more of a stringency in the law.

As far as plea bargaining is concerned, there are more advantages to it. It is a better system than the American system because it is within the protection of the law. It is not outside the court of settlement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Therefore, plea bargaining is also good. But, at the same time, here again, there is a requirement that the Government should bring about an institution called Directorate of Prosecution which will be able to bring effective compromise in these cases. But, at the same time, we should also see whether plea bargaining introduces an element of complacency on the part of the criminals. They will commit crime; they will go to the court, enter into a compromise — a compromise between three parties, namely, accused, victim, and prosecutor and other people — and then they get themselves released. Again they will commit crime. This should not induce a kind of leniency on the part of the criminals. Therefore, I would say that it should be there and the entire criminal system can be re-hauled or overhauled and it can be perfected if

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

only we have a perfect police system and public prosecution system. Police reforms must come. Therefore, merely by bringing these amendments, we would not be able to perfect the system. Of course, we are not pleading for perfection anywhere. Absolute perfection is not possible. Only a relative perfection is possible, and to that extent, to that objective, this Bill will be a milestone. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill Act, 2005, introduced by the hon. Home Minister. By this Bill Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Indian Evidence Act, 1872 are being amended. It proves that the Government's attention has been drawn towards those weaknesses of our judicial system which had infested and were weakening it to crumble like white ants. This Bill has tried to get rid of these weaknesses.

In our country, criminal as well as civil cases have piled up. Hon. Home Minister is present here. The Ministry of Home Affairs as well as the Ministry of law, both should think seriously about dealing with these number of pending cases. This effort should be welcomed, so that, criminal cases are decided expeditiously and the laws are simplified. The people will come forward to give evidence without any fear or favour and the cases will be disposed off lawfully. This Bill has provided that action will be taken against the perjurers which I think is welcome step. Nowadays when moral values are getting eroded, people fabricate charges or give false evidences on oath out of monetary considerations or under the mortal threat of musclemen. Therefore, I welcome the provision to punish such type of persons.

Besides, the bargaining chapter is quite good. In these days, litigation has become very common and cases keep on pending for years. Nothing will be better if both parties agree to reconciliation in the presence of judge. It will make our society harmonious.

[English]

Justice delayed is justice denied.

[Translation]

To decide a case speedily the simplification of law becomes imperative and this is what the present Bill tries to do.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to the constraints of time, I shall not dwell on the technicalities of law. I welcome this Bill and hope that the Ministry of Law and Ministry of Home Affairs continue their efforts to reduce the number of pending cases to control crime and make the life of the people trouble free. We were always in favour of the approach.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I would like to first of all thank the hon. Speaker and this House for having facilitated the passage of this Bill today itself by extending the time and making adjustment and helping all of us.

The debate was very enlightening. The hon. Members who spoke, spoke like experienced jurists and lawyers. Most of the points made by them were hitting the nail on the head. They were very, very relevant, and I would like to thank all of them.

There are three points which were made. If we analyse the debate, three points come out of the discussions. One point relates to the witnesses. The second point relates to the plea-bargaining provision, and the third point relates to the general condition prevailing in our country with respect to investigation, disposal of the cases and the criminal jurisprudence. Witnesses should be protected. This is what was suggested by many of the Members who spoke here.

I would like to submit that by amending the Criminal Procedure Code, we have provided that the witnesses would be protected. The previous Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Code, to which some Members objected, which is kept in abeyance, provides that the witnesses should be protected and as to how the witnesses should be protected is provided in that law. If it were not kept in abeyance, it would have helped these people.

Then it was also suggested that there should be a Directorate of Prosecution. It has also been provided. The previous Amendment Bill provided for creating a Directorate of Prosecution. That is also kept in abeyance. The previous Amendment Bill provided as to how the protection can be given to women witnesses, women victims and women complainants. That is also kept in abeyance only for one clause, which is related to the anticipatory bail. Even if that clause is not there in the Bill, the courts have a right to call the applicants in the court to be present when the judgement is given.

I tried to explain to my colleagues and friends but they did not see the point. That is why, we said, all right you yourself consider it and come back to me and I will see it. That is why, that Bill is kept in abeyance up to this time. But we shall have to do something about that. That Criminal Procedure Code provided that if an accused is kept behind the bar for a period for which he can be sentenced, even without conducting the case he gets an acquittal. He comes out of the jail. That is provided.

These kinds of salutary provisions also have been kept in abeyance. I would like to request my colleagues to apply their minds to these things and persuade their colleagues, the lawyers also, to see the point. So for one provision in that Bill, the Bill is kept in abeyance. I really feel very sorry about it.

As far as witnesses are concerned, the hon. Members have made very good points about the witnesses. One of the points that was made by one of the hon. Members sitting on the back Benches related to as to how we will come to the conclusion that the witness has not given a truthful evidence. One thing which I would like to make very clear to the hon. Members here is that Clause 195(a) does not relate to the witness. It relates to a person who is influencing the witness. If a witness goes to the court and gives wrong evidence, he can be punished. It is already provided in the Indian Penal Code and there is a procedure provided for that purpose as to how a witness giving wrong evidence can be punished, and how much punishment can be imposed upon him, is already provided. This Clause 195(a) relates to the punishment which can be imposed upon a person who is inducing or threatening a witness to give wrong evidence in the court of law. It was not there in the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Now, we are trying to introduce it in the IPC and it is saying that seven years imprisonment can be awarded. Again, the matter went to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee said that supposing there is a murder case and a witness is induced or threatened to give evidence. He goes to the court and gives the evidence. And on the basis of that evidence given, if he is sentenced to death; he is sentenced to life imprisonment; because of his evidence if that kind of sentence is given then will you say that seven years sentence awarded against such persons is sufficient? So, the Standing Committee suggested that if a person is given an imprisonment which is more than seven years, then the same kind of punishment should be imposed upon the person who is inducing or threatening the witness to give wrong evidence. That is why, we accepted this recommendation given by the Standing Committee and

that is provided in this Bill. I am very happy that almost all the Members have supported this provision.

Sir, the most important part of this Bill is plea-bargaining. Now, what is plea-bargaining? I explained that while moving that this Bill be considered; I need not go over that area again. But let us understand that the concept of plea-bargaining has not come from outside only. It is true that in America this is used and it is giving very good dividends to them. But it existed even in India. It is not understood by many of us in the olden criminal jurisprudence. When a person was offended, when an offence was committed against a person, the offender was not only punished but the victim was also given compensation. For example, two cows were given; a piece of land was given; and a certain amount of money was given.

That is plea-bargaining. In the Islamic Law also — yesterday, an hon. Member was I speaking from there — now this is accepted. He went to the extent of saying that let plea-bargaining be available in cases in which the murder has taken place and in which case death sentence can be awarded. He went to that extent.

In Islamic criminal jurisprudence, plea-bargaining is accepted.

The point I was trying to make was that this kind of a concept was existing in many parts of the world. It was existing in India. In Islamic jurisprudence, it is existing. In the Western countries also, it exists. So, it is not a new concept. As a matter of fact, we are accepting an old concept.

There are two points that I would like to explain to the House. The first point is that the delays in the courts would be reduced. The number of cases would be reduced and the disposal of the cases would be speedier. But I may mention, the most important part of plea-bargaining is the compensation which would be given to the victims.

The jurisprudence which we have been using for many years has helped us to punish the offenders. There are some provisions in the Criminal Procedure Code which could be used by the Judge to give compensation to some victims but those provisions are not strong enough. Generally, in most of the cases, no compensation is given to the victim. Even if a fine is collected from the offender, it is put in the Government coffers rather than used to give compensation to the victim. So, this kind of jurisprudence is getting changed. In India, we are now accepting the concept that it is not sufficient to punish the offender. Punish we must but it is necessary that the victim should be given some relief. If a young man of a family dies, the

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

surviving members should get some compensation. Now, that concept is getting accepted and that concept would get some kind of practical effect through this Bill. I am happy about that more than only the fact that delays would be reduced.

An hon. Member asked that if the case has ultimately to be decided by the Judge, how would it reduce the delay in the court. We have to understand how the case is conducted in a criminal court in order to understand how the delays could be curtailed. The police investigates, prepares the charge-sheets, and files them in a court of law. Once the charge-sheet is given, if the court is a simple court, the Judicial Magistrate tries that case. It does not go to the Sessions Court. Then, the witnesses receive the notice, they appear in the court, they are examined and cross-examined, arguments take place and then the judgement is given. So, it takes a long time. Calling the witnesses, examining the witnesses, advancing the arguments and getting the judgement takes a long time and because of that delays occur. Sometimes, the witnesses are not available. Supposing a doctor has to be examined and the doctor writes back to the court saying that he is not in a position to attend the court, the Judge adjourns the case to another date and so delays occur. Now, this kind of things are not going to happen any more.

An hon. Member wanted to understand when the accused would be allowed to go to the court asking for plea-bargaining. The law provides under Section 173 that the moment the charge-sheet is filed by the police in a court of law, the accused could make an application. That application has to be filed with an affidavit because he has to take an oath and state that he is doing it voluntarily and that he is not doing it under any pressure. He has to explain it. Once that is done, the court gives the notice to the prosecutor or the complainant and to the accused or to his lawyer. In some cases, the prosecutor is there; in some other cases, the prosecutor is not there. There are private complaints and there are police cases. When the police case is there, the case goes to the court.

Then, there is a prosecutor. But when there is a private complainant, there may not be a prosecutor. He himself may be there and he may have the assistance of any lawyer to prosecute his case at a later stage. That is why, we have provided the prosecutor, the complainant, the accused and his lawyer will be allowed to talk to each other and decide as to how the disposal of the case has to be done. Now, this is provided. The court does not interfere in it. After they decide upon what is to be done, the report

is given to the court and when the report is given to the court, court examines it. Why does the court examine it? The court examines it for two purposes. The court wants to know whether it is done voluntarily or not.

Secondly, the accused is not allowed to go scot-free in all cases. In some cases, he is allowed to go back and remain on probation and in some cases, some sentence has to be passed. The main thing which the court will do is to see whether this agreement is arrived at out of free will of the parties' concerned or not. This requires a very short time and this is possible. We have taken a precaution to see that in murder cases, in cases in which life imprisonment is given or seven years' imprisonment can be given, the plea-bargaining will not be available. Then, we have also said that the cases affecting the socio-economic conditions are also not allowed. So, these are some of the precautions which we have taken. In my opinion, in the social conditions in which we live, these kinds of precautions are necessary. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Why do you want it in the case of Juvenile Offence?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is because the relief given under the Juvenile Offences Act to the accused is much more than the relief given here. That is why, we have given it. ...*(Interruptions)* This is going to help us.

One of the arguments advanced was that it would help the rich. I do not know how it will help the rich. It is the accused who has to make the application. If he does not want to make an application, he will not make an application. I do agree that whenever the compensation is there, it may help, but the accused has to accept it. In some cases, merely punishing the offender is not sufficient and helping the victim is also necessary. This is a salutary provision and I think, we should accept it. Then, there are other provisions which are not very important.

In the fake currency cases, only the experts from the Nasik Printing Press were allowed to give the evidence. Now, it is provided that the experts from the Forensic Laboratories should be allowed to help in this matter. One of the hon. Members made a suggestion that the Forensic Laboratories should be strengthened and we are giving a lot of money to the Forensic Laboratories also to strengthen them.

Thirdly, there was a point made that the plea-bargaining application or affidavit is made and ultimately

the judge does not accept the plea-bargaining. What will happen if the accused has already said that he has committed the offence and he is ready to give the compensation? So, give him a lenient punishment. Will that go against him? This is a very important point made and when this important point was discussed, especially from the hon. Prime Minister's side, they said: "Look if you allow this to be there on the record, he is already convicted and any punishment can be given to him". That is why, we make a special amendment to the Amendment Bill. The clause 265 (k) provides that if the plea-bargaining is not accepted by the judge, the material which is before him shall not be used against the accused person.

20.00 hrs.

Now, this is also specifically provided in the law. So, that kind of an apprehension need not be there.

The other thing is that the evidence law is also amended. One of the hon. Members did not speak, but he came to me and said - "You have not explained this thing; what is this?" It is on clause 9. The clause 9 says:

"Nothing in this section shall disentitle the person so permitted under sub-section (1), to rely on any part of the evidence of such witness."

Now, this is an amendment suggested to Section 154 of the Indian Evidence Act. It says that if a witness becomes hostile, he can be cross-examined. The question was whether the evidence given by a witness who is declared as hostile shall be reliable or not. Now, it is made very specific by amending the law that if such a witness is there and if he has made a statement wherein a portion of it is reliable and a portion of it is not reliable, then the judge will be allowed to make use of the portion which is reliable and he need not take into account the portion which is not reliable. Now this kind of provision has been made.

Very good points have been made by some of the hon. Members. Shri Prabhunath Singh spoke like a lawyer. He made so many points. One of the points he made was that - "You are providing a punishment for a person who induces or threatens a witness to give wrong evidence. What are you going to do with the Police who is threatening or inducing to give the evidence and preparing the chargesheet?"

The entire criminal jurisprudence that we have today, the entire criminal procedure code that we have today

suggests that what the Police does is not the basis, cannot be the basis of conviction. What is stated by the witnesses in the court of law can be the basis. So, all the statements recorded, the statements are made by the witnesses orally. But then the Police is expected to reduce all these statements into writing. But these statements are not signed by the witnesses nor are they signed by the police officers also. But they go to the court as part of the chargesheet and on the basis of such statements which are unsigned, the prosecutor puts the questions to the witnesses and extracts the material from him. That becomes the part of the case before the court and then the defence lawyer is allowed to cross-examine that witness to bring out the statement.

I tell you that the system of cross-examination is so good and so powerful. I have been saying that you bring any kind of witness, any intelligence witness before me and you tutor him to give false evidence in the court of law; I will get truth from his mouth. I will get the truth from his mouth by cross-examination and it is possible. That is why the system of cross-examination is very powerful. Then the judge has to examine it.

Today, Shri Prabhunath Singh probably has read the Bill which we have produced here. But this Bill has come in a different form. What has actually originally the Bill suggested was this. It suggested that under Sections 161, 162, 163, 164, these provisions are relevant, the statement shall be recorded by the Police they will be signed by the witnesses, they will be signed by the Police and then they will be introduced in the courts. Under Section 164 they will be recorded by the judge and then signed by the witnesses and signed by the judge and then the statements will be given to them. That was originally provided in the amending Bill.

When this matter went to the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee said: "No, you cannot do that." What did the Standing Committee say? The Standing Committee said: "Under Section 164, you can go to the judge and get the statement recorded on oath and sign it, but we will not accept the provision which empowers the police to get the signature of the witnesses on that piece of paper because he is in a position to influence him and record a statement and get his signature. And such a statement made by the police will go against the principle of criminal jurisprudence which is that no innocent person should be punished."

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that when the police investigates some case, it files chargesheet and name witnesses. Only those witnesses are recognised in the courts and if on the basis of their evidence, a person is convicted by the lower courts, the case goes to High Court and then the Supreme Court as this process takes 20 years, and almost consumes the whole life. Suppose the Supreme Court acquits him, what will happen with the police, which prepared case against him. They say that the evidence given by the police carry no significance. Hon'ble Minister Sir, when the court calls the police as a witness, it is written in the diary. The police officer is asked as to whether or not that investigation was conducted by him and if he answers in affirmative, he is accepted as a witness and his evidence may cause the awarding of punishment to the accused. Therefore, if the accused is acquitted by the higher court, it means the wrong charges were filed by the concerned police personnel. I want to know, what action you will take in such cases.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I will come to that point. I am trying to explain and it is a very good point you are raising. This point has not been raised only in the House, but it has been raised in the trial courts, in the High Courts and in the Supreme Court also. The Supreme Court have given judgments against the police, especially in U.P. Case, the judgement given against the police was very demoralising for the police, and it was a true judgment also. If a police officer is concocting a case, if a police officer is setting up the witness who are not truthful, if the police officer is recording the statement which is not truthful, and if that fact is brought to the notice of the trial judge in the argument or through the cross-examination or the examination, then the courts take cognizance of this fact and the court can ask that the police officer be prosecuted. When a witness gives wrong evidence, court is not directly saying, "You have told this and we are doing it." Now, even in the case of witness, when wrong evidence is given, it is judged by the judge in different manners. Now, they try to find out how it is different from the evidence given by the other witnesses: what has come out in the examination, cross-examination and re-examination. How has been his demeanour in the court? Was he looking tricky or was he looking reliable? All these things are watched and recorded by the judge and when the court comes to the conclusion that the witness was misleading

the court, the court starts proceedings against him. It was made necessary that the court itself had to make the complaint. It is not always possible for the court to give the complaint and then appear in the court, if it is necessary. That is why, it is said that the court can give the complaint through itself or through any authorised person. Now, that kind of provision is made. What is applicable to the witness is applicable to the police also. But while assessing the truthfulness of the evidence of the acts of the police and while assessing the truthfulness of the witnesses, the judges do differentiate because the witness can be related because the witness may come from the same village from which the accused is coming. The police may not be related and the police is also performing the duty. If you demoralise the police to a great extent, it is not possible for the police to collect the evidence and come to the court.

A question was asked and I am going to say something on that. Why is the conviction rate low? The conviction rate is low because the truthful witnesses do not come forward. If a murder takes place, the witness who is standing there, says that he would not like to get involved. Supposing I go to a court of law and give evidence, these people may ask me. I did not know, I was not there. You yourself said it and said it very rightly. I have always been asked as to why the persons are acquitted and not convicted. Why is the conviction rate low? And the pet answer that I have been giving is that in almost all cases, if there are ten accused and five accused are real culprits, the other five are just the names because they are related. The result is that the accused who is to be convicted, gets acquitted because five other innocent persons are involved. When the truthful eye witnesses depose and if a good cross-examination lawyer is there, he can extract from that that these five persons are not there. This is the human weakness. These are the realities of life. These are the practical difficulties. That is why, we shall have to consider as to what has to be done. What we are trying to do is not a perfect thing. We are trying to better the situation; we are trying a better kind of law, a better kind of system. Probably, it will help; and probably, in some cases, it will not help. We are not claiming that it is going to help. But just think of the situation in which you are not relying on the Police at all. What will happen then? If you are not relying on the Police, then who will collect the witness, who will file the charge-sheet? How will a judge decide? How will the justice be done to the accused person? And the victim is always a weak person. He is physically weak or financially weak or he is so good

that his being good is also treated as a weakness. If some conspiracy takes place, he has an opportunity on which justice has to be done. That is why, this problem is there. You have made a very good point. If you can suggest as to how the Criminal Procedure Code can be amended, we will be very happy to do it. I have applied my mind to this problem and it is not possible to swing from one extreme to the other extreme. This is the problem in dealing with criminal justice. Some people speak as if they are the party, they are supporting the prosecution. Some people speak as if they are supporting the defence in the case. The Judge has to decide it and he has to hear both sides to come to a correct conclusion and come to a judgement. When we are talking about human rights, we will like to reduce the power given to the Police. We will like to see that on a slightest doubt, the man should be released and acquitted. But you think of its impact. Suppose, most of the persons get acquitted. The principles of benefit of doubt and no innocent person should be convicted, are there. These two principles are salutary. They should be there. They are also responsible for seeing that the conviction rate is very low. That is exactly why we shall have to strike a balance.

A suggestion has been given that we are depending on oral evidence. That is true. In civil matters, we depend on documentary evidence more than in criminal matters. That is why, we are depending on the oral evidence. But we are taking a step in a different direction to collect the evidence in criminal cases also. In criminal cases also, some documentary evidence is given now; the doctors evidence is given and other evidence is given and *Panchnama* is made. There is a third stage. That is a stage of technological evidence.

DNA test is there and it is the surest test. If a hair is collected, it can be examined; if a piece of cloth is collected, it can be examined; if footprints are collected, they can be examined. These are technical evidences. Unfortunately, the systems for collecting technical evidence in our country are in the process of development and it has not reached the stage where it should be. That is why, rate of conviction in our country is low. If the rate of conviction is low, it is because along with the real accused, the innocent persons are also involved. The witnesses are not willing to come forward; sometimes, investigating officers are committing mistakes and sometimes, there are situations which really do not help to do justice. There is also reliance on oral evidence and not on technological evidence. If these happen, we will be able to do that.

This is an attempt to provide a system which will help us to do justice without any delays and do justice in a manner which will help the victims and which will help the real justice to be done to the accused person. I have no hesitation in saying that I would not say that this is the perfect system. I would say that this is a better system; we are trying to provide a better system. We are yet to arrive at a position where the perfect system will be available.

Once again, I thank the hon. Members for having participated; they have not only participated, but they have stayed in the House up to this time and have shown great interest in the system which we are trying to develop.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): I have one clarification to seek.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have got commendable reply.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have a Cabinet meeting to attend.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: From your reply, I understand that if police files a charge sheet, in the plea-bargaining concept, if one gives admission application, it will be admitted. You said that. Does the law permit that an innocent person, without getting any charge sheet, makes an admission?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Plea-bargaining starts after filing the charge sheet and not before that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Please take your seat. Only two clarifications will be allowed. Shri Mahtab. He will be the last.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Do not worry; the law provides that this will start after the charge sheet is filed. The court is expected to give notice to the accused person, and then only, it starts. ...*(Interruptions)* When you read the law, you will get it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one question can be allowed. Mr. Mahtab.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Hon. Home Minister has given a very detailed and a convincing answer. But the question that I had posed is regarding the change in the IPC, relating to the third party — witness being influenced or

[Shri B. Mahtab]

bribed or whatever it is. If a complaint comes, the court takes cognisance of that issue, then the evidence has to be gathered; investigation has to be made. How long will it take? Do you intend to put a time frame so that it does not prolong?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): The hon. Home Minister did his home work very well and talked extensively on the need of reforms in the IPC and the Cr.P.C. At one point, while responding to the discussion, the hon. Home Minister has stated that during the trial, the witnesses may be proved false during cross-examination and that can decide the fate of case. Our Cr.P.C., IPC or Evidence Act depend upon investigation and if this investigation is not fair and unbiased, a lot of litigation ensues. Therefore, we want that you should further look into this matter. At present, you need not say anything on this. As you are heading in the direction of reforms, you should think elaborately and introduce a comprehensive Bill on this.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we shall also send our suggestions in writing.

SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR (Dhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am satisfied with the clarification given by the hon. Minister. But he has said that conviction rate is very low in India in comparison to the other countries. I would like to add that our concern should not be to increase the conviction rate but to ensure fair and transparent justice.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I agree with what the hon'ble Member has said.

[Translation]

I fully agree with what you have said. If we award punishment just to improve conviction rate, it will tantamount to injustice.

[English]

As far as the time frame within which it can be done, the jurisprudence either civil, criminal, constitutional or international jurisprudence, accepts the principle of natural justice. You can complaint against any person but you

cannot punish him without hearing him, giving him an opportunity to say what he wants to say. In this process, the time is consumed. This has to be understood by us. If you want to punish a person who has induced or threatened a witness to give false evidence, it has to be first established that prima facie he has done it. When can it be done? It can be done when the first case is decided, when the evidence of the witness who has given false evidence is recorded. After that the judge can come to the conclusion that this man, who appears to be innocent, is threatened or induced to give false evidence. When he comes to that conclusion, he will then issue the notice, call him to the Court and then starts prosecution. This certainly is going to take a long time. This kind of a provision was not there in the Indian Penal Code. The provision of punishing a third person inducing or threatening a witness to give false evidence was not there. By amending this law, we are making this provision. Though it will take time but certainly punishment can be given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1972, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 9 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 9 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats. I have to make an announcement.

Hon. Members, the subject matter of the Bills listed for consideration and passing at Sl. Nos. 31, 32 and 33 is similar.

If the House agrees, we may have a combined discussion on the three Bills.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no quorum and in the absence of quorum how the proceedings in the House can continue. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, how the proceedings in the House can continue in the absence

of quorum? ...(Interruptions) I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabhunath Singhji, are you raising the question of quorum?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The quorum bell is being rung.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no quorum in the House.

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 23rd of December, 2005, at 11.00 a.m.

20.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Friday, December, 23, 2005/Pausa 02, 1927 (Saka)

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