

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



Gazettes & Debates Unit
Parliament Library Building
Room No. FB-025
Block 'G'

Acc. No...18.....
Dated....18.5.2007.....

(Vol. XXIX contains Nos. 11 to 17)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 80.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

P. D. T. Achary
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

A. K. Singh
Joint Secretary

J. P. Sharma
Director

Kamla Sharma
Joint Director - I

Prabhakar Mohanty
Joint Director - II

Rakesh M. Chandra
Assistant Editor

(ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF)

CONTENTS

(Fourteenth Series, Vol. XXIX, Eleventh Session, 2007/1929 (Saka)

No. 15, Thursday, September 6, 2007/Bhadra 15,1929 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
MEMBER SWORN	1
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 321 to 340	2-32
Unstarred Question Nos. 3147 - 3265 and 3267-3376	32-260
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	261-263
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS	
Thirtieth Report	263
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT	264
Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth Reports	
Statement	265
STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT	
Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Reports	264-2165
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE	
Twenty-second Report	265
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	265-268
(i) Abolition of Emigration Check Requirement Suspension System	
Shri Vayalar Ravi	265-266
(ii) Status of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 9th, 12th and 13th Reports of the Standing Committee on Defence, pertaining to the Ministry of Defence	
Shri A.K. Antony	266-267
(iii) Status of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 179th Report of the Standing Committee on Industry, pertaining to the Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	
Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev	267-268
(iv) Status of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on the subject 'Activities of Directorate General of Hydrocarbons – A Review' – pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	
Shri Dinsha Patel	268

CALLING ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	268, 279-283
Need to strengthen Panchayats financially in order to fulfil their constitutional obligations and to discharge their duties effectively	
Shri Avinash Rai Khanna	268
Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar	279-283
MOTION RE: FORTY-FIRST REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	269-270
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	270-278
(i) Need to upgrade and maintain NH-98 between Arwal and Bihar-Jharkhand Border	
Shri Nikhil Kumar	270
(ii) Need to protect the interests of Cumin seed growers of Unjha, district Mehsana, Gujarat	
Shri Jivabhai A. Patel	270-271
(iii) Need to upgrade the existing railway station at Murshidabad, West Bengal to a Model Station	
Shri Adhir Chowdhury	271
(iv) Need to ensure payment of minimum wages to workers in Jammu & Kashmir	
Chaudhary Lal Singh	271-272
(v) Need to improve the transmission and relay facility of All India Radio and Doordarshan in Alwar Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan	
Dr. Karan Singh Yadav	272
(vi) Need to set up a Rail Coach Factory and construct Rail Over Bridges in Bareilly	
Shri Santosh Gangwar	272
(vii) Need to augment the supply of Kerosene and LPG in the country	
Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi	273
(viii) Need to fully finance welfare schemes sponsored by the Central Government for the rural and downtrodden sections of the society	
Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya	273
(ix) Need to consider the views of State Governments before taking action on recommendations of Hoda Committee Report on National Mineral Policy	
Shri Punnu Lal Mohale	273-274
(x) Need to introduce an express train between Bhubaneswar and Tatanagar via Keonjhar and to extend Howrah-Barbil Jana Shatabdi Express to Keonjhar	
Shri Ananta Nayak	274-275

(xi)	Need to introduce 'Mill Gate Price Scheme' for Coir Yarn and Coir Products	
	Dr. K.S. Manoj	275
(xii)	Need to include certain Backward Castes of Uttar Pradesh in the list of Scheduled Caste Category	
	Shri Shailendra Kumar	275
(xiii)	Need to construct a dam on Indo-Nepal border to check the over flow from existing barrage on Sharda river in Uttar Pradesh	
	Shri Ravi Prakash Verma	276
(xiv)	Need to set up an Indian Oil LPG outlet in Masaurhi Block in Patna, Bihar	
	Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh	276
(xv)	Need to bring a comprehensive legislation providing social security and welfare programmes for the agricultural workers in the unorganized sector	
	Shri Ajoy Chakraborty	276-277
(xvi)	Need to set-up a 'Land Custom Station' at Balmiki Nagar, district Champaran, Bihar with a view to promote trade with Nepal	
	Shri Kailash Baita	277
(xvii)	Need to merge Government owned Public Sector Insurance Companies	
	Prof. M. Ramadass	277-278
CIGARETTES AND OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS (PROHIBITION OF ADVERTISEMENT AND REGULATION OF TRADE AND COMMERCE, PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2007		
Motion to consider		
	Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi	278
	Clauses 2 and 1	279
	Motion to pass	279
COMPETITION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2007		
Motion to consider		
	Shri Prem Chand Gupta	283-284
	Clauses 2, 3, 4 and 1	284-285
	Motion to pass	285

ANNEXURE-I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	289
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	290-296

ANNEXURE-II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	297-298
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	298-300

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER

Shri Somnath Chatterjee

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Shri Charanjit Singh Atwal

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Shri Giridhar Gamang

Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan

Shri Arjun Sethi

Shri Mohan Singh

Shrimati Krishna Tirath

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav

SECRETARY GENERAL

Shri P.D.T. Achary

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, September 6, 2007/Bhadra 15, 1929 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Secretary General may now call Shrimati Suman Mahato to take the oath.

MEMBER SWORN

Shrimati Suman Mahato (Jamshedpur)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Harikewal Prasad – Q. No.321.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: If you have anything to say, I will allow you after the Question Hour. I would try to hear you after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted you. Please sit down. I have not permitted you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are Senior Members and what type of slogans you are raising?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The same matter cannot be raised every day. I again appeal to you, Mr. Malhotra. I am appealing to all the hon. Members to please let the Question Hour go on. There are very important questions.

* Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. This is happening day in and day out. I have no control over it. This is not a matter for me to decide. It is entirely for the Government to decide. If the House does not work, how can it be decided?

...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Permission to Private Airlines to Fly on International Routes

[Translation]

*321. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of flights of the Public Sector airlines in a week in the country;

(b) the total number of flights of the private sector airlines in a week in the country;

(c) whether the Private Sector airlines have been granted permission by the Government to fly on international routes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the likely impact of such decision on public sector airlines in term of revenue loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) National Aviation Company of India Limited, in which Indian Airlines and Air India have merged, is operating 1674 flights per week on domestic sector.

(b) Private scheduled airlines are operating 8113 flights per week on domestic sector.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The private scheduled carriers having continuous operations of at least 5 years in the domestic sector on the date of application and having a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft are permitted to operate on international routes.

(e) No revenue loss to public sector airlines is envisaged as there is a continuous need for capacity addition on international routes to cater to the existing and future traffic growth. This decision would not only enable the Indian Carriers (both public and private) to optimally utilize India's

* Not recorded.

entitlements but also help wean away traffic from the foreign airlines.

Development of Tourism

*322. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the tourist spots proposed to be developed in the country to attract more tourists, State-wise;

(b) whether any study has been carried out by the Government to assess the tourism potentials of the castles, mansions, havelis and religious sites in the country particularly in Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Development and promotion of tourism including development of heritage and religious sites is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for the project proposals of development and promotion of tourism that are complete in all respects and are as per the Scheme guidelines.

(b) The Central Government, in the beginning of 10th Five Year Plan commissioned studies for the preparation of 20-Years Perspective Plans for various States including Maharashtra. The Perspective Plans were sent to the respective States for taking up future tourism projects.

(c) The 20-Years Perspective Plans were commissioned with the objective of development of tourism in the States in a systematic manner on a long-term and short-term basis. The broad objectives of the Perspective Plans were as under:

- i) To assess the existing tourism scenario in the States;
- ii) To review the status of existing development/investment plans;
- iii) To evaluate the existing potential tourist destinations;
- iv) To develop sustainable tourism in a time period of 20 years;
- v) To identify the existing as well as new tourism projects that have potential for development;
- vi) To give plans with short term and long term targets;
- vii) To indicate the likely investment on infrastructure development under different heads; and

viii) To prepare an action plan for implementation of identified potential schemes/projects, and for development of infrastructure.

Allotment of Fields/Block to Private Companies by ONGC

*323. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has allotted several oil fields/blocks to private/multinational companies for exploration of oil and gas;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof for the last two years and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the provisions made to check the misuse of mining oil resources by these companies;

(d) the number and names of companies out of the above which failed to abide by the rules framed in this regard; and

(e) the action taken by Government against such companies so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (e) No, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) does not allot blocks for exploration of oil & gas. However, in order to accelerate the exploration activities in the country, Government allots exploration blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) to National Oil Companies, Private Companies and foreign companies through a transparent and international bidding process. Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) are signed by the Government with awardee companies under NELP which stipulates sharing of profit petroleum with Government and other terms for carrying out exploration and development activities. After implementation of NELP, area under exploration has increased from 11% to 44% of Indian sedimentary basin area. Exploration blocks have been awarded to ONGC by Government under Nomination and PSC regimes. Government has so far allotted 162 exploration blocks under NELP. A State-wise list of blocks awarded by the Government in onland areas during last 2 years is enclosed as statement.

Under six rounds of NELP, ONGC has been awarded 74 exploration blocks solely or in consortium with Indian Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), private/foreign companies. In order to share exploration risk and access the latest exploration and production (E&P) technologies, in last two years ONGC has entered into partnership with other PSUs viz. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) & Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) and with private/multinational

companies, namely, Cairn Energy (P) Ltd., ENI of Italy, Petrobras, Norsk-Hydro, Heramec, Ensearch and Suntera Res. Ltd. in NELP exploration Blocks. For increasing production of oil wells through Improved Oil Recovery (IOR)/ Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) techniques, ONGC inducts new advanced technologies. However, in certain areas, equipments/services and domain experts are also hired from outside agencies including foreign companies wherever possible and whenever required to enhance production from wells.

PSC as well as the Oil fields (Regulation & Development) Act (ORDA), 1948 have provisions of optimal exploitation of hydrocarbon resources of the country including provision of penalty for unfinished work. Exploration work is progressing as per the provisions of PSC signed between the Government and awardees companies. None of the companies awarded blocks in the last two years (mentioned in the annexed list) have violated any terms and conditions of PSCs. Hence no action was required as per PSC.

Statement

List of Onland Exploration Blocks awarded under NELP-V

Sl. No.	State	Block Name	Consortium (Participating Interest)	Date of Signing contract
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	AA-ONN-2003/2	GeoPetrol International lte (30%), National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (40%) & Canoro Resources Ltd. (30%)	16-12-2005
2.	Andhra Pradesh	KG-ONN-2003/1	Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd. (24%), Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (51%) & Cairn Exploration (No.4) Ltd. (25%)	23-09-2005
3	Assam	AA-6NN-2003/1	Jubilant Oil & Gas Pvt. Ltd. (10%) Jubilant Securities Pvt. Ltd. (35%), Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (20%) & GAIL (India) Ltd. (35%)	16-12-2005
4.		AA-ONN-2003/3	Oil India Limited (85%) & Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (15%)	23-09-2005
5.	Gujarat	CB-ONN-2003/1	Reliance Industries Ltd. (100%)	23-09-2005
6.		CB-ONN-2003/2	Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (50%), GAIL (India) Ltd. (20%), Jubilant Capital Pvt. Ltd. (20%) & Geo Global Resources Ltd. (10%)	23-09-2005
7.	Maharastra	DS-ONN-2003/1	Geo Global Resources Ltd. (100%)	23-09-2005
8.	Rajasthan	VN-ONN-2003/1	Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd (24%), Cairn Exploration (No.6) Ltd. (25%) & Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (51 %)	23-09-2005
9.		RJ-ONN-2003/1	ENI India Ltd. (34%), Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (36%) & Cairn Exploration (No.2) Ltd. (30%)	23-09-2005
10.		RJ-ONN-2003/2	Focus Energy Ltd. (60%) & Birkbeck Investment Ltd., Mauritius (40%)	23-09-2005
11	Tamil Nadu	CY-ONN-2003/1	Niko resources (NELP-V) Ltd. (100%)	23-09-2005
12	Uttar Pradesh	GV-ONN-2003/1	Cairn Energy India Pty Limited (24%), Cairn Exploration No.6 Limited (25%), ONGC (51%)	23-09-2005

Note: Operators of the Block are indicated in Bold letters.

List of Onland Explorations Blocks awarded under NELP-VI

Sl.No.	State	Block Name	Consortium (Participating Interest)	Date of Signing contract
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	KG-ONN-2004/1	OIL (90%)-GEOGLOBAL(10%)	2nd March 2007
2.		KG-ONN-2004/2	GSPC (40%)- GAIL (40%)- PETROGAS (20%)	2nd March, 2007
3.	Assam	AA-ONN-2004/1	OIL (85%)- SHIV-VANI (15%)	2nd March, 2007
4.		AA-ONN-2004/2	OIL (90%)- SUNTERRA (10%)	2nd March 2007
5.		AA-ONN-2004/3	ESSAR ENERGY (90%)- ESSAR OIL (10%)	2nd March, 2007
6.		AA-ONN-2004/4	ADANI ENTERPRISES (35%)- ADANI PORT (20%) NAFTOGAZ (10%) JAYCEE (Mumbai) (35%)	2nd March 2007
7.		AA-ONN-2004/5	ESSAR ENERGY (90%)- ESSAR OIL (10%)	2nd March 2007
8.	Bihar	PA-ONN-2004/1	ONGC (100%)	2nd March, 2007
9.	Gujarat	CB-ONN-2004/1	ONGC (50%)- GSPC (40%)- HERAMEC (10%)	2nd March 2007
10.		CB-ONN-2004/2	ONGC (50%)- GSPC (40%)- SUNTERA RES. LTD. (10%)	2nd March 2007
11.		CB-ONN-2004/3	ONGC (40%)- GSPC (35%)- ENSEARCH (25%)	2nd March 2007
12.		CB-ONN-2004/4	ONGC (50%)- GSPC (40%)- HERAMEC (10%)	2nd March, 2007
13.		CB-ONN-2004/5	ADANI ENTERPRISES (35%)- ADANI PORT (20%)- NAFTOGAZ (10%)- WELSPUN (35%)	2nd March 2007
14.	Madhya Pradesh	SR-ONN-2004/1	PRIZE PETROLEUM (10%)- JAIPRAKASH ASSOCIATES LTD. (90%)	2nd March, 2007
15.	Maharashtra	DS-ONN-2004/1	Geo Global Resources Ltd. (100%)	2nd March, 2007
16.	Mizoram	MZ-ONN-2004/1	OIL (75%)- SUNTERA (10%) - SHIV-VANI (15%)	2nd March, 2007
17.		MZ-ONN-2004/2	NAFTOGA (10%) - RNRL (10%)- GEOPETROL (10%) - REL (70%)	2nd March, 2007
18.	Rajasthan	VN-ONN-2004/1	ONGC (100%)	2nd March, 2007
19.		VN-ONN-2004/2	ONGC (100%)	2nd March, 2007
20.		RJ-ONN-2004/1	GSPC (20%) - GAIL (20%) - HPCL (20%)- HALLWORTHY (PANAMA) (10%) - NITINFIRE (New Delhi) (10%) - SILVERWAVE (Mayanmar) (10%) - BPCL (10%)	2nd March, 2007
21.		RJ-ONN-2004/2	OIL (75%) - GEOGLOBAL (25%)	2nd March, 2007

Note: Operators of the Block are indicated in Bold letters.

1	2	3	4	5
22.		RJ-ONN-2004/3	OIL (60%) - GEOGLOBAL (25%) - HPCL (15%)	2nd March, 2007
23.	Tamil Nadu	CY-ONN-2004/1	ONGC (80%) - BPCL (20%)	2nd March, 2007
24.		CY-ONN-2004/2	ONGC (80%) - BPCL (20%)	2nd March, 2007
25.	Uttar Pradesh	GV-ONN-2004/1	ONGC (100%)	2nd March, 2007

Note: Operators of the Block are indicated in Bold letters

Gas Distribution through Pipelines

*324. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

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

(a) the present status of gas distribution to consumers through pipelines, State-wise;

(b) whether specific approval of Union Government is required by the States to start such distribution of gas;

(c) if so, whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some States have started this scheme without approval of the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) The details of trunk pipelines of GAIL (India) Limited are given in the statement enclosed. Apart from this, Joint Ventures of GAIL with various Oil Marketing Companies have city gas distributions networks in Delhi and suburbs, Mumbai and suburbs, Agra, Lucknow, Kanpur, Hyderabad and Vijaywada. City/Local Natural Gas Distributions Networks have also been implemented in cities of Agartala, Ahmedabad, Ankleshwar, Bharuch, Surat, Vadodara, Gandhinagar, Hazira, Junagam, Vasva, Mora, Damka, Bhatlai, Kavas, Rajgiri, Suwali, Icchapore, Vidyanagar, Anand, Morbi, Duliajan, Digboi, Dibrugarh, Moran, Naharkatiya, Sivasagar, Nazira, Simaluguri and Tinsukia. M/s Gujarat State Petronet Limited (GSPL) has commissioned 1150 km of pipeline within Gujarat.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A major part of the pipelines commissioned/being commissioned by GSPL in Gujarat is without the authorization of the Government of India. Some State Governments, namely, Gujarat, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan have authorized setting up of City/Local Natural Gas Distribution projects or have initiated action for the same. Government of Gujarat has issued NOCs to various entities

for laying CNG network in the districts of Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Gandhinagar, Mehsana, Sabarkantha, Rajkot, Surendra-nagar and Godhra districts, as also in Nadiad, Anand, Vapi, Valsad, Khambhat, Bilimora, Navsari, Bhavnagar, Vankaner and Sarigam. Government of Uttar Pradesh, through UPSIDC, has issued No Objection Certificates for implementation of city gas distribution projects in Lucknow, NOIDA, Greater Noida, Moradabad and Ghaziabad. Similarly, Government of Haryana has granted No Objection Certificate for city gas distribution projects in Faridabad, Gurgaon, Panipat and Sonapat. Government of Rajasthan has granted NOCs to various entities for city gas distribution in the cities of Kota, Jaipur, Udaipur, Bhiwadi and Neemrana.

(e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order given in advisory jurisdiction on 25 March, 2004 in the Special Reference No. 1/2001 has opined that natural gas, including Liquefied Natural Gas, is a Union subject covered under Entry 53 of the Union List. Accordingly, the Union has exclusive legislative competence to enact laws on natural gas. The states have no legislative competence to make laws on the subject of natural gas.

Under Article 73 of the Constitution, the executive power of the Union extends to these matters, with respect to which Parliament has the power to make laws. In view of the same, state Governments have no power to authorize laying of trunk natural gas pipelines and City/Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks.

Further, the Government has notified, the 'Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' on April 3, 2006, which envisages Board's authorization to entities to lay, build, operate or expand trunk natural gas pipelines and City/Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks. The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board has since been constituted on June 25, 2007.

Government of India has requested the State Governments concerned not to initiate any action regarding grant of NOCs/approvals pertaining to laying of trunk pipelines and City/Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks.

Further, the Government has filed an Affidavit in the matter of M.C. Mehta V/s Union of India and others (Writ

Petition Civil 19029/85) requesting the Supreme Court to clarify that State Governments have no authority or jurisdiction to make any policy for transmission, supply and distribution of natural gas, and for city gas distribution, in view of the opinion given by the Supreme Court in the Presidential reference matter.

Statement

Details of Gas Pipelines:

	Length in Kms.
Gujarat	1553
Tripura	61
Assam	8
Tamil Nadu	259
Andhra Pradesh (AP)	834
Madhya Pradesh (MP)	1421
Rajasthan	500
Uttar Pradesh (UP)	1477
Maharashtra	482
Haryana	86
Delhi	96
Total Natural Gas Pipelines	6777

[English]

Appointment of Foreign Nationals as Cabin Crew in Domestic Airlines

*325. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received requests from the private operators for permission to appoint foreign nationals as cabin crew in domestic airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Request from M/s. Kingfisher Airline was received by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation seeking permission to appoint foreign nationals as cabin crew in domestic flight. As of now, permission has not been given to any of the airlines to appoint foreign nationals as cabin crew on domestic flights.

Revision in Oil Prices

*326 SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) whether the oil marketing companies have sought another upward revision in the prices of petroleum products due to increase in the international oil prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to help the oil companies to overcome the losses?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d): Yes, Sir. The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have sought increase in the prices of sensitive petroleum products namely, petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG due to increase in the international oil prices of these products. The average price of Indian Basket of crude oil during 2007-08 (up to August) has increased to US \$68.34 per bbl compared to US \$62.46 during 2006-07. At the current level of international prices effective 16.8.2007, the OMCs have requested for increase in the retail selling prices of sensitive petroleum products at Delhi as follows:

Product		Increase
Petrol	Rs. per litre	2.90
Diesel	Rs. per litre	4.68
PDS Kerosene	Rs. per litre	15.47
Domestic LPG	Rs. per cylinder	174.75

Government has been taking all possible measures to ensure that there is no hardship to the common man. The Government has adopted the principle of equitable burden sharing amongst three stakeholders, namely, the Government, the PSU oil companies and the consumers to protect the interest of common man and vulnerable sections of society. The Government is closely monitoring the international oil prices and will continue to protect the interests of consumers.

[Translation]

Sale of Ethanol Blended Petrol

*327. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has considered the proposal for increasing the profit margin of oil companies by allowing them to sell 5% Ethanol Blended Petrol;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated increase in the profit margin; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure sharing of such profit with the consumer also?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The 5% Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme has been notified by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in September 2006 keeping in view the under-mentioned benefits:

- (i) Use of ethanol blended petrol will reduce the country's dependence on import of crude oil;
- (ii) Ethanol is environment friendly as it enhances combustion of petrol resulting in lower hydrocarbon emissions;
- (iii) Ethanol being an agricultural by-product, will give boost to farmers' income; and
- (iv) It is a renewable natural fuel.

The landed cost of ethanol is compared with benchmark price of landed cost of petrol at a particular location, including transportation, all taxes and duties paid etc.. At present, Oil Manufacturing Companies (OMCs) are procuring ethanol at a basic price of Rs. 21500 per kilo litre. At current prices of petrol and at 5% of ethanol blend, the difference between landed cost of ethanol and landed cost of petrol is Re. 0.25 at Delhi. Against this margin, OMCs are incurring an estimated under recovery of Rs. 4.92 per litre at Retail Selling Price on Motor Spirit at Delhi.

Arrangements for Commonwealth Games-2010

*328. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that despite the private companies taking over the management of important airports, no improvement has been noticed in the condition of the airports;

(b) if so, the facts and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has brought this fact to the notice of the private companies to make expeditious improvement in the condition of important airports in view of the Commonwealth Games-2010;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the private companies thereto; and

(e) the arrangements made/proposed to be made to handle the expected air passengers and air traffic during

the Commonwealth Games-2010 at the each airport in the country; airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Delhi and Mumbai airports are being developed and modernized in accordance with the Operation, Management and Development Agreements (OMDAs) signed between the concerned private operator (Joint Venture Company) and Airports Authority of India (AAI). Implementation of OMDAs is being closely monitored by a Committee headed by Secretary (Civil Aviation).

In order to handle the expected traffic during the Commonwealth Games, 2010, Delhi airport, inter-alia, would have a new runway of 4.4 Km length, a new integrated Passenger Terminal Building catering to both domestic and international traffic. With the new facilities, the airport will be able to handle 37 million passengers per annum. The ongoing expansion and modernization works are scheduled to be completed by March 2010 well in time for the Commonwealth Games.

Important works undertaken at Mumbai airport towards its expansion and modernization include construction of a new Domestic Terminal, expansion of International Apron, construction of a new high speed exit Taxiway. With these new facilities, the airport will be able to handle 40 million passengers per annum. All these works are targeted to be completed by March 2010.

[English]

High Court Monitoring Committee on Catering Service in the Trains

*329. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether responsibility has been fixed for serving stale and unhygienic food in the trains as has been pointed out by the Monitoring Committee appointed by the Delhi High Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against the caterers/persons found responsible; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to serve fresh hygienic food in the running trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) to (c) Railways provide hygienic and quality food to the passengers. Stringent actions like, termination of contracts, imposition of fines, warning have been taken against the defaulting licensees and disciplinary action has been taken against staff in case of lapses.

(d) Various steps like, conducting food audit by independent agency, progressive International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) certification of catering units,

Customer Satisfaction Survey, supply of Menu Cards indicating details of items and rates, conducting Special Drives etc., among other things, have been taken to improve catering services.

Facilities in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express Trains

*330. PROF. M. RAMADASS:

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to introduce five star catering, screening of video films and providing dedicated TV channels in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains as reported in the Hindustan Times dated August 03, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the trains and classes where these facilities are proposed to be provided;

(d) whether the Railways are considering to revise train fares to charge for the above facilities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided in the trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) to (c) Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains are the prestigious premier trains of Indian Railways, Standard and quality of catering services in these trains are provided accordingly. It has been planned to try the on board audio/video information, dissemination and entertainment system on one Shatabdi Express train in both executive and chair car classes as a pilot project. Its extension to other Shatabdi trains will depend upon its successful implementation.

(d) At present there is no proposal for increasing the fare of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains on account of these facilities.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The trials for on-board entertainment system are likely to be completed during the current financial year.

Complaints/Grievance Redressal Mechanism in Railways

*331. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing mechanism for complaints/grievance redressal in the Railways;

(b) the details of existing system of dissemination of information in the Railways;

(c) whether the existing system/mechanism has been found to be lacking in meeting the requirements of users;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen the mechanism/system to make it user friendly?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) Public Grievances Redressal Machinery on Indian Railways functions at four levels viz. Railway Board, Zonal Railway Headquarters, Divisional Headquarters and at stations. Complaint books have been provided at stations and in trains for registration of complaints. In addition, suggestion boxes and public grievances booths are also provided at important stations.

(b) Railways disseminate information to public through timetables, print and electronic media, web-site, enquiry offices and public announcement system etc. Information and Facilitation centers have also been provided at Railway Board, Zonal Railways and at Divisional Headquarters where the users can contact and seek information.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) A review and monitoring of timely disposal of public grievances is undertaken at various managerial levels. In addition, system improvements related to customer services are also carried out to eliminate the generation of grievances to the maximum extent possible.

Outsourcing of Production of Drugs by Major Brand Companies

*332. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major brand companies outsourcing production of drugs to lesser-known pharma manufacturing units and the quantity and value of such drugs produced each year during the last three years;

(b) the extent to which the big companies misused the provision of getting the drugs exempted from price control through outsourcing during the above period;

(c) whether the Government proposes to initiate measures to check such misuse by fixing the ceiling price of all the medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a)

to (d) As per the information received from Pharmaceutical Industry sources, the outsourcing activity is being carried out routinely in pharmaceutical industry. It is used to meet short term needs for capacity, special regulatory requirement and product specific technology needs which benefit the smaller units by making them economically viable through use of their idle capacity. However, neither the government nor the industry associations are maintaining any comprehensive

data on outsourcing. Compilation of such data is time consuming and costly because several hundred units are engaged in this activity, and the product mix is not constant.

The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of Para 7 of the DPCO, 95. Under Para 8 of DPCO, 95 non ceiling Price is fixed which is formulation specific and company specific. Under Para 9 of DPCO, 95 Ceiling Price is fixed which is applicable to all manufacturers.

Exemption from Price Control under the DPCO, 95 is available on the basis of indigenous R&D and new drug delivery system. Exemption from Price Control under Para 8 of the DPCO, 95 is also available to SSI Pharma units subject to fulfilling certain conditions specified in order S.O. No. 134(E) dated 02.03.1995 issued under Para 25 of the DPCO, 95.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measure where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

NPPA has initiated more intensive scrutiny of application for non-ceiling price with a view to increase the coverage of scheduled formulations packs through ceiling prices. Accordingly, because of the conscious effort by NPPA in this direction the percentage of ceiling prices fixed have substantially increased to around 70% (711 packs out of 1020 scheduled formulation packs) for which prices were fixed during 2006-07, as against earlier level of around 55% (182 packs out of 332 scheduled formulation packs) for which prices were fixed during 2004-05. This effort of the NPPA also resulted in achieving better enforcement and compliance with the provisions of DPCO, 1995 and Govt. policies in this regard.

Financial Position of Oil PSUs

*333. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the financial position of oil PSUs during the last three years, PSU-wise;

(b) whether some of the oil PSUs are suffering huge losses;

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

(d) whether the Government has prepared any road map to convert the loss making oil PSUs into profit making oil PSUs within a definite time-frame; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) The profit after tax (PAT) of major oil PSUs during the last three years is as under:

	(Rs. Crore)		
Name of the oil PSU	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
ONGC	12983.05	14430.78	15642.92
IOCL	4891.00	4915.00	7499.00
BPCL	965.80	291.65	1805.48
HPCL	1277.33	405.63	1571.17
GAIL	1954.00	2310.00	2387.00
OIL	1061.68	1689.93	1639.99

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Education, Training and Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons

*334. SHRI SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the works undertaken and assistance provided for the education, training and rehabilitation of physically and mentally challenged persons during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(b) the number of the beneficiaries during the said period, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce new schemes for the education, training and rehabilitation of physically and mentally challenged persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The details of assistance provided for education, training and rehabilitation of physically and mentally challenged persons and number of persons benefitted during the last three years and current year is enclosed as statement. This assistance has been provided for running special schools, vocational training centers, rehabilitation centers, etc. and for providing Assistive devices to the persons with disabilities.

(c) and (d) No Sir.

Statement

Financial assistance provided to voluntary organizations/NGOs and the no. of beneficiaries in the last three years and in the current year.

Sl. No.	State	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
		Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of Beneficiaries*	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of Beneficiaries*		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				
1	Andhra Pradesh	1107.72	39884.00	1216.14	29407.00	1015.88	6916	244.98	3138				
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	3.00	145.00	0	0	0	0				
3	Assam	24.41	371.00	42.25	713.00	47.25	303	1.78	94				
4	Bihar	191.64	3921.00	255.53	8085.00	275.7	1685	48.57	631				
5	Chhattisgarh	68.41	2834.00	36.12	879.00	21.12	259.00	10.55	89				
6	Goa	0.40	20.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0				
7	Gujarat	176.60	35491.00	248.85	10998.00	46.74	990	12.93	1183				
8	Haryana	148.11	11685.00	125.99	5675.00	82.33	775	36.31	618				
9	Himachal Pradesh	12.83	416.00	22.69	5256.00	16.99	70	0	0				
10	Jammu and Kashmir	1.46	50.00	6.74	251.00	1.74	55	0	0				
11	Jharkhand	4.05	195.00	1.15	86.00	1.15	86	0	0				
12	Karnataka	406.14	3312.00	424.11	6757.00	267.48	2200.00	135.04	1970				
13	Kerala	277.83	11381.00	448.51	4486.00	435.6	4089	180.86	2689				
14	Madhya Pradesh	82.49	1870.00	139.52	4819.00	88.67	819	0.61	101				
15	Maharashtra	159.46	22801.00	124.04	23548.00	82.1	394	30.38	502				
16	Manipur	32.00	453.00	43.50	460.00	43.5	460	0	0				
17	Meghalaya	22.18	229.00	13.62	51.00	13.62	81	0	0				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
18	Mizoram	17.43	157.00	13.17	152.00	13.17	152	0	0
19	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
20	Orissa	238.61	21029.00	174.13	7960.00	137.35	860.00	98.96	789
21	Punjab	77.95	2548.00	96.56	7574.00	56.86	794.00	34.29	1650
22	Rajasthan	688.58	36099.00	902.96	35294.00	917.96	794	25.02	335
23	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
24	Tamil Nadu	347.31	7044.00	343.50	25645.00	277.02	17988	65.3	1073
25	Tripura	11.67	370.00	2.24	30.00	2.24	45	2.3	20
26	Uttar Pradesh	394.08	120910.00	507.49	135426.00	386.7	2181.00	92.81	1398
27	Uttaranchal	43.45	11516.00	55.28	832.00	50.28	432	20.07	171
28	West Bengal	295.53	17958.00	281.27	19957.00	257.68	2415	64.03	2214
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	9.60	1505.00	4.72	40	0	0
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
32	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	5.00	210.00	8	0	0	0
33	Delhi	246.24	20270.00	299.20	24875.00	194.55	775.00	63.12	231
34	Lakshdweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
35	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Total		5076.59	372814.00	5842.16	361076.00	4746.40	45658	1167.91	18896

* Beneficiaries of ADIP scheme are not included

[English]

National Steel Policy

*335. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various constraints being faced by the steel industry;

(b) whether the Government has formulated a National Steel Policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the new policy has been able to address the problems of the steel sector?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The major constraints being faced by the steel industry in the country are linkages of raw materials such as iron ore, coking coal, non-coking coal and natural gas on a long-term basis; inadequate infrastructure especially in transport sector and bottlenecks like delay in acquisition of land, allocation of utilities such as power and water, for setting up new projects.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has formulated a National Steel Policy (NSP) in 2005. Salient features of the NSP are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) The National Steel Policy provides broad directions including identification of demand side as well as the supply side constraints of the steel industry. Some of the achievements made and initiatives taken by the Government under the policy framework include the following:

- (i) Steel Public Sector Units have undertaken huge modernization and expansion plans to meet the growing demand of steel in the country. SAIL will expand its capacity from 14.6 million tonnes per annum (2006-07) to 26 million tonnes per annum by the year 2010-11 of hot metal production. Similarly, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) will also expand its capacity from present level of 4.05 million tonnes of hot metal per annum (2006-07) to 6.05 million tonnes per annum by 2009-10.
- (ii) As per the latest available information, a number of private sector steel investors have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with various State Governments to set up additional greenfield capacities of nearly 234 million tonnes per annum.
- (iii) An Inter-Ministerial Group has been constituted to monitor and coordinate the issues concerning major steel investments in the country related to infrastructure,

raw material supply, environmental clearance and other resource constraints.

- (iv) A National Steel Promotion Campaign has been launched to promote awareness regarding use of steel, particularly in the rural sector and to boost the demand for steel in the country.
- (v) To promote steel usage and increase steel availability in the country public sector steel units i.e. SAIL and RINL have appointed 1093 and 108 dealers respectively at district level broadly covering large areas of the country.
- (vi) In order to improve conscious promotion of steel usage, Institute of Steel Development & Growth (INSDAG) is promoting awareness on innovative steel intensive structural designs and disseminating knowledge among the architects, designers and engineers.

Statement

The salient features of the National Steel Policy (NSP)

- The NSP sets out a broad roadmap for the Indian Steel Industry in its journey towards reform, restructuring and globalisation.
- The long-term goal of the NSP is that India should have a modern and efficient steel industry of world standards, catering to diversified steel demand. The focus of the policy is to achieve global competitiveness not only in terms of cost, quality and product-mix but also in terms of global benchmarks of efficiency and productivity.
- In order to achieve the goal of 110 million tonnes of steel production by 2019-20, the NSP seeks to remove the supply-side constraints to the growth of this industry in an open, globally integrated and competitive environment.
- The NSP seeks to adopt a multi-pronged strategy to move towards the long-term policy goal. On the demand side, the strategy would be to create incremental demand through promotional efforts, creation of awareness and strengthening the delivery chain, particularly in rural areas. On the supply side, the strategy would be to facilitate creation of additional capacity, remove procedural and policy bottlenecks in the availability of inputs such as iron ore and coal, make higher investments in R&D and encourage the creation of infrastructure such as roads, railways, and ports.
- The NSP acknowledges the low per capita consumption of steel in the country, especially in the rural areas and the need to boost steel consumption to improve quality of life and help in meeting the growing aspirations of masses.

- In order to achieve the strategic goal of 110 mT of steel production by 2019-20, the industry would need additional capital. In addition, funds would be required for technological upgrade of existing facilities. In order to mobilize such vast resources NSP seeks to encourage foreign direct investment. In addition the policy also seeks to make the fiscal incentives, available to infrastructure projects, accessible to the steel industry.
- The NSP seeks to support developing of risk-hedging instruments like futures and derivatives to contain price volatility in the steel market.
- The NSP seeks to strengthen the existing training and research facilities available to the domestic steel industry so as to provide suitable training programmes especially for the secondary small-scale units and also to collect and analyze data on important parameters of the industry.
- The NSP seeks to mount aggressive R&D efforts to create manufacturing capability for special types of steel, substitute coking coal, use iron ore fines, develop new products suited to rural needs, enhance material and energy efficiency, utilize waste, and arrest environmental degradation.
- The NSP acknowledges the important role played by the secondary steel sector in providing employment, meeting local demand of steel in rural and semi-urban areas, and meeting the country's demand of some special products and seeks to endeavour to provide the necessary feedstock to these units at reasonable prices from major plants through the existing mechanism of State Small Industries Corporations.
- The NSP recognizes the fact that integration of the Indian steel industry with the global economy requires that the industry should be protected from unfair trade practices, which become common especially during periods of downturn. The NSP therefore, envisages institution of mechanisms for import surveillance, and monitoring export subsidies in other countries.

Licences to Regional Airlines

*336. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to grant licences to regional airlines for connecting the small towns in the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the criterion for allotment of such licences to private sector airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation. Requirements on stipulating minimum requirements for grant of permit to operate scheduled regional air transport service.

The scheduled regional airlines will primarily operate in a designated region and will not be permitted to operate on the trunk routes indicated in the Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

The number of permits likely to be issued will depend upon availability of infrastructure, traffic requirements and applications from companies capable of undertaking such operations.

Financial Assistance to NGOs/VOs

*337. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides financial assistance to different Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)/Voluntary Organisations (VOs) which are running schools and other relief measures for mentally and physically challenged children;

(b) if so, the details of financial assistance provided to them during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding mis-utilisation of funds by these NGOs/VOs during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the mis-utilisation of funds by these NGOs/VOs?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Statement indicating financial assistance provided to the Non-Governmental Organisations/Voluntary Organizations during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Six complaints against Non-Governmental Organisations were received during the last three years. Enquiries in all the cases have been initiated. In two cases, complaints have been found baseless and grants-in-aid have been resumed.

(e) To check the misutilisation of the funds by the Non-Governmental Organisations, several measures are in place including inspection by the State Government/ Government of India representatives, periodic progress reports, audited statement of accounts, utilisation certificate etc.

Statement*Financial assistance provided to voluntary organizations/NGOs in the last three years.*

Sl. No.	State	2004-05 Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)	2005-06 Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)	2006-07 Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	1107.72	1216.14	1015.88
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	3.00	0
3	Assam	24.41	42.25	47.25
4	Bihar	191.64	255.53	275.7
5	Chhattisgarh	68.41	36.12	21.12
6	Goa	0.40	0.00	0
7	Gujarat	176.60	248.85	46.74
8	Haryana	148.11	125.99	82.33
9	Himachal Pradesh	12.83	22.69	16.99
10	Jammu and Kashmir	1.46	6.74	1.74
11	Jharkhand	4.05	1.15	1.15
12	Karnataka	406.14	424.11	267.48
13	Kerala	277.83	448.51	435.6
14	Madhya Pradesh	82.49	139.52	88.67
15	Maharashtra	159.46	124.04	82.1
16	Manipur	32.00	43.50	43.5
17	Meghalaya	22.18	13.62	13.62
18	Mizoram	17.43	13.17	13.17
19	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0
20	Orissa	238.61	174.13	137.35
21	Punjab	77.95	96.56	56.86
22	Rajasthan	688.58	902.96	917.96
23	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0
24	Tamil Nadu	347.31	343.50	277.02
25	Tripura	11.67	2.24	2.24
26	Uttar Pradesh	394.08	507.49	386.7
27	Uttaranchal	43.45	55.28	50.28

1	2	3	4	5
28	West Bengal	295.53	281.27	257.68
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0
30	Chandigarh	0.00	9.60	4.72
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0
32	Daman and Diu	0.00	5.00	8
33	Delhi	246.24	299.20	194.55
34	Lakshdweep	0.00	0.00	0
35	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0
Total		5076.59	5842.16	4746.40

[Translation]

Encroachment in Airport Areas

*338. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is encroachment on land belonging to airports in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these encroachment in airport areas pose danger during landing or taking off of planes;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to remove these encroachments, particularly in Rajasthan; and

(e) the success achieved by the Government so far in this regard?

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

(b) Details in respect of Airports Authority of India (AAI) airports and restructured airports are as under:

Land encroached (in acres) Mumbai - 276, Juhu - 29 and Nagpur - 13 in Maharashtra; Satna - 150, Bhopal - 30 in Madhya Pradesh; Hyderabad - 97, Rajamundhary - 8, Tirupati - 0.3 and Visakhapatnam - 0.2 in Andhra Pradesh; Amritsar - 83 in Punjab; Kolkata - 75.7 in West Bengal; Kota - 35.32 in Rajasthan; Ahmedabad - 20, Rajkot - 1 in Gujarat; Ranchi - 9 in Jharkhand; Gaya - 5 in Bihar; Lucknow - 1.7 in Uttar Pradesh; Port Blair - 1.5 in Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Union Territory); Safdarjung - 1.5 in Delhi and Belgaum - 1 in Karnataka.

(c) Standard operating procedures safeguard the flight path of landing and take-off of aircraft at all the airports.

However, the encroachments are a potential source of attraction for birds which cause some operational risk to aircraft. They also cause security concern at the airports.

(d) and (e) AAI regularly takes up issues of removal of encroachments with State Governments. However, no encroachment has been removed from the airport at Kota in Rajasthan.

Railway Projects Funded by Foreign Financial Institutions

*339. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing railway projects being funded by Foreign Financial Institutions alongwith their estimated cost;

(b) the funds received by the Government for each project;

(c) whether the Railway has utilised the said amount;

(d) if not, whether the Government have paid any commitment charges to those foreign institutions; and

(e) if so, the total amount paid by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) to (c) The details of Railway projects for which foreign assistance is being received, their estimated cost, external aid received and utilized are as below:

(i) Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP), which has both road and rail components, is being partly funded by World Bank. A loan of US Dollar 463 million has been extended by International Bank for Reconstruction

and Development (IBRD) and a credit of Special Drawing Right (SDR) 62.5 million has been extended by International Development Association (IDA). Out of this, the IBRD loan and IDA credit earmarked for the rail component are US Dollar 304.5 million and SDR 42.13 million respectively. This translates into a loan of Rs 1613.10 cr. for the rail component including both IBRD loan and IDA credit. The estimated total cost of the rail component is Rs.3125 crore. The loan agreement was signed in August 2002. An amount of US Dollar 58.033 million (Rs 261.17 cr) and Special Drawing Right (SDR) 29.489 million (Rs 193.40 cr) has been utilized from the IBRD loan and IDA credit respectively for the Rail portion upto 30th June 2007.

- (ii) Project of Modernisation of Signalling between Ghaziabad and Kanpur is being partly funded by Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KfW), Germany. The estimated cost of the project is DM.212.3 million (Euro 108.5 million). The loan amount is DM 185 million (Euro 94.5 million) and loan agreement was signed in August 1997. An amount of Euro 11.382 million has been utilized upto 30th June 2007.
- (iii) The Asian Development Bank has extended a loan to finance the Railway Sector Improvement Project with the objective of enhancing capacity of the rail network and improving operational efficiency/safety. The subprojects to be funded from the loan are principally in the Golden Quadrilateral and its Diagonals and Port Connectivity projects. The projects are being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). The loan amount was US\$ 313.6 million. The loan agreement was signed in April 2004. Subsequently in March 2007, an amount of US\$ 101.3 million of the loan was cancelled due to problems in the execution of the projects being financed from this loan. The present loan amount is US\$ 212.3 million. The estimated cost of the projects being partly financed through the ADB loan is US\$ 379 million. An amount of US Dollar 28.915 million has been utilized from the loan upto 30th June 2007.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government has paid commitment charges on the ADB, World Bank and KfW loan. The amount of commitment charges paid upto 30.6.2007 is given below:-

ADB		Rs. 13.68 Crores paid by Ministry of Finance
World Bank	IBRD Loan	Rs. 20.80 Crores paid by Ministry of Finance
World Bank	IDA Credit	Rs. 2.28 Crores paid by Ministry of Finance

KfW Loan

A total amount of Rs. 12.76 crore of which Rs. 8.29 Crores paid by Railways and rest by Ministry of Finance.

Reassessment of Projects of IRCTC

*340. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have issued orders for reassessment of different projects of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC);

(b) if so, the details of the projects which are being reassessed;

(c) whether complaints of numerous types were received by the Railways about the implementation of these projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Schemes for Poor Widows

3147. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of welfare schemes presently implemented by the Government for helpless poor widows in the country;

(b) whether it is proposed to further extend the facilities in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry has been implementing a General Grant-in-Aid Scheme under which Central Assistance has been released for Rehabilitation of Widows to some States. The Ministry of Women and Child Development are also having a Scheme "Swadhar" for

providing shelter based holistic and integrated services to women in difficult circumstances including widows.

[Translation]

Looting of Passengers

3148. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government Railway Police/Railway Protection Force personnel and Railways employees are found involved in physical assault and looting of passengers in trains;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the number of accused employee/officials against whom action has been taken along with the number of persons against whom inquiry is being carried out; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to check the recurrence of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Number of cases in which Government Railway Police/Railway Protection Force personnel and Railways employees were found involved in physical assault and looting of passengers in trains during the last three years and current year (Upto June) is as under:-

Year	Number of incidents reported
2004	05
2005	10
2006	11
2007	03

(c) Number of Government Railway Police personnel, Railway Protection Force personnel and Railway employees found involved in such incidents and against whom action has been taken during the last three years and current year (Upto June) is as under:-

Year	No. of GRP, RPF & Railway Employee		
	GRP	RPF	Rly. Employee
2004	15	-	-
2005	12	14	02
2006	09	12	01
2007	09	-	-

(d) The following steps are being taken to prevent such incidents:-

1. All GRP/RPF staffs are being briefed / debriefed while mounting and dismounting for their duties, not to indulge in such type of crime.
2. Surprise checks are conducted by Senior Officers in trains to check the activities of GRP/RPF escorting staff.
3. Regular checks by the Internal Vigilance Group of Railway Protection Force are carried out and frequent checks are also made by the Railway Vigilance team.
4. Criminal cases are being registered against the defaulting personnel apart from taking stringent departmental action against them.
5. As and when any involvement of Government Railway Police is reported, the matter is referred to the concerned GRP authorities for taking necessary action against the defaulting staff.
6. Co-ordination meetings at all levels are being held with RPF and GRP authorities to prevent such menace.

[English]

Production in NPPC

3149. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company Limited (NPPC) has started its production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) If not, the time by which NPPC is likely to start its production; and

(d) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make NPPC more profitable and productive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the Rehabilitation Scheme sanctioned by the Board of Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) vide Order dated 27.06.2007, the production is scheduled to commence after 27 months from the date of approval.

(d) The Government of India has agreed to the following reliefs and concessions sought by the Company based on the cut off date of 31.08.2006:

- (1) Cash infusion of Rs.552.44 crore through (i) Govern-

ment Equity of Rs.261.26 crore out of which Rs.10 crore will be contributed by Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC); (ii) Term loan of Rs.252.99 crore to be availed from Commercial Banks/Financial Institutions by NPPC with Gol guarantee; and (ii) 5% Non-cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of Rs.38.19 crore.

- (2) Reduction of existing paid-up capital from Rs. 120.20 crore to Rs. 12.02 crore by way of reduction of the face value of the existing equity share from Rs.1000/- per share to Rs.100/- per share, and setting off the capital reduction fund of Rs. 108.18 crore against the Profit and Loss Debit, i.e., against a part of the accumulated losses of Rs.249.83 crore.
- (3) Write off of the existing loan of Rs.29.87 crore as present in the loan fund and interest of Rs.52.62 crore accrued on the above loan.
- (4) Write off of dues payable by NPPC to HPC amounting to Rs.44.49 crore against HPC's loan and interest dues to Gol.

In addition, NPPC will also be eligible for various fiscal reliefs and concessions under North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP) announced on 01.04.2007.

Food Processing Projects

3150. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received proposals for food processing projects from various States during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;
- (c) the financial assistance released for these projects to the State under the Government plan schemes;
- (d) the present status of these projects;
- (e) the number of food processing projects in the country in respect of products from milk resources, fish resources, flesh resources, foodgrain resources, fruit resources and vegetable resources; and
- (f) the break up of the food processing projects State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY):
(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details of proposals received for setting up, expansion, modernisation of food processing industries from various States during the last three years, the number of proposals and amount approved thereof are as follows:-

Year	No. of cases received	No. of cases approved	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
2004-05	782	188	4435.95
2005-06	375	223	5400.92
2006-07	373	424	8403.28

(d) The projects are implemented by private entrepreneurs and hence the present status of individual projects are not available.

(e) and (f) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Units. Food Processing Industries are both in organized and unorganized sectors and as such data on number of food processing projects in the country, in respect of various sectors of food processing industries is not centrally maintained. There have been 3042 applications claiming grant for setting up, expansion and modernisation of food processing industries in the dairy, fishery, meat, grain milling, fruit & vegetable sector received during the Tenth Plan period, namely, 2002-03 to 2006-07. The breakup of these applications state-wise is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

State	Number of proposals received
1	2
Delhi	31
Andhra Pradesh	445
Jharkhand	19
Jammu and Kashmir	63
Himachal Pradesh	50
Haryana	93
Kerala	116
Madhya Pradesh	91
Chhattisgarh	24
Chandigarh	01
Bihar	39
Assam	56
Gujarat	127
Pondicherry	06

1	2
Uttarakhand	56
Uttar Pradesh	240
Tripura	08
Tamil Nadu	255
Sikkim	02
Karnataka	211
Punjab	201
West Bengal	136
Orissa	65
Nagaland	43
Meghalaya	10
Manipur	14
Arunachal Pradesh	10
Daman and Diu	01
Mizoram	08
Goa	15
Maharashtra	476
Rajasthan	128

[Translation]

Supply of Gas Cylinders

3151. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has taken by the public sector undertakings to stop supply of domestic use 5 KG gas cylinders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the distributors of LPG have made a recommendation to stop supply of 5KG LPG Cylinders;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof;

(e) whether any steps are being taken by the Government to restore supply of 5 KG LPG cylinders in view of its utility; and?

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):
(a) to (f) No, Sir. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have introduced 5 kg domestic LPG cylinders with effect from August 2002 in order to meet the demand of low-income groups in urban, semi-urban and rural pockets and also extend the reach of LPG to the hilly terrain and interior areas in the country. As on 30.6.2007, there are 3.86 lakh LPG customers of such cylinders in the country.

[English]

**Production of Crude Oil by ONGC
In Assam**

3152. SHRI M. K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has intensified its efforts and succeeded in arresting the downward trend in the production of crude oil in Assam by registering cooperation and assistance of internationally acclaimed expert groups to explore oil fields;

(b) if so, the total crude oil production made in Assam during the last five years; and

(c) whether the country is still dependent on crude oil imports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):
(a) and (b) Yes Sir, ONGC has intensified various efforts in Assam for augmentation of oil production e.g. specialized drilling techniques, aggressive infill drilling, development of newly discovered fields, implementation of Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) in mature fields, engaging internationally reputed Consultants/Service providers M/s GCA & M/s Halliburton.

The details of ONGC's crude oil production in Assam during the last five years i.e. 2002-03 to 2006-07 is as under:-

Year	Crude oil production (MMT)
2002-03	1.735
2003-04	1.621
2004-05	1.546
2005-06	1.285
2006-07	1.331

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. To meet domestic demand, the country depended on imported crude to the extent of 73% during 2006-07.

Power Plant with Joint Venture

3153. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways spends Rs. 5200 crores on electricity which works out to be Rs. 4-5 per unit consumption;
- (b) if so, whether Railways propose to set up its own power plant to meet the requirement with joint venture;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Railways have initiated discussion with central power utilities; and
- (e) if so, the discussion so far held and detailed plan chalked out for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Expenditure on electrical energy for the year 2005-06 for traction purpose was Rs. 4391 crores and for non-traction purpose was Rs. 978 crores. The average charges of electricity for operation of trains (traction) for the year 2005-06 was 422 paise per unit and the average charges of electricity for other than train operation was 424 paise per unit.

(b) and (c) Railways are establishing a captive power plant of 1000 Mega Watt (MW) capacity at Nabinagar, district Aurangabad, Bihar in collaboration with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited. This has been included in Railway Budget for the year 2007-08.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Power has allocated 100 MW power from NTPC for New Delhi-Kanpur section and 80 MW power from Sipat Thermal Power Station (STPS) for Bilaspur-Nagpur section of South East Central Railway.

Doubling of Railway Line in Karnataka

3154. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Karnataka Government has submitted a proposal for doubling of railway line from Bangalore City-Ramanagaram upto Mysore increasing the train frequency and capacity and continuation of summer special trains between Bangalore and Mysore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposals;
- (c) the action taken by the Railways thereon; and
- (d) the present status of the electrification work between Ramanagaram and Mysore and its funding pattern?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. However, increasing the frequency, capacity and continuation of special trains depends upon traffic justification, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

(b) to (d) Doubling of Ramanagaram-Mysore with electrification of Kengeri-Mysore section has been included in the Budget 2007-08. This project is funded on 2/3rd cost sharing by the Government of Karnataka and 1/3rd by the Railways. Preliminary arrangements are being made to take up the work.

Promotion of Skiing Tourism

3155. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether foreign tourists visit India for skiing;
- (b) if so, the number of such tourists during the last three years, year-wise; and
- (c) the details of skiing facilities available in India at present and the efforts being made to improve and enhance them?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) In the present system of compilation of tourism statistics, separate figures for foreign tourists visiting India for skiing purpose are not maintained.

(c) Some of the popular skiing destinations in India are:-

Himachal Pradesh	— Manali, Kufri, Narkanda, Shoja, Triund
Uttarakhand	— Auli, Dayara Bugyal, Mundali, Munsiyari
Jammu and Kashmir	— Gulmarg

Improvement of tourism facilities, including those for skiing, is primarily the responsibility of the respective State/UT Governments. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to State/UT Governments for tourism related projects under the schemes of 'Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations & Circuits' and 'Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects'.

[Translation]

New Railway Lines in Madhya Pradesh

3156. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of new railway lines approved in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;
- (b) the estimated cost of each railway line;
- (c) the amount sanctioned for each of the said lines till date; and
- (d) the time by when the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No new line work has been approved in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Permission for Railway Crossings in Gujarat

3157. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as many as 59 proposals of Government of Gujarat for permission of railway crossings are pending for approval at different levels in Railways since long;
- (b) If so, the present position of those proposals alongwith the reasons for their pendency; and
- (c) the time by when all the pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Only one proposal for permission of railway level crossing has been received from State Govt. of Gujarat, The State Government had proposed for provision of a manned railway level crossing on State Highway No. 36. For this purpose, the State Government had also deposited Rs. 28.71 lakhs in the year 1999. However, the State Government was advised that as per extant railway rules, provision of level crossing on National/State Highways is not permissible and that only Grade separator such a road over bridge can be provided. Secretary/R&B/Gujarat in his letters dated 27.07.07 and 14.08.07 has advised that due to financial constraint, the State Govt. is unable to consider provision of road over bridge and has requested for allowing level crossing at the said location.

Keeping in view the old commitment made, railway authorities are examining the request of the State Govt. and final decision in the matter would be taken soon.

Employment Generation in Food Processing Industries

3158. SHRI NARHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount spent on the Food Processing Industries in the Tenth Five Year Plan;
- (b) the number of people to whom employment has been provided in the industry 2006-07 and likely to be provided in 2007-08 separately;
- (c) whether any target for creation and jobs has been fixed for the said period and the measures taken to achieve this target; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) An amount of Rs.489.82 crores has been spent on various Plan Schemes for the promotion of food processing industries in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(b) As far as large and medium scale industries in food processing sector are concerned, based on the Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEMs) and Letters of Intent (LOIs)/Direct Industrial Licenses (DILs) filed with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, the proposed employment during 2006 has been around 31665, As regards food processing industries in Small Scale sector, according to information available, the employment in the food processing units during 2005-06 for which latest figures are available is estimated to be around 42.87 lakhs.

(c) and (d) No specific target for creation of jobs has been fixed for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has finalized Vision 2015 on Food Processing Industries which envisages cluster based and demand driven farming, achieving integration of food processing infrastructure from farm to market and promoting a dynamic food processing industry which could result in trebling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. Government has identified strategies along with a detailed action plan to realize the Vision 2015. The realization of the Vision 2015 is expected to generate 1.8 million direct and 6.4 million indirect employment.

Promotion of Culture of Andhra Pradesh

3159. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made any initiatives to safeguard and promote culture of Andhra Pradesh; and
- (b) if so, the details of achievements and the amount spent during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF

CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Loss of Kharif Crops due to Shortage of Fertilizers

3160. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the loss of Kharif crops due to shortage of fertilizers, particularly DAP in some of the States like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for modifications in the fertilizer policy by the Government just before the monsoon season;

(d) whether the Government proposed to provide some grants for the crops damaged due to non-availability of fertilizers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Only 50% of indigenously produced urea is under movement and distribution control of the Government. Movement and distribution of all other fertilizers including DAP are decontrolled since 1992, The State Governments have been repeatedly advised by the Department of Fertilizers to ensure adequate supplies from the Suppliers/ Importers before the start of every cropping season so that the farmers do not face shortages of these fertilizers.

However, there have been gaps between demand and committed supply by the fertilizer companies, particularly of DAP during the current Kharif season. This is attributable to the reluctance of the manufacturers and importers to manufacture or import to the full extent of requirement, due to the high international prices of raw materials and finished products. Department of Fertilizers has stepped in to arrange imports of these fertilizers through State Trading Agencies like M/s Indian Potash Limited. Since these agencies do not have adequate marketing and distribution network in all the deficit states to be able to reach these fertilizers to the farmers, the states have been requested to identify institutional agencies, which will undertake marketing and distribution of fertilizers from the rake points. Full requirement of DAP in

both the States of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar is being met through the above arrangement.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Private Investment in Food Processing Sector

3161. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conceived any policy to attract private investment in food processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response from private sector so far;

(d) the number of industries coming up and the amount of capital they are bringing in State-wise; and

(e) the concession being provided by Government to these private players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY):

(a) and (b) A Vision Document 2015 on Food Processing Industries has been finalized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI), which envisages trebling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. To realize the vision, an estimated investment of Rs.2.00 lakh crore will be required, out of which ten percent would be from Government and the remaining would come equally from financial institutions and private investors/FDI.

The Cabinet has approved the integrated strategy for promotion of agribusiness-Vision, Strategy and Action Plan for the Food Processing Sector, based on the recommendations made by the Group of Ministers (GOM) for growth of Food Processing Sector.

The thrust areas identified for strategic intervention are establishment of Mega Food Parks in identified clusters with appropriate backward and forward linkages, creation of integrated cold chains/value addition and preservation infrastructure, modernization of abattoirs, upgradation of hygienic and quality street food and food streets, establishment and upgradation of quality control laboratories, restructuring and strengthening of MFPI, rationalizing tax structure, incentivising FDI and private investment in infrastructure, undertaking capacity building of small and unorganized sector, liberalized wine and beer policy, launching a major promotional campaign for the food processing sector and need for larger public investment for creation of critical rural infrastructure in food processing sector.

The strategic interventions required for the growth of the food processing sector have been included in the 11th Plan proposals. In all the major interventions, the Public Private Partnership model would be followed as much as possible.

(c) to (e) In the 11th Plan, the Ministry proposes to implement various schemes to attract private sector investment in the food processing sector. A revamped Scheme for Infrastructure Development under which, it will give financial assistance in the form of grant for setting up of Mega Food Parks, cold chain infrastructure, value added centres and packaging centres preferably in the PPP Model. The Mega Food Park Scheme will provide backward and forward linkages as well as reliable and sustainable supply chain. The Cluster based demand driven approach will provide linkages from farm to market with linkages from local to regional level through Primary Processing Centres, Collection Centres, Strategic Distribution Centre-cum-Cold Chain at critical locations – having Controlled Atmosphere storage and distribution centres where large quantities can be stored and supplied to distribution centres for fresh sale and to processing industries for processing. In the 11th Plan, it has also been proposed to continue assistance in the form of grant to private sector/public sector organisations through schemes for setting up of Food Testing Labs, Implementation of Quality Systems such as HACCP, ISO 9000, GHP and GMP Practices, Promotion of Research and Development, Capacity building and Human Resource Development and other promotional activities with higher levels of assistance. In addition, a new scheme for Upgradation of Quality of street foods has also been proposed to be implemented. The emphasis will be on building strong linkages with agriculture and horticulture, enhancing project implementation capabilities, increased involvement of private sector investments and support for creation of rural infrastructure to ensure a steady supply of good quality agri horticulture produce.

[Translation]

Evaluation of Closed PSUs

3162. SHRI KIREN RIJUJU:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

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

(a) the details of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) closed during the last three years,

(b) whether the Government has done any evaluation of the closed PSUs;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to restart some of the said undertakings by providing packages to them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) A Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has been set up to advise the Government inter-alia on the proposals of revival/closure of sick PSEs. Based on the recommendations of BRPSE, Government have approved closure of one CPSE namely, Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.

(b) and (c) The evaluation of a closed CPSE may be done by the administrative Ministry/Department concerned on case to case basis.

(d) and (e) Government have decided 'in principle' to examine the feasibility of revival of Fertilizers Corporation of India and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.

[English]

National Gas Advisory Body

3163. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up National Gas Advisory Body (NGAB) is under consideration;

(b) if so, its proposed functions thereof; and

(c) the time by which the NGAB would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has notified 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks' on December 20, 2006, which has come into effect from December 22, 2006, the date of its publication in the official Gazette. The policy, inter alia, provides for setting up of a Gas Advisory Body (GAB) for giving advice to the Central Government on matters relating to promotion and development of gas pipeline networks and city or local gas distribution networks in the country. There is no time limit prescribed for setting up of the Gas Advisory Body.

Special Policy Packages for Food Processing Industries

3164. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the special policy packages announced by the Government to give a further boost to this industry in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the prospects of Food Processing Industry in the rural areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) A Vision Document 2015 on Food Processing Industries for the country as a whole has been finalized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI), which envisages trebling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. The Cabinet has approved the integrated strategy for promotion of agri-business-Vision, Strategy and Action Plan for the Food Processing Sector, based on the recommendations made by the Group of Ministers (GOM) for growth of Food Processing Sector.

The thrust areas identified for strategic intervention cover establishment of Mega Food Parks in identified clusters with appropriate backward and forward linkages, creation of integrated cold chains/value addition and preservation infrastructure, modernization of abattoirs, upgradation of hygienic and quality street food and food streets, establishment and upgradation of quality control laboratories, restructuring and strengthening of MFPI, rationalizing tax structure, incentivising FDI and private investment in infrastructure, undertaking capacity building of small and unorganized sector, liberalized wine and beer policy, launching a major promotional campaign for the food processing sector and need for larger public investment for creation of critical rural infrastructure in food processing sector.

In the 11th Plan, the Ministry proposes to implement a revamped Scheme for Infrastructure Development under which, it will give financial assistance for setting up of Mega Food Parks, cold chain infrastructure, value added centres and packaging centres. The Mega Food Park Scheme will provide backward and forward linkages as well as reliable and sustainable supply chain. The Cluster based demand driven approach will provide linkages from farm to market with linkages from local to regional level through Primary Processing Centres, Collection Centres, Strategic Distribution Centre-cum-Cold Chain at critical locations - having Controlled Atmosphere storage and distribution centres where large quantities can be stored and supplied to distribution centres for fresh sale and to processing industries for processing. The emphasis will be on building strong linkages with agriculture and horticulture, enhancing project implementation capabilities, increased involvement of private sector investments and support for creation of rural infrastructure to ensure a steady supply of good quality agri horticulture produce.

[Translation]

Shortage of Oil Tankers/Oil

3165. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not a fact that there has been acute shortage of oil tankers and the supply of oil to petrol pumps is affected during the tourist season in the country specially in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the oil companies accord approval on priority basis to their petrol pump dealers in Uttarakhand for engaging their own tankers;

(d) if so, the time taken to accord approval for engaging their tankers; and

(e) the details thereof and the rules therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) to (e) The delivered supplies of petrol and diesel to dealers ex-terminals/depots of oil companies are made through tank trucks owned by oil marketing companies or those awarded contract for transportation job. Public tenders on industry basis are invited for engaging tank trucks for transportation of bulk petroleum products to the dealers and customers. Dealers and customers are advised to participate in the public tender. The location wise requirements of tankers are indicated in the tender invited. These public tenders are finalized based on the lowest offer made in the tender and successful parties are awarded contracts for tankers offered in the tender.

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that there is no shortage of oil tankers and supply of oil to petrol pumps specially in Uttarakhand.

[English]

Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

3166. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of modernisation of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library at New Delhi (NMML);

(b) whether the Government has finalised any proposal for digitisation of precious collection of private and institutional papers kept in NMML;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library have prepared a detailed project for modernisation at a total cost of Rs.20 crores. The proposal includes a component for digitisation of precious

collection of private institutional papers kept in the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library at a total cost of Rs.10 crores. The digitisation proposal takes into account the latest techniques being followed presently by the leading Archives and Libraries in the World. The Ministry of Finance have provided a sum of Rs.20 crores to fund the project in the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2007-08.

[Translation]

Merger of PSUs

3167. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating the reforms like merger/revival or working together of those public enterprises which may supplement each other in the present scenario;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan formulated to make the above enterprises viable?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Government have approved certain proposals of merger of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in recent years like merger of IISCO with Steel Authority of India Ltd.; IBP Co. Ltd. and Indian Oil Blending Ltd. with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.; Kochi Refineries Ltd. with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

(c) Government have set up Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) to consider and recommend inter-alia, restructuring – financial, organizational and business (including diversification, joint ventures, seeking strategic partners, merger and acquisition) – of CPSEs. Based on the recommendations of BRPSE, Government have approved revival plans of 26 CPSEs.

[English]

Failure of Diesel Locomotive

3168. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains that suffered detention on account of Diesel-Locos failure and the revenue losses on this account during the last three years, zone wise;

(b) whether any remedial action have been taken by the Railways;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Low Visibility Landings

3169. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to make arrangements for low visibility landings at smaller airports to ease traffic congestion at major airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the airports which are identified for providing necessary infrastructural facilities; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has planned to install Instrument Landing System (ILS) at Lilabari, Silchar, Gaya, Surat, Gordia, Dehradun, Porbandar, Belguam, Hubli, Vijaywada, Tirupati and Port Blair airports, in a phased manner by September, 2009.

Modernisation of Non-Metro Airports

3170. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is moving swiftly to modernise 30 non-metro airports with the help of private players;

(b) if so, the details of the airports identified by the Airports Authority of India, State-wise;

(c) whether no airport from Andhra Pradesh has been identified for modernisation;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the proposal has been scrutinised by the Committee on infrastructure; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (f) With the approval of Committee on Infrastructure (COI) it has been decided to modernise 35 non-metro airports. The air side of all these airports would be developed by Airports Authority of India

(AAI). However, the city side development of the following 24 out of 35 Non-Metro Airports would be taken up through Private Sector Participation:

Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Guwahati (Assam), Raipur (Chattisgarh), Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Vadodara (Gujarat), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Trivandrum (Kerala), Mangalore (Karnataka), Aurangabad (Maharashtra) Bhopal, Indore, Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh), Dimapur (Nagaland), Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Amritsar (Punjab), Jaipur, Udaipur (Rajasthan), Madurai, Trichy (Tamil Nadu), Agartala (Tripura), Lucknow, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Dehradun (Uttarakhand).

Model Railway Stations in Orissa

3171. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some railway stations in the East Coast Railway Zone have been declared as Model Stations;

(b) if so, the names thereof and the details of the developmental work undertaken at each of these stations; and

(c) the amount sanctioned and spent during the last three years on this project, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Following 23 railway stations have been identified as Model stations on East Coast Railway:

(1) Puri (2) Berhampur (3) Bhubaneswar (4) Cuttack (5) Palasa (6) Vizianagram (7) Srikakulam (8) Visakhapatnam (9) Bhadrak (10) Khurda Road (11) Sambalpur (12) Balugaon (13) Sambalpur Road (14) Rayagada (15) Jajpur Keonjhar Road (16) Titlagarh (17) Denkanhal (18) Badakhandata (19) Byree (20) Golantra (21) Kapilas Road (22) Rahma (23) Suria Road.

Details of the developmental works undertaken at above stations are given in statement enclosed.

(c) Details of amount sanctioned and spent at these stations during the last three years, State-wise are given below:

(Figures in thousands of Rupees)

Year	Orissa		Andhra Pradesh	
	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Spent	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Spent
2004-05	22978	9518	1682	103
2005-06	31790	16517	5562	2333
2006-07	60796	47155	14002	12378

Statement

(1) Puri –

- (1) PF sheds on platform no. 4 & 5 of 16 bays – Work completed
- (2) Air-conditioning of upper class waiting hall – Work completed
- (3) Provision of Plasma screen based reservation availability status display system – Work completed
- (4) Provision of platform chairs, furnitures including baggage rakes for VIP rooms, waiting halls, retiring rooms and dormitories – Work completed
- (5) Improvement of illumination, fannage and signage facilities – Work completed
- (6) Provision of high mast in circulating area – Work completed
- (7) Provision of LED based display unit for coaches on PF 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 – Work completed
- (8) Augmentation of coaching maintenance facilities – Work completed
- (9) Provision of shelter over the concourse area of Passenger platform – Work completed
- (10) Proposed renovation of station building of Puri Rly station.
- (11) Proposed renovation of frontage of station building at Puri.

(2) Berhampur –

- (1) Supply of potable water – Work completed
- (2) Installation of water purifier at platform 1 of capacity of 400 LPH – Work completed
- (3) Provision of LED based display units for coaches – Work completed
- (4) Electrification of extended portion of platform – Work completed
- (5) Air-conditioning of booking office – Work completed
- (6) Provision of platform chairs, furniture's including baggage rakes for ViP rooms, waiting halls, retiring rooms and dormitories – Work completed
- (7) Provision of Plasma screen based time table – Work completed.

- (8) Provision of RDSO type platform shelter in replacement of existing platform cover on platform – 2 & 3 at BAM. baggage rakes for VIP rooms, waiting halls, retiring rooms and dormitories – Work completed
- (9) Provision of cover shed in front of station building at BAM. (5) Provision of LED based display units for coaches on platform 1, 2 & 3 – Work completed
- (10) Extension of Platform no. 1, 2, 3 & additional FOB. (6) Improvement to goods terminal facilities – Work completed
- (3) Bhubaneswar –** (7) Improvement to circulating area, platform shelter and Display system etc. – Work completed.
- (1) Renovation of booking office and upper class ladies waiting hall – Work completed (8) Provision of cover shed in front of station building at CTC station.
- (2) Renovation of station building – Work completed (9) Proposed shifting of Booking counters to the main concourse & developing the main concourse as facilitation centre & renovation of 1st class & 2nd class waiting hall at CTC station.
- (3) Installation of carriage water pipe line for watering in platform no. 1 & 3 – Work completed (5) **Palasa –**
- (4) Air-conditioning of booking office, upper class ladies waiting hall – Work completed (1) Extension of platform for 24 coaches has been completed
- (5) Provision of LED based display unit for coach guidance – Work completed (6) **Vizianagaram –**
- (6) Provision of Plasma screen based reservation availability status display system – Work completed (1) Extension of platform no. 1, 4 & 5 for 24 coaches completed.
- (7) Electrification of extended portion of platform – Work completed (2) Pay & Use toilet provided.
- (8) Provision of platform chairs, furniture's including baggage rakes for VIP rooms, waiting halls, retiring rooms and dormitories – Work completed (7) **Srikakulam –**
- (9) Provision of guidance display boards for coach position in a single row – Work completed (1) Green patches & landscape developed.
- (10) BBS: Addl. Stabling line at Coaching complex – Work completed (2) Pay & use toilet provided.
- (11) BBS: Yard Remodeling completed – Work completed (3) Extension of platform to 24 coaches.
- (12) Washable apron at Platform no.1 & 3. (8) **Visakhapatnam –**
- (13) Improvement of circulating area & covered chod on platform no-1. (1) Additional circulating area of 800 sqm has been generated by dismantling old dilapidated shade near parcel office.
- (14) Provision of FOB 3.66 Mtr. In replacement of existing FOB at Bhubaneswar. (2) Green patch & ornamental plantation has been done in the approach station.
- (4) Cuttack –** (3) 6.1 M wide additional FOB has been provided.
- (1) New booking office and circulating area for 2nd entry – Work completed (4) 2 Murals have been developed.
- (2) Renovation of PRS building – Work completed (5) Landscape developed at south end of the station
- (3) To circulating area in connection with 2nd entry – Work completed (6) Washable apron on line No.5 completed
- (4) Provision of platform chairs, furniture's including (7) 4 bays platform shelter on platform no.4&5 provided.
- (8) Additional Platform on Gnanapuram side constructed.
- (9) Extension of platform no. 1, 2 & 3 for 24 coaches completed.

(9) Bhadrak –

- (1) Extension of two bays RDSO type platform shelter on platform -1 & 2 towards Kurda Road end.
- (2) Proposed improvement to circulating area, Booking counter & provision of water fountain.
- (3) Provision of cover shed in front of station building.

(10) Khurda Road –

- (1) Extension of platform for 24 coaches has been completed

(11) Sambalpur –

- (1) Improvement of Platform surface with Kota stone flooring.
- (2) Provision of Foot over bridge connecting platform –1 to platform – 2.
- (3) Improvement to Upper class waiting room, Ladies waiting room & 2nd class waiting hall.
- (4) Improvement to VIP Lounge.
- (5) Increased provision of platform shelters.
- (6) Beautification of Platform area with development of lawns.
- (7) Development of circulating area with high mast lighting.
- (8) Provision of Pay & use toilet.
- (9) Provision of touch screen enquiry system.
- (10) Provision of NTES.
- (11) Train indication Board.

(12) Balugaon –

- (1) Proposed remodeling of station building at Balugaon station.
- (2) Extension of platform for 24 coaches has been completed.

(13) Sambalpur Road – It is to mention here that the Division/HQ is not proposing any developmental work at Sambalpur Road since the entire station profile is going to be changed as a consequence of JSG – SBP doubling line project & it is also proposed to close station after the said doubling.

(14) Rayagada –

- (1) Carriage watering arrangements in between Line Nos.3&4 completed.

- (2) 2 bays platform shelter provided.

- (3) Extension of Platforms for 24 coaches completed.

- (4) Improvement to booking office & waiting hall completed.

(15) Jajpur – Keonjhar Road –

- (1) Proposed provision of platform cover on platform no.-2 along with service building improvised shed & improvement to platform surface with engraving of platform edges on platform no. 1.

(16) Titlagarh –

- (1) Improvement of Passenger Reservation System.
- (2) Provision of Pay & use toilet.
- (3) Improvement of Platform surface with kota stone flooring on platform -3.
- (4) Renovation of upper class waiting hall & VIP lounge.
- (5) Improvement of Platform coach watering facilities.
- (6) Improvement Retiring room (in progress), 1st class waiting hall & 10 bedded dormitory.
- (7) Extension/Raising of Platform no.,1 from low level to high level to accommodate 24 coaches length.

(17) Dhenkanal –

1. Retiring Room facility provided.
2. Common & 2nd class waiting hall provided.
3. Parking/circulating area provided.
4. Public address system provided.
5. Circulating area light provided.
6. IVRS – completed.
7. Train indicator board – provided.
8. Water Coolers – provided
9. Signages – provided
10. Modulars catering stalls – provided.

(18) Badakhandatia –

1. Common waiting hall provided.
2. Parking/ circulating area provided.

(19) Byree –

1. Common waiting hall provided.
2. Parking/circulating area provided.

(20) Golantra –

1. Common waiting hall provided.

(21) Kapilash Road

1. Retiring Room facility provided.
2. Common waiting hall provided.
3. Parking/circulating area provided.
4. Public address system provided.
5. Circulating area light provided.

(22) Rahma –

1. Common waiting hall provided.
2. Parking/circulating area provided.
3. Circulating area light provided.

(23) Suria Road –

1. Common waiting hall provided.

**Constitutional Status of National Commission
for Minorities**

3172. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has made any recommendations with regard to giving Constitutional status to the National Commission for Minorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has studied the recommendations;

(d) if so, the reasons behind the delay in conferring Constitutional status to National Commission for Minorities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI. A.R. ANTULAY): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps in Bihar

3173. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies and petrol pumps operating in Darbhanga, Bihar;

(b) whether LPG agencies operating in Darbhanga are openly indulging in black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Government against the guilty gas agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) As on 1.8.2007, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are operating 7 LPG distributorships and 38 Retail outlets (R.Os) in Darbhanga, Bihar.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. OMCs have not reported any instance of black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders in Darbhanga in the last one year.

(d) Action against the erring distributors is taken in accordance with the provisions under the LPG Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). In addition to the action taken by the OMCs under the MDG, State Governments are empowered to take action against illegal use of domestic LPG.

The following measures have been taken to prevent the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes:

- i) Under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of OMCs is prohibited. The State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of this Order. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.
- (ii) The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godown, delivery point, as well as en-route to ensure that no diversion/black marketing takes place. In terms of the MDG, in case of establishment of any diversion/ black marketing of domestic LPG cylinder for commercial purposes, the following action is taken against the distributor:-

Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.

Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence, and

Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

- (iii) Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/malpractice to the OMCs.
- (iv) Government have advised OMCs to introduce different colours for domestic & non-domestic cylinders. This is expected to help in controlling the diversion of domestic LPG for unauthorized use.

[English]

Shifting of Nanded Railway Division

3174. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have any proposal to transfer the Nanded Railway Division from South Central Railway to Central Railway; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

Mahakal Temple Orissa

3175. SHRI MOHAN JENA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of the reconstruction of the 'Mahakal Temple' near the Buddhist site at Ratnagiri in Jajpur district, Orissa;
- (b) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on this project;
- (c) the cost and time overrun on this project;
- (d) the reasons for delay in completion of the reconstruction; and
- (e) the time by which the construction will now be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Reconstruction of the main temple of 'Mahakal' near the Buddhist site at Ratnagiri has been completed. However, works relating to other ancillary structures are in progress.

An expenditure of Rs.21.36 lakhs has been incurred so far and around Rs.20.00 lakhs is required for completing the remaining works.

Conservation work is a slow process. Only after a thorough study and documentation, reconstruction work of the main temple was taken up and completed as per approved programme. The remaining works are scheduled for completion within a year.

Setting up of Oil Refinery at Paradip

3176. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether setting up of Oil Refinery at Paradip was planned and project report was framed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the final decision has been taken by the State Government of Orissa for land acquisition and compensation along with other related matters;
- (d) if so, the progress made so far on each component of the project work; and
- (e) the total fund provided and spend on this project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) prepared for Paradip Refinery Project, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) is setting up a new Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex at Paradip in Orissa with an installed capacity of 15 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) at an estimated cost of about Rs.25,846 crore with completion schedule as October, 2011.

(c) The land acquisition was carried out by Orissa Government by consent agreement under section 11(2) of the Land Acquisition Act based on the compensation package for private land fixed by Orissa Government in October, 1999. IOC has already acquired 3347 acres of land for Paradip Refinery Project.

(d) The progress made on the various components of the project is as under:-

- (i) Construction of bridges over Santra Creek, construction of about 7 KM and approach road (including Railway over-bridge) for the Refinery connecting NH-5A to Refinery site have been completed.
- (ii) Technological selection for all major units has been completed.
- (iii) Residential accommodation for construction phase, CISF colony, coastal approach road, green belt development etc. are under various stages of construction.

(iv) Project Management Consultant (PMC) has been selected for Front End Engineering and Design (FEED) phase of the project on 1.12.06.

(v) Environmental clearance for the project has been received on 6.7.2007.

(e) An amount of Rs.2281.87 crore has been sanctioned for Paradip Refinery Project for carrying out pre-project activities, out of which, Rs.778.32 crore has been spent as on 31.7.2007.

Fuel Efficiency Norms for Vehicles

3177. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

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

(a) whether the Government is proposing to impose fuel efficiency norms for vehicles in a bid to limit the consumption of petroleum products;

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

(c) whether the Government has assessed its impact on car manufacturing companies as well as on consumers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) to (d) As per information provided by Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 does not mandate for prescribing fuel efficiency norms for vehicles.

Fake Connections

3178. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SKO/LDO and LPG Distributorships of oil PSU's are not being operated by the original allottees;

(b) the number of SKO/LDO/LPG agencies have been fully reconstituted in the names of financial partners inducted in the firm later on the basis of frivolous grounds;

(c) whether the Government would conduct enquiry regarding the issue of fake connections by these distributorships during the last five years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government/Oil Corporations would

conduct the mandatory enquiry regarding the issue of new connections, refills and supply of underweight cylinders; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action would be taken against the erring dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not reported any instance in the country where SKO/LDO dealerships and LPG distributorships are not being operated by the original allottees.

(b) OMCs have not reported any instance of SKO/LDO agencies and LPG distributorships which have been constituted in the names of financial partners inducted on the basis of frivolous grounds. All proposals relating to re-constitution of SKO/LDO/LPG dealerships/distributorships have been approved as per laid down guidelines, in case of any discrepancy between the proposal and the laid down guidelines, these are brought to the attention of the dealer/distributor concerned for rectification to enable the company to process the proposal.

(c) to (f) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

However, distributors are subjected to periodic inspections wherein various activities of distributorship are examined, including the release of new connections, supply of refills etc. Checks are also being carried out at the godowns and the delivery vehicles while on their way to deliver cylinders, to detect supply of under weight cylinders.

Action against the erring distributors is taken in accordance with the provisions under the LPG Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). In addition to the action taken by the OMCs under the MDG, State Governments are empowered to take action against illegal use of domestic LPG.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints regarding black marketing/supply of underweight cylinders, these are investigated and if the complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the LPG distributors concerned in accordance with the provisions of the LPG Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). MDG provides for following action against the distributor:-

Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.

Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence, and

Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State

Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply & Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against black marketing of domestic LPG. Similarly, the Weights and Measures Departments of the State/UT initiate legal action against those LPG distributors found supplying under-weight LPG cylinders. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorised usage.

Government have also issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/malpractice to the OMCs.

Further, LPG distributors are also under instructions to ensure 100% weightment of cylinders at their godown before delivery at the customers' premises. In a bid to enhance customer satisfaction levels, distributors in selected markets have been advised by OMCs to provide a spring balance to enable the customer to verify the correctness of the weight of LPG in the cylinder. OMCs have introduced this scheme in major markets of the country.

The officials of OMCs also carry out random checks at distributors godown, delivery point, as well as en-route to ensure that no pilferage takes place. The distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to check the weight of cylinders at their godowns before delivery, and only cylinders with the specified weight are to be delivered to the customers. The distributors have also been instructed to ensure that the seals are verified & shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced with a fresh refill cylinder without any charges levied by the OMCs.

Permission to Operate Russian Carriers

3179. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has decided to allow Russian carriers to operate flights between the two countries after Russia also allowed the Indian carriers to use their Airspace;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the operation of flights proposed to be started between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The Russian designated airlines continue to operate services to/from India in accordance with the bilateral traffic rights agreed between

the two sides. During the bilateral air services talks held between the two sides on 14 June 2007 in Moscow some pending issues between the two sides were resolved.

[Translation]

Comprehensive Programme for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes

3180. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take steps to prepare a comprehensive programme for educational and economic development of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The Government of India have been implementing the following schemes for educational and economic development of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes:-

For Scheduled Castes

- i. Post-matric Scholarship for SC students.
- ii. National Overseas Scholarship.
- iii. Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship.
- iv. Special Component Plan/Special Central Assistance for economic development of Scheduled Castes.
- v. Top Class Education Scholarship,
- vi. Scheme of Free Coaching for SC & OBC students,
- vii. Scheme of Upgradation of Merit for SCs.
- viii. Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for the Children of those Engaged in Unclean occupations
- ix. Scheme of Hostel for SC boys and girls.
- x. National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation for providing credit facilities to persons belonging to scheduled castes living below double the poverty line for income generating activities.
- xi. Equity support to Scheduled Castes Development Corporations to provide financial assistance to SC families.
- xii. Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organizations working for the SCs for general/technical/vocational education and income generating activities.

For Other Backward Classes

- i. Pre-matric Scholarship for OBC students.
- ii. Post-matric Scholarship for OBC students.
- iii. Scheme of Hostel for OBC boys and girls.
- iv. Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of OBCs to improve the educational and socio-economic conditions of OBCs through skill Upgradation.
- v. National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation to provide additional channel of finance for economically and financially viable projects and to upgrade the technological and entrepreneurial skills of individuals or groups belonging to OBCs.

[English]

**Reservation for Non-Hindu and
Other Backward Classes**

3181. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of reservation for non-Hindu and Other Backward Classes, earmarked by the Mandal Commission and the share of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and Buddhists out of non-Hindu OBCs;
- (b) whether the State Governments have notified the Schedule of non-Hindu OBCs during last 20 years;
- (c) if so, the list of non-Hindu OBCs, State-wise;
- (d) whether it is a fact that many States do not have separate list of non-Hindu OBCs;
- (e) if so, the steps taken to have a separate list of non-Hindu OBCs in each State;

(f) the numbers of non-Hindu OBCs who got appointment or admission etc. in the Central Government establishments during last three years;

(g) whether the figures suggest that non-Hindu OBCs get their due shares of reservation as per Mandal Commission report; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (h) The Mandal Commission had not recommended separate reservation for non-Hindu OBCs and as such, the Central List of OBCs is not drawn on the basis of religion. The State/Union Territories also do not have any separate list of non-Hindu OBCs.

Consequently, religion-wise data of OBCs is not maintained.

[Translation]

Visit to Foreign Countries by Ministers

3182. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the countries visited by the then Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas from August, 2005 to August, 2007 alongwith the objectives of those visits; and
- (b) the success achieved through these visits in the field of Petroleum and Natural Gas alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b)

Sl. No.	Country visited and Period	Objectives of the visits and the successes achieved
1	2	3
1.	Norway, Iceland and Bangladesh Aug -Sept, 2005.	<p>The Minister visited Norway at the invitation of his counterpart to discuss cooperation between the two countries. Norway is a major oil exporter and a world leader in deepsea drilling. A meeting of the Joint Working Group in the Hydrocarbon Sector also took place during the visit. The Minister visited Iceland to pursue cooperation in hydrogen fuel technology.</p> <p>The Minister also paid a one-day visit to Bangladesh to discuss the Myanmar-India Pipeline. During this visit, he met the Bangladesh Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Finance Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, and had substantial delegation-level discussions with the Energy Adviser to the Prime Minister.</p>
2.	Russia, Kazakhstan, Japan	The Minister visited Sakhalin (Russia) to participate in the "First Oil" function in the project, in which ONGC is a stakeholder. He also had discussions with the

1	2	3
	and Republic of Korea September, 2005.	<p>Russian Energy Minister on the Agenda of the Round Table of North and Central Asian Oil Ministers scheduled to be held in New Delhi, in November 2005.</p> <p>He visited Japan and Republic of Korea briefly during this tour and held consultations with his counterpart Ministers on a wide range of issues, including follow up the decisions of the Asian Oil Ministers' Round Table held in January 2005 and preparations for the North and Central Asian Oil Ministers' Round Table held in New Delhi, in November 2005. Several matters of bilateral interest were pursued in regard to R&D and technology cooperation, energy conservation, storage, etc.</p> <p>He also visited Kazakhstan to deliver the key-note address at the Kazakh Oil & Gas Conference, KIOGE, 2005.</p>
3.	Saudi Arabia and Qatar November, 2005	<p>In Saudi Arabia, the Minister attended the inauguration of the Secretariat building of the International Energy Forum in Riyadh. He chaired the Inaugural Session of the event where he projected India's perspectives on the global and regional energy dialogue.</p> <p>In Qatar, the Minister addressed the International Petroleum Technology Conference. He also had substantial bilateral discussions with his counterpart Minister on LNG supplies to India.</p>
4.	China January, 2006	<p>The Minister visited China at the invitation of his counterpart, the Chairman of the National Development & Reforms Commission (NDRC). During this visit, an inter-Governmental MOU on Cooperation in the Hydrocarbon Sector and several other MOUs between Indian and Chinese organizations/companies were signed. This visit laid the foundation of a substantial, long-term bilateral cooperation in different areas of the Hydrocarbon sector, including joint bids for assets in third countries, and cooperation in regard to R&D, technology, storage, conservation and promotion of environment friendly fuels.</p>
5.	U.K. (London) USA (Houston, Washington) March-April, 2006.	<p>Minister visited London for promotional road-shows for New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VI) and Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy (CBM-III). As a result of this 36 foreign companies participated in NELP-VI and 8 in CBM-III respectively.</p> <p>Minister visited London for finalization/signing of MOUs between DGH and Imperial College/University of Aberdeen in upstream technology.</p>
6.	Qatar (Doha) April, 2006	<p>Minister visited Doha for participation in the 10th International Energy Forum (IEF) and 2nd International Energy Business Forum (IEBF).</p> <p>IEF is an organization consisting of major oil producing and consuming countries. India is a member of this organization and also member of its executive board. Minister's participation in its meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen dialogue between producing and consuming nations.</p>
7.	China (Shanghai) June, 2006 Kazakhstan (Almaty) June, 2006	<p>Minister visited Shanghai to represent India at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). India is one of the observer country in SCO. Minister sought greater involvement of India as observer in SCO's activities related to economic, energy, cultural and counter terrorism cooperation. Minister visited Almaty to attend the 2nd Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). The Joint delegation adopted in the conference envisaged possible cooperation in identified areas such as energy security, construction and development of transportation and tele-communication network and gas pipelines.</p>

1	2	3
8.	Austria (Vienna) and U.K. (London) September, 2006	<p>Minister visited Vienna for participation in the 3rd OPEC International Seminar and London to participate in the 5th Annual Eurasia Conference on Business Prospects and Geo-politics in Central Eurasia at the Cambridge University's Judge Business School.</p> <p>The Minister put across India's concerns relating to high petroleum prices, he also promoted the need for dialogue and cooperation between producer and consumer countries.</p>
9.	Russia (Moscow) October, 2006	<p>Minister visited Moscow to participate in the Inaugural Ceremony of the International Energy Week "Moscow Energy Dialogue".</p> <p>Discussed on the outcome and the means of implementation of the decisions taken at the G8 Summit, 2006 in the field of providing global energy security. The occasion was also utilized for bilateral meetings between the Indian and Russian officials for the development of mutual cooperation between India and Russia in the field of Hydrocarbons.</p>
10.	China (Beijing) December, 2006	<p>Minister visited Beijing to attend 5 major oil consuming countries Energy Ministers Summit (USA/China/Republic of Korea/Japan/India).</p> <p>Ministers participated in a Round Table has provided an opportunity to interact with the 4 major energy consuming countries like USA, China, Republic of Korea and Japan. In this sidelines of Round Table, a MOU with China was signed for cooperation in the area of Joint efforts for exploration and production in third countries. Minister also had a bilateral dialogue with these countries.</p>
11.	Libya and Yemen January-February, 2007	Minister visited Libya and Yemen to enhance India's presence in the upstream and downstream sectors in Libya and Yemen.
12.	Syria, Algeria, Egypt and Iran (April, 2007)	The visit of a delegation led by Minister to these countries was extremely significant to enhance bilateral and mutual cooperation with these countries in the hydrocarbon sector.
13.	Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) May, 2007	To attend 2nd round table meeting of Asian Ministers' on Regional Cooperation in Oil and Gas Economy. All the major oil producing as well as consuming Asian countries participated in the meeting. Minister had bilateral meetings with Iraqi and Kuwaiti counterparts to ensure uninterrupted crude oil supply from these countries and also proposed collaboration in R&D activities of these countries. While addressing round table, Minister raised issue of Energy Security and appealed for optimum explorations of hydrocarbons, augmentation of regional oil and gas transport infrastructure, expansion and modernization of refining infrastructure and exchange of information and development of knowledge.
14.	France, Paris 31st May to 1st June, 2007	Addressed Ministerial conference on energy in a changing world at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. On the sidelines of the conference, Minister had one-to-one meeting with Russian Minister of Energy and Sudanese Minister of Energy and discussed the interest of Indian Oil and gas companies in Russia and Sudan.
15.	Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) August, 2007	Minister visited to Bishkek to lead the delegation to attend the 7th summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). India is one of the observer country in SCO. Minister sought greater involvement of India as observer in SCO's wide ranging activities which are of relevance to the socio-economic progress and development of the region by sharing its experiences and expertise for economic growth and technological advancement.

[English]

Tricentenary of Gur-Ta-Gaddi

3183. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from Maharashtra Government for financial assistance to Commemorate the Tricentenary of 'Gur-ta-Gaddi' event at Sachkhand Sahib Gurudwara, Nanded, to be held in 2008;

(b) if so, the details of the plans alongwith financial assistance sought by the Maharashtra State Government; and

(c) the action taken by Government on the request?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The State Government of Maharashtra has planned a number of projects and programmes at a total cost of Rs. 817 crore (pre-revised) for commemoration of Tercentenary of Gur-ta-Gaddi at Nanded. These projects are being funded mainly under Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission of the Urban Development Ministry of Government of India, contribution from Nanded Waghala City Municipal Corporation, State Government of Maharashtra, etc. The important components include (i) Development of City infrastructure; (ii) Gurudwara related developments; and (iii) event infrastructure developments.

S.No.	Name of section	Year of inclusion in Budget	KM.	Cost (Rs. in Crs.)	Targets wherever fixed
1.	Aunrihar-Jaunpur	2003-04	50.60	85.75	-
2	Bhojpur-Philibhit-Tanakpur	2007-08	101.79	145.00	
3	Gonda-Bahraich	1997-98	60.00	73.42	
4	Gonda-Gorakhpur loop with Anand nagar-Nautanwa	1997-98	260.00	381.17	Gorakhpur loop with Anandnagar-Nautanwa 2008-09.
5.	Kanpur-Kasganj and Mathura-Bareilly & Bareilly-Lalkuan	1997-98	545.00	661.72	Kanpur-Farukhabad-Kasganj completed. Kasganj-Mathura targeted for completion during 2007-08.
6.	Kaptanganj Thawe-Siwan-Chhapra	1999-2000	233.50	325.1	Siwan-Thawe 28.5 km completed.
7.	Mathura-Achhnera	1995-96	35.00	33.67	-

The Government of India have also constituted a National Committee with Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Union Home Minister as Chairperson and the Chief Minister of Maharashtra as Co-Chairperson to approve policies, plans and programmes and supervise and guide the commemoration of Gur-ta-Gaddi celebrations at Nanded to be held in 2008.

Gauge Conversion in Uttar Pradesh

3184. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of narrow gauge meter gauge rail tracks still in use in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the time schedule fixed for commencement and completion of conversion work of narrow gauge/meter gauge lines into broad gauge lines, section-wise; and

(c) the estimated expenditure on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) About 1470 kms. of Meter Gauge/Narrow Gauge lines are existing and in use in Uttar Pradesh. Out of this, only 2.60 kms is Narrow Gauge and balance Meter Gauge.

(b) and (c) Details of ongoing projects of gauge conversion falling fully/partly in Uttar Pradesh with their anticipated cost, targets wherever fixed are given as under:-

Computerised Rail Reservation Facility

3185. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway stations where computerised reservation facility has not yet been made available; and

(b) the action plan prepared by the Railways to provide computerised reservation facility at these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are approximately 8000 stations of different categories on Indian Railways. Facility of computerized reservation is available at 1110 Railway stations.

(b) Provision of computerized reservations has been sanctioned at another 1150 stations. Remaining stations do not qualify for provision of computerized reservation as per extant Government policy.

[English]

IA Flights from Hyderabad

3186. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Indian Airlines flights in operation as on date alongwith their routes from Hyderabad Airport;

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce more direct flights from Hyderabad to Delhi and other metropolitan cities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The National Aviation Company of India Ltd. (NACIL), in which Indian Airlines has merged, currently operates 14 flights per week on Delhi-Hyderabad-Delhi sector; 7 flights per week on Delhi-Hyderabad-Tirupati & return, Vizag-Hyderabad-Vizag and Hyderabad- Bangalore-Hyderabad; 21 flights per week on

Chennai- Hyderabad-Chennai; 2 flights per week on Hyderabad-Pune-Hyderabad all with A-320 aircraft and 28 flights per week on Mumbai- Hyderabad-Mumbai with A-320/ A319 aircraft on the domestic sectors.

NACIL also operates 14 flights on Hyderabad-Dubai-Hyderabad sector; 4 flights on Hyderabad-Bangalore-Sharjah; 3 flights per week on Hyderabad-Ahmedabad-Sharjah and Hyderabad-Bangalore-Muscat; 2 flights on Pune-Hyderabad-Singapore, Hyderabad-Nagpur-Bangkok and Hyderabad-Ahmedabad-Kuwait; 1 flight on Hyderabad-Singapore-Hyderabad all with A-320 aircraft on international routes.

(b) and (c) With the induction of additional aircraft in its fleet NACIL plans to expand its operations to/from metro cities, including Hyderabad.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Doubling of Gorakhpur-Lucknow Railway Line

3187. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have accorded approval to the proposal for doubling of Gorakhpur-Lucknow railway line under North-Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure to be incurred on this project;

(d) the amount sanctioned and released for this purpose so far; and

(e) the time by which the aforesaid work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) to (e) On Gorakhpur-Lucknow route, a double line already exists from Lucknow to Barabanki section and for balance portion of Barabanki-Gorakhpur doubling work has been taken up in patches. The details are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

S.I No.	Name of the project	Anticipated Cost	Expenditure upto Mar' 07	Outlay 2007-08	Status and target wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Babhnan-Mankapur (30.15 Kms)	62.89	21	45	Earthwork, bridges work have been taken up. Targeted for completion in 2007-08.

1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Barabanki-Burhwal (39 Kms)	73.22	0	1	New work included in the Budget 2007-08 and preliminary arrangements are being made to take up the work.
3	Ghagharaghat- Chowkaghat (5.63 Kms)	91.19	5	31	Tender for earthwork and bridges work are under process. Likely to be completed during 2008-09.
4	Gorakhpur-Sahjanwa (17.3 Kms)	69.8	53	27	Gorakhpur-Domingarh (6 Kms) completed. Domingarh-Sahjanwa (11.7 Kms) is targeted for completion in 2007-08.
5	Munderwa-Babhnan (45.25 Kms)	102.1	15	60	Earthwork, bridges work, etc. have been taken up.
6	Sahjanwa-Munderwa patch doubling (32.19 Kms)	80.95	10	50	Earthwork, minor bridge work have been completed, Part of the project from Sahjanwa to Khalilabad (17 Kms) is targeted for completion in 2007-08.

[English]

Helicopter Services in States

3188. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has given permission to the North-Eastern States particularly Nagaland, for operating helicopter services within their States;

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

(c) whether the Government also proposes to extend the helicopter service to other parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The Government has decided that the Ministry of Home Affairs would provide subsidy to the Government of Nagaland for operations of helicopter services in the state on the pattern of subsidy similar to other North Eastern states. At present helicopter services are being operated by Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura and Sikkim in the North East region, while M/s. Jagson Airlines operates helicopter services to Arunachal Pradesh only.

Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. provides helicopters on wet lease basis to the state Government/Government Agencies/ Private parties etc. as per their requirement.

Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. has submitted a proposal to the State Government of Nagaland for operating helicopter services. Government has issued Non-Scheduled Operators permit to several private companies to operate Helicopter services in the country as per their business plan.

New Rail Line between Langigarh to Junagarh

3189. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a broad gauge railway line is being constructed from Langigarh Road to Junagarh in the district of Kalahandi;

(b) if so, the total cost of the project and the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(c) whether the Railways have conducted any survey for construction of Railway line from Junagarh to Ambaguda under East Coast Railway Zone;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) The latest sanctioned cost of Lanjigarh Road-

Junagarh (56 Kms) new line project is Rs. 142.98 crore. Lanjigarh-Bhawanipatna (31 Kms) section is targeted for completion during 2008-09.

(c) and (d) No survey has been done in the recent past.

(e) Does not arise as the project is not sanctioned.

[Translation]

Duty Free Shops

3190. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the objectives to be achieved through setting up of duty free shops by Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC);

(b) the places where duty free shops have already been set up by ITDC, State-wise;

(c) whether the ITDC has any plan to set up duty free shops at SEZs, seaports and airports;

(d) if so, the locations identified therefor;

(e) the time by which these shops are likely to be set up; and

(f) the details of the products to be sold at these duty free shops?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The objectives of the duty free shops of ITDC are sale of handlooms, handicraft products and imported general merchandise.

(b) The ITDC is presently running duty free shops at airports in the following places:-

1. Mumbai (Maharashtra)
2. Bangalore (Karnataka)
3. Calicut (Kerala)
4. Goa

(c) to (f) The setting up of duty free shops at SEZs and seaports is at the initial stage of discussion with the authorities concerned for taking over the requisite space.

[English]

Acquisition of Land by Railways

3191. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of acquisition of land for Bargachhia-Champadanga section of Howrah-Amta-Champadanga Broad gauge line under South Eastern Railway;

(b) the total cost of the acquisition of land;

(c) whether the cost of acquisition of land would be borne by the Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The land papers for part-length have been filed with State Authorities. The land is yet to be handed over by State Government.

(b) The assessment of total cost of land involved has not been done as the land cost is to be borne by State Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) State Government had committed to provide land free of cost.

National Federation of Indian Railways

3192. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting was held between National Federation of Indian Railways and the Union Government;

(b) if so, the points discussed in the meeting;

(c) the details of the major demand of the Federation; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) to (d) Every year two PNM (Permanent Negotiating Machinery) meetings with NFIR (National Federation of Indian Railwaymen) and AIRF (All India Railwaymen's Federation) separately and two DC-JCM (Departmental Council-Joint Consultative Machinery) meetings with both NFIR and AIRF are scheduled to be held. During the last calendar year all PNM meetings with NFIR and DC-JCM meetings were held. During this calendar year one DC-JCM meeting has already been held. The next PNM meeting with NFIR has been fixed for 17th & 18th September, 2007. In each meeting 30 new items alongwith old items pertaining to various service matters

particularly pay-scales, allowances, seniority, promotions, welfare activities, medical services/ health care, maintenance of railway colonies and quarters etc. are discussed and action taken on the decision arrived at in the meetings.

[Translation]

Free Rail Travel Facility to Disabled Persons

3193. SHRI CHANDRA BHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have made provisions for free rail travel facility to the people who become disabled in train accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of persons who have been granted the said facility so far;

(c) if not, whether the Railways are considering to provide such facility; 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]

Doubling of Hospet and Konkan Railway Line

3194. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of doubling of railway line between Hospet & Konkan Railway;

(b) the reasons for delay in execution of the work on this project; and

(c) the time by which the work on this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A survey for doubling of Hospet-Hubli-Londa-Vasco-Da-Gama (342.22 kms) has been completed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). As per the survey report, the cost of doubling of this line has been assessed as Rs. 1837.95 crore.

(b) and (c) Do not arise as the work is not sanctioned.

Automatic Ticket Vending Machines

3195. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Railway Stations where Automatic Ticket Vending Machines have been installed and are functional at present;

(b) the time by which these machines are likely to be installed at all Railway Stations in the country;

(c) whether the Railways propose to introduce smart card particularly in suburban sections of Central and Western Railways;

(d) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs) have not yet been installed on Indian Railways for disbursing journey tickets. However, Platform Ticket Vending Machines are functional at Patnā, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Bangalore city, Bangalore Cantt, Mysore, Yeshwantpur and Krishnarajapuram stations of Indian Railways.

(b) Provision of approximately 6000 ATVMs at approximately 1400 locations has been sanctioned. These are proposed to be installed through 'Public Private Partnership' model subject to successful implementation of pilot project.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. A pilot project for installation of approximately 300 smart card based ATVMs in suburban stations of Central and Western Railways in Mumbai area will be undertaken by the end of year 2007.

Recommendation of National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM)

3196. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities has recommended amendment in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1951;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action being taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which the Government will implement this recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R.

ANTULAY): (a) to (d) The recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

Progress of Tourism Industry

3197. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the status of progress of tourism industry in the country during the last five years;

(b) the details of facilities available for imparting training in the various routes of tourism in the country;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up new Institutes/Training Centres in the country to impart training to provide skilled manpower in this field; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The foreign tourist arrival during the year 2002 was 2.38 million and this increased to 4.45 million in the year 2006.

(b) There are 21 Centrally sponsored, 5 State Governments sponsored Institutes of Hotel Management and 6 Food Crafts Institutes jointly sponsored by Central and State Govts. The Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior with centres at Bhubaneswar and NOIDA imparts training in travel trade. In addition, there are non governmental institutes in the country imparting Hospitality, travel and tourism education.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism supports setting up of need-based Institutes of Hotel Management on receipt of requests from the State Governments/UT Administration.

Profit Earned by Railways

3198. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that this year the Railway Budget has shown profit in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of the said profit proposed to be spent on sanitary conditions, as well as regarding coaches; and

(d) if so, the efforts of Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Railways have budgeted for a 'cash surplus of Rs.16082 cr after dividend' in the current year. This cash surplus is utilized to finance the Railways' Plan for augmentation of track & rolling stock and replacement & renewal of the Railway infrastructure.

(c) and (d) At present, around Rs.218 cr have been sanctioned for various works costing above Rs.50 lakh to bring about improvement in sanitary conditions of service buildings (including station buildings), Railway colonies and improving the condition of coaches including provision of green toilets. In the current year's Plan, an amount of Rs.23 cr (i.e., 0.14% of the above cash surplus) has been provided for undertaking these works. Works valuing less than Rs.50 lakh are undertaken by zonal railways under their powers.

Apart from above, about Rs.800 cr is to be spent on the sanitation of service buildings (including stations), residential colonies & welfare buildings and the coaches from out of the working expenses of the Railways which are incurred before arriving at the above surplus.

A special campaign has been launched to mark the year 2007 as 'cleanliness year'. Frontline staff are being imparted 'on the job customer care training' besides the class room training for a period of one year or so.

A number of stations have been selected on Indian Railways for developing them as Clean Train Stations. Railways are also making special efforts to improve the standards of cleanliness and hygiene in trains with special emphasis on rake cleaning in the depots during maintenance by going in for mechanized cleaning arrangements, enroute cleaning at Clean Train Stations wherever commissioned, cleaning during terminal attention at the other ends, comprehensive cockroach and rodent control in trains etc.

Revision/Increase in the Amount of Compensation Claims

3199. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering revising/increasing the amount of compensation claims given to the victims of trains accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not revising/increasing the amount of compensation claims and the time it was last revised?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) With effect from 1st November 1997, the amount of compensation in case of death was increased from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 4 lakhs. Similarly in case of injury, the minimum amount of compensation was increased from Rs. 16 thousand to Rs. 32 thousand and the maximum amount was increased from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 4 lakhs. At present, the rate of compensation is considered adequate.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Merit of Scheduled Castes Students

3200. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of awards fixed for the students of 9th to 12th standard belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) under the scheme meant for development of skills of SC students;

(b) whether the proposals regarding number of awards to be fixed in proportion to population have been forwarded by State Governments to the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the awards proposed by the State Governments are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) A total of 1045 awards have been fixed each for the students of 9th to 12th standard under the Central Sector Scheme of Upgradation of Merit of SC Students.

(b) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Norms and Incentives for Regional Airlines

3201. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRI J. M. AARON RASHID:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

SHRI M. APPADURAI:

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has notified separate norms and incentives for regional airlines aimed at providing better air connectivity in the remote areas and small towns;

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

(c) whether any regional airlines has shown interest on this move of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the cities where the air services are likely to be provided by these regional airlines;

(e) whether the Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted for considering several issues pertaining to aviation sector;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the issues considered and decision taken so far by the GoM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirement, Section 3- Air Transport Series 'C' Part VIII dated 23.8.2007 stipulating minimum requirements for grant of permit to operate scheduled regional air transport service.

The scheduled regional airlines will primarily operate in a designated region and will not be permitted to operate on the trunk routes indicated in the Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

(c) and (d) Three applications have been received for commencement of regional services in the southern region.

(e) to (g) Draft National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) is presently under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GoM).

Pushpa Gujaral Science City, Punjab

3202. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in completing and commissioning of the Pushpa Gujaral Science City, Kapurthala, Punjab;

(b) the amount spent on it so far; and

(c) by when the entire project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The first phase of Pushpa Gujaral Science City comprising of, amongst others, Large Format Film Project System, Flight Stimulator/Time Machine, Virtual Reality Centre (3-D Show), Indoor Laser Show, Exhibits on Space, Dynamotion Gallery, Health Gallery, Kids Park and Boating Facility have been completed and open to public w.e.f. 20th March, 2005.

The second phase of the project comprising of, amongst others, Evolution Gallery (Dinosaurs Park), Digital Planetarium, Upgradation of Space Gallery, Upgradation of Health & Biotechnology Gallery, Upgradation of Gallery on Dynamotion (Fun Science Gallery), Virtual Reality Gallery and Cyber Space, Science of Sports and Development of Park, is under progress.

So far, Govt. of India have released Rs. 65.01 crore and State Govt. of Punjab have released Rs. 22.36 crore for this project. The entire project is likely to be completed by September, 2008.

Installation of LPG Blast Testing Units

3203. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether LPG Blast Testing Units are installed at each LPG Bottling Plants all over the country;
- (b) if so, the capacity of each LPG Blast Testing Unit;
- (c) whether the capacity of these LPG Blast Testing Units is sufficient and fulfils the requirement of LPG Bottling Plants;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether all these LPG Blast Testing Units are following the prescribed norms and;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (f) No, Sir. LPG cylinders undergo hydrotests periodically at premises of the statutory tester. Sample cylinders are also tested for 'burst pressure' at the manufacturers premises, at the time of cylinder manufacturing. The burst test is not done at LPG bottling plants.

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

Cruise Tourism

3204. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the plan to attract cruise tourist from India and abroad;
- (b) the names of the ports identified so far for developing cruise tourism;

- (c) the expenditure to be incurred on this project;
- (d) the source from which the funds are to be generated for this purpose; and
- (e) the time by which it will be developed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Ministry of Tourism promotes cruise tourism through brochures, CDs and publicity materials distributed through its Indiatourism offices in the country and abroad.

(b) to (e) The Draft Cruise Shipping Policy of the Ministry of Shipping provides for development of ports in a phased manner.

Offset Policy

3205. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government's offset policy will bring aviation off shoring deals to the country as reported in the Times of India dated August 09, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details and the facts thereof;
- (c) whether this policy will benefit the domestic industry;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the quantum of funds to be brought to the country under the policy; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) to (f) Information is being collected.

Tap Gas Pipeline Agreement

3206. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

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

- (a) whether in view of the tough attitude adopted by Iran with regard to the proposed gas pipeline Government has decided to join the Turkmenistan-Afghan-Pakistan (TAP) gas pipeline project to meet India's energy requirement;
- (b) if so, the latest prospects of procurement of gas through TAP; and
- (c) the steps being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) to (c) In order to enhance the energy security for the country. Government is pursuing import of natural gas from Iran as well as from Turkmenistan through transnational gas pipelines. Regarding import of natural gas from Iran, various important issues are under discussions amongst the participating countries.

Regarding import of natural gas from Turkmenistan, an Indian delegation led by the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on February 14 and 15, 2006 to participate in the 9th Steering Committee Meeting of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) project as an 'Observer'. The Steering Committee invited India to become an official member of the project. Subsequently, after obtaining in-principle approval of the Government in May 2006, the matter was taken up with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the lead development partner of the project, in June 2006 to appropriately take up India's request for joining the project with the Governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan. During First Technical Working Group meeting held in Ashgabat on April 17-18, 2007, issues relating to gas reserves, gas availability, pricing structure, gas sales and Purchase Agreement, Framework and Inter-Governmental Agreement and key aspects of the pre-feasibility study by Technical Assistance consultant (PENSPEN, UK) requiring upgrading were discussed. Draft Framework Agreement has also been circulated by ADB for comments, for inclusion of India as an official member.

[Translation]

Dividend of GAIL (India) Ltd.

3207. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) the dividend of Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) during the first quarter of 2007-08;

(b) the percentage of sale growth of GAIL (India) Ltd. during the above period in comparison to first quarter of the year 2006-07; and

(c) the reasons for wide gap in sale and dividend enhancement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):
(a) No dividend has been declared by GAIL during the first quarter of 2007-08.

(b) Sales (net of Excise Duty) grew by 4% during the first quarter of 2007-08 in comparison to the same period in 2006-07.

(c) Does not arise, in view of reply to (a) above.

[English]

Kandla Palanpur Route

3208. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are possibilities to convert the route from Kandla to Palanpur as a part of dedicated freight corridor between Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is technically possible to provide such double stack container arrangements alongwith electrification on this route;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal under consideration for providing such double stack facility in any other part of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Kandla-Palanpur is an identified 'feeder route' to the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor.

(c) and (d) The technical feasibility of running Double Stack Container Trains with flat-type wagons using ISO (International Organization for Standardization) containers of 9½ feet under electric traction is under study.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways have initiated running of Double Stack Container trains on diesel route between Jaipur-Pipavav Port/Mundra Port. Trials have been conducted for running trains of non-ISO size double stack containers under electrified/non-electrified territory on Gurgaon-Rewari-Alwar-Mathura-Tuglakabad Section. Also, for running trains of double stack ISO high cube containers, Jakhapura-Daitari section, earmarked for electrification, has been identified.

HAL Airport

3209. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) airport at Bangalore is going to be closed on account of the construction of Bangalore International Airport at Devanahalli;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has taken stock of the aviation boom and the huge increase in air traffic in the last

few years and the likelihood congestion in air traffic due to the proposed closure of HAL airport; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In considering the proposal for setting up a Greenfield airport at Devanahalli, Bangalore, the Government had decided to close the existing Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) airport for commercial operations, once the new airport become operational.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Bangalore International Airport Limited has again conducted the traffic forecast recently and based on this forecast, in the first phase, the new Bangalore International Airport at Devanahalli is designed to handle the traffic for the year 2015.

Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes Students

3210. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of scholarship schemes presently implemented by the Government for the students of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs);

(b) the criteria adopted for selection of students under said schemes;

(c) the details of Central assistance allocated and released under the said schemes during 2006-07 and 2007-08, scheme-wise and State/UT-wise;

(d) the details of utilization of Central assistance released under the scholarship schemes by the State Governments and Union Territories/Administrations during 2006-07, scheme-wise and State/UT-wise; and

(e) the number of students benefited/to be benefited during 2006-07 and 2007-08, State/UT-wise and scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The Scheme of Post Matric scholarships to SC Students, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships for Providing Scholarships to SC students for pursuing higher studies and the scheme of National Overseas scholarship for SC candidates, Scheme of Upgradation of Merit of SC Students, Scheme of Scholarship of Top Class Education for SC Students and the Schemes of Post Matric and Pre-Matric Scholarships for Other Backward Classes students are being implemented.

(b) Under the Post Matric Scholarships schemes for SC students scholarship are given to students whose parents/guardians income from all sources does not exceed Rs.1 lakh p.a.. Under the scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Providing Scholarships to SC students, any student belonging to SC category who has been admitted to M. Phil/ Ph.D. degree in a University or academic institution by completing the required formalities will be eligible for award of the fellowship. Under the scheme of National Overseas scholarship for SCs etc. "an applicant should be below 35 years, as on first day of the month of the advertisement of the scheme and total income from all sources of the employed candidate or his/her parents/guardians, shall not exceed Rs.25,000/- p.m. For Ph.D. course the applicant should have first class or 60% marks or equivalent grade in the relevant Master's Degree. For Master's Degree the applicant should have first class or 60% marks or equivalent grant in relevant Bachelor's degree. In case of scheme of scholarship of Top Class education for SC, students who secure admission in the notified institutes according to the norms prescribed by them and whose total family income is up to Rs.2 lakhs per annum are eligible for the scholarship, and under the Post-matric and Pre-matric Scholarships for OBC students, those students whose parents/guardians income from all sources does not exceed Rs.44,500/- p.a. are entitled for the scheme.

(c) to (e) The details are given in the Statement-I, II and III enclosed.

Statement-I

Grants-in-aid released and no. of beneficiaries under the Central Sector Scheme of Upgradation of Merit of SC Students

S. No. States/UTs		2006-07			2007-08	
		Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount Utilised	No. of beneficiaries	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of beneficiaries
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.44	UC not received	296	0	0
2.	Bihar	62	UC not received	420	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Chhattisgarh	7.36	UC not received	70	0	0
4.	Gujarat	4.11	UC not received	70	0	0
5.	Haryana	0	0	0	5.19	40
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	3	20
7.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	11.4	76
8.	Karnataka	28.2	UC not received	188	0	0
9.	Kerala	2.41	UC not received	20	0	0
10.	Madhya Pradesh	58.8	UC not received	392	0	0
11.	Rajasthan	12.32	Utilised	72	8.43	81
12.	Sikkim	3	UC not received	20	0	0
13.	Tripura	3	UC not received	20	0	0
14.	Uttar Pradesh	45.16	UC not received	367	0	0
15.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	3	20
16.	West Bengal	28.97	UC not received	248	0	0
Total		299.73		2183	31.02	237

Statement-II

Details of State-wise central assistance released, central assistance utilised and beneficiaries covered during 2006-07 & 2007-08 under the scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SC students.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	2006-07			2007-08	
		Post-matric			Post-matric	
		Amount released	Fund utilized	Beneficiaries covered*	Amount released #	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	6255.74	NR	414537	1326.00	Most of the States/UTs have not submitted their proposal for release of Central Assistance for 2007-08.
2	Bihar	1892.74	NR	37425		
3	Chhattisgarh	734.00	734.00	42503		
4	Delhi	0.00		443		
5	Goa	19.29	11.45	190		
6	Gujarat	1432.67	1175.35	76713		
7	Haryana	733.86	NR	18812	13.00	
8	Himachal Pradesh	99.29	NR	7417		
9	Jammu and Kashmir	173.64	NR	12839		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	Jharkhand	0.00		14600		
11	Karnataka	5142.22	5142.22	186659	1348.00	
12	Kerala	2965.14	NR	91146	851.00	
13	Madhya Pradesh	2827.98	NR	114539	123.00	
14	Maharashtra	4356.86	NR	334441	1255.00	
15	Orissa	1739.68	NR	43313		
16	Punjab	1091.50	NR	60612		
17	Rajasthan	3804.48	NR	140923	770.00	
18	Tamil Nadu	3233.97	NR	374374	928.00	
19	Uttar Pradesh	11034.58	11034.58	684329	3567.00	
20	Uttaranchal	555.47	NR	33025		
21	West Bengal	3534.42	3338.39	230415		
22	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00				
23	Daman & Diu	2.23	2.21	NA		
24	Pondicherry	145.44	145.44	2519	2.00	
25	Assam	374.86	339.68	21600		
26	Manipur	139.32	131.97	3184		
27	Meghalaya	1.62	NR	1554		
28	Tripura	307.17	307.17	10372		
29	Sikkim	4.48	NR	258		

* Anticipated figure, NR – Not received, # – central assistance released as arrears for 2006-07

Statement-III

Details of State-wise central assistance released, central assistance utilised and beneficiaries covered during 2006-07 & 2007-08 under the scheme of Pre-matric/Post Matric Scholarship for OBC students.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	2006-07						2007-08				
		Pre-matric			Post-matric			Pre-matric		Post-matric		
		Amount released	Fund utilized	Beneficiaries covered	Amount released	Fund utilized	Beneficiaries covered	Amount	Beneficiaries	Amount	Beneficiaries	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Most of the States/UTs have not submitted
1	Andhra Pradesh	510.00	510.00	104000	364.73	364.73	17000	173.24	52216	698.79	25024	
2	Bihar	218.38	218.38	56548	601.78	601.78	61046			747.74	106780	
3	Gujarat	346.12	346.12	77500	401.96	401.96	17800					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4	Himachal Pradesh				35.57	35.57	3898				their proposal for release of Central Assistance for 2007-08.
5	Jammu & Kashmir	103.11	103.11	61314							
6	Karnataka	122.34	122.34	213761	539.66	539.66	63980	50.00	225901	484.57	90025
7	Rajasthan	310.00	310.00	140000	351.80	351.80	23546				
8	Tamil Nadu	400.00	400.00	56000	500.00	500.00	34669				
9	Uttar Pradesh	225.60	225.60	88500	671.56	671.56	64972				
10	Uttaranchal	16.40	16.40	34252	81.94	81.94	9299				
11	West Bengal				125.90	125.90	16111				
12	Assam	55.00	55.00	35000	1285.62	1285.62	68150				
13	Manipur	65.32	65.32	19500	200.70	200.70	16800				
14	Tripura	156.69	156.69	70965	160.52	160.52	13837	24.56	30430		
15	Sikkim				8.06	8.06	760				

NR-Utilization not received.

[Translation]

Unprotected Monuments

3211. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be please be state:

(a) the number of monuments presently protected by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and State Governments, State-wise;

(b) whether there are thousands of monument as on date which are neither under the control of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) or the State Governments nor have they been protected so far;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide protection to such monuments;

(e) whether the Government is planning a heritage map of the country which entails locational analysis of the heritage centers;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which the proposed heritage map is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There are 3667

monuments protected by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The State wise position is given in the statement enclosed. The data pertaining to the list of State Protected Monuments is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) There are a large number of monuments which are neither under the control of Archaeological Survey of India nor that of State Governments.

(c) There is no database which gives details of unprotected monuments. Therefore the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities has been launched to prepare a national database of the archaeological remains, sites, antiquities and monuments of the country.

(d) The Central Government may declare any ancient monument or archaeological site and remains as protected under the Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 keeping in view the importance of the site.

(e) and (f) The Archaeological Survey of India through the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities has a plan to prepare a thematic digital heritage map of archaeological monuments, sites and heritage buildings, both protected and unprotected, in the country.

(g) The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities is mandated to complete its work, including preparation of the digital heritage map, within 5 years ending in 2012.

Statement**List of Centrally Protected Monuments under Archaeological Survey of India**

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Monuments
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	136
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	005
3.	Assam	053
4.	Bihar	065
5.	Chhattisgarh	047
6.	Daman and Diu	016
7.	Delhi	172
8.	Goa	021
9.	Gujarat	202
10.	Haryana	090
11.	Himachal Pradesh	040
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	069
13.	Jharkhand	012
14.	Karnataka	507
15.	Kerala	026
16.	Madhya Pradesh	287
17.	Maharashtra	286
18.	Manipur	001
19.	Meghalaya	008
20.	Nagaland	004
21.	Orissa	078
22.	Pondicherry	007
23.	Punjab	031
24.	Rajasthan	161
25.	Sikkim	003
26.	Tamil Nadu	416
27.	Tripura	005

1	2	3
28.	Uttar Pradesh	742
29.	Uttaranchal	044
30.	West Bengal	133
Total		3667

Jan Sadharan Express between Bhusawal and Mumbai

3212. SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a consistent demand from the public as well as local representatives for introducing Jan Sadharan Express train between Bhusawal and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Representations, including from Shri Haribhau Jawale, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, have been received for introduction of Jan Sadharan Express between Bhusawal and Mumbai.

(c) 5101/5102 Mumbai CST-Chhapra Jan Sadharan Express (weekly) via Bhusawal-Nasik Road has been announced in Railway Budget 2007-2008 which will provide a Jan Sadharan train service between Mumbai CST and Bhusawal.

Reduction in Prices of SSP Fertilizers

3213. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to reduce the price of SSP fertilizer to be used as an option of DAP fertilizer keeping in view the interest of the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the farmers are likely to get its benefit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Amravati Airport

3214. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop Amravati (Bellora) Airport in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to introduce movement of air traffic from this airport;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the said airport is proposed to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Amravati (Bellora) Airport belongs to the State Government of Maharashtra. As such Airports Authority of India do not have any proposal for development of this airport.

[English]

Tourism Projects

3215. SHRIMATI K. RANI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of tourism projects sanctioned for Tamil Nadu during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of the completed/remaining work on each such project;

(c) the details of the funds sanctioned and released for each such project and the foreign assistance received for each of these projects during the last two years; and

(d) the details of new tourism spots proposed to be developed during the current year with the complete details of the action plan in respect of each tourism site?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) A statement showing the tourism-related projects indicating amounts - sanctioned and released during the 10th Five Year Plan in the Tamil Nadu is annexed.

(c) No tourism related project proposal was sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism with foreign assistance in Tamil Nadu in the last two years.

(d) Till date the following projects have been sanctioned for Tamil Nadu for the year 2007-08:

- (1) Destination development of Chettinad for Rs.475.35 lakh
- (2) Mamallapuram Dance Festival, 2008 for Rs.15.00 lakh
- (3) Destination development of Srirangam, District Tiruchirappalli for Rs.372.70 lakh
- (4) Beautification of Marina beach under destination development scheme for Rs.492.76 lakh

Statement**Projects Sanctioned during 10th Plan for the State of Tamil Nadu**

				(Rs. in lakh)
Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Scheme	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5
2002-03				
1.	Flood lighting at Sri Brigadeeshwara Temple, Thanjavur	Destination	16.50	16.50
2.	Works at Gingee Fort	Destination	37.50	37.50
3.	Dance Festival at Mamallapuram	Festival	5.00	4.00
4.	Development near the five Rathas	Destination	299.93	299.93
5.	Development of park near the Shore Temple	Destination	328.58	328.58
Total			687.51	686.51

1	2	3	4	5
2003-04				
1.	Construction of Yatri Niwas at Thiruvannamalai	Destination	49.06	39.25
2.	Construction of TRC at Chennai under Equity Scheme	LRG	5.00	5.00
3.	Setting up Eco-Tourism Cum Bird Centre at Rameshwaram	Destination	43.00	34.00
4.	Flood lighting of Vivekananda Rock (Vivekananda Circuit 2003-04)	Circuit	32.12	32.12
5.	SEL show at Vivekananda Rock Memorial (Vivekananda Circuit 2003-04)	Circuit	225.00	202.00
6.	Development at Rameshwaram as a Part of Vivekananda Circuit (Vivekananda Circuit 2003-04)	Circuit	168.24	138.12
7.	Development of Muttom Beach and Thekkurichi Beach	Destination	150.00	102.40
8.	Flood lighting of Irateeshwara Temple	Destination	24.05	22.00
9.	Development of infrastructure for Tourism in Kanchipuram	Circuit	259.40	259.00
10.	Chithirai Festival at Madurai	Festival	5.00	4.00
11.	Erection of Ropeway at Potty, Tamil Nadu	LRG	397.00	238.00
12.	Chettinad Heritage Festival, Tamil Nadu	Festival	5.00	4.00
13.	Mahabalipuram Dance Festival	Event	15.00	12.00
14.	Installation of payment Gateway System by Tourism Department	IT	3.00	2.70
15.	Construction of 5 Tourist Cottage & Drinking Water facilities (Vivekananda Circuit 2003-04)	Circuit	255.35	76.80
16.	Erection of Passenger Ropeway at Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu	LRG	363.00	238.00
17.	Development of Theerthamalai, Distt. Dharmapuri	Rural Tourism (SW)	50.00	40.00
18.	Development of Karalkudi (Chettinadu), Distt. Sivaganga	Rural Tourism	50.00	40.00
19.	Development of Theerthamalai, Distt. Dharmapuri	Rural Tourism (HW)	50.00	40.00
20.	Development of Kazhugumalai, Distt. Thoothukudi	Rural Tourism	48.68	38.94
Total			2197.88	1568.13

2004-05

1.	Integrated Development of Eco-Tourism at Point Calimere Wild Life Sanctuary Muthupet	LRG	368.00	294.40
2.	Erection of Signage in Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu	Destination	5.92	5.92
3.	Mamallapurams Dance Festival 2005	Event	15.00	15.00
4.	Destination Development of Yercaud Hill Resort, Salem District	Destination	448.00	358.40
5.	Infrastructure and Destination Development of Mahabalipuram Phase II	Destination	432.00	345.00

1	2	3	4	5
6.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous project at village Kazhugumalai, Thoothukudi district	Rural Tourism	20.00	16.00
7.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous project at village Karaikudi (Chettinadu), Sivaganga district	Rural Tourism	20.00	16.00
Total			1308.92	1050.72

2005-06

1.	Celebration of Cultural Festival at Kanniyakumari	Festival	5.00	5.00
2.	Restoration of TTDC and other tourism facilities damaged due to Tsunami in Tamil Nadu	Destination	499.50	184.96
3.	Setting up Eco-Tourism-Cum-Bird-Centre at Rameshwaram	Destination	42.50	34.00
4.	National pilgrim festival at Rameshwaram	Festival	5.00	4.50
5.	Development of Adi Sankara Tourist Circuit in Tamil Nadu	Circuit	443.00	354.40
6.	Sound and Light Show at Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu	Destination	150.00	135.00
7.	Destination Development of Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu	Destination	426.42	341.14
8.	Integrated Development of Arupadai Veedugal (Murugan Temple Circuit) Palani-Madurai-Trichendur-Swamimalai-Tiruttani in Tamil Nadu	Circuit	798.97	639.17
9.	Destination Development of Tiruvanamalai in Tamil Nadu	Destination	459.45	367.56
10.	Destination Development of Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu	Destination	470.19	376.15
11.	Chozhanattu Thirupathigal Tourist Circuit in Tamil Nadu	Circuit	500.00	400.00
12.	Mamallapuram Dance Festival, 2006	Event	15.00	12.00
13.	Jain Theertha Kshetras Circuit in Tamil Nadu. Tirumalai-Muttupatti-Tirunathar-Kunru-Vailimalai	Circuit	192.00	48.00
14.	Introduction of audio guide facility at Mamallapuram	Destination	88.04	39.62
15.	Development of Thirukurungudi, Tirunelveli district	Rural Tourism	50.00	40.00
16.	Development of Thiruppudaimaithur, distt. Tirunelveli	Rural Tourism	49.55	39.64
17.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous project at village Kurangini, Theni district	Rural Tourism	20.00	16.00
18.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous project at village Thadiyankudisai, Dindigul district	Rural Tourism	20.00	16.00
19.	Development of Devipattinam Navbhashnam in Ramnathpuram distt.	Rural Tourism	50.00	40.00
Total			4284.62	3093.14

1	2	3	4	5
2006-07				
1.	Celebration of National Pilgrim Festival at Rameshwaram	Festival	5.00	4.00
2.	Development of Madurai	Destination	478.03	382.42
3.	Celebration of Mamallapuram Dance Festival, 2007	Festival	15.00	12.00
4.	National Cultural Festival at Kanniyakumari	Festival	5.00	5.00
5.	Development of Pullianchola	Destination	97.02	77.62
6.	Development of Chennai-Kancheepuram-Thirukazhukundram-(Pakshitheertham)-Mamallapuram	Circuit	452.78	362.22
7.	Development of IT Project	IT	27.60	24.84
8.	Destination development of Kanniyakumari	Destination	258.52	206.81
9.	Destination development of Thanjavur	Destination	427.46	341.96
10.	Development of Rural Tourism at village Kombal, Distt Theni	Rural Tourism	50.00	40.00
11.	Development of Rural Tourism at village Thadiyankudisai	Rural Tourism	50.00	40.00
Total			1866.41	1496.87
Grand Total			10345.34	7895.37

Identification of Minority/Muslim Dominated Districts

3216. MS. INGRID MCLEOD:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified certain districts in the country as Minority as well as Muslim-dominated areas;

(b) if so, the names of these districts, State-wise;

(c) the details of schemes and programmes formulated for the development of these districts;

(d) the funds earmarked to implement these schemes in a time-bound manner;

(e) whether the Government proposes to create special fund or allocate enhanced financial assistance to upgrade amenities in such districts and also involve Non-governmental Organisations and private sector in this regard;

(f) if so, the details and steps taken in this regard;

(g) the details of the assistance provided so far, the number of beneficiaries and the term of assistance; and

(h) the role of State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The Government has identified 90 minority concentration districts. The list of these districts is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) to (h) A budgetary provision of Rs.120 crore has been made in the Annual Plan 2007-08 for implementation of a multi-sectoral development programme for minority concentration districts to address the 'development deficits' of such districts, through the State Government/UT administration. No fund has been released as yet under this budgetary provision.

Statement

List of Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs)

Sl. No.	State	District
1	2	3
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Nicobar
2	Arunachal Pradesh	East Kameng
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Lower Subansiri

1	2	3
4	Arunachal Pradesh	Changlang
5	Arunachal Pradesh	Tirap
6	Arunachal Pradesh	Tawang
7	Arunachal Pradesh	West Kameng
8	Arunachal Pradesh	Papum Pare
9	Assam	North Cachar Hills
10	Assam	Kokrajhar
11	Assam	Dhubri
12	Assam	Goalpara
13	Assam	Bongaigaon
14	Assam	Barpeta
15	Assam	Darrang
16	Assam	Marigaon
17	Assam	Nagaon
18	Assam	Cachar
19	Assam	Karimganj
20	Assam	Hailakandi
21	Assam	Kamrup
22	Bihar	Araria
23	Bihar	Kishanganj
24	Bihar	Purnia
25	Bihar	Katihar
26	Bihar	Sitamarhi
27	Bihar	Pashchim Champaran
28	Bihar	Darbhanga
29	Delhi	North East
30	Haryana	Gurgaon
31	Haryana	Sirsa
32	Jammu & Kashmir	Leh (Ladakh)
33	Jharkhand	Ranchi

1	2	3
34	Jharkhand	Gumla
35	Jharkhand	Sahibganj
36	Jharkhand	Pakaur
37	Karnataka	Gulbarga
38	Karnataka	Bidar
39	Kerala	Wayanad
40	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
41	Maharashtra	Buldana
42	Maharashtra	Washim
43	Maharashtra	Hingoli
44	Maharashtra	Parbhani
45	Manipur	Senapati
46	Manipur	Tamenglong
47	Manipur	Churachandpur
48	Manipur	Ukhrul
49	Manipur	Chandel
50	Manipur	Thoubal
51	Meghalaya	West Garo Hills
52	Mizoram	Lawngtlai
53	Mizoram	Mamit
54	Sikkim	North
55	Orissa	Gajapati
56	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
57	Uttar Pradesh	Saharanpur
58	Uttar Pradesh	Muzaffarnagar
59	Uttar Pradesh	Meerut
60	Uttar Pradesh	Baghpat
61	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
62	Uttar Pradesh	Bulandshahar

1	2	3
63	Uttar Pradesh	Budaun
64	Uttar Pradesh	Barabanki
65	Uttar Pradesh	Kheri
66	Uttar Pradesh	Shahjahanpur
67	Uttar Pradesh	Moradabad
68	Uttar Pradesh	Rampur
69	Uttar Pradesh	Jyotiba Phule Nagar
70	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
71	Uttar Pradesh	Pilibhit
72	Uttar Pradesh	Bahraich
73	Uttar Pradesh	Shrawasti
74	Uttar Pradesh	Balrampur
75	Uttar Pradesh	Siddharthnagar
76	Uttar Pradesh	Bijnor
77	Uttaranchal	Udham Singh Nagar
78	Uttaranchal	Haridwar
79	West Bengal	Uttar Dinajpur
80	West Bengal	Dakshin Dinajpur
81	West Bengal	Maldah
82	West Bengal	Murshidabad
83	West Bengal	Birbhum
84	West Bengal	Nadia
85	West Bengal	South 24-Parganas
86	West Bengal	Bardhaman
87	West Bengal	Koch Bihar
88	West Bengal	Haora
89	West Bengal	North 24-Parganas
90	West Bengal	Kolkata

Railway Track in Jammu and Kashmir

3217. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length in kilometres of the single railway track in the Jammu and Kashmir region;

(b) whether the Railways have any plan of converting it into a double track; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The length of single line railway track in Jammu & Kashmir as on 31.03.2007 is 137.77 kilometres.

(b) and (c) The doubling of Jalandhar-Jammu Tawi line, part of which falls in Jammu & Kashmir, is already in progress and complete double line on this route will be available by 2008-09.

Vizag Airport

3218. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allocated any funds for renovation and repair of Vizag airport in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to complete the said work in time?

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

(b) and (c) An expenditure of Rs.57.44 crores, Rs.43.06 crores and Rs.56.81 crores has been incurred during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively on renovation and capital works.

(d) With intense monitoring and supervision as well as adequate budget allocation, it is being insured that the airport works get completed as per schedule.

[Translation]

Overcharging by Ticket Counter Clerks

3219. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ticket clerks at Railway counters tender balance less than customers due and pocket the excess money so retained;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such complaints received by the Railways during the last one year, zone-wise; and

(d) the action taken by the Railway authorities thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) No separate statistics are maintained. However, some cases of overcharging by Booking Clerks at the counters have come to notice. Staff found responsible were taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules.

Rail Link between Rishikesh and Dehradun

3220. SHRI VIJAY BAHUGUNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to connect the holy city of Rishikesh with Dehradun; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said rail link is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Rishikesh is already connected with Dehradun via Raiwala. There is no proposal to lay another direct line between Rishikesh and Dehradun.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting up of Krishna Godavari Gas Network Ltd.

3221. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent a proposal to the Union Government for setting up of a Krishna-Godavari Gas Network Ltd. in the State for distribution of gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been accepted and approved given by the Union Government; and

(d) if no, the time-frame by which the proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Krishna Godavari Gas Network Limited (KGGNL) has applied for grant of authorization for laying, building and operating common carrier natural gas pipelines in the state of Andhra Pradesh. It has been mentioned that gas would be sourced from KG basin fields of Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC).

The policy adopted by the Government is that authorization for laying, building and operating common carrier natural gas pipelines is granted on the basis of a gas sourcing tie-up with a producer, whose production profile is duly certified by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH).

As production profile from GSPC's fields has not been certified by the DGH, it has been decided to consider the issue of authorization to KGGNL after it is done.

Preservation of Taj Mahal

3222. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Taj Mahal was turning yellow;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken or likely to be taken by the Government to retain the original glory of the shimmering white marble of Taj Mahal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Due to a high level of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) in the air, the white to marble surface of the Taj Mahal, particularly in the niches and arches and the brackets used for supporting the balcony of minarets, acquired a somewhat yellowish appearance while those areas which receive rain do not appear yellow. The main reason for the yellowish appearance seems to be dust and dirt deposits, which do not get washed off by rain water.

These accretionary deposits over the marble are safely removed by clay pack treatment, which is non-corrosive and non-abrasive. The clay used for this treatment is chemically refined aluminium silicate, which is an inert material and has no adverse effect on the marble surface. The clay pack treatment was carried out in 2001-03 and the same is being repeated in certain areas during the current financial year.

Archaeological Survey of India's Air Pollution Laboratory at Agra is monitoring air pollution in the ambient air of Taj Mahal regularly.

[Translation]

Running of Mumbai-Delhi Rajdhani Express

3223. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that all the Rajdhani Express trains running between Mumbai and Delhi are being run via Surat and Vadodara;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are also aware that the people of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are unable to avail of this facility;

(c) if so, whether any proposal to run Mumbai-Delhi Rajdhani Express via Nasik Road, Manmad and Bhopal is under consideration of the Railways; and

(d) if so, the time by which the decision is likely to be implemented in this regard?

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

(b) No, Sir. The two Mumbai-Delhi Rajdhani trains originates from Maharashtra and have stoppage at Ratlam (Madhya Pradesh). Moreover, 2953/2954 Mumbai-Hazrat Nizamuddin August Kranti Rajdhani Express has additional stoppages at Borivali (Maharashtra) & Nagda (Madhya Pradesh).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Animals on Runways

3224. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases of 'Bird Hit' and "Nilgai on runway" in the country have been reported during the last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No "Nilgai" cases were reported on runways at civil airports during the last three years. However, a total of 536 bird hit cases were reported from 01.01.2004 to 31.12.2006. The airport-wise break-up is as under:-

Agartala - 1, Ahmedabad - 44, Amritsar - 3, Aurangabad - 2, Baghdogra - 1, Balurghat - 1, Bangalore - 42, Baroda - 15, Bhavnagar - 1, Bhopal - 3, Bhubaneswar 2, Bhuj - 1, Mumbai 86, Kolkata - 25, Calicut 6, Coimbatore - 4, Cochin - 8, Delhi- 79, Fursatganj 1, Guwahati - 8, Goa - 17, Hyderabad - 59, Indore - 7, Jaipur - 21, Jammu - 2, Jodhpur - 2, Jorhat - 1,

Kanpur 1, Khajuraho - 2, Lucknow - 3, Chennai - 33, Mangalore - 5, Madurai - 3, Nagpur - 5, Patna - 1, Pune-9, Raipur 1, Rajkot - 7, Ranchi - 1, Trichi - 3, Trivandrum - 2, Tirupati - 1, Udaipur - 5, Vadodara - 1, Varanasi - 5, Vizag - 1, Vijayawada - 3, Diu - 2.

(c) Government has ensured many preventive measures. Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at those airport where scheduled flights operate to identify the sources of bird attraction and take remedial steps for prevention of such incidents. Various steps have been taken to reduce bird hits inside and outside the airports such as proper disposal of garbage, prevention of water logging, coverage of garbage dalaos, establishment of modern abattoirs, scaring and shooting of birds etc.

[Translation]

Oil Tankers in U.P. and Uttarakhand

3225. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil companies allowed their petrol pump dealers to engage their own oil tankers in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the rules framed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) to (c) The delivered supplies of petrol and diesel to dealers ex-terminals/depots of oil companies are made through tank trucks owned by oil marketing companies or those awarded contract for transportation job. Public tenders on industry basis are invited for engaging tank trucks for transportation of bulk petroleum products to the dealer and customers. Dealers and customers are advised to participate in the public tender. The location wise requirements of tankers are indicated in the tender invited. These public tenders are finalized based on the lowest offer made in the tender and successful parties are awarded contracts for tankers offered in the tender.

Based on the tenders invited in the year 2005, the number of dealers' tanklorries engaged in the States of U.P and Uttarakhand, company-wise are as under:

Name of the Company	Number of dealers tank trucks engaged	
	U.P.	Uttarakhand
IOCL (including IBP division)	968	148
HPCL	181	25
BPCL	330	33

**Expenditure on Social Services and
Community Development**

3226. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steel companies plan to spend a sum of Rs. 230 crore on social services and community development during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of amount actually spent and likely to be spent by these companies, particularly by Bokaro Steel Ltd. on such services during the last three years and current year, till date;

(d) whether the Government has fixed any norms for social services and community development; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) The details regarding expenditure on schemes relating to Social Services and Community Development for the Steel companies under the Ministry of Steel during the current financial year are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The details of expenditure incurred by the PSUs particularly by Bokaro Steel Plant on Corporate Social Responsibility during the last three years and the current year are as follows:

						(Rupees in lakhs)
S.No.	Name of the Company	Amount spent during the last three years			Budget Provision (Amount likely to be spent during the current year 2007-08)	Amount spent till first quarter (April-June), 2007-08
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07		
1.	SAIL	137.69	596.51	1978.26	10000.00	490.00
2.	Bokaro Steel Ltd.	27.87	104.41	278.72	2068.39	22.00
3.	RINL	9.50	13.50	116.00	2700.00	77.67
4.	SIIL	4.42	3.17	5.59	15.75	7.00
5.	MSTC		7.00	31.00	118.00	10.00
6.	FSNL	0.20	0.20	2.35	6.00	2.00
7.	BRL	55.00	58.00	63.00	13.00	15.12
8.	MECON	6.39	7.94	11.61	20.90	2.20
9.	KIOCL	310.00	175.00	136.00	200.00	40.00
10.	NMDC	926.00	867.00	2448.00	8900.00	285.11
11.	MOIL		60.00	71.00	300.00	73.00

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. An amount, equivalent to 2% of the Net distributable Profit, is to be allocated on CSR activities.

Statement

Details of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities undertaken in PSUs under Ministry of Steel.

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

Apart from the business of manufacturing steel, the objective of the company is to conduct business in ways that produce social, environmental and economic benefits to the

communities in which it operates. CSR activities of SAIL include activities such as providing education, medical and health care facilities, access to water facilities, cultural and recreational facilities and improving roads and connectivity besides ancillary development in the peripheral areas around the plants. Sponsorship of sports activities are being undertaken at the Corporate Level and various sporting events like Nehru Champion Colleges Hockey Tournament, Chennai Open of Tamil Nadu Tennis Association and SAIL Inter village football tournament at Chiria mines are being sponsored.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)

RINL carries out CSR works which include Environmental care, Community Health Care, People Care, Cultural Efflorescence and Peripheral Development.

Manganese Ore (India) Limited (MOIL)

CSR activities undertaken by MOIL cover education, Community Development including adoption of villages, providing medical assistance and creating environmental awareness. Educational activities involve construction of primary schools, reimbursement of the tuition fee for children, providing text books, uniform and stationery free of cost, providing scholarship to meritorious children hailing from the surrounding villages, and other places adjoining the mines of MOIL. Community Development activities covered construction of bus stops, constructions of drains and culverts, provision of drinking water, and construction of public utility structures such as community centers. Under medical care medical assistance was provided to villagers living around the mining areas and medical camps were also organized. MOIL has promoted environmental awareness and encouraged the villagers to plant trees. Assistance was provided through supply of free saplings and guidance in planting the trees. Large scale plantations were taken up by MOIL by planting plants on the road dividers and traffic islands in Nagpur.

Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL)

The various CSR programmes and schemes undertaken by the company during the past years involve activities such as running of Central School, distribution of books and other financial assistance to the educational institutions, distribution of medicine and other medical facilities to the tribal population and other people of nearby areas, providing drinking water, operation of midday meal for poor children, community development activities such as constructions of buildings and provision of equipment to the hospitals, and constructions of bridges.

National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC)

NMDC carries out the CSR activities in the project areas such as providing new school buildings and additional classrooms, free educational facility in the project schools to children of local tribal, including providing free school uniform, textbooks, stationery items, cash awards, cash awards to meritorious students, providing free medical treatment in the project hospitals to local tribals and villagers, conduct of free health camps, providing drinking water to the nearby villages by constructing open wells and hand pumps, construction of all-weather roads connecting neighboring villages.

Sponge Iron (India) Limited (SIIL)

SIIL implements CSR programmes in the tribal villages around the plant for the welfare of the tribal population. For 2007-08, the entire budgeted amount is being spent on providing additional rooms in the school building where education is provided to the children of tribal population of nearby villages.

MSTC Limited

The CSR schemes in MSTC consists of payment of maximum of Rs. 1 lakh per annum to any charitable organizations dedicated for upliftment of poor and destitute children, women, old age persons, artists and musicians students. Higher amounts are given in deserving case. Contributions have been made for adoption of orphan children who have potential to become good sports persons, procurement of ambulance for rural areas by NGOs dedicated to social and charitable work, payment of scholarship to poor school children, funding for equipments in small medical centers/ blood donation organizations, one time payment to libraries of schools and poor educational institution for purchase of essential goods.

Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited (FSNL)

Under CSR programmes, FSNL distributes books, notebooks, uniform cloths to the meritorious students, belonging to SC, ST and OBC communities. Other activities like development of playgrounds providing sports material, construction of additional room and halls with infrastructural facilities are provided on need basis. FSNL has identified ten schools, located in villages nearby FSNL's production units at Rourkela, Burnpur, Bhilai, Bokaro, Vizag, Durgapur, Dolvi, Duburi, Raigarh and its Corporate Office, for undertaking the CSR programmes.

Bharat Refractories Limited (BRL)

The areas earmarked for CSR activities in BRL are providing school bus facility for the students of the nearby villages, running a primary schools at Bhandaridah and Ranchi Road locations for the benefit of nearby poor people, running a DAV school at Bhandaridah upto class XII level with all facilities at concessional fees and providing free medical facility at Bhandaridah Refractories Plant.

MECON Limited

MECON carries out activities related to community development for the development and welfare of SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities and weaker section of the society in the slum areas/ backward areas of Ranchi and nearby villages.

Hindustan Steelworks Constructions Ltd. (HSCL)

Though HSCL is committed to carrying out CSR programmes, however, due to its adverse financial position, the company is not able to implement CSR programme.

[English]

Revival of BHPV

3227. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request for revival package has been received from M/s. Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels Limited (BHPV), Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the government proposes to allow BHPV to execute the present orders for its revival and future growth;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for revival of BHPV?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (f) A proposal for revival of the company was received from Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels Limited (BHPV). Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has shown interest in the take over of BHPV with certain preconditions. The proposal which takes into consideration the preconditions put forth by BHEL, inter-alia, includes infusion of funds and waiver/conversion of Government of India loans/interests, concessions from State Government of Andhra Pradesh and transfer of land through a Gift deed by the State Government to BHPV. Meetings were held with the bankers and also Government of Andhra Pradesh. The bankers have in principle agreed to waive interest in lieu of settlement of the full principal amount. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has also agreed in principle to the concessions sought. The views of the various Ministries have been sought before a final decision is taken by the Government.

[Translation]

Nagpur-Nagbhid Railway Line

3228. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey to convert Nagpur-Nagbhid railway line of Maharashtra into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have given sanction to the survey of the districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the time by which the construction work of these routes is proposed to be started; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A survey for conversion of Nagpur-Nagbhir (106 Kms) line from narrow gauge to broad gauge was conducted in 2003-04. As per the survey report, the cost of gauge conversion of this line was assessed as Rs. 141.56 crore with a rate of return of (–) 5%. In view of non-remunerative nature of the line, heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects and acute resource constraints, the project could not be taken up.

(c) Surveys for some of the new lines, gauge conversions and doublings has been included in Budget 2007-08.

(d) and (e) The work would be taken up as and when the project is sanctioned.

[English]

Qualifications and Skills of Helicopter Pilots

3229. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has appointed any Helicopter Flight Operations Inspector to verify the qualifications and skills of pilots of helicopters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the DGCA has made alternate arrangements to inspect the flying skills of the helicopter pilots;

(d) If so, whether the arrangements made by the DGCA are adequate for verification of the qualifications and skills of pilots of helicopters as per the norms fixed therefor; and

(e) if not, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) One Helicopter Flight Operations Inspector has been appointed by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to verify the qualifications and skills of helicopter pilots.

(c) and (d) DGCA approved examiners are carrying out the verification of qualifications and skill test of pilots to ensure safety in operation.

(e) Does not arise.

**Free Upgradation to Business Class Seats
in Indian Airlines**

3230. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ANAND RAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice of free upgrades to business class seats in Indian Airlines has resulted in the loss of crores of rupees every year;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the details of the loss incurred during the last three years in this regard;

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government to improve the economic condition of Indian Airlines; and

(e) the success achieved during the last one year in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) An amount of Rs.325 crores was released by the Government to the erstwhile Indian Airlines in October, 2005 as budgetary support. The said funds have been utilised as part of margin money for purchase of 43 new aircraft. Indian Airlines and Air India have now been merged with National Aviation Company of India Ltd. The merger will provide an opportunity to leverage combined assets and capital better and build a stronger airline.

Survey to Identify Potential Scavengers

3231. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has asked the States to conduct survey in a time-bound period to identify the potential scavengers who are to be liberated and rehabilitated under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependants;

(b) if so, the time schedule fixed therefor by the Union Government;

(c) the names of the States who have completed the aforesaid survey;

(d) the action taken by the Union Government against those States who have not completed the aforesaid survey; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to expedite the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) For rehabilitation of erstwhile manual scavengers and their dependents in alternative occupations, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a new Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers. As per reports received from State Governments/UT Administrations, there were 3.42 lakh erstwhile manual scavengers and their dependents to be rehabilitated, at the time of formulation of the scheme.

Tourism Projects in Bihar

3232. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourism projects submitted by the State of Bihar during the last three years and till date; and

(b) the action taken by the Government on each of the above projects and the number of such tourism projects pending with Government indicating the specific reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects under schemes for Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

Project proposals submitted by the State Governments/Union Territories that are complete in all respects are examined on the basis of scheme guidelines and inter-se priority and funds released subject to availability under the respective heads.

A list of projects sanctioned to the State of Bihar in the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Projects Sanctioned to the State of Bihar in the last three years

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
2004-05		
1.	Construction of new High School Building and shifting of existing High School from frontage Mayasarovar Lake, Bodhgaya	33.11

1	2	3
2.	Eco-Tourism Development at Bhimbandh (Monger)	427.00
3.	Development of Tourist Resort at Maner	407.20
4.	Eco-Tourism Development of Valmiki Nagar (West Champaran)	300.06
5.	Development of Vishnu Vihar at Gaya	271.06
6.	Construction of Tourist Complex at Maner Sharif, Patna under destination development	500.00
7.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project - Nepura in Nalanda Distt.	20.00
	Total	1958.43

2005-06

1.	Development of Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda under the scheme of Tourist Circuit	768.12
2.	Harihar Kshetra (Sonepur) Fair, 2005	0.99
3.	Integrated Development of Kanwaria Route Circuit from Sultanganj to Deoghar in Bihar	443.12
	Total	1212.23

2006-07

1.	Development of Tourist Circuit-Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda under Major Project Scheme	1922.42
2.	CFA for the project – Information Technology in the State Tourism Department of Bihar	14.87
	Total	1937.29

**Promotion of Shopping
Tourism Destination**

3233. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has a proposal to promote shopping tourism destinations;
- (b) if so, the places identified therefor;

(c) whether any place has been identified in Orissa for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Finance Assistance to States and Union Territories for organizing Tourism and Crafts Melas. In 2006-07 the Government of Orissa organized "Toshali National Handicrafts Mela – 2007" for promotion of tourism, culture and handicrafts in Bhubaneswar with Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 30 Lakh.

[Translation]

Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Bairi Railway Line

3234. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the construction of Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Bairi rail line in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the reasons for delay in the execution of the project; and

(c) the time by when work on this project is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Survey of Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri new line has already been completed and suitable funding mechanism for this proposed new line is being worked out so as to further process the proposal accordingly.

(c) The work is not yet sanctioned and hence it is not feasible to indicate start and completion of project.

Development of Tourism

3235. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is facing various problems in regard to finance, infrastructure and security in the development of tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to deal with such problems; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism in the State Governments/Union

Territory Administrations is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for promotion and development of tourism under the following Schemes:

1. Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits
2. Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects
3. Computerization and Information Technology
4. Events/Fairs and Festivals

During the 10th Plan period the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned 1160 projects for an amount of Rs.2011.68 crore.

The Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to deploy Tourist Police to ensure safety & security of tourists at important tourist centres. Some of the State Governments have deployed Tourist Police in one form or another.

New Train Service between Dhanbad and Mumbai

3236. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to introduce a new train service between Dhanbad and Mumbai via Hazaribagh Road, Kodarma and Parasnath; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposed train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Air India Tie-up with Star Alliance

3237. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has decided to be part of the aviation global network and join Star Alliance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits expected by this move to both the airlines; and

(d) the details of the terms and conditions of this tie-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) With a view to enable the new entity formed by the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines to compete globally, the Board of Directors of Air India Limited have approved Air India joining Star Alliance and have recommended initiation of discussions with their Management on the joining process and related activities. The details of the terms and conditions of this tie-up would be worked out once it is finally decided to join this alliance. The main benefits expected to accrue to Air India and its customers by this alliance are:

To Customers: (i) Access to expanded global network/options with single ticket and seamless travel/transfers; (ii) Choice of global partner FFPs to earn/burn miles; (iii) One point access to the entire range of global alliance's products; and (iv) Standard quality of service across carriers around the world.

To Air India: (i) Re-align the international routes network to access new markets; (ii) Improve profitability through increased feeder traffic; (iii) Access to best practices, processes, systems; (iv) Integrate IT systems with Alliance members to enable deeper and more meaningful information sharing; and (v) Gain access to shared alliance facilities, infrastructure and branding.

Setting up of Settlement Commission

3238. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to set up a Settlement Commission to decide the liability of overcharging for drugs which is more than Rs.800 crores;

(b) if so, the details and the terms of reference and composition thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Commission is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) In the Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006, it has been proposed, inter-alia, that efforts would be made to settle cases of old dues of Drug Price Equalization Account (DPEA) under DPCO, 1979 through a One-Time Settlement scheme.

Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11.1.2007. The Cabinet has referred the Policy to Group of Ministers (GOM). The First meeting of the GOM was held on 10.4.2007. No time frame has been set for finalizing the National Pharmaceutical Policy.

[Translation]

Decline in Production Capacity of Fertilizer Industries

3239. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fertilizer industries in the country as on date, state-wise;

(b) whether a decline is being registered in the production capacity of these industries owing to the shortage of natural gas;

(c) if so, the details of the percentage of the shortfall registered during the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Statement indicating state-wise number of fertilizer industries producing major fertilizers viz Urea, DAP and Complexes is enclosed.

(b) to (d) Production of major fertilizers viz. Urea, DAP and Complexes has shown an increase during the past three years as per details given below:-

		(‘000 MT)
Year	Production of Urea, DAP & Complexes	
2004-05	30810.9	
2005-06	31490.9	
2006-07	32624.1	

Government is continuously pursuing the policy to incentives indigenous production and improvement of efficiency by conversion from Naphtha to natural gas based production of urea. In P&K sector, due to inherent dependence on imported raw materials, intermediates and finished fertilizers, the Government has been encouraging setting up of joint ventures abroad in resource rich countries, in order to secure adequate supplies of P&K fertilizers.

Statement

State-wise and Sector-wise no. of major Fertilizer units operating in the Country

Sl. No.	Name of States	No of Units operating	Sector			Total
			Public	Co-operative	Private	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	4			4	4
2	Assam	2	2			2
3	Bihar					
4	Chhattisgarh					
5	Goa	1			1	1
6	Gujarat	8		3	5	8
7	Haryana	1	1			1
8	Jharkhand					
9	Karnataka	1			1	1
10	Kerala	2	2			2
11	Madhya Pradesh	2	2			2
12	Maharashtra	5	4		1	5
13	Orissa	2		1	1	2
14	Punjab	2	2			2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	Rajasthan	3			3	3
16	Tamil Nadu	4	1		3	4
17	Uttar Pradesh	7		5	2	7
18	West Bengal	1			1	1
	Total	45	14	9	22	45

[English]

Damage to Railway Property by Naxalites/Maoists

3240. SHRI B. MAHTAB:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have sustained loss of property due to the 24 hours economic blockade called by the Maoists ended on June 24, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some trains had to be cancelled as a precautionary measure;

(d) if so, whether the refund was made to the ticket holders;

(e) if so, the total loss suffered by the Railways thereby;

(f) the details of other such incidents of damage done to railway lines/stations/properties by naxalites/Maoists during the last one year;

(g) the extent of financial loss caused to railway property and loss of lives suffered therein; and

(h) the action proposed to be taken by the Railways to handle such situation and make the rail journey safe and comfortable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An estimated loss of approximately Rs.3,89,05,000 to the railway property has been reported during 24 hours 'Economic Blockade' called by the Maoists on June 24, 2007.

Maoists reportedly blasted explosive at two places in Dhanbad Division of East Central Railways (between Barwadih-Mangra stations and between Chetar-Richughuta stations) causing damage to the railway track. Two electric locos with 22 empty wagons of goods train derailed causing damage to over head electrical fittings.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Information is being collected from Zonal Railways.

(f) and (g) Following incident of damages to railway property by naxalites/Maoists have been reported during 2006-07:-

1. On 25.04.2006, 100/150 extremists equipped with arms arrived at Railway Cabin of Narganjo Railway Station in Asansol - Jhajha Section of Asansol Division over Eastern Railway, kidnapped railway employees, dragged them towards the jungle and placed bomb on track at kilometer number 357/21-22. They blew up the railway cabin of Narganjo railway station.
2. On 26.04.2006, Maoists exploded one land mine at kilometer number 364/1-2 between Dashratpur and Jamalpur railway stations in Malda division over Eastern Railway and badly damaged railway track.
3. On 19.05.2006, Maoists removed 02 rail pieces (26 metre length) from the running track over East Coast Railway, while the down train number KVL-35/25 with 53 wagons loaded with Iron ore was passing through Bansi - Kamalpur stations. It led to derailment of all the 03 Electric Locos and capsizement of seven loaded wagons. No loss to human life was reported. Loss to railway property has been estimated at Rupees 1,65,32,000/-.
4. On 14.08.2006, over head equipment and signal and telecommunication failed in between Kamalpur - Bhansi stations over East Coast Railway because two huge trees were cut and placed on the track by the Maoists. No loss to human life was reported. Loss to railway property is estimated at Rupees 72,000/-.
5. On 08.10.2006, two rails were removed from running track and one explosive device was planted by Maoists at kilometer number 442/22-23 over East Coast Railway resulting into derailment of goods train and damage of track. No loss to human life was reported. Loss to railway property is estimated at Rupees 1,08,54,939/-.

6. On 15.10.2006, 50/60 Maoists set on fire three locos of train No. NKKC-470 over South Eastern Railway.
7. On 30.10.2006, Maoists removed two rails from running track at kilometer number 417/8 over East Coast Railway, resulting in derailment of goods train and damage of track. No loss to human life was reported. Loss to railway property is estimated at Rupees 2,24,15,942/-.
8. On 06.12.2006, a group of armed Naxalites set fire to an engine between Darakasa-Batalao Railway Stations of Nagpur Division of South East Central Railway in Maharashtra State. No loss of human life. Loss to railway property has been estimated at Rupees 20,000/-.
9. On 10.12.2006, 25/30 armed Naxalites attacked Railway Protection Force Cash escorting party in train No. 346-Down Tata-Kadakpur passenger over South Eastern Railway and snatched two. 303 Rifles and 30 rounds causing serious bleeding injuries to two on duty Railway Protection Force staff.

(h) Following measures are being taken to make the Rail journey safe & comfortable:

- Through escorting important Mail/Express trains by Railway Protection
- Force/Government Railway Police personnel.
- By procuring Modern security gadgets.
- By close and effective supervision of the staff.
- By augmenting Manpower.
- By strengthening the Dog Squads.
- By holding regular co-ordination meetings with Government Railway Police/Civil Police /Intelligence Agencies.

Setting up of Agricultural Outlets at Railway Stations

3241. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up outlets for farmers to sell agricultural products at railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) whether various companies have applied for setting up such outlets;

(d) if so, the names of those companies alongwith locations for which they have opted for setting up of such outlets;

(e) the number of railway stations where this scheme is likely to be implemented;

(f) whether the scheme encourages monopoly of certain companies in vegetable trade and adversely affect poor vegetable vendors; and

(g) if so, the safeguard measures taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) It has been decided to explore the feasibility of additional transport volumes by leveraging surplus railway land through development of Agro-retail outlets and supply chains.

(c) and (d) Although a number of companies have evinced interest, the interest is of an exploratory nature at this stage. The Expression of Interest, seeking relevant information, is yet to be invited.

(e) It is premature to indicate the number of railway stations at this stage.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Reservation Policy in NIT, Durgapur

3242. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recruitment in NIT, Durgapur in West Bengal, for the post of Assistant Registrar and others had not followed the roster of SC, ST and OBC categories;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints from SC/ST peoples in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) the number of teachers, staff including 3rd and 4th grade are working in NIT, Durgapur and number out of them belonging to SC, ST and OBC categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Certain complaints had been received by the Ministry of Human Resource Development which are being looked into.

(e) A total of 283 Lecturers and Non-Teaching staff are working in NIT-Durgapur out of which 89 belong to SC/ST/OBC.

Statutory Body to Integrate Food Law

3243. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a statutory body to integrate food laws and make them more stringent and prepare a new set of food laws;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the composition of the statutory body;
- (e) whether this new body will also be responsible for accrediting and certifying labs; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY):

(a) to (f) The Government has notified Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006 to integrate the laws relating to food and to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption. One of the functions of Food Authority as per the provisions of the Act is to lay down procedure and guidelines for accreditation of laboratories and notifying the accredited laboratories. The composition of the Food Authority under the Act consists of a Chairperson and the following twenty-two members namely:-

- (i) seven Members, not below the rank of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India, to be appointed by the Central Government, to respectively represent the Ministries or Departments of the Central Government dealing with Agriculture, Commerce, Consumer Affairs, Food Processing, Health, Legislative Affairs, Small Scale Industries, who shall be Members ex officio.
- (ii) two representatives from food industry of which one shall be from small scale industries;
- (iii) two representatives from consumer organizations;
- (iv) three eminent food technologists or scientists;
- (v) five members to represent the States and the Union territories;
- (vi) two persons to represent farmers' organizations;
- (vii) one person to represent retailers' organizations.

[Translation]

Allotment of Gas Cylinders

3244. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to impose conditions for allotment of gas cylinders in order to prevent its commercial use;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government are aware of the policy being implemented by Public Sector Undertaking, Indian Oil Corporation to provide only one cylinder per family;
- (d) if so, whether any demands have been made to review the said policy keeping in view the hardships being faced by the common consumers there from; and
- (e) if so, the reactions of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) to (e) Domestic LPG is a subsidized product. While OMCs are making all efforts to meet the genuine demand of the customers, there is a need to keep a check to prevent diversion of domestic LPG cylinders for unauthorized use. LPG distributors of OMCs are required to release LPG cylinders against bookings only and the refill supplies of domestic LPG are being made by the OMCs in accordance with the genuine requirements of customers.

At present, new LPG connections are available across the counter for genuine domestic customers and supply of LPG connection is regulated under the provisions of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 (Control Order). Amendments to the Control Order relating to restriction of LPG connections on household basis and to customers of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) are under consideration of the Government.

New Railway Line in North Eastern Railways

3245. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have carried out any work of laying new rail lines on the railway section between Hathua Bhatni and Chhitauni Kumkuhi road under North Eastern Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the percentage of work completed so far; and
- (c) the time by when the work on the said rail line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Works of new line from Hathua to Bhatni and from Chhitauni to Tumkuhi Road has been taken up.

(b) Land acquisition, earthwork, bridge work, ballasting etc. have been taken up in Hathua-Bathua Bazar (22 kms) section of Hathua-Bhatni new line project. Land acquisition has also been taken up in rest of the section from Bathua Bazar to Bhatni. The overall physical progress is 22 %. As regards Chhitauni-Tumkuhi Road, tenders for earthwork, blanketing & stations building finalized for Chhitauni-Paniyahawa. This work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

(c) No target date of completion for the two projects has yet been fixed.

[English]

City Gas Distribution Activities in Karnataka

3246. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has given approval to Reliance Industries Limited for taking up city gas distribution activities in the State;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has appointed Karnataka Udyog Mitra as the nodal agency to offer support services for the implementation of projects;

(c) whether after the introduction of city gas distribution policy by the Centre, RIL has made presentations to various State Governments for implementation of gas distribution; and

(d) if so, to what extent it has been successful in the Karnataka State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The Government of Karnataka has given 'No objection' to M/s Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) for laying, building and operating city and local natural gas distribution networks in the state of Karnataka.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As stated in (a) and (b) above.

Supply of Natural Gas to Numligarh Refinery Ltd.

3247. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Numligarh Refinery Ltd. (NRL) has entered into an agreement with Oil India Ltd., for the supply of natural gas for its refinery;

(b) if so, whether gas pipeline is being laid for the purpose;

(c) if so, the total expenditure likely to be incurred on this pipeline; and

(d) the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. (NRL) has signed an agreement with M/s. Oil India Ltd. (OIL) for supply of 1.0 million metric standard cubic metre per day (MMSCMD) of natural gas for its Refinery.

(b) Yes, Sir. A new natural gas pipeline is being laid for transporting natural gas from Duliajan to Numaligarh,

(c) and (d) The proposed natural gas pipeline is expected to be completed by October, 2008 at an estimated cost of Rs.318 crore.

[Translation]

Adulteration in Petrol/Diesel

3248. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of samples of petrol and diesel taken in Orissa during the last two years to check adulteration in them;

(b) if so, the number of samples found adulterated out of them;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the agents; and

(d) the manner in which the action was taken along with the number of agents whose licenses were seized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take action against the dealers found indulging in adulteration under the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/ Dealership Agreement. In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, the State Governments are also empowered to take legal action against the defaulting dealers under the provisions of the control orders issued by the Government under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Under MDG,

2005 dealership is terminated in the first instance on adulteration being established. The details of samples drawn and action taken is being collected from OMCs and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Cyber Cafes at Railway Stations

3249. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the railway stations where cyber cafes have been set up so far;

(b) the number of cyber cafes out of these which have started functioning;

(c) the time by when all the remaining cyber cafes would start functioning; and

(d) the names of railway stations where cyber cafes are proposed -to be set up during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The cyber cafes have so far been set up at 24 Railway Stations; a list of cyber cafes is given in the statement appended.

(b) All the 24 cyber cafes have started functioning.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is proposed to set up 7 more cyber cafes at Ajmer, Amritsar, Chennai Central, Patna, Sambalpur, Surat and Tirchy during the current financial year.

Statement

List of 24 Stations

Sl.No.	Name of Stations
1	2
1.	Ahmedabad
2.	Asansol
3.	Bangalore
4.	Chandigarh
5.	Coimbatore
6.	Ernakulam
7.	Gorakhpur
8.	Guntur
9.	Howrah
10.	Hyderabad

1	2
11.	Jaipur
12.	Jhansi
13.	Jodhpur
14.	Lucknow
15.	Ludhiana
16.	Mumbai Central
17.	Mysore
18.	Nagpur
19.	New Delhi
20.	Pune
21.	Puri
22.	Sealdah
23.	Secunderabad
24.	Vijaywada

Demand and Production of LPG

3250. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and production of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the country during the last three years;

(b) the number of distributors of LPG and the number of customers in the country as on date, State-wise;

(c) whether the production and the number of distributors are sufficient to meet the existing demand;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The demand and production of LPG in the country during the last three years is as under:

	(TMT)	
	Consumption	Production
2005-06	10456	7717
2006-07	10855	8454
2007-08	2708	2159
(April-June) Provisional		

(b) The number of distributors and consumer population in the country as on 01.07.2007 is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) The production of LPG is not sufficient to meet the entire demand of the country. The deficit is met through import of LPG. The import figures for last three years are as under:

Year	Imports (in TMT)
2005-06	2883
2006-07	2288
2007-08 (April-June) Provisional	526

Statement

*Total LPG Customer Population and Distributors
as on 01/07/2007*

State/UT	Domestic Customers (in Lakhs)	LPG Distributors
1	2	3
Chandigarh	3.14	28
Delhi	40.18	315
Haryana	31.39	279
Himachal Pradesh	12.10	120
Jammu and Kashmir	13.45	153
Punjab	44.54	420
Rajasthan	39.11	434
Uttar Pradesh	98.43	1160
Uttaranchal	14.48	169
Sub Total North	296.82	3078
Andaman and Nicobar	0.50	4
Arunachal Pradesh	1.17	30
Assam	18.42	251
Bihar	22.66	308
Jharkhand	10.47	141
Manipur	2.09	31
Meghalaya	1.03	32

1	2	3
Mizoram	1.83	25
Nagaland	1.32	27
Orissa	14.17	185
Sikkim	1.11	7
Tripura	2.42	30
West Bengal	48.84	471
Sub Total East	126.03	1542
Chhattisgarh	10.20	153
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.30	1
Daman and Diu	0.27	2
Goa	3.96	53
Gujarat	52.24	539
Madhya Pradesh	39.63	570
Maharashtra	125.75	998
Sub Total West	232.33	2316
Andhra Pradesh	104.02	880
Karnataka	53.58	488
Kerala	51.52	374
Lakshadweep	0.03	1
Pondicherry	2.36	18
Tamil Nadu	90.23	656
Sub Total South	301.76	2417
Grand Total	956.94	9353

Running of Local Trains on CNG Kits

3251. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to run local trains fitted with CNG kits on same selected routes in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the estimated annual reduction in fuel costs thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to extend the same to other routes also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. One Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) has been converted into dual fuel engine with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) at Diesel Shed, Shakurbasti and trial runs with CNG are being conducted on Delhi-Rohtak, Delhi-Rewari and Delhi-Shamli Sections.

(b) The operating cost of CNG based DEMU is expected to be 25% lower than that of diesel based DEMU.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A project for conversion of 100 DEMUs into CNG based dual fuel mode DEMUs has been undertaken for proliferation of CNG based DEMUs.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Internal Resources of SAIL

3252. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan has been formulated by the Government for the optimum utilization of internal resources of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) to reduce its cost of production and to set up its own Special Economic Zone (SEZ);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this SEZ would have plots for other steel plants and steel products other than SAIL;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present progress of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) is undertaking ambitious modernization and expansion plans to increase production of hot metal from present level of 14.6 million tonnes per annum (2006-07) to 26 million tonnes per annum by the year 2010-11 at an indicative cost of Rs.49,000 Crores. The expenditure involved in these programmes is proposed to be funded by SAIL itself from its own internal resources and supplemented by market borrowings, as required. SAIL has taken various steps to rationalize its cost of production, which includes 100% production of steel through Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) route, 100% processing of steel through continuous casting, Value addition by reduction of semi finished steel, Auxiliary fuel injection system in all the Blast Furnaces (BF), State of art process control computerization/automation, De-bottlenecking and productivity improvement schemes, Secondary refining and Augmentation of production facility at coal & Iron ore mines.

SAIL plans to develop area adjoining the Salem Steel Plant into a steel sector Special Economic Zone (SEZ). To facilitate use of available products of the Salem Steel Plant, SAIL will play the anchor role by providing customized inputs to the prospective units which could come up in the areas of cutlery, kitchen and hospital wares, utensil, chemical and pharmaceutical equipment manufacturing, machines for food processing industry, tubes and pipes manufacturers, auto components, panels for lifts etc.

(c) and (d) The steel sector SEZ being planned will have units that would be setting up manufacturing facilities in different areas such as utensils, kitchen and hospital wares, machines and equipment for food processing, chemicals and pharmaceutical sectors, pipes and tubes manufacturers etc. These processing units would be set up by companies other than SAIL. SAIL will provide customized steel input to the processing units in the proposed SEZ. The details of the project will be known only after formulation of project contours such as Master Planning, Detailed Feasibility Report, Utility Planning and Market Study.

(e) The scheme is currently in the planning stage.

[English]

Opening of Level Crossing

3253. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka regarding opening of level crossing gate No. 305/9-10, near Kodaganur railway station in Davengere District, Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have considered and accepted the request of the Government of Karnataka;

(c) if so, the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the same?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Demands by the Automobile Industry

3254. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the demand by the automobile industry to use its services extensively in the country;

(b) if so, the details of volume of traffic handled by Railways to the automobile sector;

(c) whether the Railways have any proposal to run triple-decker container trains to cope with demand from automobile sector; and

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

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

(b) During the current financial year (upto August 2007) 140 rakes have been loaded with traffic from automobile sector.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The proposal for running of Triple Stack Container trains is under consideration and trials will be conducted after approval by Research, Designs & Standards Organization (RDSO).

[Translation]

Doubling Work on Mudkhed Parbhani Rail Track

3255. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any doubling work is underway on Mudkhed-Parbhani rail track;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the percentage of work executed so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The work is not sanctioned. However, a Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for doubling of Mudkhed-Parbhani (81 km) section has been included in Budget 2007-08.

[English]

Processing of Potatoes

3256. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is a huge scope of indigenous processing of potatoes, available in the country, into a processed food;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the potato-based processed food items in the country are controlled by the multinationals; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to promote and develop indigenous industry in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD

PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY):

(a) to (d) There is an adequate scope to increase the level of processing of potatoes in the country. Hundred per cent Foreign Direct Investment is permitted in the food processing sector except in the cases of food retailing, plantations and alcoholic beverages. Some multinational companies have set up their units for processing of potatoes. The Ministry has been implementing various Plan Schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries and to attract private investment in food processing sector in order to give boost to agro-food processing including processing of potatoes. Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Modernisation / Establishment of food processing industries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, A & N Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas. Besides, Government has already exempted fruits & vegetable products from payment of excise duty. The Government has allowed a deduction of 100% of profit under Income Tax Act, for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables.

Policy on Merger and Acquisition of Private Airlines

3257. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to liberalize its policy and rules in case of mergers and acquisitions in the aviation industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines has sprung benefits to passengers and savings in operational costs and insurance and have set an exemplary model for merger and acquisition of private airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government has already issued a policy regarding use of airport infrastructure in case of merger/take over of airlines in a non-discriminatory manner.

(c) to (e) The merger of Air India and Indian Airlines will inter-alia create the largest airline in India comparable in size to other competing airlines in Asia, leading to economies

of scale and synergies in operations. However, private airlines are free to adopt different models for their proposed mergers/acquisition based on their own judgement.

[Translation]

Black Marketing of Petroleum Products

3258. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether black marketing of petroleum products is flourishing in the country;

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

(c) the number of gas agencies/petrol pumps found guilty during the last three years; and

(d) the action against the guilty gas agencies/petrol pumps by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Possibility of Black Marketing of petroleum products like PDS Kerosene/LPG cylinders cannot be ruled out by some unscrupulous elements to derive monetary benefits by use of PDS Kerosene/subsidized LPG for black marketing, due to huge difference in the prices of subsidized Kerosene, non-subsidized kerosene and other petroleum products like MS, HSD. The Government commissioned in December 2004 a study through the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). NCAER, in its report inter alia estimated diversion of PDS SKO to open market (black marketing) at 17.9% of total sale of PDS SKO in 2004.

(c) and (d) During the last three years, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) detected 5661 number of malpractices at retail outlets and action against them was taken as per provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/dealership agreements. During the same period 226 number of LPG distributors were penalized for committing various irregularities as per MDG.

Privatisation of Airports

3259. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the airports in the country which are proposed to be privatised;

(b) whether the Government is loosing its control over the privatised airports;

(c) if so, the expenditure incurred on the development of Mumbai Airport by the Airports Authority of India before its privatisation; and

(d) the percentage of the Government share in privatised airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to privatise existing airports.

(c) Expenditure incurred by Airports Authority of India (AAI) on development of Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA), Mumbai during the last three years before it was handed over to the Joint Venture Company was Rs.203.38 crores.

(d) Delhi and Mumbai airports have been restructured and handed over to Joint Venture Companies. AAI holds 26% equity in these Joint Venture Companies besides having revenue sharing arrangements with them.

[English]

Computer Centres in Muslim Dominated States

3260. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the social, educational and economical backwardness of minority communities particularly of Muslims in the country, the Government has set up computer centres, particularly in the Muslims dominated States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has chalked out any plan to educate the Muslim community of the latest developments in the world;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to keep knowledge level of minority community in the country up to date?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (e) The National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development has established 228 centres through non-governmental organisations particularly in states with a large Muslim population. The aim is to make available in the Urdu language the knowledge of scientific and technological developments as well as the knowledge of ideas evolved in the modern context.

Beautification of Buddhist Sites

3261. SHRI MOHAN JENA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to beautify

the world famous 6th century Buddhist monument at Ratnagiri in the Jajpur district of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for sound and light shows at the above mentioned sites;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government undertake a massive tree plantation in and around the Buddhist monument cited above; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) A project – Integrated Development of Buddhist Circuit in Orissa for the Development of facilities at Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri and Langudi had been sanctioned to the Government of Orissa for a total amount of Rs.740.66 lakh in the year 2004-05. The components of the project include construction of boundary wall, entrance gateways, plaza, interpretation center, water cascades, cafeteria, craft bazaar, prayer hall cum meditation center, open air auditorium, water supply and sprinkler system and sewerage treatment plant.

(c) and (d) No such proposal regarding sound and light show (SEL) at the Buddhist sites in Orissa has been received from the State Government.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Tourism has not sanctioned any assistance to undertake tree plantation under the above-mentioned project.

Cultivation of Bio-Fuel

3262. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited proposes to sign contract farming agreements with farmers for cultivation of bio-fuel plants Jatropha in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of incentives the Government proposes to extend such farmers; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to expedite implementation of such agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) No, Sir. As on date, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited have no plans to sign Contract Farming Agreements

with farmers for cultivation of Bio-fuel producing plants Jatropha in the country.

Regulatory Authority for Food Processing Industries

3263. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Regulatory Authority for Food Processing Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of decisions taken for development of food processing and generation of employment in the sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The Government has notified Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006 which envisages establishment of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

(c) For promotion and development of food processing sector, Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its Plan Schemes has been providing financial assistance to various stakeholders in the country. On the basis of Vision 2015 on Food Processing Industries adopted by the Ministry, an integrated strategy and action plan for the growth of food processing industry sector has been drawn up. The Vision is to increase level of processing from 6% to 20%, value addition: from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.6% to 3% by the year 2015. In order to realize Vision 2015, Ministry of Food Processing Industries have identified the following major strategic initiatives during 11th Plan period for rapid growth of food processing industries and consequent creation of substantial employment opportunities in the food processing sector:-

(i) Establishment of Mega Food Parks in identified clusters with appropriate backward and forward linkages.

(ii) Creation of integrated cold chains/value addition and preservation infrastructure.

(iii) Modernization of abattoirs.

(iv) Up-gradation of hygienic and quality street food and food streets.

(v) Establishment and Up-gradation of quality control laboratories.

(vi) Rationalizing tax structure.

(vii) Incentivising FDI and private investment in infrastructure.

- (viii) Undertaking capacity building of small and unorganized sector.
- (ix) Launching a major promotional campaign for the food processing sector.
- (x) Need for larger public investment for creation of critical rural infrastructure in food processing sector.

Advertisement on Passenger Reservation System

3264. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have decided to print advertisement on Passenger Reservation System (PRS) tickets;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) the revenue likely to be generated from the said move;
- (d) the terms and conditions that have to be complied with by the advertisers;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have decided to print commercial advertisements on Passenger Reservation System (PRS) tickets in order to generate additional earnings through commercial publicity. It is presently not feasible to estimate the revenue likely to be generated from this scheme.

(d) and (e) The message through advertisements should not be socially offensive and should be in keeping with public morality. Advertisements regarding intoxicants, cigarettes, bidis & other tobacco products are strictly prohibited.

- (f) The scheme has already been introduced.

Disparity in MRP of Non-Scheduled Medicines

3265. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the magnitude of medicines produced in Tax Holiday States vis-a-vis the national production of medicines;
- (b) the percentage difference of maximum retail price (MRP) of non-scheduled medicines between those manufactured in Tax Exempted States vis-a-vis those manufactured in the rest of the country; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the

disparity in public interest by implementing the recommendations of Economic Advisory Council despite approval by the PM in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The production details of individual states is not maintained in this Department.

(b) In respect of drugs, which are not covered under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 i.e. non-scheduled formulations, the manufacturers are free to fix the prices by themselves without seeking approval of Government/ National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). Such prices are normally fixed depending on various factors like the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulations, cost of excipients, cost of R&D, cost of utilities/packing materials, sales promotions cost, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc. It is a fact that in respect of non-scheduled formulations, prices of various brands are different although composition and weight/pack size are same because price on non-scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers based on economics of production which differ from case to case. The prices of non-scheduled formulation packs with different brand name vary even if they are manufactured in the same place/city. NPPA has no control over the fixation of prices of non-scheduled drugs/ formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. So far NPPA has not received any specific complaint regarding any particular brand with different maximum retail price of non-scheduled medicines between those manufactured in Tax Exempt States vis-a-vis those manufactured in the rest of the country.

(c) No final decision has been taken by Department of Revenue in the matter.

[Translation]

Fertilizers to Farmers at Subsidized Rates

3267. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to give fertilizer to farmers at subsidized rate, as reported in the Times of India dated August 9, 2007;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) the quantum of funds allocated for this purpose;
- (d) the time by which the fertilizer at subsidized rate would be made available to farmers;

(e) whether the Government propose to control the trend of regular increasing of fertilizer subsidy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The Union Government is administering a subsidy scheme on sale of various chemical fertilizers viz. urea, DAP, MOP, 11 grades of complex fertilizers and SSP. These subsidized fertilizers are provided to farmers at a notified maximum retail price which is much lower than the actual delivered cost of these fertilizers at farm gate level. The requirement of fertilizer subsidy on estimated sale on these fertilizers in the current year alongwith the carry over liabilities of subsidy from previous year is estimated to be Rs. 47,979.45 crore. Against the above requirement, an allocation of Rs. 22,452 crore has been made available in BE-2007-08. The remaining balance requirement has been communicated to Ministry of Finance for allocation in the supplementary demands for grants 2007-08.

(e) and (f) A GOM has been set up to look into all issues relating to sustainable use of fertilizers and pertinent subsidy and pricing issues. The matter regarding increase in fertilizer subsidy is also being looked into by the GOM.

Allotment of Retail Outlets/Gas Agencies

3268. SHRI KIREN RIJUJU:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

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

(a) the details of retail outlets and gas agencies allotted by the public sector oil companies from April 01, 2004 to March 31, 2007 in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether in some of the above cases allotment was made without advertising and following the due procedure in this regard;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to scrap such allotments and take action against the guilty officers responsible for such allotments;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the public sector oil companies have decided to open twelve thousand new retail outlets in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) During the period April 01, 2004 to March 31, 2007, 12885 Retail Outlet dealerships and 752 LPG distributorships have been allotted by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) throughout the country. State-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (e) OMCs have not reported any such case where allotment was made without following the due procedure. However, as per the prevalent guidelines, allotment of dealerships/distributorships was made without the route of advertisements to various categories of persons, viz., Government Organisations/PSUs/Autonomous Bodies/Charitable Trust/ Large Fleet Operators/Land Owners, etc. subject to feasibility of location, commercial viability and candidate meeting the eligibility criteria.

(f) and (g) OMCs have planned to set up 3215 retail outlet dealerships during the year 2007-08.

Statement

Number of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships for the period April 01, 2004 to March 31, 2007 allotted by the Oil Marketing Companies.

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Number of RO dealerships	Number of LPG distributorships
1	2	3	4
States			
1	Andhra Pradesh	1207	156
2	Arunachal Pradesh	11	1
3	Assam	137	4
4	Bihar	397	24
5	Chhattisgarh	226	24
6	Delhi	48	12
7	Goa	69	1
8	Gujarat	541	19
9	Haryana	673	13
10	Himachal Pradesh	171	1
11	Jammu and Kashmir	235	6
12	Jharkhand	213	5
13	Karnataka	822	9

1	2	3	4
14	Kerala	656	9
15	Madhya Pradesh	531	98
16	Maharashtra	975	44
17	Manipur	11	3
18	Meghalaya	68	0
19	Mizoram	8	0
20	Nagaland	16	3
21	Orissa	422	14
22	Punjab	1307	15
23	Rajasthan	965	34
24	Sikkim	13	3
25	Tamil Nadu	1157	93
26	Tripura	10	0
27	Uttaranchal	118	6
28	Uttar Pradesh	1399	131
29	West Bengal	444	20
30	Andaman and Nicobar	0	1
31	Chandigarh	7	1
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	0
33	Daman and Diu	5	0
34	Lakshadweep	0	0
35	Pondicherry	20	2
Total		12885	752

*[English]***New Railway line between Kadapa to Bangalore**

3269. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey of new railway line from Kadapa to Bangalore has been completed;

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

(c) the details of the proposals relating to new railway lines in the State of Andhra Pradesh pending with the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken for its clearance by the Government?

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

(b) As per the updating survey completed recently, the cost of the Cuddapah-Bangalore (255.40 kms.) new rail line project has been assessed as Rs.852.51 crore. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh have agreed to share 50% cost of this project. Final decision on the proposal will be feasible once the survey report is finalized.

(c) and (d) Final clearance for only one proposal, viz. Kakinada-Pithapuram (21.5 Kms.) new rail line, is awaited. The Planning Commission have given conditional 'in-principle' approval to the proposal. Necessary action has been initiated to obtain the requisite clearances.

*[Translation]***Gauge Conversion on Gorakhpur-Gonda Loopline**

3270. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have approved the gauge conversion work relating to Gorakhpur-Anand Nagar-Nautanva-Gonda of Gorakhpur-Gonda loopline;

(b) if so, the present status of the gauge conversion work on the said line;

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed; and

(d) the expenditure estimated to be incurred on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Earthwork, bridge works, ballasting etc. have been taken up in the entire project section. The overall physical progress is 13%.

(c) The target for completion of entire project has not yet been fixed.

(d) The anticipated cost of this project is Rs 381.17 crore.

Gauge Conversion of Nagpur-Chhindwada Railway Line

3271. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the work relating to conversion of Chhindwada narrow gauge line into broad

gauge line between Nagpur and Chhindwada in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) whether the work on the said project is running behind the schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to expedite the completion of the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Final Location Survey has been completed. Geotechnical surveys for the major bridges and tunnels have been completed and structural designing has been taken up. All applications for acquisition of private and government land have been submitted. Forestland acquisition is under process. Cost of land except the forestland has been paid to the concerned authorities. Earthwork between Chhindwara-Umrana (24 Kms) has been taken up. Out of 254 minor bridges to be built, construction of pre-cast boxes for 169 minor bridges has been taken up. Out of 27 major bridges to be constructed, work on 3 bridges has been taken up and tendering for 18 other bridges is under process. An expenditure of Rs. 13.38 crore has been incurred on the project till 31.03.2007. An outlay of Rs. 70 crore has been provided for the project in the Budget 2007-08.

(b) to (d) The target for the work has not yet been fixed. However, the gauge conversion involved detouring for certain length due to sharp curves and gradients and final location survey has taken time. Some of the tenders also could not be finalized. All efforts are being made to expedite the progress of project.

Social Works Undertaken by ONGC

3272. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) the details of works undertaken by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for public welfare under the social obligation policy in the country particularly in Gujarat;

(b) the details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred on these works;

(c) the provisions and rules regarding works to be undertaken under social obligation policy;

(d) whether the Government has received any representation letter from any Member of Parliament during the last two years alleging carelessness of ONGC in fulfilling social obligations particularly in Gujarat; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) provides financial assistance for following works under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy:

- (i) Education
- (ii) Health care
- (iii) Entrepreneurship
- (iv) Water Management
- (v) Disaster relief, and
- (vi) Social cause

The details of major works undertaken by ONGC for public welfare in Gujarat during last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred during last 3 years under CSR policy in country and in Gujarat are given below:

Year	Allocation (Rs. in lakh)		Expenditure (Rs. in lakh)	
	Country	Gujarat	Country	Gujarat
2004-05	6498.0	230.0	4446.40	141.51
2005-06	9126.0	230.0	3151.57	228.72
2006-07	10823.0	230.0	3463.0	230.0

(c) Following criteria are required to be fulfilled to qualify for financial support under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy:

- (i) In case of an NGO/Institution, it should be registered, recognized by the government, and in existence for a minimum of 3 years.
- (ii) The agency/Institution should submit audited accounts for 3 years.
- (iii) The agency/Institution should submit utilization certificate duly certified by Chartered Accountant.
- (iv) Implementing agencies/ Institutions should submit detailed information on the project e.g., objectives, beneficiaries, strategy, methodology, resources, work plan and evaluation plan.
- (v) All activities by agency/Institution are to be undertaken at places situated in and

around the areas of business of the Corporation.

- (vi) The implementing agency/Institution should submit a Work Completion Certificate.

- (vii) The Agency/Institution will not be extended financial support more than once a year.

(d) and (e) Hon'ble Members of Parliament have raised the issues related to activities initiated under CSR policy of ONGC through parliament questions and representations.

Statement

The details of major works undertaken by Corporate Office of ONGC in Gujarat

Beneficiary	Purpose
Vadodara Municipal Corporation	Construction of storm water drainage and road
Shramik Vikas Sansthan	Financial support for literacy project in Adivasi villages
Shramik Vikas Sansthan, Vadodara	Financial support for construction of training centre building
Navjivan Shram Shala, Manund	For providing drinking water to the student of backward class school at Manund near Mehsana
Hazira Area Educational & Charitable Trust	For setting up of ITI at Surat
State Government of Gujarat	Provided financial assistance for construction of 150 Anganwadis in Western Region
Life Line Foundation	For Trauma care of accident victims on the highways of Gujarat & Uttarakhand
Shramik Vikas Sansthan and Adivasi Jagruti Abhiyan	For their work for tribals of Gujarat
Indian Railways	Construction of flyover on railway crossing at Panoli in Ankleshwar Asset, Distt Bharuch
Local Government body of Ankleshwar	High mast lighting at Ankleshwar
Prime Minister Relief Funds	Relief and rehabilitation of Gujarat Earthquake victims
Chief Minister Relief Fund	For Flood relief in Gujarat through Chief Minister Relief Funds
Local Community	Seven number of free medical camps at various locations close to Mehsana work centre.

[English]

Security Upgradation at sensitive Railway Stations

3273. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.3510 on April 26, 2007 and state:

(a) the details of 185 railway stations identified as security sensitive, State-wise;

(b) whether the security upgradation at all these railway stations has been completed;

(c) if so, the details of security upgradation done at these stations, particularly those in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether any decision has been taken on the proposal to allow entry of only the bonafide passengers to the railway platforms;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) State-wise list of 185 railway stations identified as security sensitive is enclosed as statement.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is in the process.

(c) Following steps have been taken to upgrade the

security at sensitive stations. These steps are also applicable for sensitive stations in Andhra Pradesh:-

1. Unauthorized entry / exit points are being reviewed for closure.
2. Close Circuit Television and Cameras have been installed at important railway stations and trained staffs are put to monitor suspicious movements or persons on the platforms and other station areas.
3. At main entry points to the platforms, Door Frame Metal Detectors have been installed.
4. Public address system is being used at all important railway stations cautioning the passengers about precautions to be taken.

5. Strength of Dog Squad is being augmented.

6. Constant drives are being conducted against unauthorized passengers/undesirable elements in trains and railway premises.

7. Railway Protection Force personnel have been briefed thoroughly for keeping effective vigil on the suspects boarding and alighting the trains at the stations.

In addition to these measures modern security gadgets are being procured. Efforts are also being made to fill-up the vacancies in RPF and further augment the strength.

(d) to (f) All passengers holding valid tickets for journey and platform ticket holders are allowed to enter the platforms. Regular checks are conducted in association with police to check the entry of unauthorized persons on platforms.

Statement

State	Details of 185 Railway stations including 17 metro railway station identified as security sensitive.
Maharashtra	Pune, Nagpur, Mumbai Central, Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Kalyan, Mulund, Byculla, Kurla Terminus, Matunga, Dadar, Nasik Road, Manmad, Akola, Church Gate, Mahalaxmi, Virar, Mahim, Khare, Borivali, Bandra Terminus, Andheri, Jalgaon, Bhusawal, Chalisgaon, Badnera, Murlijapur, Miraj.
West Bengal	Sealdah, Howrah, Asansol, All 17 Metro Stations, New Jalpaiguri, Kharagpur, Dum-Dum, Bardhaman, Durgapur, Malda Town, Hasnabad, Basirhat, Barasat, Chandpara, Thakunagar, Gobardanga, Machhalandpur, New Barrackpora, Canning, Sonarpur, Garia, Jadavpur, Majherhat, Srirampur, Midnapur, Purulia.
Bihar	Patna, Gaya, Barkakana, Daltonganj, Rajendra Nagar, Samstipur, Darbanga, Muzaffarpur, Danapur, Narkatiyaganj, Raxoul, Kishanganj.
Orrisa	Bhubneshwar, Rourkela, Puri, Cuttack, Chakradharpur, Jarsuguda, Adra.
Punjab	Ludhiana, Amritsar, Pathankot, Jalandhar, Phagwara, Patiala, Bhathinda.
Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu Tawi, Udhampur, Gagwal, Samba.
Delhi	New Delhi, Delhi Main, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Shahdara.
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow, Varanasi, Hardiwar, Allahabad, Agra Cantt, Mughal Sarai, Ayodhya, Faizabad, Kanpur Central, Aligarh, Mathura, Lucknow Junction, Jhansi, Bareilly, Saharanpur, Khurja, Agra Fort.
Assam	Guwahati, Lamding, Dibrugarh, New Tinsukia, Dimapur, Kokrajhar, Siliguri, Mariani, Simalguri, Jorhat Town, Furkating, Patharkhola, Langcholi, Nailalong, Dhansiri, Daldali, Diphu, Dautohaja, Migrendisha, Dijaobra, Hatikhali, Maibong, Kumarghat, Manu, Jatinga, Dingtala, Chaigaon, Rawtabagan, Fakiragram, Salbari.
Andhra Pradesh	Vishakapatnam, Secundrabad, Hyderabad, Tirupatti, Warangal, Kazipet.
Jharkhand	Tata Nagar, Ranchi, Bokaro, Dhanbad, Muri.
Karnataka	Bangalore City, Mysore, Yashwantpur, Dharmavaram.
Gujrat	Vadodara, Surat, Ujjain, Ahmedabad, Dwarka, Godhra, Sabarmati.
Haryana	Ambala Cantt, Chandigarh, Kalka.
Tamil Nadu	Chennai Central, Coimbatore, Madras Egmore, Madurai, Trivendrum, Arakkonam, Rameshwaram, Kannyakumari.
Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior.

[Translation]

**Supply of Ethanol to Public Sector
Oil Companies**

3274. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

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

(a) whether ethanol is being supplied to public sector oil companies;

(b) if so, the quantum and the cost of supply during the last two years, separately, company-wise;

(c) whether several oil companies are not willing to supply ethanol;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) Ethanol is being procured by public sector oil companies for the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme.

(b) A detailed company-wise statement on the quantum and the cost of ethanol procured during the last two years is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

A company-wise statement on the quantum and the cost of ethanol procured during the last two years.

(I) Indian Oil Corporation Limited –

Year	Ethanol Quantity (KL)	Cost (Rs. in crore)
2005-06	24798	60.05
2006-07	51839	139.87
2007-08 (up to-15.8.2007)	61020	167.82
Total	137657	367.74

(II) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited –

Year	Ethanol Quantity (KL)	Cost (Rs. in crore)
2005- 06	9460	23.96
2006-07	20359	51.96
2007-08 (up to-30.6.2007)	8789	22.87
Total	38607	98.79

(III) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited –

Year	Ethanol Quantity (KL)	Cost (Rs. in crore)
August 2005 to July 2006	15283	35.09
August 2006 to July 2007	33398	88.28
Total	48681	123.35

**Sale of Petroleum Products by IOC
in Foreign Markets**

3275. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

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

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) sells petroleum products in retail market in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the names of the countries where the said corporation has carried out its business and the total amount earned during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(c) whether the said organization now proposes to wind up its business;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the extent of capital already invested by the said organization in each foreign country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) sells petroleum products in retail market in Sri Lanka and Mauritius through its overseas subsidiaries namely, Lanka IOC Ltd. and Indianoil (Mauritius) Ltd. The net profit for Indianoil (Mauritius) Ltd. during the year 2006-07 & 2005-06 is Rs. 7.86 crore and Rs.6.07 crore respectively. Lanka IOC Ltd. has incurred loss of Rs.29.38 crore and Rs.75.28 crore during 2006-07 & 2005-06 respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The capital investment of IOC in Lanka IOC Ltd. is Rs.194.14 crores and in Indianoil (Mauritius) Ltd. is Rs.75.67 crores.

[English]

Private Companies to Operate the Container Trains

3276. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have permitted private companies to start their container trains;

(b) if so, the details of the companies that have sought permission under the new policy alongwith the number of licences issued so far;

(c) the salient features and the present status of the agreements signed with these companies;

(d) the time-schedule fixed for these companies to start the container trains;

(e) the estimated investment to be made by the private companies in this area; and

(f) the total revenue earned by the Railways from the issue of licences to these private companies?

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

(b) The following fifteen operators have applied and all of them have been given permission:

1. Adani Logistics Ltd.
2. Boxtrans Logistics (India) Services Pvt. Ltd.
3. Central Warehousing Corporation.
4. Container Corporation of India Ltd.
5. Container Rail Road Services Pvt. Ltd.
6. Delhi Assam Roadways Corporation Ltd.
7. CTA Engineering Pvt. Ltd.
8. Gateway Rail Freight Pvt. Ltd.
9. Hind Terminals Pvt. Ltd. & MSC Agency (India) Pvt. Ltd.
10. Innovative B2B Logistics Solution Pvt. Ltd.
11. India Infrastructure & Logistics Pvt. Ltd.

12. Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd.

13. Pipavav Railway Corporation Ltd.

14. Reliance Infrastructure Engineers Pvt. Ltd.

15. Sical Multi Modal & Rail Transport Ltd.

(c) The Agreement has been framed keeping in view the best international practices being followed; it is bankable, ensures a level-playing field among various container train operators and adequately addresses the national & public interest perspective as also concerns of the private players. It has been signed with all the operators.

(d) The operators are required to operate their container trains in accordance with the requirements of Concession Agreement within three years from the date of award of the "In Principle Approval".

(e) The private companies are required to invest in rolling stock and Inland Container Depots which they are doing as per their requirements.

(f) Rupees five hundred eighty crores have been collected as licence fees from the above mentioned fifteen parties.

[Translation]

Renovation of Temples

3277. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any funds have been sanctioned/ proposed to be sanctioned so far for the renovation/ beautification of Vitthal Rakumai Temple located in district Solapur and the Shirdi Sainath Temple located in district Ahmadnagar in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring the above temples of Maharashtra on national tourism map with a view to attract more tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism had sanctioned a project for integrated development of Pandharpur, Dehu and Alandi circuit for a total amount of Rs.684.73 lakh on 14.8.2003 which includes the development of Lord Vitthal temple at Pandharpur with the provision of construction of Darshan Mandap, toilets and other amenities. However, no project proposal for Shirdi Sainath temple at Ahmadnagar has been received in the Ministry of Tourism.

(c) and (d) Promotion of places of tourist interest including temples is a continuous process. Ministry of Tourism promotes the places of tourist interests/spots/temples through its Indiatourism offices located in India and overseas, as also in the electronic, print and online media through the "Incredible India" campaign.

[English]

Food Processing Training Centres

3278. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Food Processing Training Centre (FPTC) and training-cum-product development centers set up by the Government in various States during the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(b) the details of the special schemes and programmes for SC/ST in these centres; and

(c) the financial assistance given by the Government in this regard during the last three years, centre-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY):

(a) The Government does not set up these centers but only assists State Government Organizations, Educational & Training Institutions, NGOs, Cooperatives etc. to do so. 70 food processing training centers have been assisted during last three years and upto 31st July, 2007 as shown in statement-I.

(b) Priority is given to the people belonging to SC/ST/OBC and women in the selection for trainees in Food Processing Training Centers.

(c) Centre-wise financial assistance provided during the last three years is given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details of FPTC assisted during last three years and current financial year (upto July 2007)

Name of the State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (upto July, 2007)
Andhra Pradesh	-	1	-	4
Haryana	-	-	1	-
Himachal Pradesh	-	1	-	1
Jharkhand	-	2	-	-
Kerala	-	1	-	1
Karnataka	-	-	1	-
Maharashtra	-	-	-	3
Madhya Pradesh	-	1	6	2
Orissa	1	3	3	-
Punjab	-	-	-	1
Rajasthan	1	-	2	-
Tamil Nadu	2	2	-	1
Uttaranchal	-	3	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	4	6	7	4
West Bengal	1	-	3	1
Total	9	20	23	18

Statement-II

Centre-wise grant released for setting up of FPTC during the year 2004-05

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name and address of the organization	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	M/s.Abhinav, J-20, Industrial Area, Begraipur, Muzzafarnagar, U.P.	1.00 (seed capital assistance)

1	2	3
2.	M/s. Hedgewar Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Kasganj (Etah), Uttar Pradesh	1.93
3.	M/s. Ratanakar Rural Urban Bikash Institution, PO Kabara Madhapur, Distt. Dhenkanal - 759014, Orissa	1.98
4.	Krishi Viyan Kendra, Dholpur, Rajasthan SI.No.4-56/2003-FPTC dt. 2.8.2004	2.00
5.	Sri Aurobindo Anusilan Society, Seharapara, Suri-731 101, West Bengal	2.00
6.	Social Welfare Centre, Tiruvarur, Tamil Nadu	2.00
7.	M/s. Rampur Samaj Seva Samiti, Rampur,(Kundal), Delhi Road, Distt. Sonapat, Haryana.	1.00 (seed capital assistance)
8.	Professor & Head, Deptt. of Fruit Crops Horticultural College and Res. Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore- 641 003	2.00
9.	M/s. Akkai Polycraft Association, C-1255, Indira Nagar, Lucknow, U.P.	2.00
10.	Lokoudyog Sewa Sansthan, Sikraura, Azamgarh, U.P	2.00
11.	Dr. Zakir Husain Memorial Trust: Health Care and Rural Development Society, 4, Gulmohar Avenue, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi	7.50

Centre-wise grant released for setting up of FPTC during the year 2005-06.

		(Rs. in lakhs)
1	Pawan Shiksha Avam Jan Utthan Samiti, Village Kheti, Distt. Chamoli, Uttrakhand	2.00
2	Sayma Educational & Welfare Society, Vill. Mahipura, Dehradun Road, Saharanpur - 247001, Uttar Pradesh	1.73
3	Himalto Gramodyog Sansthan, Mini Industrial Area Bhatwari Sain, Rudraprayag, Uttrakhand	1.63
4	Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences, Karunya Nagar, Coimbatore- 641114	7.50
5	Janta Gram Vikas Sansthan, Sarai Chawat, Nagra-Ballia, UP	1.73
6	Judicial Education and Social Uplift Society, Distt. Dindigul, Tamil Nadu	1.966
7	Orissa Media Centre, 47, Ekamra Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar- 751015, Orissa	2.827
8	Fairdeal Gramodyog Sewa Samiti, Village & PO Bishunpur, Distt. Barabanki, UP	1.78
9	Nirmal Gramodyog Sewa Niketan, 128, Maharana Pratap Nagar, Etah-207001,UP	1.81
10	Better Insitute for Rural Development and Action, Kanehipur, Via Khalikote (R.S.), Distt. Ganjam- 761 039, Orissa	1.68

1	2	3
11	People's Association for Total Help & Youth Applause, D-42, Mahendra Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi	2.00
12	Jagrati Gramodyog Seva Sanshan, 521/62, Maharana Extension, Bara Chandganj, Lucknow, UP	2.00
13	Vikas Bharti Bishunpur, Gumla- 835 331, Jharkhand	2.00
14	Ambota Gram Udyog Vikas Sansthan, Vill. PO Ambota, Distt. Una, Himachal Pradesh	1.986
15	Neyyattinkara Taluk Traditional Oil Workers Cooperative Society Ltd., Olathanni PO, Neyyattinkara Taluk, Distt. Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	2.00
16	Bhubaneshwar Science and Environment Forum, 47, VIP Area, I.R.C. Village, Bhubaneshwar - 751015, Orissa	2.00
17	Shri Krishan gramouthan Samiti, Village Sabjit Ka Pura, Distt. Morena, Madhya Pradesh	2.00
18	Harit Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan, Village & PO Kainchi, Distt. Nainital, Uttranchal	2.00
19	Gramin Mahila Vilas Sansthan, B-137/8, Indira Nagar, Lucknow, UP	2.00
20	Rural Integrated and Social Education Society, 1-455, Dwarka Nagar, Distt. Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh.	1.785

Centre-wise grant released for setting up of FPTC during the year 2006-07

(Rs. in lakhs)

1	Jagruk Mahila Mandal, Chanderi, Distt. Ashok Nagar, Madhya Pradesh	2.00
2	Heritage Foundation, Suryanagar, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa	2.00
3	R.K. Jan Shikshan Evam Samaj Kalyan Sansthan. Gram Kotra, Post Husainpur, Distt. Morena, Madhya Pradesh	1.738
4	Bhubaneshwar Science and Environment Forum, 47, VIP Area, IRC Village, Bhubaneshwar. Orissa	1.00 (Seed capital)
5	Bhartiya Kisan Kalyan Samiti, AB Nagar, Distt. Unnao, UP	2.00
6	Pawan Shiksha Avam Jan Utthan Samiti, Kheti, Distt. Chamoli, Uttarakhand	1.00 (seed capital)
7	Taru Shikshan Evam Prashikshan Samiti, Distt. Morena, M.P.	2.00
8	Himalto Gramodyog Sansthan, Mini Industrial Area, Bhatwari Sain, Distt. Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand	1.00 (seed capital)
9	Shri Krishan Gramouthan Samiti, Village Sabjit Ka Pura, Distt. Morena, Madhya Pradesh	1.00 (seed capital)
10	Tafa Palli Milani Sangha, At Sarishahat, Distt. South 24 Parganas, West Bengal	2.00

1	2	3
11	Luxmi Women Handicraft Centre Association, Kalyan Bhawan, Gulaothi, Distt. Bulandshahr, U.P.	1.797
12	Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Sarisha, Distt. South 24 Parganas, West Bengal	2.00
13	Sarvdaliya Manav Vikas Kendra, Bahjoi, Moradabad, U.P.	1.935
14	Shree Krishna Gramin Shikshan Sansthan. Village Siya Kundal, PO Umrao Ganj, Distt. Raisen, Madhya Pradesh	2.00
15	Manav Kalyan Evam Vikas Samiti, Vilasganj, Agra, UP	1.95
16	Jan Kalyan Society, Siwani Mandi, Distt. Bhiwani, Haryana	2.00
17	Orissa Media Centre, 47, Ekamra Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa	5.087
18	College of Dairy & Food Science Technology, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture & Technology, Udaipur, Rajasthan	7.50
19	Sampark Building Perfect relations, B-29, Sector 53, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, UP	2.00
20	Native Education & Employment Developing Society, Old Vidhansabha Road, Bhopal, MP	2.00
21	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Banasthali Vidyapith, Tonk, Rajasthan	2.00
22	Ramakrishna Mission Pallimangal. Kamarpukur, Distt. Hoogly, West Bengal	2.00
23	Deen Dayal Shiksha Samiti, Gwalior, MP	2.00
24	Association for Social Work & Social Research in Orissa, Boudh, Orissa	2.00
25	Small Industries Service Institute, Hubli, Karnataka	7.11
26	Adharshila Samajik Evam Sanskritik Vikas Sansthan, Lucknow, UP	2.00
27	Begum Hazrat Mahal Women Educational Society, Sandila, Hardoi, UP	2.00

Oil Refinery in Kakinada

3279. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

DR. M. JAGANNATH:

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

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has framed plans for setting up an oil refinery in Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the detailed project report has been prepared by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation;

(d) if so, the total expenditure likely to be incurred on the project; and

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):
(a) and (b) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is currently examining techno-economic viability of setting up an export oriented refinery project at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh through a Joint Venture Company.

(c) Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) has been engaged for carrying out Details Feasibility Report (DFR) for an augmented capacity of 15.0 MMTPA.

(d) and (e) The exact quantum of investment & timeline for completion thereof can be firmed up only after completion of the DFR & Financial appraisal of the same.

Compensation on Loss of Life in Flight

3280. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a passenger was found dead in the toilet of the aircraft of Indian flight as reported in 'The Times of India' dated June 19, 2007; and

(b) if so, the facts and the guidelines laid down for the payment of compensation in such cases to the relatives of the passenger who die in the plane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Shri Madhur Kharbanda, who was travelling by IC-859 of 18th June, 2007, had gone to the rear toilet and when he did not return for quite some time the Cabin Crew opened the door and found him collapsed in the toilet. Shri Kharbanda was immediately attended to by three doctors on board and first aid was administered. After landing of the flight, Shri Kharbanda was also observed by the Doctor arranged by Singapore officials and was pronounced dead. As per policy, no compensation is payable to the relative of a passenger who dies a natural death on board.

[Translation]

Ethanol Blended Petrol

3281. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have allowed the sale of 5% ethanol blended petrol in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the companies which have started to mix 5% ethanol in petrol;

(d) the names of the companies which have not adopted this policy yet; and

(e) the reasons for not adopting this policy therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Vide Notification No. G.S.R. 580 (E) dated 20.9.2006 has directed that subject to commercial viability, Oil Marketing Companies shall sell 5% of ethanol blended petrol, as per Bureau of Indian Standards specification, in the notified 20 states and 4 Union Territories w.e.f. 1.11.2006. Oil Marketing Companies are procuring ethanol from indigenous producers through open tenders, with a validity period of three years extendable by two more years.

The tenders for supply of Ethanol have been finalized in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand, Goa, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh (partially). The ethanol blended petrol supplies have already commenced in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Goa, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand (partially), Gujarat (partially) and Andhra Pradesh (partially).

(c) to (e) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have already started selling of 5% ethanol blended petrol in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Goa, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand (partially), Gujarat (partially) and Andhra Pradesh (partially).

However, the 5% EBP programme could not be implemented by these companies in the remaining States due to —

- (i) Delay in issuance of requisite Gazette Notification by State Government of West Bengal,
- (ii) Hurdles in free inter-state movement of ethanol,
- (iii) Delay in issue of excise permits and
- (iv) Non-rationalisation of levy of taxes/duties on ethanol.

Availability of Funds for Payment of Pre/Post Matric Scholarship to Other Backward Classes

3282. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to make available necessary funds for the 100% payment of pre-matric and post-matric scholarships to the students of Other Backward Classes as provided to the students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this decision is likely to be taken in this regard and the amount is likely to be made available to the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Under the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBC students, 100% central assistance is provided to State Govts./UTs over and above their Committed liability. Under the pre-matric Scholarship Scheme for OBC students the central Govt. assistance is limited to 50% of the scholarship amount. There is no proposal to revise the existing funding pattern under the above schemes.

Demand of Oil Fields from Iraq

3283. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have demanded oil fields from Iraq in a recently held meeting of Joint Working Group constituted between India and Iraq;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have held any dialogue with regard to the implementation of agreements signed earlier;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the kind of co-operation India propose to extend in the reconstruction of Iraq?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) to (e) Yes, Sir. In the recently concluded 16th Session of India-Iraq Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation held at New Delhi in May 2007, on a request from India, the Iraqi side agreed to consider the revalidation of contract for 8 blocks awarded to ONGC for exploration and production in the year 2001, in accordance with the new Iraqi Oil and Gas Law. Subsequently, on 3rd August 2007, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between Ministry of Oil, Iraq and ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL). The Iraqi side invited Indian Oil Corporation to participate in the tenders including through joint ventures with Iraqi companies, in a range of activities relating to evaluation, drilling, exploration and production of oil and gas. Besides, the Indian Oil PSUs have offered services in both upstream and downstream areas, training, operation and maintenance, gas transmission lines, LPG Plants, supply of Compressed Natural Gas to automotive sector etc.

[English]

Promotion of Night Tourism in Delhi

3284. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) jointly propose to launch a plan to promote night tourism in Delhi as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated August 11, 2007;

(b) if so, the details of the plan and the names of the monuments selected for the purpose so far; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India had sanctioned a Mega Project to India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) for Illumination of 13 Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) monuments in National Capital Territory of Delhi for a total amount of Rs.2375.09 lakh in the year 2006-07. The ASI monuments covered under the project are – Purana Quila, Sher Shah Gate and Masjid, Safdarjung Tomb, Sabz Burj, Kotla Feroze Shah, Khan-e-Khana, 12 Khamba at Nizamuddin, Lal Darwaja area at Delhi Gate, Chhoti Ghumati at Green Park, Sikari Ghumati at Green Park, Biran Ka Gumbad at Green Park, Dadi Poti ka Gumbad at Green Park, Najaf Khan's Tomb at Jorbagh.

Vacant Posts in PSEs

3285. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of vacancies at top level are lying vacant in various Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) in the country;

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

(c) the reasons for delay in approval and appointment of these vacancies; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fill the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per available information, 10 posts of Chief Executives and 43 posts of functional Directors in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are lying vacant.

(b) The PSE-wise details of these 53 vacant board level posts are enclosed in statement.

(c) The reasons for delay in some of the Board level appointments include, delay in obtaining vigilance clearances, approval of competent authority, delay in taking over of charge by the appointee, sudden vacancies arising, court cases, revival of posts kept in abeyance by the concerned Ministries, etc.

(d) The Government has issued detailed guidelines indicating the time frame for filling up such posts in CPSEs. The recommendations of Public Enterprises Selection Board should be made at least six months in advance of the date of occurrence of vacancy and are sent to the concerned Ministry/Department for completing other formalities.

Statement**Details of Board level vacancies in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) (as on 31.08.07)****(I) Board level vacancies in CPSEs where recommendations of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) are awaited**

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Date of Vacancy
1	2	3
1.	Director (Technical), Bharat Bharti Udyog Nigam Limited	30.03.06
2.	MD, Nagaland Pulp & Paper Corporation Limited	22.03.07
3.	CMD, National Jute Manufacturing Corporation Limited	29.03.07
4.	CMD, Scooters India Limited	13.04.07
5.	Director (Marketing), Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited	30.04.07
6.	Director (Commercial), Instrumentation Limited	01.06.07
7.	CMD, Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited	21.06.07
8.	MD. Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited	21.06.07
9.	CMD National Aluminium Company Limited	26.06.07
10.	Director (Technical), Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency	27.06.07
11.	Director (Production) Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited	27.06.07
12.	Director (O&C), Konkan Railway Corporation Limited	01.07.07
13.	Director (Finance), Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited	05.07.07
14.	Director (Technical), HMT Machine Tools Limited	09.07.07
15.	Director (Technical), Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited	31.07.07
16.	Director (Finance), ITI Limited	01.08.07
17.	Director (P&NS), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	06.08.07
18.	Director (HR), ITI Limited	24.08.07

(II) Board level vacancies in CPSEs where PESB's recommendations are awaiting approval of the competent authority

1	Director (C&M), Indian Tourism Development Corporation Limited	16.03.05
2.	Director (Marketing), State Trading Corporation Limited	14.12.06
3.	Director (BT&C), Shipping Corporation of India Limited	01.03.07
4.	Director (Technical), Hindustan Latex Limited	24.04.06
5.	Director (Operations), HMT Limited	01.07.07
6.	Director (Marketing & CP), Central Warehousing Corporation	15.11.05
7.	MD. Burn Standard Company Limited	01.12.06
8.	Director (Marketing), National Textiles Corporation Limited	22.05.06

1	2	3
9.	Director (Projects), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited	07.09.06
10.	Director (HR), National Textiles Corporation Limited	22.05.06
11.	CMD, North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited	10.11.06
12.	Director (Finance), Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited	05.05.06
13.	Director (Finance), National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited	23.01.07
14.	Director (Op), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited	21.02.07
15.	Director (Finance), RITES Limited	28.02.07
16.	Director (HR), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited	25.01.07
17.	Director (IMO), Container Corporation of India Limited	12.12.06
18.	Director (Finance), Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited	09.03.07
19.	Director (Finance), National Projects Construction Corporation Limited	12.03.07
20.	Director (Engineering), National Projects Construction Corporation Limited	29.11.06
21.	Director (Finance), Hindustan Latex Limited	26.02.07
22.	Director (C&M), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	13.03.07
23.	Director (Tech), Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited	01.04.07
24.	Director (Marketing), PEC Limited	01.07.07
25.	Director (Finance), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited	01.05.07
26.	Director (Marketing), Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited	06.02.07
27.	Director (HR), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited	04.04.07
28.	Director (L&PS), Shipping Corporation of India Limited	18.06.07
29.	Director (Finance), Telecommunications Consultants India Limited	01.06.07

(III) Board level vacancies in CPSEs where approval of competent authority is available but incumbent is yet to join

1.	Director (Op), Hindustan Copper Limited	01.02.07
2.	Director (Finance), Bridge & Roof Company Limited	01.05.07
3.	Director (Finance), Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited	01.01.07
4.	Director (Finance), Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited	01.12.06
5.	CMD, Dredging Corporation of India Limited	01.12.06
6.	CMD, Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited	07.12.06

CMD: Chairman-cum-Managing Director

MD: Managing Director

New Freight Terminal

3286. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new freight terminals developed by the Railways and their locations;

(b) the investment required for development of new freight terminals;

(c) the amount of extra revenue would be generated from these new freight terminals;

(d) whether the Railways have any plan for giving few freight terminals to the private companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) Revenue generation, from all such terminal can not be quantified. However, these new terminals have been planned, so as to meet the growing freight business of Indian Railways.

(d) Presently, there is no policy for leasing out railway terminals to companies.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

The following works are included in Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme of Railways for 2007-08 for the development of freight terminal on Indian Railways:

S.No.	Work	Location	Railway	Cost of work (Rs in Crore)
1.	New goods complex	Rairu	NCR	4.38
2.	Development of full rakes Terminal	Jairam Nagar	SECR	1.43
3.	Development of full rakes Terminal	Bhupdeopur	SECR	1.88
4.	Full length rake handing siding & rail level platform with stone brick surface	Govind Nagar	NER	2.23
5.	Land acquisition for development freight coaching terminal	Holambi Kalan	NR	39.37
6.	Goods shed facilities for handling	Taloja Panchanand	CR	1.00
7.	Freight terminal	Daund	CR	0.49
8.	On the Broad Gauge, freight terminal are sanctioned	Shoranur	SR	0.45
9.	On the Broad Gauge, freight terminal are sanctioned	Budalpur	SR	0.37
10.	New Freight Terminals, Sarai and Mansi	Sonpur	ECR.	It varies from Project
11.	Freight terminal, Saharsa	Samastipur	ECR	to Project
12.	Freight terminal, Bhabhua Raod	Mughalsarai	ECR	
13.	Freight terminal	Sanatnagar	SCR	13.52
14.	Freight terminal	Kakinada Port	SCR	68.24
15.	Freight terminal	Reddipalem (Guntur)	SCR	1.53

[Translation]

Financial Assistance from World Bank

3287. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial assistance has been given by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank for development of tourist areas during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise details of tourist spots on which this economic fund has been used for their development till date?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Gauge Conversion Work on Delhi-Jaipur Railway Line

3288. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of gauge conversion work on Delhi-Jaipur railway line via Lohare-Jhunjhunu-Sikar-Churu-Ringus-Jaipur and Suratgarh-Hanumangarh railway lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c): Delhi to Rewari is already a Broad Gauge line. Rewari to Sadulpur via Loharu is already a sanctioned Gauge Conversion work, targeted for completion in 2008-09. Further, survey for Loharu-Sikar and Jaipur-Ringus-Sikar-Churu Gauge Conversion has been completed. As per survey, cost of the Gauge Conversion (319 kms) has been assessed as Rs.500 crore. The proposal has been sent to Planning Commission for "in principle" approval.

Suratgarh-Hanumangarh is already a broad gauge line.

[English]

Frequency of Bangalore-Patna Express

3289. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the frequency of Bangalore-Patna express has been changed from tri-weekly to six days a week;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are considering to

make this express train a daily train in view of persistent and increasing demand in this regard; and

(c) if so, the response of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) In the Rail Budget 2007-08, it has been announced to increase the frequency of Patna - Bangalore Sanghamitra Express from 2 days a week to 6 days a week during the year 2007-08.

(b) and (c) 2557/2558 Darbhanga- Bangalore Express (weekly) is already running on the path of the Patna - Bangalore Sanghamitra Express on the remaining day between Patna and Bangalore, thus resulting in a daily service for the passengers desirous of traveling between Patna and Bangalore.

Development Funds for Food Processing Industries

3290. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India or any banks in India has recommended three development funds for the expansion of food processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether appropriate action has been taken to set up funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Reserve Bank of India has not made any recommendation for setting up of development funds for expansion of food processing sector. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has not received any such proposals from any other banks.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Acquisition of Artifacts

3291. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the institutions of national importance engaged in acquisition, preservation and restoration of art objects of historical importance in the country, location-wise;

(b) whether the functions of most of these institutions overlapped and there is no synergy among them;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to consider any consistent policy in respect of acquisition of artifacts;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the investigation of the theft of a fifth century Buddha Head from Sarnath from the Museum in December, 2004 has been completed;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the action taken against the persons found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The National Museum, New Delhi, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, Indian Museum, Kolkata, Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, Allahabad Museum, Allahabad, and Victoria Memorial, Kolkata, are the national level institutions under the Ministry of Culture engaged in acquisition, preservation and restoration of art objects. In addition, the Archaeological Survey of India with its Headquarters in New Delhi and National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow are also engaged in preservation and restoration of art objects at the national level.

(b) and (c) All these institutions have their distinct identity, aims and objects. However, they collaborate with each other as and when necessary.

(d) and (e) The acquisition of art objects is done by each institution based on the nature of its mandates, requirement and existing collections. Since their aims and objects are different and some of these are autonomous managed by their Board of Trustees/Societies, there can be no single art acquisition policy for all of them.

(f) to (h) The case of theft of the fifth century Buddha Head from Sarnath from the Indian Museum, Kolkata in December, 2004 has been handed over to the CBI.

[Translation]

Formation of State Airlines for Maharashtra

3292. SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued notification for the formation of State Airlines for Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to include Jalgaon city in the State Airlines category;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No application has been received from the Government of Maharashtra for formation of a State Airline.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Conditions of Minority Population of Assam

3293. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about the lack of infrastructure and minimum basic facilities among the minority population living in Assam particularly in the districts of Dhubri, Goalpara, Barpeta, Morigaon, Nowgaon etc.;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made on deplorable living condition of minority population of Assam;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to improve their living conditions?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) The districts of Dhubri, Goalpara, Barpeta, Morigaon and Nowgaon are all included in the 13 districts of Assam, that have been identified as minority concentration districts, based on the population of minorities in these districts and their relative backwardness vis-a-vis national average of relevant socio-economic and basic amenities indicators.

(d) A budgetary provision of Rs.120 crore has been made in the Annual Plan 2007-08 for implementation of a multi-sectoral development programme for all identified minority concentration districts all over India to address their 'development deficits'.

[Translation]

Changes in Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes Students

3294. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring some changes in the scholarship scheme meant for the scheduled castes students;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which said changes are likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the

minimum annual income criteria for providing scholarship to the scheduled castes students; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Centrally Sponsored scheme of Post Matric Scholarships for students belonging to Scheduled Castes is under process for streamlining.

Inclusion of Bairagarh and Bhopal Railway Station in West Central Railway

3295. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bairagarh Railway Station and Bhopal Railway Station fall under different Railway Zones viz. Western Railway and West Central Railway respectively despite the fact that both the stations are part of the same metropolitan city and fall under the same municipal corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways received representations for bringing both these railway stations under one Zone;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) the time by which the Bairagarh Railway Station will be brought under the West Central Railway Zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Bairagarh Railway Station falls under the jurisdiction of Ratlam Division of Western Railway and Bhopal Railway Station falls under the Bhopal Division of West Central Railway.

(b) The decision to place a particular section under a particular division/zone is taken purely on operational/administrative requirements without any regional considerations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposal, when examined in the light of operational/administrative requirements has not been found feasible.

(e) Does not arise.

Railwayline in Uttarakhand

3296. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to lay new railway lines from Tanakpur to Bageshwar and from Rishikesh to Karnprayag in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when work is likely to be started on the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There have been demands for construction of new rail lines from Tanakpur to Bageshwar and Rishikesh to Karnprayag. Surveys for these lines had been done in past and the proposal could not be considered due to un-remunerative nature, heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and constraint of resources.

(c) Does not arise as projects are not sanctioned.

[English]

Petro-Chemical Investment Region in Vishakhapatnam

3297. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of Petro-Chemical Investment Region in Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has sought financial assistance for the said project; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, an application for setting up a Petroleum, Chemical and Petro-Chemical Investment Region (PCPIR) at Vishakhapatnam-Kakinada-Rajahmundry was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh (AP). A preliminary scrutiny of same was undertaken on 26th July, 2007 in association with the representatives of the Government of AP. Accordingly the Government of Andhra Pradesh is to submit a revised proposal.

Roll Back of Petrol and Diesel Prices

3298. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the

Government to further roll back petrol and diesel prices to pre-June, 2006 level;

- (b) if so, by when it is likely to take place; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) On the basis of decline in international oil prices, the prices of petrol and diesel were reduced on 30.11.2006. It was again reduced on 16.2.2007. The reduction was Rs. 2/- per litre and Re. 1/- per litre for petrol and diesel respectively on each occasion (Delhi price). After these reductions, the prices of petrol and diesel have been brought back to pre-June, 2006 level. Since the retail selling price of petrol and diesel continue to be below the international oil prices and Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are incurring under-recoveries on sale of sensitive petroleum products, no further downward revision is proposed for the time being.

[Translation]

Subsidy on Fertilizers

3299. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently decided to continue subsidy on fertilizers as reported in the 'Hindustan' dated August 9, 2007;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) the details of subsidy allocated to fertilizer sector during 2007-08 in comparison to previous year; and
- (d) the time by which the Government proposes to review the allocation of subsidy policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Union Government is administering a subsidy scheme on sale of various chemical fertilizers viz. Urea, DAP, MOP, 11 Grades of complex fertilizers and SSP. These subsidized fertilizers are provided to farmers at a notified maximum retail price which is much lower than the actual delivered cost of these fertilizers at farm gate level. The requirement of fertilizer subsidy on estimated sale on these fertilizers in the current year alongwith the carry over liabilities of subsidy from previous year is estimated to be Rs. 47,979.45 crore. Against the above requirement, an allocation of Rs. 22,452 crore has been made available in BE-2007-08. The expenditure on fertilizer subsidy during the year 2006-07 was Rs. 25,952 crore.

(d) A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been set up to look into all issues relating to sustainable use of fertilizers and pertinent subsidy and pricing issues. The matter regarding subsidy policy is also being looked into by the GOM.

[English]

Vacant Posts in Railways

3300. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a ban on fresh recruitment in Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) if so, the number of posts lying vacant and since when these posts are lying vacant, Zone-wise;
- (d) whether due to non-filling up of vacant posts the extra burden are being enforced on the existing staff resulted compromising safety and security of passengers; and
- (e) if so, the time by when the final decision is likely to be taken to fill up vacant posts?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Zone-wise position of vacancies as on 30.6.2007 is as follows:

1. Central Railway	-	13274
2. Eastern Railway	-	13153
3. East Coast Railway	-	8243
4. East Central Railway	-	14227
5. Northern Railway	-	17118
6. North Central Railway	-	8671
7. North Eastern Railway	-	3370
8. Northeast Frontier Railway	-	8876
9. North Western Railway	-	8138
10. Southern Railway	-	7472
11. South Central Railway	-	10601
12. South Eastern Railway	-	12462
13. South East Central Railway	-	8591

14. South Western Railway	-	6264
15. Western Railway	-	7698
16. West Central Railway	-	9519

Occurrence & filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. While a few vacancies are likely to exist in this continuous process at any point of time, the policy of the Government is to fill up the vacancies promptly as per procedure. Duration of existence of each vacancy is not maintained.

(d) No extra burden is being enforced on the exiting staff thereby compromising with the safety standards. Desired optimum output is achieved by employing requisite number of staff and adopting new technologies.

(e) General Managers of zonal Railways are already empowered to assess the requirement and get the same filled up from time to time by placing indents on Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) in case of Group 'C' categories. For Group 'D' requirement, the recruitment is done by Railways themselves.

Special Purpose Vehicle to Utilize Surplus Space

3301. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group of Railways has suggested the formation of special purpose vehicle (SPV) to utilise the vast space available above the platforms and areas around stations for various purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to tap revenue potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The Working Group Report for Railway Programmes for the 11th Five Year Plan has suggested that areas around the stations and air space above the platform could be commercially developed through Public-Private Partnership (PPP). It has also suggested that new passenger terminals could be taken up through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) on joint venture Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) model decided through competitive bids.

(c) 22 Stations have been identified for development into world-class stations through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

A separate authority, namely, Railway Land Development Authority (RLDA) has been set up to do commercial development of surplusable Railway lands.

New Railway Track between Nadikudi and Srikalahasti

3302. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for laying new railway track between Nadikudi and Srikalahasti which falls under the backward area of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The survey for Nadikudi-Srikalahasti new line was completed in 2004-05. As per the survey report, cost of construction of this 309 kms. long new line was assessed as Rs.711.52 crore. The survey report is under examination in consultation with South Central Railway.

(c) No time frame is feasible to be given in this regard

Earning from Rake Points

3303. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual earnings from rake points at Dhamangaon under Nagpur Division of Central Railway;

(b) the estimated profit for the current year from this rake point;

(c) whether it is a fact that local traffic is being disturbed due to shunting of rakes;

(d) if so, is there any separate arrangement for shunting of rakes without disturbing local traffic; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There was no originating loading from Dhamangaon goods shed during 2006-07 and upto August during 2007-08. However, 6 Food Corporation of India foodgrains rakes were re-booked with an earning of rupees 24,19,146/- during 2006-07. In addition, 59 rakes were unloaded during 2006-07 & 28 rakes have been unloaded between April & August in 2007-08.

(c) Yes, Sir. There is a level crossing gate in Dhamangaon station area between station and advanced starter signal, which has to be closed for passage of all trains. This gate has to be closed while doing shunting for placement/removal of rake in/from goods shed.

(d) and (e) No separate arrangement is feasible for placement of rake without closure of gate at this time. However, one Road Over Bridge for the said gate (No.74A) is already sanctioned and work is in progress.

Merchant Airports

3304. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the growth in air traffic during each of the last three years and projections for the 11th Five Year Plan;

(b) the objectives of the concept of 'Merchant Airports' and the number of such airports required to meet the demands of passenger and cargo traffic;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy to depart from public-private joint venture and allow 100% foreign direct investment in 'Merchant Airports' to be built, developed and operated by private companies purely on commercial viability basis but only under safety and security regulations of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The annual growth of air passengers during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 was 21.5%, 23.7% & 31.4% respectively. The projection of growth of air passengers during 11th Five Year Plan is 21.6%.

(b) to (e) The extant policy on Airport Infrastructure facilitates construction of new Greenfield airports in public or private sectors or to be taken up as a joint venture subject to obtaining technical clearance and licence from the competent authority and approval of the Central Government. The policy also provides for 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Greenfield airport development only.

[Translation]

Revenue Earned from Tourism Industry

3305. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned on account of tourism during the last three years along with the year-wise details thereof;

(b) whether earning from the tourism sector is satisfactory;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to further promote tourism in order to increase revenue therefrom; and

(e) the extent of success achieved by the Government following these steps?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The foreign exchange earnings from tourism during 2004, 2005 and 2006 are estimated at 4769, 5731 and 6569 million US\$ respectively.

(b) and (c) Although the foreign exchange earnings from tourism have been growing continuously in the recent years, it is felt that with India's vast bounties of nature, its great treasures of art, architecture and philosophical thought, its rich cultural heritage, its varied rural countryside and wildlife, and age-old practices of Yoga, Siddha, etc. spread across different States/UTs, there is immense tourism potential to tap, which can lead to further increase in the earnings from tourism.

(d) The steps being taken by the Government to promote tourism and increase revenue therefrom include:

- Development of tourist spots under its various schemes of infrastructure development for tourist circuits and destinations;
- Focusing on growth of hotel infrastructure, particularly that for budget hotels;
- Enhancing connectivity through augmentation of air capacity and improving road infrastructure to major tourist attractions;
- Direct approach to the consumers through electronic and print media through the "Incredible India" Campaign;
- Creation of World Class Collaterals;
- Direct co-operative marketing with the airlines, tour operators and wholesalers in overseas markets;
- According greater focus to the emerging markets, particularly of China, North East Asia and South East Asia;
- Participation in Trade Fairs and Exhibitions;
- Use of internet and web marketing;
- Generating Tourist Publications; and
- Re-inforced hospitality programmes including grant of air passages to invite media personnel, tour operators on familiarization tours to India to get first hand knowledge on various tourism products.

(e) As a result of the steps taken by the Government, foreign tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings registered healthy average annual growth rates of 17.9% and 23.3% respectively during the period 2003 to 2006.

[English]

Shortage of Rakes

3306. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway is concerned about growing demand of rakes during 11th and 12th Five Year Plans due to huge proposed development in power, steel and cement sectors as reported in Business Line dated August 2, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways for restructuring and augmenting production in public sector wagon manufacturing units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. The projected overall freight traffic by the end of 11th Plan period is about 1100 million tones. Higher plan outlay is envisaged to meet this demand.

(b) The Business Line dated 2.8.07 has reported that with number of Wagon Investment Scheme (WIS) customers going up and the committed allotments for the Central Board of Traffic (CBT) customers, South Eastern Railway (SER) would face serious challenge for supply of wagons to iron ore customers. The report has stated that the present level of 15 rakes under WIS is likely to go up by another 40 rakes or so and the rise in the number of rakes to be made available under WIS will affect the number of rakes to CBT and other customers. There is, however, no specific mention in the report about demand of rakes in 11th and 12th Plan periods or for Power and Cement sectors.

(c) Restructuring and technical upgradation for augmentation of production capacity is undertaken by the Public Sector wagon manufacturing units under the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. Railways are providing necessary support to these units by way of procuring bogies and couplers for them on cost basis.

[Translation]

Conversion of Gas based Units into Natural Gas/LNG based units

3307. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal Bed Methane (CBM) and coal can be alternative feedstocks for those gas based units which do not get adequate gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Coal-bed Methane (CBM) and coal may not be the alternative feedstock for the existing gas-based units which do not get adequate gas, as mostly these gas-based plants are located along the HBJ pipeline and as such are not in the vicinity of CBM and Coal fields.

However, for new plants near the coal pithead, CBM and coal can be the alternative feedstock for manufacturing ammonia and urea. Under New pricing Scheme Stage-III for urea units, notified on 8th March 2007 which is effective from 1st October 2006 Government has recognized coal and CBM as an alternative feedstock for production of ammonia and urea.

[English]

Acquisition of Acreage for Exploration in Trinidad and Tobago

3308. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has won an exploration acreage in Trinidad and Tobago;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the names of the countries where Public-Sector Undertakings have won an exploration acreage during the last three year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) ONGC Mittal Energy Limited (OMEL), a joint venture between ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) and Mittal Investment Sarl, had made a bid for a block in Trinidad and Tobago. However Government of Trinidad and Tobago has not yet finalized award of block.

(c) The names of countries where Oil Public Sector Undertakings have acquired exploration acreage during the last three years are: Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, East Timor, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Libya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Sao Tome Principe, Sudan, Syria, United Kingdom, Vietnam and Yemen.

*[Translation]***Pilferage of Crude Oil**

3309. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the Unstarred Question No. 1357 dated March 8, 2007 and state:

(a) the outcome of the departmental enquiry conducted against M/s. Sharda Transport Company;

(b) whether the ONGC has conducted an enquiry into the pilferage attempt at Navagaon GGS-I as ordered by the Hon'ble High Court;

(c) if so, the details of the enquiry Authority and the findings in the report;

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the Firm in this regard; and

(e) the time by which action is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) ONGC had constituted a Departmental Enquiry Authority consisting of a DGM, Chief Engineer and Manager immediately after the pilferage attempt on 04.04.2006. The Enquiry Committee submitted its report on 17.04.2006 and made following specific recommendations.

- Checking of tankers while entering/going out of GGS including breaking of seal/lock be done by shift crew only in the presence of CISF security guard.
- Security at gate be strengthened so as to avoid incidence of escaping of tanker crew from installations during loading/unloading operations.
- Dedicated manpower in shifts for unloading activities so as to maintain work-discipline with proper authority and responsibility.

The above recommendations have been implemented and are now part of standard procedure.

Copy of the enquiry report was submitted to the 'Honorable High Court of Gujarat'.

(d) and (e) Contract of the firm has been terminated from 01.08.2007 on account of poor performance and bank guarantee invoked. The case is under arbitration.

*[English]***Railway Projects in Himachal Pradesh**

3310. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhanupali-Bilaspur, Chandigarh-Baddi railway line and Inland Container Depot at Baddi-Barotiwala of Himachal Pradesh are under consideration of the Ministry of Railways;

(b) if so, the present status of these projects;

(c) the time by which the Nangal-Tahwara railway line is likely to be completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The survey for Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri new line has already been completed and suitable funding mechanism for this proposed new line is being worked out so as to further process the proposal accordingly. As regards Chandigarh-Baddi new line, the new line project was included in the budget 2007-08 based on 'in principle' approval. Government have recently accorded final approval to the project and preliminary works like final location survey, detailed estimate land acquisition etc. will be taken up. Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh area of Himachal Pradesh can be served by CONCOR's new rail linked Inland Container Depot (ICD) which has already become operational at Dhapper near Chandigarh. The distance between Dhapper and the important areas of Himachal Pradesh like Baddi, Barotiwala and Nalagarh is in the range of 50-85 Kms only. CONCOR is also in the process of organising an independent survey to study the traffic potential of Baddi for establishing road based ICD in Baddi.

(c) and (d) The section from Nangal Dam-Una Himachal to Churaru Takrala (32.73 kms.) has already been completed and commissioned. Time schedule for completion of balance section have not been fixed and work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Road Overbridge (ROB) in East Coast Railway Zone

3311. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the road over bridges being constructed in East Coast Railway Zone during the last three years,

(b) the details of the amounts sanctioned against each such road over bridge during the each year mentioned;

(c) whether the construction works are being done as per schedule;

(d) if so, the time schedule fixed for completion of ROB at Randia Railway Gate and the total amount budgeted for the last three years in East Coast Railway Zone; and

(e) the reasons for delay in the completion of the bridge within the stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There are 18 works of Road over bridges sanctioned on East Coast Railway upto 2007-08. Out of these, one work has already been completed.

11 works are at planning, estimation and tender finalisation stages. Physical construction work is going on for remaining six works. Allocations made for these works during last three years is also given below in juxta-position:

(Rs. in thousands)

Name of work	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Haldipadar-Sillapump ROB	4200	10000	15000	25000
Jagannathpur-Berhampur ROB near Lanjapalli	0	2600	25000	4080
Duvvada ROB in lieu of LC (north cabin)	100	10000	1000	100
ROB between Nellimaria-Vizianagaram	0	15000	25000	2877
ROB between Chipurupali-Garivadi	24000	10000	20000	16965
Bhadrak-Baudpur ROB in lieu of Randia Gate LC at Km. 293/16-17	1000	10000	10000	40000

(c) Yes, Sir. Railway portion of work is taken up as soon as drawings and estimates are finalised by State Govt. and goes on as per schedule.

At present, it is not feasible to run Bhubaneswar Rajdhani via Purulia due to operational reasons.

(d) Feb. 2008. Budget allocated during last 3 years to Randia ROB is as under:

2005-06	-	1 cr.
2006-07	-	1 cr.
2007-08	-	4 cr.

(e) Bridge is scheduled to be completed by Feb. 08. Estimate for the approach portion has been received from (R&B) Deptt., State Govt., only in Feb' 07.

Running of Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express Through Purulia

3312. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to run Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express through Purulia Railway Junction, West Bengal in view of the demand of the people of Purulia district;

(b) whether the Railways have also received some proposals in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Railways on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present.

(b) and (c) A few requests were received and examined.

Revival of Bengal Immunity Ltd.

3313. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bengal Immunity Limited is likely to be revived soon;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it will be tie up with Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Bengal Immunity Limited (BIL), Kolkata was closed following orders passed by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) on 25.2.2003. All employees were relieved under VSS as on 30.9.2003. High Court of Kolkata appointed Official Liquidator. The appointment of Official Liquidator was stayed by the High Court, Kolkata first at the instance of the BIL Employees Union and thereafter this Department. Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) wanted to hear the views of this Department about the revival of BIL, Kolkata. The Department has set in motion the process of finalising the views. This exercise has not been completed.

[Translation]

Payment of Lease Amount by SAIL

3314. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that the Government of Maharashtra has asked for lease amount of 57 crore rupees for merger of Maharashtra Electros melt Limited with Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL);

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has directed the SAIL to make the payment of the said amount;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to issue instructions to the State Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) In response to the application made by Maharashtra Elektros melt Limited (MEL) to the Government of Maharashtra for providing 'No objection' for transfer of MEL land to the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Government of Maharashtra has asked for the deposit of 50% of the unearned income in the land which is about Rs.57 crore.

(b) No direction has been issued to SAIL by the Government to make the payment of the said amount and efforts are under way to have this demand waived.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (b) above.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal at present to issue instructions to the State Government in this regard. However, the State Government has been requested to waive this demand.

[English]

Merchant Airports in Karnataka

3315. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop merchant airports at Bijapur, Gulbarga and Shimoga districts in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received 19 expressions of interest for the said airport;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government of India has received proposals from the Government of Karnataka (GOK) for developing Greenfield airports at Gulbarga, Bijapur & Shimoga on public private partnership basis.

(b) to (d) GOK has informed that Expression of Interest (Eoi) has been received from 19 firms and these firms have been asked to submit Request For Proposal (RFP). The last date of receipt of RFP is 24th September, 2007.

Revamp of Ring Railway in Delhi

3316. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed a complete revamp of Ring Rail in the wake of forthcoming Commonwealth Games in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to inter-connect the Ring Rail with Delhi Metro;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the above proposal would be implemented?

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

(b) A proposal has been received from Ministry of Urban Development regarding utilization of Ring Rail for running high frequency metro/modern Electric Multiple Unit Services on Public Private Partnership basis.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A proposal has also been received from Ministry of Urban Development for providing interoperability between the Metro corridor and Indian Railway lines.

(e) The proposal has not been found feasible due to operational and technical reasons.

Centres of Excellence

3317. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has any proposal to set up 'World Class Centres of Excellence';

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

(c) whether some of the Public Sector Undertakings have also any proposal of the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In line with the strategy for achieving leadership in

technology, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has created seven Centres of Excellences (COE), which are equipped with state-of-art hardware/software and competent manpower for meeting the diverse developmental needs of BHEL products as well as the requirements of other organizations like power stations, space centres, defence establishments and vital infrastructural enterprises.

BHEL has established the following Centres of Excellence;

- i) Centre of Excellence for Simulators.
- ii) Centre of Excellence for Computational Fluid Dynamics
- iii) Centre of Excellence for Permanent Magnet Machines
- iv) Centre of Excellence for Surface Engineering
- v) Centre of Excellence for Intelligent Machine and Robotics
- vi) Centre of Excellence for Machine Dynamics
- vii) Centre of Excellence for Advanced Fabrication Technology.

The first six centers are located at the Corporate R&D establishment at Hyderabad while the last one is at Tiruchirapalli.

(c) PSEs under administration control of Department of Heavy Industries do not have any proposal except that of BHEL to set up World Class Centres of Excellence (WCCE).

(d) Does not arise.

Raising of Platforms at Holalkere

3318. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal for raising of Platforms at Holalkere and Ramagiri railway stations in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of these proposals;

(d) the time by when the work on these projects are likely to be started and completed; and

(e) the estimated cost of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a work sanctioned at Holalkere and Ramagiri for extension/raising.

(b) to (d) Holalkere railway station – Extension of

medium level Platform No. 1 from 275 meters to 470 metres and construction of medium level Platform no. 2 for a length of 350 meters.

Ramagiri railway station – Extension of medium level Platform from 275 metres to 470 meters.

These works have already commenced and are planned for completion by December, 2007.

(e) Anticipated cost of Holalkere work is Rs. 22.20 lakhs and that of Ramagiri work is Rs. 10.50 lakhs.

Soyabean based Plastic

3319. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that soyabean-based plastics is biodegradable and can be used for food packaging purposes since it meets food grade standards and environment friendly;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to replace the conventional plastics by soyabean-based plastics and any research has been conducted on it;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Though biodegradable plastics are known to be derived from various renewable agricultural resources including soya proteins, enough data on uses for packaging of food articles is not available.

(b) to (d) The major use of conventional plastic has been as replacement of more traditional materials like paper, jute, glass etc. particularly in packaging due to various properties like light in weight, good barrier properties against water and water borne organisms, retention of aroma and longer shelf life of the food articles to be packed.

The use of biodegradable plastic is limited at present and the main uses presently are limited to compost bags, mulching applications and some packaging applications. Some research projects have been supported by Council of Scientific Development and Research (CSIR) for production of biodegradable polymeric materials. The high cost, problems associated with mixing with normal plastics and limited technical characteristics are the other reasons for limited use of biodegradable plastics.

Domestic LPG Consumers in Karnataka

3320. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of domestic LPG consumers in Karnataka;
- (b) the number of LPG consumers in Bangalore city;
- (c) the quantum in metric tonnes of cooking gas required every month;
- (d) whether there is any shortage of domestic LPG in Karnataka;
- (e) whether the new domestic LPG connections have been stopped in Karnataka;
- (f) whether Government are aware that nearly 25 per cent of the LPG meant for domestic consumption is being diverted to hotels, restaurants and automobile filling stations; and
- (g) if so, the steps taken to stop this pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):
 (a) and (b) As on 1.7.2007, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMGs) were serving 5284094 customers in the State of Karnataka. Out of the above 1986389 customers were in Bangalore city.

(c) The estimated requirement of LPG in the State of Karnataka & Bangalore city is 50,337 MTs & 18,886 MTs per month respectively.

(d) At present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country including the State of Karnataka and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the Public Sector Marketing Companies (OMCs) through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

(e) No, Sir. At present, new LPG connections are available across the counter for genuine domestic customers and there is no waiting list for release of new connections in Karnataka.

(f) OMCs have reported that they do not have data about the percentage diversion of domestic LPG in the country. However, few instances of diversion of domestic LPG for commercial use have come to the notice of OMCs.

(g) Action against the erring distributors is taken in accordance with the provisions under the LPG Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). In addition to the action taken by the OMCs under the MDG, State Governments are empowered to take action against illegal use of domestic LPG.

The following measures have been taken to prevent the diversion / black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes:

- i) Under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of OMCs is prohibited. The State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of this Order. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.
- (ii) The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godown, delivery point, as well as en-route to ensure that no diversion/black marketing takes place. In terms of the MDG, in case of establishment of any diversion/ black marketing of domestic LPG cylinder for commercial purposes, the following action is taken against the distributor:-

 Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.

 Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence, and

 Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.
- (iii) Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/malpractice to the OMCs.
- (iv) Government have advised OMCs to introduce different colours for domestic & non- domestic cylinders. This is expected to help in controlling the diversion of domestic LPG for unauthorized use.

[Translation]

CNG Filling Stations

3321. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the plan chalked out by the Government for setting up of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Filling Stations in the country during 2007-08, State-wise; and

(b) the State-wise locations of the CNG Filling Stations during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):
 (a) and (b) While the Government has not prepared any plan for setting up Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) filling stations in the country during the period 2007-08, it has prepared a

regulatory framework for encouraging investment in this area. 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' has been enacted on 3-4-2006. The 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks' has been notified on 20-12-2006, which has come into effect from 22-12-2006, the date of its publication in the official Gazette.

[English]

Haridaspur-Paradip Railway Project

3322. SHRI MOHAN JENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for slow progress of the proposed Haridaspur-Paradip Railway Project in Orissa;
- (b) the hurdles being faced by the Railways in this regard;
- (c) the steps taken/being taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways to speed up the said railway project; and
- (d) the time by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Haridaspur-Paradeep New Line project has been sanctioned. The work is being executed by Haridaspur-Paradeep Railway Company Limited (HPRCL), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) created by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). Shareholders' Agreement signed on 11.10.06. The work on long lead item of Mahanadi and Luna bridge has already been taken up. Further, earthwork, bridgeworks and building works on entire project length is being taken up.

The process of land acquisition which was slow earlier has picked up now. There are no hurdles at present.

- (d) 2009-10.

India-US Agreement for Gas Hydrates

3323. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and US have signed any agreement for cooperation in the field of gas hydrates;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard?
- (c) the time by which the said agreement will be operational; and
- (d) the extent to which the natural gas hydrate programme for exploratory research on the natural gas

hydrates in the country will be boost after the implementation of the said MoU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes Sir. Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has signed an agreement on behalf of Government of India with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for cooperation in the field of gas hydrate on 17.2.2006.

- (b) Under this agreement, the USGS and DGH were to conduct in depth studies prior, during and after the gas hydrate coring/drilling programme. The drillship JOIDES Resolution carried out drilling/coring programme for gas hydrates in Indian water during the period 28.04.06 to 19.08.06. The programme was named "NGHP Expedition 01".

Scientists from India and US are currently carrying out scientific studies in various laboratories & Institutes in India and abroad.

- (c) The agreement was effective from 17.02.2006 and is still operational.

(d) Through the above Agreement, the "NGHP expedition 01" was taken up which established the presence of gas hydrates in Krishna Godavari, Mahanadi and Andaman offshore area.

Centrally Protected Monuments in Haryana

3324. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Centrally protected monuments in Haryana;
- (b) the amount spent on their upkeep during the last three years;
- (c) whether it is proposed to include some more monuments in Haryana in the list of Centrally protected monuments;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the revenue earned from these monuments during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There are ninety centrally protected monuments/sites in Haryana as given in the statement.

- (b) The expenditure incurred on conservation,

preservation, maintenance and environmental development of these centrally protected monuments during the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount
2004-05	Rs. 166.49 lakhs
2005-06	Rs. 193.71 lakhs
2006-07	Rs. 342.16 lakhs

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

(e) The revenue earned from these monuments during the last three years are as under:

(Rupees in lakhs)

Year	Revenue from 2 Ticketed Monuments	Revenue from other sources	Total
2004-05	03.89	0.30	04.19
2005-06	04.30	0.15	04.45
2006-07	03.75		03.75

Statement

List of Centrally Protected Monuments in Haryana

Sl. No.	Name of the monument/site	Locality	District
1	2	3	4
1	Kos Minar	Ambala	Ambala
2	Ancient site	Naurangabad	Bhiwani
3	Kos Minar No. 18	Alanpur	Faridabad
4	Bund or Dam	Anangpur	Faridabad
5	Kos Minar No. 22	Aurangabad	Faridabad
6	Kos Minar No. 24	Banchari	Faridabad
7	Kos Minar No. 25	Banchari	Faridabad
8	Kos Minar No. 27	Phulwana	Faridabad
9	Kos Minar No. 16	Gadhuri	Faridabad
10	Kos Minar No. 17	Gadhuri	Faridabad
11	Kos Minar No. 26	Hodal	Faridabad
12	Kos Minar No. 23	Khatiala	Faridabad

1	2	3	4
13	Kos Minar No. 21	Khera Sarai (Bamani Khera)	Faridabad
14	Kos Minar No. 20	Khusropur (Kusali pur)	Faridabad
15	Kos Minar No. 10	Khawaza Sarai (Ghosi pur Sarai)	Faridabad
16	Mughal bridge over Buriya Nala	Khawaza Sarai (Atamadpur)	Faridabad
17	Suraj Kund Masonary	Lakar pur	Faridabad
18	Kos Minar No.11	Mawai (Faridabad Sector - 29)	Faridabad
19	Kos Minar No. 13	Mazzessar	Faridabad
20	Kos Minar No. 19	Palwal	Faridabad
21	Kos Minar No. 15	Sikri	Faridabad
22	Ancient site	Banawali (Sjotar)	Fatehabad
23	Humaun's Mosque	Fatehabad	Fatehabad
24	Lat of Feroz Shah	Fatehabad	Fatehabad
25	Baoli Ghas Ali Shah	Farruknagar	Gurgaon
26	Mosque of Ala Vardi Khan	Sarai Ala Vardi Khan	Gurgaon
27	Mound	Agroha	Hissar
28	Barsi gate	Hansi	Hissar
29	Ruined Quila (Prithvi Raj Chouhan's Fort)	Hansi	Hissar
30	Ferozshah Palace & Tehkhana	Hissar	Hissar
31	Gujri Mahal	Hissar	Hissar
32	Latki Masjid	Hissar	Hissar
33	Ancient site	Rakhigarhi	Hissar
34	Kos Minar	Bhaini Kalan	Karnal
35	Kos Minar	Dana	Karnal
36	Gateways of Old Mughal Sarai	Gharaunda	Karnal

1	2	3	4
37	Kos Minar	Gharaunda (North)	Karnal
38	Kos Minar	Gharaunda (South)	Karnal
39	Cantonment Church Tower	Karnal	Karnal
40	European Soldier's Grave	Karnal	Karnal
41	Kos Minar	Karnal (Namaste Chowk)	Karnal
42	Kos Minar	Karnal (City Area)	Karnal
43	Kos Minar	Kohand	Karnal
44	Kos Minar	Kutail	Karnal
45	Kos Minar	Tirawari (North)	Karnal
46	Kos Minar	Tirawari (South)	Karnal
47	Theh Polar	Siwan (Pollar)	Kaithal
48	Ancient Brick Temple including Prachin Shivalaya	Marvana, Kalayat	Kaithal
49	Kos Minar	Amin	Kurukshetra
50	Ancient Mound	Amin	Kurukshetra
51	Kos Minar	Adhaun	Kurukshetra
52	Kos Minar	Bhawani Khera	Kurukshetra
53	Kos Minar	Fatupur	Kurukshetra
54	Kos Minar	Mohari	Kurukshetra
55	Ancient Mound known as Raja Karan ka Quila	Thanesar (Mirza pur)	Kurukshetra
56	Kos Minar	Thanesar (Darakalan)	Kurukshetra
57	Pathar Masjid	Thanesar	Kurukshetra
58	Sheikh Chilli's Tomb	Thanesar	Kurukshetra
59	Raja Harsh ka Tila	Thanesar	Kurukshetra
60	Kos Minar	Sarai Sukhi	Kurukshetra

1	2	3	4
61	Kos Minar	Shahbad	Kurukshetra
62	Kos Minar	Zainpura	Kurukshetra
63	Jal Mahal and adjacent land	Naranul	Mahendragarh
64	Shah Ibrahim's Tomb	Naranul	Mahendragarh
65	Shah Quli Khan's Tomb	Naranul	Mahendragarh
66	Kos Minar	Jatipur	Panipat
67	Obelisk, Commemorating Third battle of Panipat	Kala Amb	Panipat
68	Kos Minar	Kiwana	Panipat
69	Kos Minar	Manana	Panipat
70	Bab-e-Faiz gate	Panipat	Panipat
71	Kabuli Bagh Mosque with enclosure wall	Panipat	Panipat
72	Ebrahim Lodi's Tomb	Panipat	Panipat
73	Two Kos Minar	Panipat Taraf Unsar	Panipat
74	Kos Minar	Taraf Afghan	Panipat
75	Kos Minar	Siuuali (Sewah)	Panipat
76	Kos Minar	Baiyan pur	Rohtak
77	Ancient site	Khokra Kot	Rohtak
78	Shah Jahan-ki-Baoli	Mahem	Rohtak
79	Ther Mound	Sirsa	Sirsa
80	Mughal Kos Minar	Akbar pur Barota	Sonepat
81	Mughal Kos Minar	Gannaur	Sonepat
82	Mughal Kos Minar	Jagdish pur	Sonepat
83	Mughal Kos Minar	Jawa Hari	Sonepat
84	Mughal Kos Minar	Panchi Gujran	Sonepat
85	Mughal Kos Minar	Raj pur	Sonepat

1	2	3	4
86	Tomb of Khwaja Khizer	Sonepat	Sonepat
87	Mughal Kos Minar	Sonepat	Sonepat
88	Kushna Stupa known as Jarasandha-ka-Qila	Kamal	Kamal
89	Group of Monuments at Jhajjar	Jhajjar	Jhajjar
90	Nabha House	Dara Kalan (KKR)	Kurukshetra

BPCL Petrol Pumps

3325. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BPCL petrol pumps running in the country where the period of lease has expired and the Corporation has lost its rights to store petroleum products specially in Northern India;

(b) the investment/expenses has been made by the Corporation on the modernisation of such retail outlets after the expiry of period of lease, name of retail, outlet-wise and amount-wise;

(c) whether the Government would conduct enquiry regarding the misuse of Corporation funds;

(d) whether the oil corporation, specially BPCL would close such retail outlets where it has lost all the legal rights in the event of expiry of lease period;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) and (b) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has reported that the Corporation has 105 retail outlets (ROs) in Northern India out of the total 409 ROs running in the country, where lease has expired. However, in none of these cases, the Corporation has lost its right to store petroleum products due to expiry of the lease of the site. The Corporation has not made any expenses/investments on modernization of the ROs after the expiry of the period of the lease of the site.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Corporation exercises all the options available for the protection of the ROs site viz. Statutory

option, legal tenancy act, etc. Efforts are also made by the Corporation to negotiate with the landlords for fresh lease/purchase of the site. The Corporation considers surrendering of site/closure of ROs on a case to case basis after exhausting all options.

(f) Does not arise.

Bharat Stage-IV Norms for Automobile

3326. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in line with the strict roadmap for the vehicle emission norms recommended by R.A. Mashelkar Committee, Government proposes to notify Bharat Stage IV norms for fuel companies and automobile manufacturers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these norms are likely to be notified;

(c) the date fixed for implementation of these norms in automobile and fuel companies;

(d) the names of cities in the country where these norms are likely to be applicable;

(e) the total expenditure likely to be incurred by fuel and automobile companies to meet these norms;

(f) whether the Government proposes to give any help to these companies to meet the norms;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) to (d) As per the road map given in the Auto Fuel Policy based on the recommendations of Mashelkar Committee, Government is to introduce Euro IV equivalent emission norms for both petrol and diesel four wheeler vehicles in 11 cities namely Delhi/NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune, Surat, Kanpur and Agra with effect from 1.4.2010. The oil marketing companies will be supplying fuel of Euro IV equivalent standard to these cities w.e.f 1.4.2010.

(e) As per the Auto Fuel Policy Report, estimated expenditure for the refineries to be able to achieve the auto fuel specification required for meeting the vehicular emission norms upto the year 2010 is about Rs. 30,000 crores.

As per Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) estimates given in the Auto Fuel Policy Report, the automobile industry will need to invest Rs.25,000 crores for producing vehicles that are compatible with the proposed emissions norms.

(f) to (h) Government is committed to grant all statutory clearances required for implementing the fuel quality improvement projects. However, effective measures to implement auto fuel quality improvement projects would be taken by oil companies operating both in public and private sector.

National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers

3327. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the genesis and objective of the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers;

(b) the funds allocated and released under the scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan and achievements made thereunder, State/UT-wise;

(c) the utilisation of funds during the said period alongwith number of beneficiaries, State/UT-wise;

(d) the measures taken by the Government to monitor the funds utilisation under the scheme;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal for enhancement of Central share under the scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (f) The Scheme was started to provide financial assistance to manual scavengers and their dependents for their training and rehabilitation in alternate occupations. State/UT-wise details of total funds released, funds utilized and number of beneficiaries covered under the Scheme are given in the statement enclosed.

A Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers has been launched in January, 2007. The Scheme contains liberal provisions for training, loan, capital and interest subsidy as compared to the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers. The implementation of the Scheme is regularly monitored by the Ministry.

Statement

State/UT wise Central Assistance Released, UCs received and Beneficiaries Covered under National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	States	Total Central Assistance Released	Total UCs Received	Number of beneficiaries	
				Trained	Rehabilitated
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	55.78	23.87	8716	31410
2	Assam	7.50	5.82	5891	1894
3	Bihar	11.27	0.00	425	285
4	Gujarat	30.61	0.00	1029	18139
5	Haryana	18.37	10.06	5747	15684
6	Himachal Pradesh	8.62	5.51	5093	3234
7	Jammu and Kashmir	1.03	0.00	936	211
8	Karnataka	41.32	22.80	1668	9439
9	Kerala	0.55	0.00	156	189
10	Madhya Pradesh	119.12	107.16	50940	91021
11	Maharashtra	46.22	26.86	12976	19838

1	2	3	4	5	6
12	Orissa	19.61	11.33	6349	13007
13	Punjab	6.63	0.00	4523	2988
14	Rajasthan	44.48	0.00	11152	14793
15	Tamil Nadu	57.80	0.00	11245	23551
16	Uttar Pradesh	227.75	205.98	42215	181553
17	West Bengal	7.23	3.92	1049	2740
18	Delhi	5.28	0.98	400	2941
19	Pondicherry	0.08	0.04	0	0
20	Nagaland	0.11	0.00	0	0
21	Meghalaya	0.03	0.00	18	129
22	Chhattisgarh	16.89	0.00	2153	879
23	Jharkhand	10.85	0.00	0	0
24	Uttaranchal	10.00	0.00	0	0
	Total	747.11	424.33	172681	443925

*[Translation]***Subsidy on Fertilizers to Farmers**

3328. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide subsidy on fertilizers to the farmers through smart cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to provide subsidy on fertilizers directly to the farmers;

(d) if so, whether the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has conducted a study on the proposal of the Government;

(e) if so, whether the TCS has submitted any report to the Government in this regard;

(f) if so, the salient features of the said report;

(g) the action being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the light of the said report; and

(h) the details of benefits likely to accrue to the farmers in each States of the country from the present fertilizer subsidy proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (f) In the Budget 2007-08, the Government has announced that an alternative method of delivering the subsidy directly to the farmer needs to be explored and that the fertilizer industry has agreed to work with the Department of Fertilizers to conduct a study and find a solution. Accordingly, the Fertilizer Association of India (FAI) has commissioned a study by the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on alternative mechanisms for delivery of subsidy to the farmers. The salient features of the report of TCS are:-

i) Direct subsidy disbursement to farmers/tillers through smart cards

ii) Farmers and dealers need be registered at district level

iii) The subsidy disbursement is linked to purchase of fertilizer products (or nutrients)

iv) A district (within every state) will be the unit for provisioning/budgeting fertilizer subsidy

(g) and (h) A Group of Ministers has been formed to look into sustainable use of fertilizers and pertinent subsidy and pricing issues. The issues relating to alternative mechanism for release of subsidy to farmers is also being looked into by the GOM.

LPG as Alternative Fuel

3329. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to make LPG cylinder available in the rural areas particularly in the villages close to forests;

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

(c) whether the Government would consider in its national forest policy to make LPG cylinders easily available in village as an alternative; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) to (d) LPG is a clean and environmental friendly fuel. Use of LPG has progressively increased to cover nearly 48.6% of the country's population as on 31.3.2007. Public Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are serving 9.43 crore (approx.) LPG customers as on 31.3.2007, out of whom 2.15 crores (approx) are in rural areas. OMCs have also introduced 5 kg domestic LPG cylinders with effect from August, 2002 in order to meet the demand of low-income groups in urban, semi-urban and rural pockets and also extend the reach of LPG to the hilly terrain and interior areas in the country on account of convenience in transportation. The State wise details are available with Directors (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

Government have given freedom to OMCs to set up LPG distributorships in accordance with their commercial assessment and locations are identified by them on the basis of available refill sale potential for sustaining an independent distributorship. However, Government have advised OMCs to draw up Marketing Plans for covering semi-urban and rural areas. OMCs have finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 841 locations for setting up LPG distributorships mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations.

Misuse of Power by Police Personnel in the Trains

3330. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that Government Railway Police and State Police personnel take money from passengers for providing them seats in the overcrowded trains;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have conducted any surprise checks in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of such incidents noticed during the last three years, zone-wise;

(e) the number of officials found involved in such acts; and

(f) the action taken/to be taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Only 01 incident of involvement of State Police personnel in taking money from passengers for providing them seats in train on 1-6-2006 was detected.

(c) Surprise checks and raids are conducted frequently by Railway Protection Force's officers along with Commercial and Vigilance branches to keep check on such activities.

(d) On 1-6-2006, one Constable of Delhi Police was found involved in taking money from passengers for providing them seats in train No.2554 Vaishali Exp. at New Delhi Railway Station. A case vide Cr.No.202/06 U/S 384 Indian Penal Code was registered at Delhi Railway Police/New Delhi.

(e) No, Sir. No Railway officials have been found involved in such acts.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Safety and Security of Foreign Tourists

3331. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the incidents of misbehavior with foreign tourists at different places in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in each case; and

(d) the measures initiated to rebuild the confidence of foreign tourists about their safety and security while visiting Indian Tourist places?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKASONI): (a) to (d) Law and Order is a State subject and data pertaining to incidents of misbehavior with tourists is not compiled and maintained by the Ministry of Tourism. However, in order to curb illegal activities and to ensure safety and security, the Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union

Territories to deploy Tourist Police at tourist centers. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, etc., have deployed Tourist Police in one form or another.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of AC Bogies

3332. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are manufacturing new AC bogies to increase its income;

(b) if so, the details of the special facilities proposed to be added in the new bogies alongwith the amount of income likely to increase as a result of it;

(c) the number of such bogies so far manufactured by the Railways; and

(d) the number of such bogies proposed to be manufactured in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Enhanced passenger capacity layouts with extra passenger berths/seats have been developed for air-conditioned three tier coaches, First class air-conditioned coaches, Air-conditioned two tier coaches and composite coaches such as 1st AC cum AC-3 tier and AC-3 tier cum AC-2 tier, and manufacture of these types has been started.

Other than these, AC Garib Rath Sleeper and Chair car coaches with higher passenger carrying capacity are also being manufactured. All standard facilities stipulated for various class of coaches will be provided in these coaches as well.

No assessment of extra income is available.

(c) and (d) Manufacturing of such higher capacity AC coaches is just being started, and so far only three AC-3 tier and two AC-2 tier coaches have been made. Manufacture of other variants will also be started in the current year itself. In addition, the number of Garib Rath coaches manufactured till July, 07 are as under:

Garib Rath Chair Car	-	20 coaches
Garib Rath Sleeper	-	56 coaches

In future, all the above mentioned types of coaches are planned to be manufactured with these higher passenger capacities.

Central Assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations

3333. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

PROF. M. RAMADASS:

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI:

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

(a) the details of Non-Governmental Organisations to whom grants were provided by the Government during 2006-07 State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the funds provided to NGOs during the previous years have submitted their utilization certificate;

(c) if so, the details of NGOs which did not submit their utilization certificate in time;

(d) whether there is any monitoring system about the work done by NGOs after submitting utilization certificate;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether it is a fact that most of the NGOs are submitting utilization certificate without completing the work to get further grant for the next year, and

(g) if so, the action taken in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Grants to 1527 Non Governmental Organizations were provided upto December, 2006 under various schemes of the Ministry, details of which are available in the Annual Report of the Ministry.

(b) to (g) The guidelines and procedure for sanction of grant in aid to the Non Governmental Organisations have adequate safety measures. Before sanctioning grant-in-aid, recommendations from the State Governments are obtained, which contain details such as audited accounts, utilization certificates, annual reports, list of beneficiaries etc. The performance of the NGOs is monitored on half yearly basis and through periodical inspections by Central/State Governments and designated agencies. The installments of grant-in-aid are released only after receipt of satisfactory inspection reports.

[English]

Railway Projects in Andhra Pradesh

3334. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total track in kilometers converted into broad gauge in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years; and

(b) the allocation made and expenditure incurred during the above period, year-wise; and project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) About 163 km. of railway track has been converted into broad gauge in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years.

(b) Year-wise, project-wise allocations made are available in the Pink Book of respective years. However, the details of ongoing gauge conversion projects falling fully/ partly in the State of Andhra Pradesh along with their anticipated cost, expenditure incurred up to March, 2007, outlay for 2007-08 are as under:-

(Rupees in Crore)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Anticipated Cost	Expenditure incurred up to March, 2007	Outlay 2007-08
1.	Dharmavaram-Pakala	294.99	18.61	85.00
2.	Guntur-Guntakal and Guntakal- Kalluru new line from Pendakallu to Gooty	528.38	463.92	60.00
3	Naupada-Gunupur	91.30	61.92	25.00

[Translation]

Multinational Companies in Indian Pharmaceutical Market

3335. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the multinational foreign companies are selling their products on a large scale in the Indian pharmaceutical market;

(b) if so, the names of such multinational companies which have been active during 2006-07 and 2007-08 till date;

(c) whether these companies are engaged in the field of pharmaceutical research as well;

(d) if so, the major finding and the total expenditure incurred by such companies on research in terms of the percentage of their total sale during the year 2006-07, separately; and

(e) the total turnover of each of such companies in India during the year 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Multinational companies like Abbott India Ltd., Astra Zeneca Pharma India Ltd., Bayer Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd., Eli Lilly & Company (India) Pvt. Ltd., Fulford India Ltd., Glaxo Smith Kline Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Johnson & Johnson Ltd., Merck Ltd., Novartis India Ltd., Organon (India) Ltd., Pfizer Ltd., Roche Scientific Co. (India) Pvt. Ltd. Sanofi Aventis Group, Wyeth Ltd., GSK Pharmaceuticals Ltd.(Glaxo), Sandoz Pvt. Ltd., Uni-Sankyo Ltd., Quintiles Research (India) Pvt. Ltd. & Regent Drugs Ltd. and many others are selling their products in the Indian Pharmaceutical market.

(c) to (e) The information furnished by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research on the Expenditure incurred on research in the field of Pharmaceuticals by the following nine multinational companies, who are recognized by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, along with their sales turnover and research expenditure as a percentage of their sales turnover during 2006-07 is given as under:-

(Rs. Lakhs)

S.No.	Company	Research Exp. Apr 2006-March 07 unless stated	Sales Turnover Apr 06-Mar 07 unless stated	Research Exp as % of Sales Turnover
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Abbott India Ltd.	208 Dec 2005-Nov 2006	51024 Dec 2005-Nov 2006	0.41
2.	Merck Ltd.	156 Jan 2006-Dec 2006	32949 Jan 2006-Dec 2006	0.47
3.	GSK Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (Glaxo)	615 Jan 2006-Dec 2006	167757 Jan 2006-Dec 2006	0.37

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Johnson & Johnson Ltd.	NA	NA	NA
5.	Pfizer Ltd.	2380 Dec 2005-Nov 2006	66200 Dec 2005-Nov 2006	3.60
6.	Sandoz Pvt. Ltd.	10363	53032	19.54
7.	Uni-Sankyo Ltd.	21	4958	0.42
8.	Quintiles Research (India) Pvt. Ltd.	4569	6410	71.28
9.	Regent Drugs Ltd.	953	12909	7.38

Tribal Tourism

3336. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is huge potential of tribal tourism in the country, especially in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether any action plan is to be formulated for the development of tribal tourism in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism including tribal tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism under the scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits (including rural tourism) extends Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The proposals that are complete in all respects are examined as per the Scheme guidelines and funds released on the basis of inter-se priority and availability of funds.

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs.82.68 crore for 52 projects to Government of Maharashtra during the 10th Five Year Plan.

[English]

**Modernisation and Expansion
of Steel Plants**

3337. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details and present status of the projects for modernisation of steel plants in the country, plant-wise:

(b) the time by which modernisation process will be completed;

(c) the estimated expenditure thereon, plant-wise; and

(d) the estimated requirement of additional manpower, capital machinery and land for expansion of steel plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Both the major steel-making companies under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel, i.e. the Steel Authority of India Ltd.(SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.(RINL) are undertaking ambitious modernization and expansion plans. SAIL proposes to modernize and expand capacity at its plants to increase production of hot metal from present level of 14.6 million tonnes per annum (2006-07) to 26 million tonnes per annum by the year 2010-11 and the expansion plan will be completed by 2010 progressively. The Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) proposes to expand its capacity to increase production of hot metal from the present level of 4.05 million tonnes per annum (2006-07) to 6.50 million tonnes per annum by the year 2009-10 and the expansion plan is expected to be completed by March, 2010.

Ministry of Steel does not monitor and maintain the details and status of projects for modernization in the private sector.

(c) As on date, SAIL has approved the expansion/substance schemes of all major steel plants at a present indicative cost of about Rs.49.000 Crores. Plant-wise details of the same is as under:

(Rs. in crores)	
SAIL	Total Investment
1	2
IISCO Steel Plant (ISP)	8871
Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP)	5549
Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)	7668
Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)	8399

1	2
Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP)	11262
Salem Steel Plant (SSP)	1419
Sustenance Scheme	6065
Total	49233

The anticipated cost of expansion of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) taking into consideration the packages/items ordered and the balance works out to Rs.11,200 Crores.

(d) For meeting the requirements of enhanced production, SAIL will be increasing its labour productivity through efficient operations and higher levels of automation. There would be requirement for recruitments in project area to meet the work load in expansion projects. However, there would be progressive reduction in number of employees in the works and non-works areas due to yearly separation. Selective recruitment will also be undertaken for recouping separations and improving the age mix of the work force. Requirement of expansion projects shall also be met partially through retraining and redeployment of existing employees.

The total requirement of capital machinery for expansion of SAIL are yet to be finalized as tendering activity for various packages of expansion plans are in progress.

365 Acres of additional land is required only for expansion of IISCO Steel Plant (ISP) of SAIL and no additional land is required for expansion of others Steel Plants of SAIL.

As per project report submitted by the consultant for the expansion of RINL, the estimated requirement of additional manpower is 1995, the estimated capital machinery cost is Rs.7424 Crores and the estimated requirement of land is 750 Acres within the existing plant boundary wall.

Second Phase of MMTS for Hyderabad and Secunderabad

3338. SHRI M. RAJAMOCHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to contribute 2/3 of the cost for the second phase of Multi-Model Transport System (MMTS) for the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have accorded sanction to the said project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not giving sanction to the

said project and the time by which the sanction to the project is likely to be accorded?

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

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed in principle to contribute 2/3 of the cost for the second phase of Multi-Model Transport System for the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

(c) The proposal is still under consideration.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Production of Crude Steel

3339. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has emerged as the fifth largest crude steel producing country in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the production of crude steel during each of the last three years and the comparison with other crude steel producing countries;

(d) the foreign exchange earned on this crude steel during each of the last three years;

(e) whether the Cold Rolled Steel Manufacturers Association of India has accused major steel plants of jacking up the prices of the hot rolled steel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the year 2006, India has emerged as the 5th largest crude steel producing country in the world with the production at 49.4 million tonnes (Provisional).

(c) During the last three calendar years production of crude steel in India along with the leading crude steel producing countries in the world is given below:-

Country	World Production of crude steel (mt)		
	2006	2005	2004
1	2	3	4
China	422.7	355.8	280.5
Japan	116.2	112.5	112.7
United States	98.6	94.9	99.7

1	2	3	4
Russia	70.8	66.1	65.6
India*	49.4	45.7	42.2
South Korea	48.5	47.8	47.5
Germany	47.2	44.5	46.4
Ukraine	40.9	38.6	38.7
Italy	31.6	29.3	28.5
Brazil	30.9	31.6	32.9

(Source: IISI)

(*Joint Plant Committee)

(d) The foreign exchange earned through export of crude steel (Billets, slabs etc.) during the last three financial years is as under:-

(Value: Rs. in crores)

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
575.46	850.29	850.29

(Source: Joint Plant Committee)

(e) The Cold Rolled Steel Manufacturers Association of India (CORSMA) had represented to the Ministry regarding hike in price of HR Coil by domestic producers and has demanded for reduction in customs duty on import of HR Coils from 5% to 2%.

(f) Domestic price of steel is determined by market forces. The import duty on steel has progressively been brought down from 25-30% during 2002-03 to 5% in 2006-07. A detailed review of tariff structure is done at the time of formulation of budget proposals.

*[Translation]***Refinery Transfer Price of Petrol**

3340. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) the Refinery transfer price of petrol per litre till June 2007;

(b) whether the oil companies sell and purchase petrol on Refinery transfer price in the country;

(c) if so, the quantity of petrol purchased and sold by various companies during May, June and July 2007; and

(d) the price of petrol on which these deals were finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):
(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Modernisation of PSUs

3341. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH:

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

(a) whether the Government has made a provision for modernization of those undertakings which are suffering losses or likely to become sick during the Eleventh Five year Plan;

(b) if so, the number of the undertakings incurring losses during the last three years and the amount of loss incurred by them;

(c) whether any loan or liability is due on these undertakings, PSU-wise;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for losses incurred by them?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) A Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has been set up to advise the Government inter-alia on the revival proposals of sick Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). The Government have approved revival proposals of 26 CPSEs based on the recommendations of the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) involving cash assistance (in the form of equity, loan and grants) of Rs. 1941.30 crore and non-cash assistance (in the form of waiver of interests, penal interest, GOI loan, guarantee fee etc.) of Rs. 6322.38 crore up-to-date.

(b) As per Public Enterprises Survey, 2005-06, the number of CPSEs incurring losses during the last three years were 89 (losses Rs. 8522 crore), 79 (losses Rs. 9356 crore) and 58 (losses Rs. 5952 crore) for the years 2003-2004, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 respectively.

(c) and (d) The amount of loans & current liabilities and provisions due from such CPSEs (PSU-wise) as on 31st March, 2006 is given in the statement enclosed.

(e) Reasons for losses/sickness are manifold and

may vary from unit to unit. However, some common problems faced/being faced by sick and loss making CPSEs include old and obsolete plant and machinery, outdated technology, low capacity utilization, excess manpower, weak marketing strategies, stiff competition, reluctance of financial institutions

to provide funds for revival/rehabilitation, heavy interest burden, high input cost, resource crunch, erosion of net worth due to continuous losses and inherent problems of sick taken over enterprises.

Statement

Amount of Loan and Current Liabilities & Provisions due from Loss Making CPSEs

As on 31.3.2006

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Company	Loan	Liability and Provision
1	2	3	4
1	Airline Allied Services Ltd.	0	29728
2	Andaman & Nicobar Island Forest & Plant. Dev. Corp. Ltd.	2257	1646
3	Andrew Yule & Company Ltd.	22587	19832
4	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.	55098	21187
5	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	21153	13561
6	Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd.	9637	4396
7	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	42425	14687
8	British India Corporation Ltd.	14242	6333
9	Brushware Ltd.	28	159
10	Burn Standard Company Ltd.	80196	48943
11	Central Inland Water Transport Corpn. Ltd.	32171	13345
12	Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.	273980	27744
13	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	27411	68693
14	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	42247	6492
15	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	139782	57122
16	Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	980926	24181
17	Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited	7439	681
18	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	43699	13066
19	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	386407	6891
20	Hindustan Prefab Ltd.	10177	2261
21	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	583	380
22	Hindustan Steel Works Costn. Ltd.	126498	34914
23	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corpn. Ltd.	16026	658

1	2	3	4
24	HMT Chinar Watches Ltd.	12265	3294
25	HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	56024	30441
26	HMT Watches Ltd.	62984	18586
27	Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.	31584	12866
28	Hotel Corpn. of India Ltd.	0	2899
29	ITI Ltd.	198072	184261
30	Instrumentation Ltd.	37319	9955
31	J & K Mineral Development Corpn. Ltd.	0	510
32	Jute Corpn. of India Ltd.	0	11756
33	Karnataka Trade Promotion Organisation	747	65
34	Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd.	525311	44058
35	Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.	415	144
36	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	73369	43056
37	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Ltd.	7432	6304
38	National Instruments Ltd.	23887	1372
39	National Textile Corpn. (Holding Co.) Ltd.	813489	15551
40	NEPA Ltd.	21624	7788
41	North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Dev. Corpn.	2291	276
42	North Eastern Regional Agr. Marketing Corp. Ltd.	120	394
43	NTC (A. Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala & Mahe) Ltd.	103666	14365
44	NTC (Delhi, Punjab & Rajasthan) Ltd.	45394	1968
45	NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.	62399	2572
46	NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.	41117	11453
47	NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd.	121422	4665
48	NTC (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar & Orissa) Ltd.	47219	4108
49	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.	821	506
50	Rail Tel Corporation India Ltd.	21700	54099
51	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	19365	6263
52	Sambhar Salts Ltd.	1485	394
53	Semi-Conductor Complex Ltd.	1068	2232
54	State Farms Corporation of India Ltd.	11342	3709

1	2	3	4
55	Triveni Structurals Ltd.	17732	5815
56	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	16445	4739
57	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	64843	2555
58	Utkal Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.	713	217
Grand Total		4778633	930136

[English]

Gauge Conversion between Naupada-Gunupur

3342. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated for gauge conversion of Naupada to Gunupur railway line during each of the last three years and current year;

(b) the reasons for delay in implementation and execution of the conversion line by East-Coast Railway Zone; and

(c) the progress of survey of Broad Gauge Line from Gunupur to Therubali as extension project to connect B.G. Line from Naupada to Therubali thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The expenditures incurred on Naupada-Gunupur gauge conversion project during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are Rs. 12.82 crore, Rs. 7.32 crore and Rs. 26.13 crore respectively. Budget outlay provided for the project during the year 2007-08 is Rs. 25 crore.

(b) The project is being progressed as per its operational priority and availability of resources.

(c) A bankability study for extension of the line from Gunupur to Therubali has been conducted, as per which the project has been found non-bankable.

[Translation]

Maintenance of Banks of River Ganga

3343. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to entrust the responsibility of maintenance of banks of the river Ganga to the private institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There is no such proposal under the consideration of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Connectivity of Bhiwadi with Delhi-Ahmedabad Railway Line

3344. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to connect Bhiwadi with Delhi-Ahmedabad broad-gauge line for promoting Bhiwadi, an emerging major industrial hub of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to sanction this project in view of its economic importance;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) A survey for construction of new broad gauge line between Rewari-Bhiwadi was completed in 2003-04. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of 24.87 kms long line had been assessed as Rs.105.04 crore with a Rate of Return as (-) 8.56%. The State Government of Rajasthan expressed their willingness to take up this project under National Capital Region Plan and Assistance to the State for Infrastructure Development for Export and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme. The matter was referred to the State Government for bearing the cost of the project but there was no positive response in this regard. In view of this, the proposed new line was not taken up due to its unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.

Air Services to Short Haul Routes

3345. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide air services for major tourist spots and main cities/towns distancing of 200-300 km. under the air services on short haul routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the routes identified thereof;

(c) whether any incentive package will be given to private airlines for introducing its services on these short haul routes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) 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 North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

Damage to Crude Oil and Gas Pipeline in Assam

3346. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorist outfits have heavily damaged the crude oil and gas pipelines in Assam recently;

(b) if so, the total loss caused due to this damage; and

(c) the administrative and remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The oil PSUs have reported that there was no heavy damage to the crude oil and gas pipelines due to miscreant acts in the recent past in Assam.

(c) The following steps have been taken to check terrorist activities:

- (i) CISF is providing security to oil and gas companies;
- (ii) Regular joint patrolling by CISF and state police;
- (iii) Photo ID card/ Permit is issued to Contract Labours for entry to office and factory premises;
- (iv) Security personnel deployed in Assam are being sensitized in view of the increasing threats from militants.

[English]

Demand and Supply of Petroleum Products

3347. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the projected demand of petroleum products for the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 was higher than the actual consumption;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the projected production of petroleum products is lower than the actual production during the above period;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the percentage of projected production of petroleum products is lower than the actual production;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken to meet the project demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per 10th Five Year Plan document of the Planning Commission, the demand of petroleum products during the year 2006-07 was projected at 120.4 MMT. The actual consumption during 2006-07 (Provisional) was 119.8 MMT.

(c) to (g) The projected production & actual production of the petroleum products during 2004-05 to 2006-07 are as under:

(Qty. in TMT)			
Year	Projected production	Actual production	Variation
2004-05	137351	122749	(-) 14602
2005-06	137272	124080	(-) 13192
2006-07	135966	140070	4104

During 2004-05 and 2005-06, the actual refining was lower than projections mainly due to lower growth in demand of products, lower availability of crude, delay/deferment of some refinery projects. However, currently the refining capacity is more than consumption and India is a net exporter of petroleum products.

Target Fixed for Schemes

3348. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has not fixed any physical targets for many of the schemes like Post Matric Scholarships, Hostels for Boys and Girls, Special Central Assistance and Special Component Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons for not fixing any physical targets;

(c) whether the States have not allocated funds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes resulting benefits of the schemes do not reach the beneficiaries;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the instructions issued by the Union Government in this regard; and

(f) the names of those States and action taken by the Union Government against them who have not allocated funds for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last one year and current year so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The quantifiable deliverable/physical output for the schemes have been given in the Outcome Budget of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, for 2007-08.

(c) to (f) The release of Central assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, is based on specific proposals received from the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for a financial year. Nevertheless, in case of Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan, central assistance is released on the basis of the size of Scheduled Caste population, relative backwardness and other effort-based criteria.

Frequency of Kochuvelli-Bangalore Express

3349. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for increasing the frequency of express train running between Kochuvelli and Bangalore into a daily train; and

(b) if so, the response of the Railways thereto?

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

(b) The frequency of 6315/6316 Kochuvelli-Bangalore Express has been increased from weekly to tri-weekly w.e.f 25.08.2007.

World Heritage Site List by UNESCO

3350. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names and details of Indian Heritage/Cultural sites in the UNESCO list as on date;

(b) whether it is a fact that UNESCO's World Heritage Committee has recently updated list of properties of outstanding universal value that are a part of planet's cultural and natural heritage;

(c) if so, the details of the new Indian sites added to the said list; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for inclusion of more Indian sites in this list?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Details of the World Heritage Cultural sites from India inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list are given in the statement-I.

(b) and (c) The UNESCO World Heritage Committee during its 31st session held at Christchurch (New Zealand) from 23rd June to 2nd July, 2007, has updated the World Heritage List and has inscribed Red Fort Complex, Delhi, India on the World Heritage list due to its outstanding universal value represented by flourishing Mughal architecture built upon local traditions, as a symbol of power since the reign of Shahjahan, and as the place where Indian Independence was first celebrated and is still celebrated today.

(d) As per the guidelines laid down by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, 15 sites under the Cultural category and 4 sites under the Natural category in India have already been included in UNESCO's Tentative List. Details are given in the statement-II.

Statement-I

World Heritage (Cultural Sites in India)

Sl.No.	Name of site	State
1		2
1.	Ajanta Caves (1983)	Maharashtra
2.	Ellora Caves (1983)	Maharashtra
3.	Agra Fort (1983)	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Taj Mahal (1983)	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Sun Temple, Konarak (1984)	Orissa
6.	Group of monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984)	Tamil Nadu
7.	Churches & Convents of Goa (1986)	Goa
8.	Group of temples, Khajuraho (1986)	Madhya Pradesh

1	2
9. Group of monuments at Hampi (1986)	Karnataka
10. Group of monuments, Fatehpur Sikri (1986)	Uttar Pradesh
11. Group of temples, Pattadakal (1987)	Karnataka
12. Elephanta Caves (1987)	Maharashtra
13. Great Living Chola temples at Thanjavur, Gangaikondacholapuram and Darasuram (1987 & 2004)	Tamil Nadu
14. Buddhist monuments at Sanchi (1989)	Madhya Pradesh
15. Humayun Tomb, Delhi (1993)	Delhi
16. Qutb Minar complex, Delhi	Delhi
17. Mountain Railway of India (1999, 2005)	West Bengal & Tamil Nadu
18. Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya (2002)	Bihar
19. Prehistoric Rock shelters of Bhimbetka (2003)	Madhya Pradesh
20. Champaner-Pavagarh Archaeological Park (2004)	Gujarat
21. Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) (2004)	Maharashtra
22. Red Fort complex (2007)	Delhi

Statement-II

List of Cultural sites from India included in the Tentative List approved by UNESCO World Heritage Committee

(Upto March 15, 2006)

Cultural Heritage Sites

Sl. No.	Name of Monument/sites	Name of State
1	2	3
1.	Ancient Buddhist Site at Samath	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Buddhist Monastery Complex known as Alchi Chos-kor at Alchi (Loh)	Jammu & Kashmir
3.	Harappan City at Dholavira, Distt. Kuchchh	Gujarat
4.	Golconda Fort, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
5.	Group of Monuments at Mandu, Distt. Dhar	Madhya Pradesh
6.	Hemis Gompa	Jammu & Kashmir
7.	Mattancherry Palace, Ernakulam	Kerala

1	2	3
8.	Rani-ki-Vav (Queen's stepwell) at Patan, Distt. Mehsana	Gujarat
9.	River Island of Majuli in midstream of river Brahmaputra	Assam
10.	Temple at Bishnupur	West Bengal
11.	Tomb of Sher Shah Suri at Sasaram	Bihar
12.	Shri Harimandir Sahib, Amritsar	Punjab
13.	Kalka Shimla Railway	Haryana/Himachal Pradesh
14.	The Matheran Light Railway (Extension to the Mountain Railways of India)	Maharashtra
15.	Chandigarh modern architecture (Le Corbusier)	Chandigarh

Natural Heritage Sites

16.	Kangchendzonga National Park	West Bengal
17.	Wild Ass Sanctuary	Gujarat
18.	Namdapha National Park	Arunachal Pradesh
19.	Western Ghats (with 7 sub clusters)	
1.	Western Ghats - Agasthyamalai sub cluster (with 5 Tamil Nadu, Kerala, site elements)	Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat
2.	Western Ghats - Periyar sub cluster (with 6 site elements)	
3.	Western Ghats - Anamalai sub cluster (with 7 site elements)	
4.	Western Ghats - Nilgiri sub cluster (with 6 site elements)	
5.	Western Ghats - Talacauvery sub cluster (with 6 site elements)	
6.	Western Ghats - Kudremukh sub cluster (with 5 site elements)	
7.	Western Ghats - Sahyadri sub cluster (with 4 site elements)	

[Translation]**Allocation of Blocks under New Exploration to Private Companies**

3351. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) the state-wise number of blocks allocated to private companies under new exploration licensing policy;

(b) the reasons for their allocation alongwith the details of the rules under which the said blocks have been allocated to private companies;

(c) the number of companies out of them which have so far not started production alongwith the details of the action to be taken by the Government when no production is carried out; and

(d) the names of the companies against which action has been taken in this regard during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) Total of 21 onland exploration blocks have been awarded to various private companies as operator under six rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) held so far. Of them, 7 are in Assam, 3 each in Gujarat and Rajasthan, 2 each in Uttar Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Maharashtra and one each in Mizoram and Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy, approved by the Cabinet in 1997, blocks have been awarded through international competitive bidding with transparent terms and conditions for intensified exploration of the Indian sedimentary basin,

(c) The Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed between Government of India and Contractors for carrying out exploration activities in the block as per exploration work commitment. As a result of exploration, if any oil/gas discoveries are made in the block, then contractor further develop those discoveries in given time frame as per terms of PSC.

So far commercial production of gas has commenced from one block namely CB-ONN-2000/2 operated by M/s Niko @ 0.3 MMSCMD gas.

(d) Does not arise in view of above.

[English]

Subsidy on Loan Taken by Drug Companies

3352. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government proposes to extend 5% interest subsidy on the loan amount taken by the drug manufacturers;

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

(c) the number of pharmaceutical units which are expected to get benefit from the interest subsidy; and

(d) the estimated cost to be borne by the Government during 2007-08 for such subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) To introduce Good Manufacturing Practices in the pharmaceutical industry in India, Schedule 'M' to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945 has been made mandatory from 1.7.2005. In order to help the small and medium enterprises (SME) in pharmaceutical industry, my Ministry proposes to implement a scheme by which reimbursement of five percent point of interest charged by the identified scheduled banks/financial institutions on the sanctioned projects would be given.

(c) It is expected that approximately 2000 to 3000 units may like to avail the benefits under this scheme.

(d) To start with, Planning Commission has sanctioned Rs. 15.00 crores under this head for the year 2007-2008.

Chromite Ore Reserves

3353. SHRI KISHANBHAI. V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chromite ore reserves in the country is limited;

(b) if so, the estimated reserves of Chromite ore in the country as on date, State-wise;

(c) the details of domestic consumption and export of Chromite ore during 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

(d) the royalty earned by various States from Chromite ore during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Coal Bed Methane

3354. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a target for doubling the production of natural gas by 2010;

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

(c) whether the Government has also emphasized for increasing the Coal Bed Methane production in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of efforts made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):
(a) As per projection made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Private Companies/ Joint Venture Companies (JVs), Natural Gas production is likely to increase from 31.742 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) in 2006-07 to 55.03 BCM in 2010-11 and is expected to increase to 63.23 BCM in 2011-12.

(b) Following initiatives are being taken to accelerate gas production:

- (i) Accelerating the pace of exploration for oil and gas in the country by offering large acreages under successive rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
- (ii) Increasing production through accelerated development of new discoveries.
- (iii) Increasing recovery factor from the existing fields.
- (iv) Supplementing the availability of natural gas by exploring and developing alternative resources such as Coal Bed Methane (CBM).
- (v) Venturing in exploration of gas hydrate resources for future options for availability of alternative hydrocarbon resources.

(c) and (d) Based on the initiatives taken by the Government, so far, the Government has awarded 26 CBM blocks in different coal fields of the country. Efforts are on to carve out some more blocks for offer under future rounds of bidding.

The exploration activities have established encouraging CBM resources. There have been significant finds in eastern and central part of India. Development plan has already been approved by the Government for one such block in West Bengal, where commercial CBM production for the first time in the country has already initiated @ 23000 Cubic metre per day.

Belum Caves in AP

3355. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ASI has any proposal under their consideration to develop "Belum Caves" in Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh as a major historical monument owing to its huge tourist potential;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ASI has undertaken any project to excavate new caves around the existing "Belum Caves" in A.P.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Belum Caves are under the protection of Government of Andhra Pradesh. The monument has already been developed by the Department of Tourism, Government of Andhra Pradesh as a major historical monument and is frequently visited by tourists.

(c) and (d) The ASI has not undertaken any project for excavating new caves around the Belum Caves in Andhra Pradesh at present.

Food Processing Units in Maharashtra

3356. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

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

(a) the total number of food processing units Industry running in Maharashtra at present;

(b) the total investment and production by these units;

(c) the number of export oriented units; and

(d) the details of financial assistance provided by the Government during the last three years for setting up of new food processing units and cold storages in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY):

(a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs for Technology Upgradation/ Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Units. Food Processing Industries are both in organized and unorganized sectors and as such data of production and investments and in food processing units and exporting units, in the country, including that of Maharashtra, is not centrally maintained. During the Tenth Plan period, namely, 2002-03 to 2006-07, 456 applications claiming grant for Setting Up/Expansion/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries in various districts of Maharashtra have been received in the Ministry.

(d) The details of financial assistance provided by the Government during the last three years for setting up of new food processing units and for setting up cold storages in Maharashtra are as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. Lakhs) For Food Processing units	Amount (Rs. Lakhs) For cold storages
2004-05	623.02	Nil
2005-06	859.72	99.92
2006-07	1399.64	107.06

Kangra and Kullu Airports

3357. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is considering the proposal of the Government of Himachal Pradesh for extension of Runways at Kangra and Kullu Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the financial allocation for 2007-08 for these projects; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) At Kangra airport runway extension work has already been completed. For Kullu airport, a feasibility study for extension of runway by bridging river Beas has been conducted.

The financial allocation for 2007-08 for Kangra airport for levelling of the basic strip of runway and drainage works is Rs. 30 lacs. For Kullu airport, Rs. 1 crore has been allocated for extension of runway and allied works including river training works.

[Translation]

Standing Committees of FICCI to Provide jobs to SCs/STs in Private Sector

3358. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the corporate world and FICCI have recently constituted standing committees to provide jobs to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The Government is not aware of constitution of any Standing Committee for providing jobs to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

(FICCI), PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) or any other industry organization.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Details of Labels of Medicines in Hindi

3359. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether from 2nd October 2006 onwards, it has been made compulsory to print the name and price of the medicines in Hindi on the labels besides English;

(b) if so, whether other information in English provided on the labels of the medicines is also to be printed in Hindi so that people can understand them easily;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore;

(d) whether all the companies are following the rule; and

(e) if not, the action proposed to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) No, Sir. Bilingual labelling is not mandatory for medicines. However Pharma industry was requested to print names of the medicine, manufacturing date, expiry, date and MRP in Hindi in addition to the existing system of English. Though the action of Pharma companies on this request of bilingual labels has been proposed to be voluntary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been requested to amend the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules to make it compulsory. Pharma PSUs and many Private Sector companies have already started affixing bilingual labels to their products.

Medical Tourism

3360. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists who came to India for medical treatment-cum-tourism each year during the last three years and foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(b) the nature of illness/disease and medical infrastructure and facilities available to treat dental and heart patients and rate of success of such treatment;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate specific medical tourism policy encouraging travel agents, public and private hospitals with new investments to compete successfully in the market attracting foreign medical tourists

and to benefit domestic patients at comparatively low costs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism does not collect separate information on medical tourist traffic, foreign exchange earned therefrom, nature of illness/disease and rate of success of treatment.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the Ministry of Health has already initiated several measures to promote Medical Tourism which include promotion in overseas markets and production of publicity materials like brochures, CDs and films etc. and their distribution in target markets. Specific promotion at various international travel fairs such as World Travel Mart, London and ITB, Berlin etc. is also undertaken. A guide on select Indian hospitals of the country which promote health tourism at competitive cost has been placed on Ministry of Tourism's website www.incredibleindia.org for wider publicity.

Imported Formulations

3361. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NPPA had been following the dual policy of MAPE of 35% & 50% increase of finished imported formulations;

(b) if so, whether DCGI had granted a certificate to Novartis and on the basis of this non-availability certificate, NPPA had allowed 50% MAPE;

(c) if so the details thereof alongwith the names of the formulations;

(d) whether NPPA had later withdrawn the 50% MAPE on the Novartis imported formulations; and

(e) if so, the details and the steps taken by the Government to ask the companies to pay the over charged amount in respect of this formulation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) As per para 7 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO 95), in the case of a Scheduled imported formulation, the landed cost shall form the basis for fixing its price alongwith such margin to cover selling expenses and distribution expenses including interest and importer's profit which shall not exceed 50% of the landed cost. The "landed cost" means the cost of import of a formulation inclusive of the customs duty and clearing charges.

The office of DCG(I) has not issued any non-availability certificate to M/s. Novartis. However, the office of DCG(I) had clarified NPPA that the product Vitalux as "New Drug" has been permitted to M/s. Novartis to import and market in the country under Rule 122A of Drugs and Cosmetics Act on 12.4.2007 as M/s. Novartis was the only applicant with the said formulation.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has allowed 35% Maximum Allowable Post Manufacturing Expenses (MAPE) while fixing the price of Vitalux on the basis of the application for price fixation for Vitalux plus tablets of M/s. Novartis wherein the company itself claimed 35% MAPE.

Doubling of Railway Line from Purulia to Kotshila

3362. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal regarding doubling of lines in the State of West Bengal particularly in Purulia-Kotshila section; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Fourteen doubling/multiple line projects are in progress in West Bengal. The doubling/multiple line works are taken up wherever the carrying capacity of the line is saturated, keeping in view the anticipated traffic. The doubling of Purulia-Kotshila is not considered necessary at the present stage.

Losses to HSCL

3363. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited (HSCL) is running into losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years alongwith its reasons therefor;

(c) whether the employees of HSCL are getting their salaries up to date;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to revive HSCL and pay salaries to its employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) has suffered net

loss during the past several years. The profit/loss account of the company for the last 3 financial years is shown follows:

(Rs. in crore)		
Year	Profit(+)/Loss(-) before Interest, Depreciation & Taxes	Net Profit(+)/Loss (-)
2004-05	(+)28.68	(-) 94.21
2005-06	(+)30.96	(-) 85.97
2006-07	(+)30.17	(-) 83.50

The main reasons for net losses are due to interest on Government loans taken by the company.

(c) Yes. Sir, The employees of HSCL are getting their salaries upto date.

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

(e) M/s. A.F. Ferguson was engaged by HSCL to prepare Revival-cum-Restructuring package for the company. HSCL has submitted the proposal to the Ministry of Steel.

On 28.12.2006, Government has released an amount of Rs.21.44 crore to HSCL to clear all outstanding statutory wage arrears due to its employees.

[Translation]

**Explosions/Accidents in Maharashtra
Electrosmelt Ltd.**

3364. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of explosions and accidents which took place in Maharashtra Electrosmelt Limited during the last three years;

(b) whether any high level inquiries have been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the action taken against the persons found responsible; and

(e) the steps taken to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The number of incidents of explosion and fatal accidents which have taken place in Maharashtra Elektrosmelt Limited (MEL), Chandrapur during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	Explosion	Fatal accident
2004	Nil	Nil
2005	Nil	Nil
2006	Nil	Nil
2007 (upto August' 2007)	1	2

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. Enquiries have been conducted in case of explosion and fatal accidents. The outcome of the enquiries, actions taken against persons responsible and steps taken to check such incidents are given below:-

Outcome of enquiry	Steps taken to check such incidents in future	Action taken against person(s) responsible
Incident occurred due to sticky raw material due to rainy season, entering into superheated smelting zone releasing oxygen, which formed an exceptionally high pressure mixture that escaped through furnace	Raw materials with excessive fines not to be charged in furnace especially during rainy season. Oxygen, hydrogen, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide analysers with alarms have been installed. Closed circuit cameras are being installed for better monitoring.	No person solely responsible for the accident.
Truck ran over a conductor sleeping in front of the vehicle.	Supervision during loading/unloading from truck and job safety instructions being given to drivers, conductors and labourers before start of work.	No responsibility fixed for the accident,
The arm of the loader came down and victim got pressed between arm of loader and frame of control valve, while he was adjusting the hydraulic control valve setting of loader in stop condition.	The bucket is being placed in horizontal position whenever the work in the control valve area/front chasis is taken up. Proper support is being provided whenever persons are working in the vehicles with bucket/body in lifted position.	No responsibility fixed for the accident.

*[English]***Passenger Amenities**

3365. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned and spent so far for various passenger amenities by Railways particularly under Southern Railway during the last three years;

(b) the details of number of stations which have been selected for modernization and beautification by Southern Railway; and

(c) the time by which the passenger amenities would be completed on the selected stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The amount sanctioned and spent so far for various passenger amenities on all Indian Railways and particularly on Southern Railway during the last three years under Plan Head – Passenger Amenities are as under:

(Figures in thousand of rupees)

Year	All Zonal Railways		Southern Railway	
	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
2004-05	2135715	2227600	228659	206900
2005-06	2733301	2562300	253834	258200
2006-07	4011033	4079100	351808	444600

On Southern Railway, 47 stations have been identified for modernization and beautification and the targets are:

By March 2008: (25) Chengalpattu, Katpadi, Chennai Egmore, Tambaram, Tiruttani, Erode, Coimbatore, Palghat, Calicut, Mangalore, Ernakulam Jn, Trichur, Quilon, Trivandrum Central, Kanniyakumari, Pondicherry, Vridhachalam, Tiruchirappalli Jn, Thanjavur, Kumbakonam, Dindigul, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin & Virudhunagar.

By March 2009: (22) Chennai Beach, Ambur, Jolarpettai, Puttur, Sullurpeta, Salem, Tiruppur, Shoranur, Kannur, Thalasseri, Nagarcoil, Ernakulam Town, Kottayam, Chengannur, Srirangam, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Karaikkudi, Palani, Rameshwaram, Ramanathapuram.

**Violation of Safety Norms by
Private Airlines**

3366. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were any instances in which

private airlines were found to be violating safety norms during their operations;

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

(c) the details of the action taken in such matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Laid down standards are regularly monitored and checked during safety audits, surveillance inspection, spot checks etc. Deviation from the laid down standards like non updation of operation documents, non computerisation of crew rostering records, failure to detect excess of Flight Duty Time Limitations, lack of supervision and internal auditing of operational activities etc. were observed in some cases. The operators are advised suitably regarding the deviations from the laid down standards and rectification action on the same is ensured on time bound basis.

Quality Education to Scheduled Castes Students

3367. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed any new scheme to provide quality education 'on a par with public schools' for Scheduled Castes students for their upliftment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expected cost of the expenditure involved for the scheme; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to upgrade the educational standards of the students belonging to the disadvantaged sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) The Government is implementing various schemes for educational development of SC boys and girls, which include (a) Upgradation of Merit (b) Scheme of Free Coaching (c) Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, (d) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship, (e) National Overseas Scholarship Scheme; and (f) NGO schemes for running schools and training centers. In addition, the Government has recently introduced a new scholarship scheme of Top Class Education for SC Students for pursuing studies beyond 12th class in the designated institutes of excellence.

*[Translation]***Allotment of Shops at Airports**

3368. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether shops have been allotted at the airports in the country for the convenience of the passengers;

(b) if so, the number of canteens and shops allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes persons at the airports in the country; and

(c) if not, the time by which the shops are likely to be allotted to SCs/STs persons by the Government?

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

(b) and (c) The shops/canteens at the airports are being allotted on licence basis for a period upto 5 years through call of tenders. The reservation policy is not applicable in such cases.

[English]

Mega Gas Cracker Project in Assam

3369. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any target to start and complete the Mega Gas Cracker Project in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of people directly and indirectly likely to be benefited;

(d) the place at which the corporate office of the project is likely to be located in Assam; and

(e) the present status of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The Government has approved, during the year 2006-07, Assam Gas Cracker Project at Lepetkata, Distt. Dibrugarh, Assam, with Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) as the lead promoter, with equity arrangement of GAIL: 70%, Oil India Limited (OIL), Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) and Assam Industrial Development Corporation (Government of Assam): 10% each. The total project cost is Rs. 5460.61 Crores (fixed cost), Capital Subsidy of Rs. 2138 Crores for the project during construction period of 5 years and Feedstock subsidy of Rs. 908.91 Crores for the project spread over 15 years of operation period has been approved. The project will produce polypropylene (PP) 60,000 TPA and High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/Linear Low Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) 220,000 TPA. A Joint Venture Company i.e. M/s Brahmaputra Cracker & Polymer Limited (BCPL) has been constituted for this purpose. The implementation schedule is 60 months from the financial closure.

(c) This project is expected to give rise to approximate employment generation to the tune of 1,00,000 both direct as well as indirect, basically by attracting investments in the downstream plastic processing sector.

(d) At Guwahati in Assam.

(e) The present status of the project so far is as follow:

- i) An Agreement for constituting Joint Venture Company was executed on 18.10.2006, namely M/s Brahmaputra Cracker & Polymer Limited (BCPL) which was incorporated on 8th January 2007.
- ii) The Registered Office at Guwahati and Project Office at Dibrugarh have been made operational. Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Chief Finance Officer (CFO) have been posted.
- iii) The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India laid the foundation stone of the project on 9th April, 2007 at Lepetkata, District Dibrugarh in Assam
- iv) 2692 bighas (approx 890 Acres) of land, out of approx 1108 Acres needed for the project has been acquired by BCPL.
- v) Feedstock (Gas and Naptha) supply agreements have been approved by the BCPL Board
- vi) Oil Industries Development Board has agreed to offer a term loan of Rs.327 crore.

MoU Signed between POSCO and SAIL

3370. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the POSCO and Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in strategic business and commercial interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any joint Research and Development projects are also proposed to be launched by SAIL and POSCO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. POSCO and SAIL have signed a MOU for selected areas e.g. information sharing

in the areas of corporate strategy planning; exchange of professionals, e.g., engineers and technicians, know-how and expertise sharing in the areas of development of mines and in the areas of business practices such as Enterprises Resource Planning (ERP), Process Innovation (PI) and Six Sigma, joint usage of the existing marketing and warehousing network of each other and coordination in procurement of coking coal, nickel and Ferro alloys and engagement of transportation vessels.

(c) and (d) Subject to discussion and negotiations to be undertaken by SAIL and POSCO, prima facie it has been agreed to co-operate with each other for joint research and development projects.

Aircraft Engine Overhaul Facilities

3371. SHRIMATI K. RANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of aircraft remained out of operation due to lack of adequate facilities for engine overhaul in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of aircraft which remained inoperative during the last three years; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to provide adequate engine overhaul facilities and to upgrade quality of aircraft servicing in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Financial Assistance for Maintenance of Monuments

3372. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether separate funds have been allocated in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for upkeep of several ancient and historical buildings in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the various State Governments has submitted any action plan to the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the amount Union Government has sanctioned/released to each State so far during 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Archaeological Survey of India has received an annual budget of

Rs.51.21 crores under Non Plan and Rs. 69.11 crores under Plan respectively for 2007-08 for upkeep and conservation of centrally protected monuments/sites located in different parts of the country.

(c) No such plan has been submitted to the ASI.

(d) Does not arise.

Selling of Scheduled Drugs at Increased Prices

3373. SHRI MOHD. MUKEEM:

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

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

(a) whether the Pharmaceutical companies are openly selling scheduled drugs at increased priced by making some changes in the composition of the drugs and selling them under new names;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the prices of some medicines are still increasing despite the tax exemption given to them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has prepared any action plan to curb the unprecedented increase in the prices of medicines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (f) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. The price fixation/revision of the Scheduled Drugs and formulations is a continuous process under DPCO, 95. In case of any violation of the price fixed by NPPA, action for recovery of overcharging amount is taken by NPPA.

The issue of change of composition of Scheduled formulations has been referred by the NPPA to the Office of Drugs Controller General (India) since it comes under the purview of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

In case of non-Scheduled formulations NPPA only monitors the price movement and if there is any price increase

by more than 10% in one year and the annual turnover of the formulation pack exceeds Rs.1 crore, further, the share of the formulator in the segment of the formulation is required to be at least 20% of the market or the medicine is first 3 top medicines of that group. The case is taken up for further examination and if required prices are fixed in public interest under Para 10(b) of DPCO, 95. So far 30 companies have reduced the price of 51 packs as a result of the intervention of NPPA/Government NPPA have fixed the price of 20 packs under Para 10(b) of DPCO, 95.

The Drug Policy as announced from time to time is directed towards making available quality drugs at reasonable prices to the poor. In the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 it has been proposed, inter alia, that one of the ways to make available cheaper drugs to people at large and to public health system could be to promote the production and marketing of generic drugs in the country. This may be achieved through preference of generic drugs for public procurement and distribution and free of cost quality certification for generic drugs. Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11.1.2007. The Cabinet has referred the Policy to Group of Ministers (COM). The First meeting of the GOM was held on 10.4.2007. No time frame has been set for finalizing the National Pharmaceuticals Policy.

[Translation]

Promotion of Culture of Various States

3374. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to protect and propagate the culture of various States;
- (b) if so, the details in respect of various States particularly in Uttarakhand and Maharashtra along with the funds sanctioned to these States during the last three years;
- (c) if not, the reasons for not sanctioning the funds; and
- (d) whether any guidelines have been issued to the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

National Library for the Ancient Scriptures

3375. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Library for the ancient scriptures and Vedic literature and ancient religions in the country particularly in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Attrition of Pilots from Public Sector Airlines

3376. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the trained Pilots of public sector airlines are taking voluntary retirement and joining private sector airlines;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of Pilots who joined private sector airlines after leaving Indian Airlines and Air India during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No pilot took voluntary retirement from Indian Airlines during the last three years. In respect of Air India, in the last three years, only one pilot took voluntary retirement as he was permanently grounded pilot due to medical reasons.

(d) Steps taken on a continuing basis by the Public Sector Airlines to retain the pilots are: (i) keeping the emoluments at comparable level vis-a-vis other established Indian carriers; (ii) offering higher level of job security; (iii) revision of loss-of-license Insurance and Insurance Coverage for pilots to provide them a high degree of security; and (iv) retaining services of pilots beyond the age of superannuation subject to the validity of the license.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 12 noon.

11.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us now take up Papers to be laid on the Table.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You should have no objection for Papers to be laid on the Table.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Is this objection being raised on account of papers being laid?

...(Interruptions)

12.0½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): Sir I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Wakf Council, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Wakf Council, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Wakf Council, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6926/2007]

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: How can I make it?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 2005-2006.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6927/2007]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (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 Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pimpri, for the year 2005-2006.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pimpri, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6928/2007]

- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6929/2007]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Progress made in the intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes against vacancies reserved for them in Recruitment and Promotion Categories on the Railways.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6930/2007]

- (2) A copy of the Railway Passengers (Manner of Investigation of Untoward Incidents) Amendment Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 540(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th August, 2007 under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6931/2007]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the H.M.T. Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6932/2007]

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Thirtieth Report

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Show some respect at least to our Deputy Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You should show some respect to hon. Deputy Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): I beg to present the Thirtieth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth Reports

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2007-08):-

- (2) Twenty-seventh Report on the subject "Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances" (ADIP).

Twenty-eighth Report on "The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill, 2007".

12.02¾ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

Statement

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): I beg to lay a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Twenty-first Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2006-2007) (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the recommendations contained in Fifteenth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation" of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Reports

[English]

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions)

of the Standing Committee on Urban Development (2007-2008):-

- (1) Twenty-third Report of the Committee on "Directorate of Estates"; and
- (2) Twenty-fourth Report of the Committee on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on the subject "Central Public Works Department" (CPWD).

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE

Twenty-Second Report

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the Twenty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice on the Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2007.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (I) Abolition of Emigration Check Requirement Suspension (ECRS) System*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): I beg to lay the statement regarding an important reform measure under the Emigration Act that I propose to implement for the benefit of a large number of poor people.

Under the Emigration Act, 1983 a person holding a passport as Emigration Check Required (ECR) is required to obtain emigration clearance from the Protector of Emigrants (POE) before leaving the country for overseas employment. This is a statutory requirement.

The Emigration Act does not cover ECR passport holders who travel overseas for visits other than for employment. However, for the last two decades administrative instructions have been in force requiring them to obtain Emigration clearance Requirement Suspension or what is commonly referred to as ECRS.

Sir, the ECRS system has no statutory basis. No other country imposes such restrictions on international travel. The

ECRS system has led to considerable inconvenience and harassment to passengers, it has resulted in corruption in POE offices and a nexus between unscrupulous recruiting agents and middlemen resulting in the exploitation of a large number of poor people. Sir, Last year over 5.5 lakh people who travelled overseas for purposes other than employment had to obtain ECRS.

The ECRS system, which has no statutory basis is retrograde. It levies a form of tax, which is the ECRS fee on a poor person apart from resulting in corruption. Though it was introduced with a good intention to prevent misuse of visit visa for employment purposes. It has not achieved its objective.

The Ministry therefore critically examined this matter and placed a proposal for abolition of ECRS before the Committee of Secretaries (COS), chaired by the cabinet Secretary. The COS in its meeting held on 20th August 2007 has approved the proposal.

Sir, before giving effect to the abolition of the ECRS system, I wish to share with this August House the merits of this important reform measure.

First and foremost it will save over six lakh poor passengers from inconvenience and harassment. As a result of the abolition of the ECRS all ECR Passport holders will be saved from incurring unnecessary expenditure estimated annually at about Rs. 600 crores.

Secondly the uneducated ECR passport holder does not know the distinction between emigration clearance, which is mandatory for employment overseas, and ECRS, which is only for, visits abroad. This ignorance is often exploited to send them abroad for employment on visit visas. The poor worker does not know that the agent has only arranged a visit visa that does not entitle him to work abroad. By abolishing ECRS this ambiguity will be removed.

To ensure that the data on ECR passport holders going abroad on visit visa is captured, we have requested the Ministry of Home Affairs to modify the departure and arrival cards suitably.

Sir, I am grateful for this opportunity to share with the Members of this House an important Emigration reform that we will be implementing from October 1, 2007.

12.04½ hrs.

- (II) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 9th 12th and 13th Reports of the Standing Committee on Defence, pertaining to the Ministry of Defence*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): I beg to lay this statement on the status of implementation of

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6933/2007

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6934/2007

recommendations contained in the 9th, 12th and 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha contained in Lok Sabha Bulletin – Part II dated September 01, 2004.

The 9th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (14th Lok Sabha) relates to 'Defence Public Sector Undertakings', the 12th Report relates to 'Review of Medical Services And Education In The Defence Sector' and the 13th Report relates to 'A Critical Review of Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons'. The 9th Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 20.3.2006. The 12th Report was presented on 2.8.2006 and the 13th Report was presented on the 3rd Aug. 2006. The Reports were laid in Rajya Sabha on the same day i.e. 20.3.2006, 2.8.2006 and 3.8.2006 respectively.

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the 9th Report, were sent to the Standing Committee on Defence on 30th Aug., 2006. Action Taken Statements on the 12 Report were sent on 6 Nov., 2006 and the Revised Action Taken Notes were sent on 13th April, 2007 as desired by the Committee and Action Taken Notes on the 13th Report of the Committee were sent to the Standing Committee on Defence on 17th January, 2007.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee in their 9th, 12th and 13th reports is indicated in the Annexure-I, II and III respectively 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 these Annexures. I would request that these may be considered as read.

12.04½ hrs.

- (iii) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 179th Report of the Standing Committee on Industry, pertaining to the Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of the implementation of the recommendations in 179th Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on the Table of the House.

Out of 48 recommendations, Department has accepted 4 recommendations and the Committee does not desire to pursue the recommendations in view of the Government's reply. So far as the remaining 37 recommendations are concerned, further action has already been taken by the Government and the Statement may be taken as read.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6935/2007

12.04¾ hrs.

- (iv) **Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on the subject 'Activities of Directorate General of Hydrocarbons' – A Review, pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): I beg to lay the Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the directions of the Speaker under the provisions of Direction 73A on the subject "Activities of the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons - A Review" presented to Lok Sabha on 28.11.2006.

Action Taken Statement on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on 29th March, 2007. Reply to the recommendation No. 2 (para 6 of the Action Taken Report) was elaborated and it was also confirmed that the draft ATR was also found factually correct vide O.M. No. O-27012/1/2005-ONG-III on 25.6.07.

There are fifteen recommendations made by the Committee in the said Report where action was called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertain to the issues like cadre strength, budget of DGH, accelerating the pace of exploration, and use of modern techniques in the exploration etc.

The present status of the implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee is laid on the Table of the House in the Annexure to my Statement. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I request that this may be considered as read before the House.

12.05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Need to strengthen the panchayats financially in order to fulfil their constitutional obligations and to discharge their duties effectively

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up item no. 16, Calling Attention. Shri Avinash Rai Khanna.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6936/2007

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Panchayati Raj to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The need to strengthen the Panchayats financially in order to fulfill their constitutional obligations and to discharge their duties effectively."

MR. SPEAKER: Where is the Minister of Panchayati Raj?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, the Minister of Panchayati Raj was informed that after the Papers are laid, the Calling Attention will be taken up. ...(Interruptions) But, I think, he got a message that the House would be adjourned. I apologise for that. I will definitely bring this to his notice. ...(Interruptions)

12.07 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Bhanwar Singh Dangawas and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

12.08 hrs.

MOTION RE: FORTY-FIRST REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up item no. 17.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 5th September, 2007."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 5th September, 2007."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

12.08 ½ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up item no. 18.

Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day will be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

(I) Need to upgrade and maintain N.H.-98 between Arwal and Bihar-Jharkhand Border

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): National Highway 98 is a very important National Highway. It carries heavy passenger and commercial traffic from Bihar to Jharkhand on way to Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. It is in a bad condition dotted with potholes almost throughout its length in Bihar and particularly between Arwal and the Bihar-Jharkhand border via Aurangabad. The heavy traffic, that is forced to move at a very slow pace, finds it extremely difficult to drive without causing serious damage to the vehicles and certainly any avoidable wear and tear to them. This had forced commuters to take alternative longer routes that would have been totally unnecessary had this highway been roadworthy and in good condition. Traffic along this highway also generates economic activity that used to be a lifesaver for the people of that area. This area needs all the economic impetus that can be provided to this backward area.

It was expected that the Central Government would select this NH in the nearly 900 Kms. of National Highways selected in Bihar for upgradation, but it was not done. More importantly, there is an almost ancient bridge called the Domuhan bridge on this NH across the Battane river that is in a perilous condition and is a serious threat to public safety. The Central Government had approved its rebuilding and sanctioned about Rs. 4 crores for it about a year back. But inexplicably no work has started on it yet. It is requested that the Central Government may look into this important matter of great public importance for action straightaway.

(II) Need to protect the interests of Cumin seed growers of Unjha, district Mehsana, Gujarat.

[Translation]

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): Sir, cumin seed

* Treated as laid on the Table.

is produced in large quantity in my parliamentary constituency and its quality is also very high. Unjha is an international market for cumin seed in this parliamentary constituency. The forward market commission functioning there takes 25 percent margin from the farmers which is unfair and tantamounts to injustice against farmers. There is high production of cumin seed while only one laboratory is functioning. There should be at least two laboratories. A complaint has been made to the FMC, however, no action has been taken in the interest of the farmers. I have myself met the Secretary, Consumer Affairs alongwith the representative of farmers, yet no result has been achieved.

Through the House, the Government is requested to obviate the problems caused NCDEX and set up at least two laboratories in Unjha.

(iii) Need to upgrade the existing railway station at Murshidabad, West Bengal to a Model Station

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): District Murshidabad is recognised as one of the backward district in West Bengal. However, huge tourism potential of the region is yet to be tapped. Lakhs of domestic tourists are visiting the historical sites of the district every year which even facilitate the livelihood of poor and unemployed people. The Railway service is not so frequent as to draw the tourists to the desired level. The age old Murshidabad Railway station does not match the exquisite monument being the legacy of the enriched history of Nawab regime. In order to give a facelift to the city, a model Railway station could act as a 'catalyst'. Insofar infrastructural facilities is concerned railway has a social commitment to extend the required facilities to this remote and backward region of our country which can accelerate the pace of economic development including tourism. In view of this, I think the concerned district should be given a priority as over the years, the people of this historical city have been cherishing the dream of having their dilapidated railway station (Murshidabad) to be transformed into a Model one.

I would urge upon the Government on behalf of the people of Murshidabad to convert the existing Murshidabad Railway Station into a Model Station.

(iv) Need to ensure payment of minimum wages to workers in Jammu & Kashmir

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): In J&K educated/uneducated people are working in different departments but they are not getting minimum wages. In the State SPOs and members of VDCs are getting Rs 400 to 3100/-. Same is the situation in other departments. There is frustration among the workers. I request to sort out the problem of minimum wages.

I urge upon the Government of India to take suitable measures to give full wages to such workers.

(v) Need to improve the transmission and relay facility of All India Radio and Doordarshan in Alwar Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, the transmission of All India Radio and Doordarshan programmes in the rural areas of my Lok Sabha constituency Alwar is poor and lacks quality. Owing to high mountain ranges and high hills the transmission signal from the relay towers of Alwar Akashvani complex do not reach Thana Gaji, Bahroad, Bansur and Mundawar area owing to which the Akashvani Doordarshan programme cannot be listened on Radio and transistors in this area.

Therefore, it is my request that relay towers set up in the Alwar All India Radio station should be set up at Bala Fort on the hills so that All India Radio programmes could be listened across the rural areas. Similarly Doordarshan relay centre should be set up at Bahroad and Thana Gazi so that national programmes of Doordarshan could be available for the rural people.

(vi) Need to set up a Rail coach Factory and construct Rail over Bridges in Bareilly.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Bareilly is a major metropolitan city of Uttar Pradesh and the main centre of North eastern railways. There was a Rail Coach Factory of the North Eastern railways and a major crane manufacturing unit alongwith the railway zonal office. However, the strength of workers is constantly decreasing owing to less work. There is a major railway infrastructure and the setting up of a Rail coach factory was also envisaged 20 years ago. However, it could not be done owing to various reasons. I would like that the process to set up a coach factory or a similar factory should be started in view of the demands of the area and the adequate infrastructure of the Railways available there.

In addition to it the demand for a rail over bridge is being constantly made at the following places of Bareilly. It is my request that necessary instructions may be issued for taking adequate steps for the construction of rail overbridges at these places:

1. Hartman college railway crossing (North East) Bareilly
2. Iijatnagar crossing (North East) Bareilly
3. Katghar cremation ground (North East) Bareilly
4. Nagaria Sadat (Mirganj Bareilly) Northern Railways
5. Bhitaura (Fatehganj Western) Northern railways

(vii) Need to augment the supply of Kerosene and LPG in the country

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Sir, the Central Government had taken comprehensive measures so as to facilitate the supply of LPG and Kerosene to the consumers as a result the consumers were convinced that they would neither have to stand in long queues nor wait for several weeks. However, the difficulties being faced by the consumers today are extremely unbearable. There are long queues and wait for kerosene new connections have been frozen. Distributors are taking advantage of the situation. The availability of new connections is uncertain. Consumer is hassled and constantly running after the distributors. The Government is constantly giving assurances for the past one year that the problem of LPG and Kerosene would be solved very soon however the consumers are not getting anything except assurances.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas to take immediate and effective measures to restore the supply of LPG and kerosene and provide new connections of LPG without delay.

(viii) Need to fully finance welfare schemes sponsored by the Central Government for the rural and downtrodden sections of the society.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, the Central Government is sponsoring several schemes and programmes to protect and augment the interests of the rural poor, farmers and downtrodden sections of the society. The schemes cannot be implemented fully owing to paucity of financial grants due to which the benefits of such schemes and programmes do not reach to the people identified for such schemes.

Therefore, it is requested that the Central Government should make all such important schemes meaningful by providing them hundred per cent grants.

(ix) Need to consider the views of State Governments before taking action on recommendations of Hoda Committee Report on National Mineral Policy.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): All the minerals beneath the land surface falling under the legal boundary of any State belong to that State and as per the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, 1960 of the Constitution, the minerals have been divided into two groups (major and minor minerals) by the Union Government. As per the National Minerals Act 1993, minor minerals are under the control of the respective State Governments and major minerals are owned and managed by the Union Government.

Sir, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, Madhya

Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan States are rich in mineral resources. The Chief Ministers of all the said States, through their letter addressed to the hon'ble Prime Minister, had expressed their point-wise objections to the recommendations of the Hoda Committee. In this connection a meeting of the National Mineral Advisory Council was held on November 6, 2006 under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Mines and in that meeting the Chief Ministers, Ministers and the officers of all the States had registered their objections to the discrepancies in the Hoda Committee recommendations and had urged the Government to take a decision by-evolving consensus between the Union Government and the mineral producing States. The recommendations of the Hoda Committee are abnormal in the sense that it negates the legal right of the component States over their mineral resources. The compliance of the rules regarding the benefits received from the development of means of tele communications, disposal of application within a stipulated time limit, adequate provisions of RTI rules and the verdict of the Supreme Court, according to which 20 percent of the profit accrued from the minerals of the scheduled mining areas are required to be spent on the welfare of the tribals and 'Harijans' of that backward areas, have not been covered under the recommendations of the Committee. Till now the Parliament with the power vested in it by the constitution has made efforts in the national and State interest and for serving the interest of all i.e. 'Sarvajna Hitaya Sarvajana Sukhai'.

So, there is a need to take a decision on the recommendations of the Hoda Committee in public interest, keeping in view the official resolution passed on 17 July 2007 by the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly and the sentiments and views of the component States and in coordination with them. Otherwise, the recommendations will not be fruitful, pertinent and effective in long term in broader national interest and State interest.

(x) Need to introduce an express train between Bhubaneswar and Tatanagar via Keonjhar and to extend Howrah-Barbil Jana Shatabadi Express to Keonjhar

[English]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): Keonjhar is one of the few districts in Eastern India which has not been provided with train services even after sixty years of Independence. On the other hand, it is the richest mineral bearing district in the country. A large number of people go from Keonjhar to Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi and other major cities in connection with various work or social commitment. But the district is not well connected with Rail network. Now, a line is being laid connecting Paradip and Tatanagar to transport cargos from that district. In fact, maximum freight of East Coast Railway originate from Keonjhar district,

As such, I demand that an express train be introduced between Bhubaneswar and Tatanagar via Keonjhargarh connecting Geetanjali Express and other Howrah-Mumbai and Mumbai-Howrah bound trains at the earliest. Similarly, Howrah-Barbil Jana Shatabadi Express be extended to Keonjhargarh forthwith.

(xi) Need to Introduce "Mill Gate Price Scheme" for Coir Yarn and Coir Products

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Coir fibre is an eco-friendly natural fibre like silk and jute yarn. Coir industry is one of the major traditional industries in the country. More than 6.5 lakhs of workers, 90% of them are women are depending on this industry for their livelihood. "Alappuzha Coir" – The Golden Yarn of God's Own Country is very famous in the world. There is great demand for coir carpets and floor mattings all over the world. But, there is great shortage of raw material that is, Coir fibre. This along with other inherent problems in the industry has created crisis in the coir industry sector. Urgent intervention is essential to tide over this crisis. In the Textile industry Government, has introduced a scheme i.e. M/7/ Gate Price Scheme to make available all types of yarn at mill gate price to the eligible handloom weavers so as to facilitate regular supply of basic raw materials to the handloom sector and help to utilise the full employment potential to the sector. Similar to this, Mill Gate Price Scheme should be introduced in the coir sector and Coir Board may be entrusted to implement and monitor this scheme.

(xii) Need to Include certain Backward Castes of Uttar Pradesh in the list of Scheduled Caste category

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, the previous Government of Uttar Pradesh had, on 23 November, 2005 sent a proposal to the Union Government for the inclusion of dozens of backward castes in the list of Scheduled Castes like Rajbhar, Gond, Nishad, Kewat, Bind, Dhiman, Turha, Manjhi, Kahar, Kashyap, Gondia etc. However, when the Registrar General of India sought detailed information from the present Uttar Pradesh Government in this regard, the State Government, instead of giving information, recommended the Union Government on 6 June, 2007 to annul the recommendations of the previous Government of Uttar Pradesh which the Union Government immediately accepted. Thus dozens of most backward castes remained deprived of the benefit of reservation.

So, I would like to make a demand from the Government of India to include the above most backward castes in the list of Scheduled Castes.

(xiii) Need to construct a dam on Indo-Nepal border to check the overflow from existing barrage on Sharda river in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the bordering area adjacent to Nepal. Nepal has changed the courses of the rivers flowing from Nepal and it is on account of this that the border districts are witnessing unprecedented floods for the last many years that is causing heavy damage of life and property. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government that it should regulate the flow of these rivers by way of constructing dams on it in collaboration with the Government of Nepal.

Sir, it is on account of the release of huge volume of water from Nepal that has created serious threat to the barrage built on the Sharda river. The volume of water in Sharda river increased by nearly a lakh cusec and it is on account of this that so erosion on both the banks of Sharda river is being witnessed. Nearly 20 thousand acres of productive land have got eroded and nearly a population of 8 lakh have been affected on account of this.

Sir, I would like to request the Government that an embankment on both sides of the Sharda river be constructed so that erosion of extremely productive land could be checked.

(xiv) Need to set up an Indian Oil LPG outlet in Masaurhi block in Patna, Bihar

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Sir, there is no Indian Oil LPG gas agency under the Masaurhi subdivision of the Patna district of Bihar. The number of LPG consumers here is nearly more than three thousands. All these consumers are consumers of Jehanabad gas agency. The distance between Masaurhi and Jehanabad is nearly 16 kms. The consumers face a lot of difficulties in fetching LPG Cylinders from Jehanabad. For fetching LPG cylinder from Jehanabad, the consumers have to spend nearly Rs. 100 per cylinder in addition to the actual cost of a cylinder. A day long time is also wasted in fetching the cylinder. Also, sometimes it so happens that the consumers face both mental and financial difficulties if the agency deny them to provide cylinders. Besides, there are some women consumers for whom it is very difficult to face this problem.

So, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India that keeping in view the said problem he may please get an Indian Oil LPG agency set up in the Masaurhi subdivision.

(xv) Need to bring a comprehensive legislation providing social security and welfare programmes for the agricultural workers in the unorganized sector

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): The Central

Government is for some time now speaking about the initiatives to be taken for all round development of the unorganised workers of the country among whom the agricultural workers are also included who constitute the 90% of the total rural workforce. This section of the rural India is the poorest of the poor among the unorganised workers and is generally deprived of any facility of the social security programmes of the Government.

This miserable plight of these hapless poor of the country is mainly due to non existence of any comprehensive central legislation to govern them. Moreover, the recent announcement of the Central Government asking the State Government to share the 50% of the financial responsibilities of the developmental programmes for the unorganised sector may aggravate the problem.

The State Governments are generally suffering from chronic financial crunch. Even under the NREGA only partial jobs could be generated due to non-availability of funds. I would, therefore, like to draw the attention of the Central Government to legislate a Central comprehensive Act regarding the agricultural workers and take the full financial responsibilities for the social security programmes targeted for them.

(xvi) Need to set up a land Custom Station at Balmiki Nagar, district Champaran, Bihar with a view to promote trade with Nepal.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH BAITHA (Bagaha): Sir, there is a need to set up a Land Custom Station at Balmiki Nagar in West Champaran district of Bihar. I am glad to know that the Border Management Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has theoretically no objection to this proposal. Alongwith this, the Government of Nepal is also eager to do bilateral trade via Triveri-Balmiki Nagar and has also included it in the list of proposed trading routes for bilateral trading under the trade agreement. I would like to request the Government that this subject should be included in bilateral talks to be held in near future with Nepal, so that Balmiki Nagar could also prosper and develop like Raxaul and the Government could also earn revenue.

(xvii) Need to merge Government owned Public Sector Insurance Companies

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): The General Insurance industry was nationalised in 1972 when 107 Indian and foreign managed companies were taken over by the Government. Thereafter, the Parliament created four companies, New India Assurance Company, Oriental Insurance Company, National Insurance Company, United India Insurance Company with a General Insurance

Corporation as the holding company. The NDA Government opened up the insurance industry for private sector in 1999. Today, more than eight private companies, many with foreign partners have been operating in the general insurance sector. The four public sector companies have to compete among themselves and against the private companies. The process of the four companies competing with each other for the same space and the same business resulted in unproductive use of resources, both capital and human. In the new competitive environment, there is no justification for the Government to own four different companies concentrating on the same business. Therefore, there is an urgent need to consolidate the four companies through merger and to create a monolithic corporation similar to the LIC. The merger will create economies of large scale, utilize skilled human resources and the capital better and provide greater visibility across the country. It will also create a better competitive environment, imbalance can be redressed and the social sector will get a new thrust. I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to arrange for the merger of four Public Sector Insurance Companies.

12.09 hrs.

The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution Amendment Bill, 2007 – contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up item no. 19.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. R. Senthil; Shri K. Yerranaidu.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may reply.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Sir, many hon. Members have spoken on this Bill, I request that this Bill may please be passed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, on behalf of Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

12.09½ hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Need to strengthen the Panchayats financially in order to fulfil their constitutional obligations and to discharge their duties effectively – Contd.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Sir, I regret deeply my absence as I was busy in the Rajya Sabha placing a Statement. ... (Interruptions) I am here to say that in response to the Calling Attention Motion moved by Shri Avinash Rai Khanna, I have a Statement ready which with your permission I wish to place on the Table of the House. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right. The Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: *Article 243G of the Constitution provides, that the legislature of a State may by

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6937/2007

law endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats for the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and the implementation of related schemes as may be entrusted to them, including those in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule. The Eleventh Schedule has a list of 29 items and in order for the Panchayats to perform their role effectively in respect of any of the items that are devolved to them by the State, it is necessary that the transfer of the functions, funds and functionaries should be commensurate to the role expected of the Panchayat at the appropriate level.

In order to clearly define the role of the Panchayats at the three tiers in respect of the functions devolved to them the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been pursuing with the States the drawing up of Activity Maps. The next step in getting an effective financial system going is to ensure that financial devolution matches the Activity Mapping. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is also pursuing with the States the need to introduce a Panchayat Sector Window in their budgets for each Department concerned with the functions devolved to the Panchayats so as to clearly show the funds assigned to each Panchayat in the three tier system.

Funds flow to Panchayats from three sources, namely, devolution from the Central Government, from the State and own revenues. Central funds constitute the bulk of the funding through Centrally Sponsored Schemes and for that reason; there is scope for the Central Government to influence the process of strengthening of Panchayats. A Committee with Secretary (Panchayati Raj) as co-chair has been constituted on the direction of the Cabinet Secretary to review the major Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the different Ministries of Government of India with a view to affording centrality to the Panchayats in the implementation of these schemes.

Further, the key to effective performance by Panchayats lies in the devolution of adequate untied funds to them, so that they can perform their assigned public services. The main sources of untied funds to Panchayats are:

- (a) Tax and non-tax revenues raised from the sources assigned to them; and
- (b) Block unconditional transfers provided by the States and Central Government by way of share in taxes or through block grants.

The State Finance Commissions set up under Article 243I of the Constitution are required to review the financial position of the Panchayats and to make recommendations inter-alia regarding the determination of the taxes, duties, tools and fees which may be assigned to or appropriated by

the Panchayats. The reports of SFCs are considered by the State Governments and decisions taken thereon.

A critical factor necessary for strengthening Panchayats is to enable and empower them to enhance their own revenues. Requiring Panchayats to mobilize their own revenues strengthens the link between revenue and expenditure decisions of Panchayats, which is extremely important to promote both efficiency and accountability in the provision of services by them. For ensuring effective revenue mobilization by Panchayats, there is a need to reorient the legal and policy regime with a view to giving Panchayats more tax handles to widen their revenue base, as also ensure that the taxation powers currently given are effectively operationalized. Meeting the challenge of accelerating revenue mobilization by Panchayats will require effective and close coordination between the Panchayats and the State Government as taxation powers of Panchayats are governed by the State Panchayati Raj Act and the Rules made there under.

A study by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy has shown that although there were 66 types of fees and charges of taxes, levied by Panchayats in different States, most existed on paper and were not levied. It seems that none of the revenue handles assigned to Panchayats except property tax can generate much revenue. The property tax is levied in nominal terms (maximum 10%), even this is not collected actually. Water charge, the only important non-tax revenue has been found difficult to be collected by Panchayats. Expanding the revenue envelope involves the following:

- A re-look at the tax powers assigned to Panchayats;
- A reliable data and information system;
- Capacity building to administer and enforce the tax at Village level; and
- Adopting a set of incentives and disincentives aimed at increasing substantially the tax collections.

NIPFP has estimated that the current level of own revenues of Panchayats is estimated at Rs. 3000 crore and without reforms in the taxation structure, improving efficiency of collection would only result in collection of Rs. 10,000 crore. Even this amount is totally inadequate for any meaningful expenditure on services by Panchayats in their areas. Moreover, there is a lot of variation amongst States in the tax revenue collected by the Panchayats. In some States, the annual collection is as low as a crore.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj organised a National Seminar on Panchayat Level Resource Mobilization and Efficient Fiscal Transfer on 6-7 July 2007. A number of recommendations emerged from the seminar and some of the important ones are;

- States shall prepare compendium of the legal provisions and executive orders issued by the State Governments in respect of the administration of taxes by the Panchayats. The compendium will contain the details of incentivisation programmes, recommendations of the State Finance Commissions and innovations adopted by Panchayats/States to improve resource mobilization at the Panchayat level through levy of taxes and better collection mechanisms.
- State Governments would assist the State Finance Commissions to lead policy work in respect of exploring the appropriate tax and non-tax revenue assignments to the Panchayats.
- State Governments to consider assigning a stipulated percentage of levy on the VAT turnover, which could be assigned to Panchayats. Also powers to be given to District and Intermediate Panchayats to levy local business taxes or charges in locations close to urban areas.
- State Governments while undertaking the assignment of tax revenues to Panchayats shall ensure that each level of Panchayat is given a basket of at least one or two important tax handles.
- PRIs, particularly Village Panchayats be persuaded to undertake systematic and timely assessments, to survey fully the tax base and to enforce tax collection. States shall undertake a campaign mode approach on improving tax collection based on the existing legal regimes and overcome the large slack in revenue collection.
- States shall re-examine the current rates of taxation previously fixed and consider an upward revision, keeping in mind current circumstances. In this respect, States will endeavour to remove maximum limits fixed on tax and all conditionalities that hamper or restrict the powers of Panchayats to tax.
- States to take steps to strengthen the administrative and enforcement capacity of Panchayats to collect revenues through frequent training of tax collectors in Panchayats to determine and collect tax demands in accordance with rules and regulations.
- State Governments to ensure that their training programmes for Panchayat elected representatives and officials contain well-structured modules on administration and collection of taxes and non-tax revenues by Panchayats.
- States could consider incentivizing tax effort by Panchayats by reworking the formulae for distribution of revenue from the State.

The recommendations of the National Seminar have been referred to the State Governments for follow up action.

In order to improve the resource availability with PRIs, the Twelfth Finance Commission recommended substantial transfers to the Panchayats directly from the Central Government. An amount of Rs.20,000 crore is to be transferred to the Panchayats over a five-year period starting from 2005-06 at the rate of Rs.4000 crore per year. Similarly, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj aims to ensure that the 13th Finance Commission carries forward the process of devolution of untied non-plan grants.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Avinash Rai Khanna, do you have any questions to ask?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): No questions. ...(Interruptions)

12.10 hrs.

THE COMPETITION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2007

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 20—Shri Prem Chand Gupta.

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): I beg to move *:

"That the Bill to amend the Competition Act, 2002, be taken into consideration,"

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to explain briefly about the Bill?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: The Government had enacted the Competition Act in 2002 so that the Indian market may be geared to face competition from within the country and outside. The Act provided for the establishment of a Commission to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets.

However, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) could not be made fully functional till date due to filing of a writ petition before the hon. Supreme Court against certain provisions of the Act, the Rules framed thereunder and the selection of the Chairperson and Member. The hon. Supreme Court, delivering its judgment in January, 2005, closed the

writ petition leaving it to the Government to make amendments to the Act as appropriate to address the legal issues as had been brought up during the proceedings on the Writ Petition. Therefore, now keeping in view the developments and the new ideas that have come to the notice of the Government, these amendments are proposed so that the Competition Act can be implemented in the country.

Keeping in view the judgment of the hon. Supreme Court, the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2006 was introduced in Lok Sabha on the 9th March, 2006 and the same was referred for examination and report to the Parliament Standing Committee on Finance. The Committee presented its report to both the Houses of Parliament on 12.12.2006. Taking into account the recommendations of the Committee and the legal challenges and to make the CCI fully operational on a sustainable basis, the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2007 has been introduced. I now request this august House to consider the Bill. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Competition Act, 2002, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 4 Amendment of Section 5

Amendments made:

Page 2, for line 14, *substitute*,-

"4. In section 5 of the principal Act,-

(i) in clause (a),-" (1)

Page 2, after line 25, *insert*,-

(ii) in clause (b),-

(a) in sub-clause (i), for item (B), the following item shall be substituted, namely:-

"(B) in India or outside India, in aggregate, the assets of the value of more than five hundred million US dollars, including at least rupees five hundred crores in India, or turnover more than fifteen hundred million US dollars,

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

including at least rupees fifteen hundred crores in India; or";

(b) in sub-clause (ii), for item (B), the following item shall be substituted, namely:-

"(B) in India or outside India, in aggregate, the assets of the value of more than two billion US dollars, including at least rupees five hundred crores in India, or turnover more than six billion US dollars, including at least rupees fifteen hundred crores in India; or";

(iii) in clause (c),-

(a) in sub-clause (i), for item (B), the following item shall be substituted, namely:-

"(B) in India or outside India, in aggregate, the assets of the value of more than five hundred million US dollars, including at least rupees five hundred crores in India, or turnover more than fifteen hundred million US dollars, including at least fifteen hundred crores in India; or";

(b) in sub-clause (ii), for item (B), the following item shall be substituted namely:-

"(B) in India or outside India, in aggregate, the assets of the value of more than two billion US dollars, including at least rupees five hundred crores in India, or turnover more than six billion US dollars, including at least rupees fifteen hundred crores in India." (2)

(Shri Prem Chand Gupta)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 5 to 50 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now matters of urgent public importance. If any hon. Members wishes to submit their speeches, they can submit.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

12.14 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down for a minute.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Listen to me first. If I allow you to speak for one or two minutes, would you allow the House to be run?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, if you permit me, with respect of Prof. Malhotra ji and Shri Prabhunath Singh ji, who are very senior and respect to leaders, I would say this.

[Translation]

Sir, I would only request that there is a convention to run the House that whenever hon. Mr. Speaker or Mr. Deputy Speaker gives ruling on a serious matter which is supported by everyone then it is supposed to be complied with the House. ...(Interruptions) Hon. Speaker has given this ruling which I am quoting. The ruling was that:

[English]

"By asking the Government to re-negotiate the Agreement for the purposes mentioned in the Motions, the Motions in effect seek to disapprove the Agreement entered into and to require the Government not to give effect to the Agreement in its present form and contents, which the House has no competence to do and it will

clearly amount to the House rejecting the Agreement in its present form."

[Translation]

The House has no competence in the matter. ...*(Interruptions)* So, how the committee would be set up?

[English]

I am quoting my speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

I quote further:

"This will amount to, in effect, disapproval of the Agreement already entered into by the Agreement, which is in my opinion not within the competence of the House."

This is the ruling of the Hon. Speaker.

[Translation]

Advani ji bowing his head and accepting the ruling said that

[English]

"I accept the ruling."

[Translation]

then on what grounds they are harping on JPC. ...*(Interruptions)* You may say anything to us, but do not attack the ruling given by hon. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, please make your submission in one minute.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, a debate is going on in the House since yesterday in regard to the demand for constituting JPC and it

is the result of the statement made by hon. Prime Minister on the nuclear agreement three times in the House and now that it has become the property of the House then a tête-à-tête with the communists and deciding the fate of this country as that of a private company would never be accepted. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let me hear him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will now take up Item No. 21 – Discussion under Rule 193 on Sachar Committee Report. Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please restore order in the House first then discussion under Rule 193 would begin. It is debate and not a Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: They do not want to discuss the Sachar Committee Report. ...*(Interruptions)* They are afraid of it.

14.04 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet on 7th September, 2007 at 11 a.m.

14.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, September 7, 2007/Bhadrapada 16, 1929 (Saka).

Annexure-I**Member-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	Shri Ajay Kumar, S.	336
2	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	339
3	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	328
4	Shrimati Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	338
5	Shri Deshmukh, Subhash Sureshchandra	334
6	Shri Dhotre, Sanjay	322
7	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	329
8	Shrimati Gawali, Bhavana Pundlikrao	322
9	Shri Joshi, Pralhad	325
10	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	337
11	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	324
12	Shri Paswan, Sukdeo	331
13	Shri Patel, Jivabhai A.	338
14	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	335
15	Shrimati Patil, Rupatai D.	340
16	Shri Pradhan, Dharmendra	324
17	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	321
18	Prof Ramadass, M.	330
19	Shri Rao, K.S.	332
20	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	326
21	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	321
22	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	326
23	Shri Sharma, Madan Lal	330
24	Shrimati Shukla, Karuna	340
25	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	333
26	Shri Singh, Sugrib	335
27	Shri Singh, Suraj	327
28	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	327
29	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	323
30	Shri Veerendrakumar, M.P.	329
31	Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal	331

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	3201
2	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	3206, 3306, 3354
3	Shri Adsul, Anandrao Vithoba	3229, 3230, 3231, 3300, 3347
4	Dr. Agarwal, Dharendra	3211, 3235, 3333, 3341
5	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	3151, 3201, 3244, 3314, 3364
6	Shri Ajay Kumar, S.	3278, 3337
7	Shri Appadurai, M.	3201
8	Shri Argal, Ashok	3165, 3259, 3321, 3368
9	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	3180, 3287, 3343
10	Shri Bahuguna, Vijay	3220
11	Shri Barad, Jasubhai Dhanabhai	3201, 3284
12	Shri Barman, Hiten	3161, 3290, 3359
13	Shri Barman, Ranen	3150, 3243, 3327
14	Shri Basu, Anil	3191
15	Shri Bhadana, Avtar Singh	3201
16	Shri Bishnoi, Kuldeep	3166
17	Shri Bose, Subrata	3164, 3372
18	Shri Chaliha, Kirip	3224, 3298
19	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	3211, 3330, 3333
20	Dr. Chinta Mohan	3207, 3340
21	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	3178, 3265, 3325
22	Shri Deo, Bikram Keshari	3189
23	Shrimati Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	3190, 3235, 3248
24	Shri Deora, Milind	3179, 3264, 3301
25	Shri Deshmukh, Subhash Sureshchandra	3277, 3336, 3341

1	2	3
26	Shri Dhindsa, Sukhdev Singh	3183, 3202
27	Shri Dhotre, Sanjay	3266, 3271, 3332
28	Prof. Dhumal, Prem Kumar	3234, 3310, 3357
29	Shrimati Dutt, Priya	3204
30	Shri Fanthome, Francis	3196
31	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	3201, 3208
32	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath Mahadeo	3177, 3201, 3204, 3205, 3267
33	Shri Gamang, Giridhar	3176, 3285, 3342
34	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	3148, 3267, 3328
35	Smt. Gawali, Bhavana Pundlikrao	3266, 3271, 3332
36	Shri Gehlot, Thawarchand	3241
37	Shri Gudhe, Anant	3214, 3294, 3345
38	Ch. Hassan, Munawar	3238, 3309, 3361
39	Shri Hussain, Anwar	3181, 3293, 3369
40	Shri Hussain, Syed Shahnawaz	3160, 3283
41	Dr. Jagannath, M.	3221, 3279, 3297, 3355
42	Shri Jawale, Haribhau	3212, 3292
43	Shri Jena, Mohan	3175, 3261, 3322
44	Shri Jindal, Naveen	3155, 3247, 3324
45	Shri Jogi, Ajit	3213, 3331
46	Shri Joshi, Kailash	3156, 3295
47	Shri Kalmadi, Suresh	3237
48	Shri Khair, Chandrakant	3249, 3276, 3339, 3373
49	Shri Khan, Sunil	3149, 3242, 3313, 3337, 3363
50	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	3169, 3190, 3254, 3319, 3367
51	Shri Koshal, Raghuveer Singh	3167, 3252, 3329

1	2	3
52	Shri Kriplani, Srichand	3185
53	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	3232, 3328
54	Dr. Kusmaria, Ramkrishna	3225
55	Shrimati Botcha, Lakshmi Jhansi	3227
56	Shrimati Laxman, Susheela Bangaru	3344
57	Sr. Libra, Sukhdev Singh	3202
58	Shrimati Madhavaraj, Manorama	3339
59	Shrimati Mahajan, Sumitra	3239
60	Shri Maharia, Subhash	3182, 3288, 3344
61	Shri Mahato, Narahari	3158, 3312, 3362, 3375
62	Shrimati Maheshwari, Kiran	3376
63	Shri Mahtab, B.	3240
64	Shri Mahto, Tek Lal	3236
65	Shrimati Mane, Nivedita	3177, 3201, 3204, 3205, 3267
66	Shri Masood, Rasheed	3219, 3296, 3346
67	Ms. Mcleod, Ingrid	3216
68	Shri Mehta, Alok Kumar	3203, 3286, 3333
69	Dr. Meinya, Thokohom	3188
70	Shri Mohd., Mukeem	3373
71	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	3226, 3299, 3328, 3358
72	Shri Murmu, Rupchand	3168
73	Shrimati Narhire, Kalpana Ramesh	3214, 3294, 3333, 3345, 3374
74	Shri Nayak, Ananta	3201
75	Shri Oram, Jual	3233, 3370
76	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	3153, 3260, 3326, 3333

1	2	3
77	Shri Pallani Shamy, K.C.	3147, 3251, 3317, 3365
78	Shri Panda, Prabodh	3222
79	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	3240, 3373
80	Shri Pannian Ravindran	3197
81	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	3198, 3240, 3280
82	Shri Paswan, Sukdeo	3276
83	Shri Patel, Jivabhai Ambabal A.	3272, 3305, 3351
84	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	3262, 3263, 3299, 3299, 3353
85	Shri Pathak, Harin	3211, 3372, 3375
86	Shri Patil, Pratik P.	3174
87	Shri Patle, Shishupal N.	3228
88	Shri Pingle, Devidas	3223
89	Shri Prabhu, Suresh Prabhakar	3177, 3201, 3284
90	Shri Pradhan, Dharmendra	3240, 3373
91	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	3245, 3330
92	Shri Rai, Nakul Das	3333
93	Shri Rajagopal, L.	3172, 3273, 3334
94	Shri Rajbhar, Chandra Dev Prasad	3173, 3219, 3258
95	Prof. Ramadass, M.	3333
96	Shri Rana, Kashiram	3190, 3274, 3333
97	Shrimati Rani, K.	3215, 3371
98	Shri Rao, K.S.	3204, 3216, 3257, 3360
99	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	3204, 3302
100	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	3199, 3303, 3337, 3356
101	Shri Rawale, Mohan	3192
102	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	3170, 3256, 3320

1	2	3
103	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	3159, 3279, 3338
104	Shri Reddy, N. Janardhana	3195, 3204
105	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	3255, 3274, 3341, 3356
106	Shri Rijiju, Kiren	3162, 3268
107	Shri Sai Prathap, A.	3269
108	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	3154, 3246, 3315
109	Shri Saroj, Tufani	3184
110	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	3216
111	Shri Sethi, Arjun	3171, 3311
112	Shri Sharma, Madan Lal	3333
113	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	3229, 3230, 3231, 3301, 3348
114	Shri Shivanna, M.	3209, 3289, 3349
115	Prof. Shiwanekar, Mahadeorao	3228, 3307
116	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	3253, 3318, 3366
117	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	3241, 3304
118	Shri Singh, Chandrabhan	3193
119	Shri Singh, Ganesh	3200, 3282
120	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	3333
121	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	3217, 3219, 3304, 3350
122	Shri Singh, Sugrib	3262, 3299, 3323, 3353
123	Shri Singh, Suraj	3216, 3275, 3281, 3340
124	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	3216, 3275, 3335
125	Shri Subba, M.K.	3152, 3206
126	Shri Sugavanam, E.G.	3163, 3209, 3211, 3250, 3316
127	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	3207, 3281, 3335

1	2	3
128	Shrimati Thakkar, Jayaben B.	3157
129	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	3162, 3240, 3268
130	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	3210, 3291, 3352
131	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	3218
132	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	3272, 3305, 3333, 3351

1	2	3
133	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	3229, 3230, 3231, 3300, 3308
134	Shri Virupakshappa, K.	3194
135	Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal	3286
136	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	3186, 3269, 3331, 3341
137	Shri Yogi, Aditya Nath	3187, 3270

Annexure-II**Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Chemicals and fertilizers	332
Civil Aviation	321, 325, 328, 336, 338
Culture	
Food Processing Industries	
Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	
Minority Affairs	
Petroleum and Natural Gas	323, 324, 326, 327, 333
Railways	329, 330, 331, 339, 340
Social Justice and Empowerment	334, 337
Steel	335
Tourism	322

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Chemicals and Fertilizers	3160, 3213, 3238, 3239, 3265, 3267, 3297, 3299, 3307, 3313, 3319, 3328, 3335, 3352, 3359, 3361, 3369, 3373
Civil Aviation	3169, 3170, 3179, 3186, 3188, 3201, 3205, 3209, 3214, 3218, 3224, 3229, 3230, 3237, 3257, 3259, 3280, 3292, 3304, 3315, 3345, 3357, 3366, 3368, 3371, 3376
Culture	3159, 3166, 3175, 3183, 3202, 3211, 3222, 3291, 3324, 3350, 3355, 3372, 3374, 3375
Food Processing Industries	3150, 3158, 3161, 3164, 3243, 3256, 3263, 3278, 3290, 3356
Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	3149, 3162, 3167, 3227, 3285, 3317, 3341
Minority Affairs	: 3172, 3196, 3216, 3260, 3266, 3293
Petroleum and Natural Gas	: 3151, 3152, 3163, 3165, 3173, 3176, 3177, 3178, 3182, 3203, 3206, 3207, 3221, 3225, 3244, 3246, 3247, 3248, 3250, 3258, 3262, 3268, 3272, 3274, 3275, 3279, 3281, 3283, 3298, 3308, 3309, 3320, 3321, 3323, 3325, 3326, 3329, 3340, 3346, 3347, 3351, 3354
Railways	3148, 3153, 3154, 3156, 3157, 3168, 3269, 3171, 3174, 3184, 3185, 3187, 3189, 3191, 3192, 3193, 3194, 3195, 3198, 3199, 3208, 3212, 3217, 3219,

3220, 3223, 3228, 3234, 3236, 3240, 3241, 3245,
3249, 3251, 3253, 3254, 3255, 3264, 3270, 3271,
3273, 3276, 3286, 3288, 3289, 3295, 3296, 3300,
3301, 3302, 3303, 3306, 3310, 3311, 3312, 3316,
3318, 3322, 3330, 3332, 3334, 3338, 3342, 3344,
3349, 3362, 3365

Social Justice and Empowerment

3147, 3180, 3181, 3200, 3210, 3231, 3242, 3282,
3294, 3327, 3333, 3348, 3358, 3367

Steel

3226, 3252, 3314, 3337, 3339, 3353, 3363, 3364,
3370

Tourism

3155, 3190, 3197, 3204, 3215, 3232, 3233, 3235,
3261, 3277, 3284, 3287, 3305, 3331, 3336, 3343,
3360

INTERNET

The original version of Lok Sabha proceedings is available on Parliament of India Website at the following address :

<http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in>

LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha proceedings are being telecast live on Lok Sabha T.V. Channel. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. on everyday the Lok Sabha sits, till the adjournment of the House.

LOK SABHA DEBATES ON SALE

Printed copies of Lok Sabha Debates of English and Hindi Versions and other Parliamentary publications are available for sale at the Sales Counter, Parliament House, New Delhi-110001

© 2007 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

**Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in
Lok Sabha (Twelfth Edition) and Printed by Sunlight Printers, Delhi - 110006**
